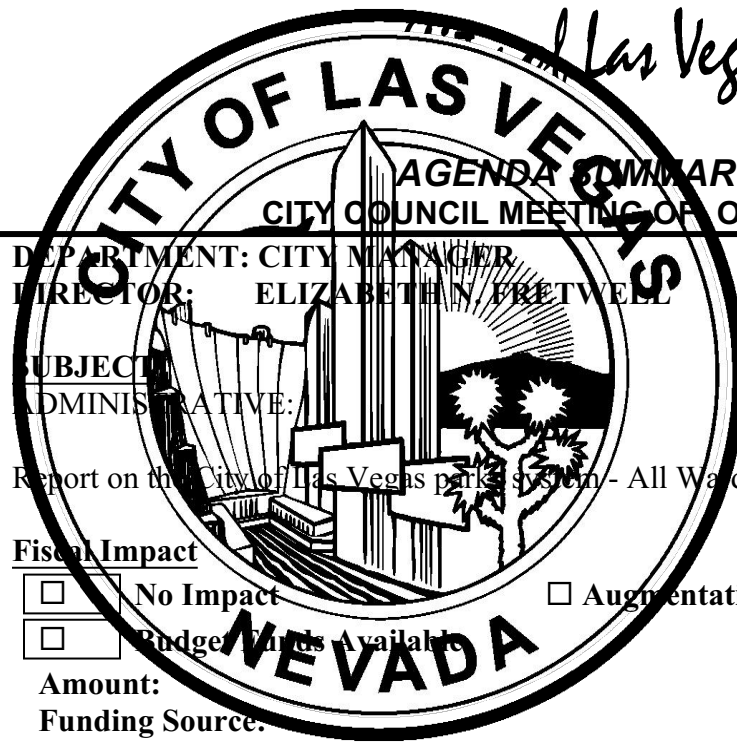




Las Vegas

Agenda Item No.: 39.

AGENDA SUMMARY PAGE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF OCTOBER 15, 2014

DEPARTMENT: CITY MANAGER
DIRECTOR: ELIZABETH FRETWELL

☐ Consent ☒ Discussion

SUBJECT:
ADMINISTRATIVE:

Report on the City of Las Vegas park system - All Wards

Fiscal Impact

☐

No Impact

☐ Augmentation Required

☐

Budget Funds Available

Amount:

Funding Source:

Dept./Division:

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND:

To provide an overview on past and current park capital improvement projects, park conditions, park maintenance standards, park inventory and 2020 Master Plan Policy--Park Element, and other related matters.

RECOMMENDATION:

Report only; no action required.

BACKUP DOCUMENTATION:

Submitted at Meeting - PowerPoint Presentation by Staff

Minutes:

Through a PowerPoint presentation, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER ORLANDO SANCHEZ provided an overview of the park systems. He complimented the hard working men and women in the City departments for the work they do in City parks, given the number of people that utilize the parks. Due to the budget, departments have been innovative in using current staffing and staff is placed where the demand is. A new rating system for parks was implemented where field supervisors monitor parks as much as possible.

DEPUTY CITY MANAGER SANCHEZ reported that the community survey has been done since 2010 to get input from citizens on the services being provided, as well as gauge the service levels. The City engaged ETC to conduct the surveys and at least 150 surveys were completed in each ward, with results of an overall satisfaction with City services.

COUNCILWOMAN TARKANIAN asked if the City Council received a copy of the survey with all the specific data. She remarked that something is not coordinating with the Ward she represents. CITY MANAGER ELIZABETH FRETWELL explained that it was provided to every office but she will provide the Councilwoman with Ward 1 specific data. Every year

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going through the process the City Council is briefed on the questions asked and the methodology. Once in a while questions are added related to citizens' engagement that diversifies the survey, but all questions are standardized to get the benchmark data. They have been going with a consistent national survey since 2010. COUNCILWOMAN TARKANIAN stated that after she had her City Manager briefing, she found that the information she was receiving was accurate in some of the situations in the parks located in Ward 1, especially about park maintenance. With the 72 percent approved rating, she questioned if those people surveyed really use the parks.

MAYOR GOODMAN remarked this is tremendously significant and she would like to see a copy as well. There is so much misinformation out in the community, so it would be great to have valid information. CITY MANAGER FRETWELL indicated she will get the entire report to all Councilmembers again as it does not just cover parks but an array of City services. MAYOR GOODMAN stated that the constituents are particularly focused on parks so she is most interested in that part.

