

City of Las Vegas

**SPECIAL PURPOSE LAS VEGAS HISTORY TIMELINE COMMITTEE
CITY HALL, 495 S. MAIN STREET
CITY CLERKS 2ND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
CITY OF LAS VEGAS INTERNET ADDRESS: www.lasvegasnevada.gov**

MINUTES

July 16, 2012

11:30 A.M.

ITEMS MAY BE TAKEN OUT OF THE ORDER PRESENTED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRPERSON. 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.

DUPLICATE AUDIO CDs MAY BE AVAILABLE AT A COST OF \$5.00 PER CD THROUGH THE CITY CLERKS OFFICE.

1. [CALL TO ORDER](#)

Minutes:

CHAIR WHITE called the meeting to order at 11:40 a.m.

PRESENT: CHAIR WHITE and MEMBERS STOLDAL and MILLMAN (via telephone conference until 12:56 p.m.)

ALSO PRESENT: DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY JAMES LEWIS, COURTNEY MOONEY, Planning, and DEPUTY CITY CLERK GABRIELA PORTILLO-BRENNER

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 Plaza, 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

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. [HPC-45970 For possible action regarding revisions to the city of Las Vegas History timeline posted on the City of Las Vegas official website - All Wards](#)

Motion made by BOB STOLDAL to Table

Passed For: 2; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 1

BOB STOLDAL, CLAYTEE WHITE; Against-(None); Abstain-(None); Did Not Vote-(None); Excused-(DAVID MILLMAN)

City of Las Vegas

Minutes:

COURTNEY MOONEY, Urban Design Coordinator, explained the purpose of the Las Vegas History Timeline Committee.

CHAIR WHITE questioned whether the Committee was to evaluate content pertaining to the City of Las Vegas or whether Clark County and Southern Nevada events could be included, and discussed her preferences. MEMBER STOLDAL stated that the focus should clearly be on the City of Las Vegas, but they would be remiss to ignore Native American influences or the County before it was incorporated.

MEMBER MILLMAN expressed agreement with including major events such as building Hoover Dam. The current timeline is fine, but he has no problem with expanding it.

CHAIR WHITE reminded the Committee that the purpose today was to review the timeline for accuracy. While performing this review, they should consider which events should be added or expounded upon.

CHAIR WHITE received confirmation from MS. MOONEY that the Committee should give comments to staff to be incorporated into a presentation for the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) to approve. MEMBER STOLDAL suggested clarifying criteria and creating a mission statement. MEMBER MILLMAN agreed and expressed concern with his grasp of what details will be considered important. CHAIR WHITE stated the key, as stated earlier by MEMBER STOLDAL, is to consider milestones and to look at all the timelines. MS. MOONEY suggested the Committee may want to consider creating criteria to determine specific events related to the physical development of Las Vegas. MEMBER STOLDAL questioned how each timeline entry would be identified, for example, by a specific date or an era, and also reiterated CHAIR WHITE's earlier comments on the importance of identifying a geographic area to consider.

MEMBER MILLMAN agreed with CHAIR WHITE that the Committee should begin reviewing submissions. In the interest of time, he suggested focusing this meeting on improving the timeline, and then making corrections at a future meeting.

CHAIR WHITE proceeded to review the timeline entries chronologically:

A. 10,000 years ago Paleo-Indians visited the Las Vegas valley hundreds of years ago. They lived as nomads, travelling and camping in different locations. These people left behind petroglyphs that help us tell our early history.

MEMBER MILLMAN stated he and COMMISSIONER COLLEEN BECK, Historic Preservation Commission (HPC), spoke about this item and believe it should read, Paleo-Indians were the first inhabitants of Southern Nevada more than 10,000 years ago. MEMBER STOLDAL stated that as much as he trusts MEMBER MILLMAN and COMMISSIONER BECK, he recommends including a link to a reference source for each entry. CHAIR WHITE stated it may not be possible to provide links on every entry, but the goal is to be as accurate as possible. MEMBER STOLDAL stated that this timeline will mark milestones or significant elements of history, but he hopes the HPC will understand that it is not perfect and should be reviewed and amended as needed.

B. 1829 A young scout named Rafael Rivera is the first person of European ancestry to look upon the valley. His discovery of a valley with abundant wild grasses growing and a plentiful water supply reduces the journey by several days. The valley is named Las Vegas, Spanish for The Meadows.

