

City of Las Vegas

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
CITY HALL, 495 S. MAIN STREET
CITY CLERKS 2ND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
CITY OF LAS VEGAS INTERNET ADDRESS: www.lasvegasnevada.gov

MINUTES

May 6, 2014

4:00 PM

ITEMS LISTED ON THE AGENDA MAY BE TAKEN OUT OF THE ORDER PRESENTED; TWO OR MORE AGENDA ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION MAY BE COMBINED; AND ANY ITEM ON THE AGENDA MAY BE REMOVED OR RELATED DISCUSSION MAY BE DELAYED AT ANY TIME. BACKUP MATERIAL FOR THIS AGENDA MAY BE OBTAINED FROM BEVERLY K. BRIDGES, CITY CLERK, AT THE CITY CLERKS OFFICE AT 495 SOUTH MAIN STREET, 2ND FLOOR OR ON THE CITY'S WEBPAGE AT www.lasvegasnevada.gov.

1. [CALL TO ORDER](#)

Minutes:

ACTING CHAIR BASTIAN called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

PRESENT: CHAIR WHITE (excused until 4:03 p.m.), COMMISSIONERS BUCHMAN (excused until 4:01 p.m.), BASTIAN, SHERMAN, LEE, LOPEZ, BECKER, TABOR, THOMSON and AKER

EXCUSED: COMMISSIONERS THOMASON, McCURDY, AREMENIAN, TEEL and FOGER

ALSO PRESENT: DEPUTY DIRECTOR LONNY ZIMMERMAN, Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services, DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY BOB SYLVAIN and DEPUTY CITY CLERK JACQUIE MILLER

2. [ANNOUNCEMENT RE: COMPLIANCE WITH OPEN MEETING LAW](#)

Minutes:

ANNOUNCEMENT MADE: This meeting has been properly noticed and posted at the following locations: City Hall, 495 Main Street, 1st Floor; Clark County Government Center, 500 South Grand Central Parkway, Grant Sawyer Building, 555 East Washington Avenue; City of Las Vegas Development Services Center, 333 North Rancho Drive

3. [PUBLIC COMMENT DURING THIS PORTION OF THE AGENDA MUST BE LIMITED TO MATTERS ON THE AGENDA FOR ACTION. IF YOU WISH TO BE HEARD, GIVE YOUR NAME FOR THE RECORD. THE AMOUNT OF DISCUSSION, AS WELL AS THE AMOUNT OF TIME ANY SINGLE SPEAKER IS ALLOWED, MAY BE LIMITED](#)

Minutes:

None.

4. [For possible action to approve by reference the Final Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 1, 2014](#)

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Motion made by RICHARD R. BECKER to Approve

Passed For: 9; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 6

HARRY LEE, MICHAEL R. AKER SR., BILLIE BASTIAN, DAVID ALEXANDER LOPEZ, LAURIE R. BUCHMAN, LISA B. SHERMAN, JEFFERY R. THOMSON, RICHARD R. BECKER, AMY TABOR; Against-(None); Abstain-(None); Did Not Vote-(None); Excused-ADROUSHAN "ANDY" ARMENIAN, MALCOLM WHITE, CHARLES FOGER, WILLIAM McCURDY, WILLIAM J. TEEL, APRIL THOMASON

5. [Report for possible action from Detention and Enforcement regarding issues at City facilities and parks All Wards](#)

Minutes:

DEPUTY MARSHAL SERGEANT HAROLD MULCAHEY, Detention and Enforcement, distributed a report of Crime Statistics for the City of Las Vegas, which was submitted as backup documentation, detailing the crime statistics for March, 2014.

COMMISSIONER LOPEZ expressed concern about Huntridge Park and wondered if there had been anything negative going on in the area. DEPUTY MARSHAL SERGEANT MULCAHEY reported that once in awhile a call will come in for a stray shopping cart. COMMISSIONER LOPEZ said that a couple of weeks ago in the afternoon a car crashed into the park and the driver ran away; he wondered about the outcome. DEPUTY MARSHAL SERGEANT MULCAHEY said that he would see if he could find a report.

6. [Report for possible action regarding Sports Field Revenue Enhancements - All Wards](#)

Minutes:

LONNY ZIMMERMAN, Deputy Director, Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services, said that on October 5, 2013, he presented a plan, which had been worked on by two consultants, to the City Council regarding revenue enhancements. At that time, the presentation was showing approximately 30-31 percent cost recovery for the department with municipal sports bearing a lot of the costs; during the meeting, the Mayor requested working towards a goal of 50 percent cost recovery.