DEPUTY CITY MANAGER SANCHEZ acknowledged there have been some deficiencies in the service levels, which have been addressed by implementing maintenance standards and educating staff on the daily expectations. He credited S/PT JEFFREY LAGARZA, Park Maintenance Manager, her team and KIMBERLY HAUGNESS, Director of Operations and Maintenance, for being instrumental in making sure this is taken seriously. DEPUTY CITY MANAGER SANCHEZ verified for the Councilwoman that fully implementation of monitoring of the parks began July of 2014. The survey he is presenting was taken in September of 2013. He added that the survey was posted on the Internet and Intranet.

COUNCILMAN BEERS stated he was briefed by MS. LAGARZA and her team in July, when this was implemented and he suggested the Councilwoman request a briefing on the new systemized maintenance and upkeep of the parks.

COUNCILMAN ROSS referred to comments he heard about some of the leagues paying additional money to maintain some of the fields, including the Mountain Ridge Leagues. He asked for information on how much the league is paying and what the City is doing in providing services. TIM HACKER, Acting Director of Parks and Recreation, explained that a decision was made years ago to defray the expenses and challenges of providing a certain desired level of service. Some of the leagues, because of their type of use and their preferences, have set a standard and are paying for that standard. That is something new in the contract for this allocation season, and few groups have been very forthcoming with their financials. He will keep the City Council informed. MAYOR GOODMAN suggested that after each season the leagues complete a questionnaire about the service provided to see if there are complaints and if in fact, there is real substance to those complaints. MR. HACKER replied that that is something that staff is already doing. The goal is to strive to improve level of services.

MAYOR GOODMAN referred to the article on the possibility that artificial turf could cause cancer and asked staff to research if there is any validity. DEPUTY CITY MANAGER SANCHEZ indicated that he was made aware of the article and once he has all the findings, he

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will brief the City Council on those findings. CITY MANAGER FRETWELL verified for MAYOR GOODMAN that 27 fields have artificial turf and no other fields are being changed at this moment.

COUNCILMAN COFFIN appreciated the presentation and indicated that the study does not include the east side of town, which is underserved of parks. He asked what the City's plans are to address the difference between the east and west side of town. DEPUTY CITY MANAGER SANCHEZ confirmed that there are gaps in the service area and the City is looking at several parks along the wash slated for future funding. COUNCILMAN COFFIN was pleased with some improvements made to Huntridge Park. But Mayfair Park was closed because of residents complaints about noise, and the park is still closed. When looking at the map about customer satisfaction, it is easier to be satisfied with parks when one lives on the west side, simply because Wards 2, 4 and 6 are new. Additionally, the City Council had the wisdom to force developers to build private parks, especially in the northwest. Referring to the expenses, Wards 1, 3 and 5 have had to do with rehabs and not new parks. There will be a point where Wards 2, 4 and 6 will need rehab money, and questioned if there is enough money to maintain all these parks. Some of the parks in the older part of town have become living rooms, bedrooms and bathrooms of unsavory individuals that dominate the living conditions. The Marshalls and staff are working as hard as they can to try to keep these parks healthy and safe. DEPUTY CITY MANAGER SANCHEZ indicated that staff will work with the Planning Department to identify those gaps and make sure the 2020 Master Plan Park Element requirements are met.

In response to COUNCILMAN COFFIN's comment about the Mayfair Park, CITY MANAGER FRETWELL indicated that staff has been working with a non-profit group that has taken that project on. Staff has done an incredible job in meeting many of the underserved needs over the last ten years, in creating and rehabbing park facilities so they can be used by the public. During the recession an inventory was taken of those facilities that needed to be rehabbed and rehabbing versus new, gave staff a better handle on these facilities. With new developments, particularly in Ward 6, there were significant private investments in parks to meet the parks standards. In Ward 3 there is no residential construction tax to support new parks. This conversation helps staff build the budget for next year, whether it is capital or operational.

TOM PERRIGO, Acting Director of Planning, reported on the 2020 Master Plan Park Element and outlined city population and park acreage in 1999 versus 2014. In the late 1990s the State legislature created the Southern Nevada Strategic Planning Authority (SNSPA) to focus on parks and set a regional standard, which the City adopted. Today the City exceeded the goal established in the 1990s.

CITY MANAGER FRETWELL added that she was involved in SNSPA activities and what landed the City as a regional standard, was for the parks that serve the neighborhoods, either from a regional community or a regional standard.