MEMBER MILLMAN stated this is troublesome because of its political implications. MEMBER STOLDAL asked if there is evidence to support it. TOM RODRIGUEZ indicated he has lived in Las Vegas for 31 years and has written several books. He stated the proof is in the books written by historians. He named and quoted from several of the books, which credit Armijos First Scout, Rafael Rivera, as being the first to look upon the valley. He believes historians have also gone to Mexico to look at Armijos journal/diary. MEMBER STOLDAL countered that the books cited are not credible; the only primary source he would consider is Armijos diary. MEMBER MILLMAN stated that in considering all the evidence for years, nothing ascertains that Rafael Rivera was the first. MR. RODRIGUEZ insisted, indicating that Mexican writings state the Old Spanish Trail was the result of Armijos party coming to Southern Nevada. MEMBER MILLMAN felt it better to mention Armijo as the leader of the party, but not mention Rafael Rivera as being the first. DOROTHY WRIGHT interjected that what the Armijo party did is important, but she cited from ELIZABETH VON TILL WARRENS book, which states the scouting party left and rejoined 13 days after and went through the Colorado area. JOSE MILANTROS,

City of Las Vegas

University of Nevada Las Vegas Professor, stated that many professors have named Rafael Rivera as being the first white man to see the valley and there is a historic marker to that effect. He challenged the Committee to go to Mexico and read Armijos diary. MEMBER STOLDAL commented that the Committee would have no problem with the professors attending the Historic Preservation Commission and citing their sources.

MS. MOONEY recommended citing both claims and providing links to other sources in instances where a consensus cannot be reached. CHAIR WHITE suggested MEMBERS STOLDAL and MILLMAN and MR. MILANTROS and MR. RODRIGUEZ meet and, in consultation with MS. WARREN, write this entry. DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY JAMES LEWIS advised that since only two of the Historic Preservation Commission members will meet, there is no need to appoint a subcommittee.

C. 1844 John C. Fremont arrived in Las Vegas and kept a journal describing two springs he found. These writings were very popular and lured many individuals to the area.

Referring to his comments for this entry, MEMBER MILLMAN indicated that he was trying to make the point that Fremonts report lured people to the west and served as a guide for Latter Day Saints to follow. CHAIR WHITE stated the language should be revised, but the date is correct.

D. 1855 Members of the Mormon Church choose Las Vegas as the site to build a fort halfway between Salt Lake City and Los Angeles, where they would travel to gather supplies. The reminder of the Mormon Fort can still be seen at the intersection of Las Vegas Boulevard and Washington Avenue. The fort was abandoned several years later.

MEMBER MILLMAN stated the fort was abandoned by 1857. CHAIR WHITE said there is already a link to the Mormon Fort history. MS. MOONEY added that the link goes to the Mormon Fort site. She will revise it to state 1857 and submit the changes to the HPC.

E. 1864 Nevada is admitted in the union as the 36th state. This day is recognized annually as a state holiday.

MEMBER MILLMAN suggested leaving out any reference to the recognition of the state holiday and changing the language to: Nevada is admitted into the union as the 36th state on October 31, 1864. MEMBER STOLDAL added that reference should also be made to when Las Vegas and Clark County became part of the state, which was later on. MEMBER MILLMAN agreed that Clark County should be mentioned in the 1909 timeline, but mentioned that Southern Nevada was not yet a part of the State. CHAIR WHITE directed that MEMBERS MILLMAN and STOLDAL wordsmith this entry.

F. 1885 The State Land Act of 1885 offers sections of land at \$1.25 per acre. Farmers move in and agriculture becomes the dominant industry for the next 20 years.

CHAIR WHITE stated a photograph that reflects the era should replace the 20th Century photograph. MEMBER STOLDAL wondered if this historical reference was really necessary. He stated that he is not sure if the Land Act enabled Clark to obtain all his land, but felt it is important to add the names of Gass and Stewart. MEMBER MILLMAN felt it more accurate to mention ranching than farming and not necessary to say that agriculture was dominant. The Committee members agreed to remove the entire 1885 entry and use the photograph for a future entry.

G. Early 1900s The completion of the main railway linking Southern California with Salt Lake City, establishes Las Vegas as a railroad town. The availability of water makes Las Vegas an ideal refueling point and rest stop.