MR. ZIMMERMAN reported that the users were briefed about the fee increases on May 1, 2014. He reviewed a PowerPoint presentation, which was submitted as backup documentation, regarding the municipal sports unit revenue enhancements. The report showed that for fiscal year 2013 the cost recovery for providing sports fields was approximately 10.39 percent; MR. ZIMMERMAN detailed the current and revised fees for fiscal year 2015, and once a full fiscal year has cycled, there is an anticipated cost recovery of approximately 20 percent. He then showed a breakdown of the financial impact to the community league allocation participants and sporting events. He noted that because the fees are currently already higher for tournaments than they are for allocation play, the same increases are not seen.

MR. ZIMMERMAN verified for COMMISSIONER BUCHMAN that the Concession/Vendor Permit fee for tournaments, camps or other sporting events will be \$500 per event.

MR. ZIMMERMAN said that staff is looking at the true costs to operate the sports fields and stated that the general taxpayer not using the sports field is subsidizing 70-80 percent of the participation. CHAIR WHITE said that everyone pays for the quality of life involved with the parks and shares in the responsibility of paying for them.

COMMISSIONER BECKER asked what the Parks and Recreation Department has done to cut their own departmental costs. MR. ZIMMERMAN replied that most of the expense is due to staffing and that three years ago 42 percent of the departmental staff was laid off. He said that to keep 156 sports fields lit and programmed, that expense will not be reduced. He also stated that he cannot speak for Park Maintenance because they are in a different department and he has not looked at their costs. COMMISSIONER BECKER asked if the City Council should look into that because it is one of the metrics used to calculate cost recovery and he does not have oversight or insight regarding those costs. MR. ZIMMERMAN replied that staff does have insight and feels that if the department, which has over 60,000 acres of sports

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fields were asked, they would not feel that they are over staffed.

CHAIR WHITE recalled that some park maintenance cost savings measures have been taken including replacing some of the grass with artificial turf. COMMISSIONER BECKER thought that the artificial turf costs about the same over the long term. MR. ZIMMERMAN replied that the initial capital investment cost is high but then there is cost savings due to a lack of maintenance needed regarding water, utilities and staff to mow the grass. Theoretically it is revenue neutral over a 20 year period, but from a programming side, more revenue can be generated because there is no weather delay with the artificial turf.

COMMISSIONER BASTIAN asked where items like utilities, costs for lighting the fields, water and toilet paper are considered when calculating cost recovery. MR. ZIMMERMAN replied that when the fields are rented for a tournament, the organizers of the tournament are responsible for the custodial aspects. He said that for park maintenance and sports fields, approximately \$800,000 is the cost for the utilities.

COMMISSIONER BUCHMAN asked if everyone is getting approximately the same percentage of increase. MR. ZIMMERMAN replied that the increases are not all the same percentage and explained that it is partially due to demand of the use; some organizations put 500 teams on the fields in two days and some put 500 teams on the fields in 300 days. He stated with the tournaments, because 15 percent of gross registration was also paid to the City, the revenues were above \$30.00 per hour, and there will also be differences due to the fluctuation of registration fees. He said that staff broke down each organization's fees into hourly fees and reported that tournament fees ranged from \$35-\$88.50 per hour which is \$15 per hour plus the 15 percent registration fee.

COMMISSIONER THOMSON said that the Senior Softball Association can no longer sustain the fees that they are currently paying. He stated that last year they had 480 teams and expect 500 teams this year, but if the fees are increased, they will probably not be able to play on any of the City fields and will have to cap their tournament with fewer teams. He also said that the City is the only entity they work with that has fees this high which makes it hard to justify using the fields. MR. ZIMMERMAN stated that the City is really looking at what the true costs are and staff was asked to work toward a 50 percent cost recovery. COMMISSIONER THOMSON said that 500 teams play in their tournaments and 95 percent of them are out of town so if they play at Lorenzi Park, they tend to stay at the hotels downtown; if they have to play at other places, they will not be staying downtown. He stated that the City needs to recognize that this will not just affect the Parks and Recreation department, but will affect the City as a whole. MR. ZIMMERMAN said that the consultant, Applied Analysis, looked at the revenue impacts and the department is keenly aware of what the economic impact is. He said that staff is still continuing to look at what each tournament means to the greater Las Vegas.