MR. PERRIGO showed maps of park coverage from 1999 to 2014. MAYOR GOODMAN asked if there is a ratio, as moving onto undeveloped land and developers take it over, that the City will be responsible or the developer or a combination. CITY MANAGER FRETWELL replied that MR. PERRIGO has been integrally involved in negotiating every development

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agreement in meeting those parks standards. MR. PERRIGO added that developers are required to have adequate parks in the new Sky Canyon developments, exceeding the City Park Element standards. Discussions about the maintenance component are on-going, as every development agreement is different. Some developers want to retain control over the community. If they turn that over to the City, operations and maintenance is heavily involved in those discussions and design standards for those parks to make sure they meet the City standards.

MR. PERRIGO stated that 90 percent of City of Las Vegas residents live near a park. This is one of the reasons the State of Nevada has gone from being among the least healthy to the healthiest states in the country. Access to parks and recreation is changing the culture and has an impact on the quality of life of the community. He was personally involved in the City acquiring acreage along the Las Vegas Wash, which is the most challenging area to put a park. One of those acquisitions was the Doug Selby Park. There was a tremendous amount of resistance, but now it is a great amenity for that community. There are two other properties that the City acquired along the Las Vegas Wash and those are opportunities for the future.

COUNCILWOMAN TARKANIAN stated the Red Rock Baptist Church offered the use of its parcel and she asked if that could become a small park for the neighborhood. MR. PERRIGO replied that the City needs to be more aggressive in those kind of opportunities where it is a win-win for both parties.

DEPUTY CITY MANAGER SANCHEZ continued with the presentation about parks construction by Wards, current capital park projects and the community survey results. He indicated that a sign will be installed at the entrance of each park with the name of the supervisor and his team responsible for maintaining that park, giving ownership to employees so they can be proud of the park they maintain. Additionally, there is a mobile application for citizens to report any problem. DEPUTY CITY MANAGER SANCHEZ verified for COUNCILMAN ROSS that it would be best if a complaint is generated through Hansen so that staff receives the complaint and can create a tracking mechanism. The Mayor and City Council assistants have been trained to input complaints in Hansen.

COUNCILMAN BARLOW referred to the Hansen system but, especially during the weekend, when illicit activities take place, and asked how a complaint will be placed in Hansen. DEPUTY CITY MANAGER SANCHEZ responded to use the normal process of entering the information in Hansen. CITY MANAGER FRETWELL added that using the mobile application to report a complaint will bring it into the Hansen system. COUNCILMAN BARLOW expressed concern about inputting a complaint into Hansen that needs immediate attention may not be addressed quickly. CITY MANAGER FRETWELL stated that staff will respond in a timely manner for those types of complaints. Once a complaint is entered into the Hansen system, a phone call can also be made to MR. HAUGSNESS or DEPUTY CITY MANAGER SANCHEZ or herself to make sure the issue is resolved as quickly as possible.

COUNCILWOMAN TARKANIAN referred to the report given by DEPUTY CITY MANAGER SANCHEZ and remarked that she has not seen the results of the three-month reorganization. She asked to meet with him for further discussion. DEPUTY CITY MANAGER

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FRETWELL thanked the Councilwoman for bringing to staff's attention the dead trees in the All American Sports Park. The Councilwoman was grateful that the trees will be replaced.

Regarding what the City is doing to fill the gaps of parks, CITY MANAGER FRETWELL indicated there are three projects in the Capital Plan that continue to fill those service gaps; two are in Ward 3 and one in Ward 1. One is the improvement of Cragin Park, the others improvements to the Harris Trailhead and the Las Vegas Wash Trail. She mentioned that the Capital Improvement Plan follows plans adopted by the City Council. As the City continues to grow in the northwest and infill projects happening in the core of the City, this will create different types of demands the Downtown Plan will possibly require some green space.

CITY MANAGER FRETWELL thanked DEPUTY CITY MANAGER SANCHEZ and MR. PERRIGO for their reports and staff for all the work they have done. MAYOR GOODMAN found the reports to be very informative and one that will keep open the lines of communication.

COUNCILMAN ROSS referred to the mileage of park coverage and the amenities provided by the City for its residents. He expressed appreciation to staff for taking care of the landscaping at the Centennial Hills Community Center, which is a huge facility. He also gave kudos to MS. LEGARZA for taking care of the Fule Springs Park monument. He also likes the fact that a supervisor's name will be attached to all parks because he believes City employees want to be and should be held accountable for the maintenance of a park or a facility. MAYOR GOODMAN added that it will personalize the parks and give a way for residents to contact the City Council and or staff in the event there are complaints. CITY MANAGER FRETWELL pointed out that this promotes ownership and pride, as well as making sure the park is in pristine condition.