MEMBERS STOLDAL and MILLMAN and CHAIR WHITE discussed whether the Gass and Stewart families and John Howell should be included. CHAIR WHITE stated it is important to add the name Howell because he was the first black man in the area and it is important to pay attention to diversity, and Kiels name is important because of what happened to the Stewarts. MEMBER MILLMAN suggested adding language, such as: Gass took over the Mormon Fort area and turned

it into a ranch, followed in 1882 by Stewart and other ranchers, including Kiel. He pointed out stated that entries can be made and edited in the future.

City of Las Vegas

MEMBER STOLDAL stated the entry for the completion of the main railroad linking Southern California with Salt Lake City seems redundant with the City's birthday. CHAIR WHITE suggested incorporating the Early 1900s entry with the 1905 entry. MEMBER STOLDAL stated they are two separate events. The completion date of the railroad was January 15, 1905, and the City of Las Vegas was incorporated on a different date. He suggested a date for the railroad and mentioning the actual name, the San Pedro/Los Angeles/Salt Lake, later to become the Union Pacific Railroad in 1921.

MEMBER MILLMAN stated the photograph labeled Fremont Street is actually a photograph of Block 16, or 1st Street. MEMBER STOLDAL commented North 1st Street would be more accurate.

H. 1905 Las Vegas is founded as a city on May 15, 1905, when 110 acres of land situated between Stewart Avenue on the north, Garces Avenue to the south, Main Street to the west, and 5th Street (Las Vegas Boulevard) to the east, are auctioned off.

CHAIR WHITE stated that MEMBER MILLMAN suggested adding, by railroad company after are auctioned off. MEMBER MILLMAN deferred to MEMBER STOLDAL for more accuracy. CHAIR WHITE said the wording can be revised and the auction can be referenced. MEMBER STOLDAL clarified that what was auctioned off was the town site and it was not a total of 110 acres. MEMBER MILLMAN suggested changing it to: Las Vegas was founded after a railroad sponsored auction and provide linkages to sources that provide more details. MEMBER STOLDAL stated there is also a nice auction photograph that could be included. CHAIR WHITE suggested MEMBERS STOLDAL and MILLMAN wordsmith the language. MS. MOONEY indicated she would help with language revisions. MEMBER STOLDAL asked MS. MOONEY to also contact ELIZABETH VON TILL WARREN requesting her documentation. MS. MOONEY indicated she would be making contact with MS. WARREN.

I. 1911 Divorce laws are liberalized in the State of Nevada, making residency easier to attain. A quickie divorce can be attained after six weeks of residency. These short-term residents stayed at dude Ranches which are the forerunners of the sprawling Strip hotels.

CHAIR WHITE agreed with MEMBER MILLMAN that the sentence, These short-term residents stayed at dude Ranches which are the forerunners of the sprawling Strip hotels, should be deleted; perhaps, the entire divorce paragraph should be removed. CHAIR WHITE suggested incorporating it with the 1931 entry and providing a link to expand the explanation on Nevada divorce laws. MEMBER STOLDAL stated that it should be moved to the same entry as when gambling started and the photograph of the Golden Nugget should be removed because it is from the 1950s. MEMBER STOLDAL then recommended moving it to 1910 when the first liberalization of divorce laws came into place. MEMBER MILLMAN stated that since people first went to Reno for divorces, which does not really affect Las Vegas, the mention of liberalized divorces could be included with the 1931 entry.

CHAIR WHITE stated that in 1931 construction of Hoover Dam, the legalization of gambling and liberalization of divorces started. MEMBER STOLDAL said the start date of Hoover Dam construction should be included, as well as for gambling.

MEMBER STOLDAL suggested that each decade include the population of Las Vegas, and perhaps broken down by ethnic background. CHAIR WHITE felt only the population was necessary.

J. 1940s The site for Nellis Air Force Base is located in the northeast, and the Basic Management Complex, providers of raw materials, is located in the southeastern suburb of Henderson.

MEMBER STOLDAL suggested adding the date Boulder City was created if Henderson is going to be included as being named in 1943. MS. MOONEY stated that Boulder City's development is important because it is connected to Hoover Dam. MEMBER STOLDAL wondered if the federal building should also be included. MS. MOONEY stated that the dates

of everything listed in the National Register should be included, and it might also be a good idea to connect people to buildings and sites that still exist rather than omitting the more modern references. CHAIR WHITE and MEMBER STOLDAL agreed.