COMMISSIONER BECKER said that he does not represent a league, but was at Majestic Park and the parents are concerned about the viability of the organizations; even if they could find a way to pass on the costs to the participants, they are concerned that it will be too expensive for the lower income families. He said that the City of Las Vegas subsidizes the parks so the kids are not out doing graffiti, but instead are being nurtured into positive role models so they can go on to get scholarships. He mentioned that there is a petition going around and they are trying to get 5,000 signatures to present to the City Council, and asked if anyone had considered phasing the fee increases in over a five year period. MR. ZIMMERMAN replied that staff and the consultants looked at every scenario and they are moving forward as the Mayor requested.

CHAIR WHITE asked if this is a result of the audit that came out several years ago and a group of people came in and were agitated about the recommendations. MR. ZIMMERMAN said that the audit brought to light some of the revenue generating organizations, but the challenge is more of the department having a shortfall and the budget not being balanced. He explained that the thematic goal of the City is to raise revenues, and organizationally, has been asked to raise \$7.2 million dollars to close the gap. The City is not yet sustainable and running a balanced budget, and the Parks and Recreation Department is a revenue generating department. He reported that as an overall department, they have approximately 66,000 programs, and Safekey, park rentals and sports are the economic drivers. To close the gap and raise money, the City has chosen to do it with the programs that have the most volume of activity. MR. ZIMMERMAN said that the City is still subsidizing 65,998 of those programs, but sports and Safekey will continue to drive the revenues. COMMISSIONER BASTIAN asked what kind of communication has gone out to the impacted organizations. MR. ZIMMERMAN replied that historically staff worked more collectively with the organizations, but when discussions would

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begin with community groups, the groups would go to the City Council before staff had an opportunity to present their recommendations. He stated that staff was open with the groups this year, that the information would be presented to the City Council first and then presented to the groups. He said that he did give the larger groups an idea of what staff was proposing but did not have community meetings to survey everyone in the business about all of the different impacts.

CHAIR WHITE asked how the community will provide feedback. MR. ZIMMERMAN said that there is no resistance to open dialog and if there is a petition, he believes he would receive that and give it to the City Councilperson and/or the City Manager, or they would receive it directly. CHAIR WHITE stated that this meeting is an open public meeting and if citizens come to the meeting they will be welcome to speak. MR. ZIMMERMAN stated that it has been his experience that when fees are raised, particularly with sports groups, there is a significant amount of public participation because there are approximately 35,000 participants and people are passionate about sports.

COMMISSIONER LOPEZ asked if the fees that have been shown are permanent or if there will be an appeal process. He also wondered if the Park and Recreation Advisory Commission will be the first to hear of the public concerns to make adjustments. MR. ZIMMERMAN replied that he believes that the concerns will be presented on the sports fields first and the concerned groups will go to the City Council. He suspects that dialog will begin since the rates that were publicly noticed will go into effect August, 2014. CHAIR WHITE stated that this Commission will welcome public comment and historically has been given ample notification from staff when they feel there is a large group that will come to the meeting.

COMMISSIONER AKER said that the complaint he has is the lack of communication; the leagues that he represents have expressed that they got hit with this overnight and that the City wants to get rid of the youth programs. MR. ZIMMERMAN stated that the City is not trying to get rid of the youth programs. He reiterated that the experience has been different this year because staff did not actively engage the community prior to their recommendations to the City Council. COMMISSIONER AKER stated that he has 14 leagues and seven of them will fold because they cannot afford it and asked if the City will work with the non-profit groups. MR. ZIMMERMAN said that any time instructions are given there are unintended consequences and the City as a whole has to understand what the impacts will be if the fees go into effect.

CHAIR WHITE stated that it comes down to quality of life and the tax structure allows the residents to take advantage of the quality of life in Las Vegas. He said that typically when that becomes a challenge, the City Council will look at what needs to be done as a city and raise or lower taxes accordingly. He said that what is being done is raising the cost of sports activities instead of taking the opportunity to spread the cost to every tax paying resident in the City of Las Vegas and wondered if the City leaders are willing to raise the taxes or are just passing the cost on and avoiding the responsibility of addressing the subject matter.

COMMISSIONER BASTIAN asked what the schedule of fee increases are for the future. MR. ZIMMERMAN replied that there have not been incremental increases over the years and it would be his recommendation to have a Consumer Price Index plus one or two percent increase each year; that way, 15 years from now, a two percent increase can be absorbed instead of staff requesting a 30 percent increase. He said that there have not been a lot of fee increases, but once staff begins to adjust them, each July 1 of the new fiscal year they would increase by 1.75 or 2.75 percent.