City of Las Vegas

MEMBER STOLDAL wondered if anything from early days Clark County should be included. MS. MOONEY stated that a link for Clark Countys historical events could be added. MEMBER STOLDAL suggested adding a picture of the president visiting Hoover Dam. For the 1940s entry, MEMBER STOLDAL suggested adding references to World War II and the Las Vegas Army Air Force Gunnery School.

K. 1944 In 1944, the city of Las Vegas begins to operate council/manager form of government. Previous to this date, the city was operated as a commission: form of government.

MEMBER STOLDAL felt this entry is not important and should be omitted.

L. Following World War II, lavishly decorated resort hotels and gambling casinos offering top-name entertainment come into existence. Tourism and entertainment took over as the largest employer in the valley.

CHAIR WHITE read MEMBER MILLMANS recommendations. MEMBER STOLDAL stated that the hotels El Rancho, Frontier, Golden Gate, Hotel Nevada, and El Cortez are also important. He suggested adding one line about when the major hotels opened in Las Vegas, and then link to Dr. Moores list, as CHAIR WHITE suggested. MS. MOONEY stated that other buildings to mention are the Ice House and the first hospital built. MEMBER STOLDAL stated that the first telephone company and civic organization are important to mention, noting that the Chamber of Commerce was so fundamental. CHAIR WHITE said that if the Committee considers the first of every category, the timeline will never be finished. She preferred keeping with the buildings and discussing the other categories with the entire Historic Preservation Commission.

M. 1951-1955 The first atomic bomb is detonated at the Nevada Test Site north of Las Vegas. People flocked to watch the tests until the limited Test Ban Treaty of 1963 required that nuclear tests be moved underground. Moulin Rouge, Las Vegas first racially integrated hotel, opens its doors.

CHAIR WHITE read MEMBER MILLMANS comments and felt both atomic testing and the Moulin Rouge are important. MEMBER STOLDAL stated the Moulin Rouge should have its own entry in 1955, and the first atomic test was in 1951.

CHAIR WHITE asked MEMBER STOLDAL if he felt comfortable with the list he submitted. MEMBER STOLDAL said the only thing he felt people would like to know about municipal elections is that in the beginning elected officials served two-year terms. CHAIR WHITE felt entries for civic organizations are more important than municipal elections. MEMBER STOLDAL agreed.

Regarding COMMISSIONER COLLEEN BECKS recommendations, CHAIR WHITE said she was not sure what was decided about mentioning that the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe was recognized by the federal government and became a sovereign nation on July 22, 1970. She questioned how this contributed to the development of Las Vegas. MEMBER STOLDAL suggested COMMISSIONER BECKS comments be submitted to the HPC for consideration. MS. MOONEY recommended advising the HPC members of the subcommittees determination that historical entries should be considered on their contribution to the development of Las Vegas, and that more information should be provided as part of the Commissioners comments, or they would not be included.

Respecting CHAIR WHITES recommendations, CHAIR WHITE stated she was satisfied with the inclusion of the Moulin Rouge. She would be willing to compromise on the Welfare Rights march on the Strip in 1972 but felt strongly about including the Consent Decree in 1971, which can still be enforced. MEMBER STOLDAL added that perhaps an entry should be included about when women were banned from being dealers. MS. MOONEY asked how that would be considered a contribution to the development of Las Vegas. CHAIR WHITE explained that women moved to Reno when they were not allowed to become dealers, and it took employment away from women.

CHAIR WHITE and MEMBER STOLDAL discussed that at least one more meeting of the Special Purpose Las Vegas History Timeline Committee would be necessary after the comments are considered by the HPC and further direction on the criteria is obtained from the HPC. MS. MOONEY indicated there is a broad item on the 7/25/2012 HPC meeting for discussion. She will also provide all the comments for comparison.

City of Las Vegas

5. CITIZENS PARTICIPATION: PUBLIC COMMENT DURING THIS PORTION OF THE AGENDA MUST BE LIMITED TO MATTERS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE COMMITTEE. NO SUBJECT MAY BE ACTED UPON BY THE COMMITTEE 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.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Minutes:

The meeting was adjourned at 1:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Gabriela Portillo-Brenner, Deputy City Clerk

Courtney Mooney, Planning

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. The Citys TDD number is 386-9108.

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