COMMISSIONER BASTIAN stated that she saw a fee increase for summer camps and Safekey as well, so it is not just the sports unit and those user groups that are being affected. MR. ZIMMERMAN said that other municipalities are raising their fees as well.

COMMISSIONER BASTIAN appreciated that the other fees being raised were published in advance in brochures and flyers and that staff was alerting participants as well. She said that the user groups at the Mirabelli Community Center expressed concerns that it affects their pocketbooks, but they understand that it is more important to have the programs available rather than have some programs eliminated and some centers closed.

COMMISSIONER TABOR asked for clarification of what had happened in the past when the groups would go to the City Council prior to staff making their recommendations. MR. ZIMMERMAN said that in his experience, when he would suggest a fee increase, the groups would begin calling the City Council members and talk to them about all of the potential impacts, so staff was not able to make their recommendations in a professional capacity because the public had already

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made their will known.

COMMISSIONER BECKER asked if loss of participation was factored in when calculating the cost recovery model because if it was not, and there is a significant loss of participation, the model will not hold up. MR. ZIMMERMAN stated that most of the initial recommendations were based on trying to get to a 33 percent cost recovery which is the national standard. He said that the Mayor asked for a 50 percent cost recovery and they are modeling to that, and staff expects a change in the modeling, but not the pricing. He stated that staff tries to stay with local tournament organizers but believes that to get to the 50 percent cost recovery, some of those people will go away and national organizers will step in to run the tournaments. That will be a change to the model as staff will have to deal with larger organizations that can fund the tournaments. MR. ZIMMERMAN stated that the modeling is not near 50 percent, but he believes that there will be a loss of participation. COMMISSIONER BECKER said that if there is a drop in participation, he would like the Parks and Recreation Department and the City Council to look at what programs and organizations will be going away because quite often it will effect the lower income people and stated that the ones who do not go to Safekey this summer are the ones who cannot afford it.

COMMISSIONER LOPEZ stated that this whole thing is unfortunate and there are a lot of people who are suffering financially. He said that this reminds him of the university system where the tuition is going up 17 percent in the next four years. His concern is regarding the adverse effects this will have as teams will fold and there are a lot of young people that will not be able to participate.

COMMISSIONER SHERMAN wondered if it is possible to set up a scholarship fund or do fundraising for those who cannot afford to participate to which COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ replied that public entities cannot fundraise.

CHAIR WHITE appreciated MR. ZIMMERMAN fielding the questions and suggested that the Commission members be notified if there is a large interest from individuals who wish to come to the meeting to speak. He stated that the City Council members have a lot to consider because this is a quality of life discussion.

7. [Report for possible action regarding organizational projects by Lonny Zimmerman, Deputy Director of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services All Wards](#)

Minutes:

DEPUTY DIRECTOR LONNY ZIMMERMAN, Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services, reported that there will be a grand opening of Myron Leavitt Skate Park on May 22, 2014 at 2:30. He stated that the construction of Garside Pool is ahead of schedule and staff hopes to have the grand opening during the third week of June. The Corporate Challenge closing ceremonies pool party will be held at the Downtown Grand on May 17, 2014.

8. [CITIZENS PARTICIPATION: PUBLIC COMMENT DURING THIS PORTION OF THE AGENDA MUST BE LIMITED TO MATTERS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE COMMISSION. NO SUBJECT MAY BE ACTED UPON BY THE COMMISSION UNLESS THAT SUBJECT IS ON THE AGENDA AND IS SCHEDULED FOR ACTION. IF YOU WISH TO BE HEARD, GIVE YOUR NAME FOR THE RECORD. THE AMOUNT OF DISCUSSION ON ANY SINGLE SUBJECT, AS WELL AS THE AMOUNT OF TIME ANY SINGLE SPEAKER IS ALLOWED, MAY BE LIMITED](#)

Minutes:

None.

9. [ADJOURNMENT](#)

Minutes:

The meeting adjourned at 5:01 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted:

Jacquie Miller, Deputy City Clerk

Kelly Schwarz, Senior Management Analyst
Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services

Facilities are provided throughout City Hall for the convenience of disabled persons. If you need an accommodation to attend and participate in this meeting, please call the City Clerks office at 229-6311 and advise of your need at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting. Dial 7-1-1 for Relay Nevada.

THIS MEETING HAS BEEN PROPERLY NOTICED AND POSTED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

City Hall, 495 South Main Street, 1st Floor
Clark County Government Center, 500 South Grand Central Parkway
Grant Sawyer Building, 555 East Washington Avenue
City of Las Vegas Development Services Center, 333 North Rancho Drive