



Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission Minutes

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Minutes:

VICE CHAIR SCHULTZ called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

PRESENT: VICE CHAIR SCHULTZ and COMMISSIONERS SHERMAN (via teleconference), McCURDY, BECKER (excused from 4:56 p.m. to 5:05 p.m.), GEBRE, NEIGER, BRIARE, ASSELIN, HOWARD, KELLER, JOHNSON and MARTIN

EXCUSED: CHAIR WHITE and COMMISSIONERS ARMENIAN and ZAMORA

ALSO PRESENT: STEVE FORD, Acting Director of Parks and Recreation, KIM KLEIN, Administrative Secretary, JOHN RIDILLA, Deputy City Attorney, JACQUIE MILLER, Sr. Deputy City Clerk, and BRIAN CARROLL, Deputy City Clerk

2. Announcement Regarding: Compliance with Open Meeting Law

Minutes:

ANNOUNCEMENT MADE: This meeting has been properly noticed and posted at the following locations in accordance with the noticing standards as outlined in NRS 241.020: City Hall, 495 South Main Street, 1st Floor; The City of Las Vegas website – www.lasvegasnevada.gov; and The Nevada Public Notice Website – notice.nv.gov.

3. Public Comment: Comment during this portion of the agenda must be limited to matters on the agenda for action. If you wish to be heard, come forward and 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 the Final Minutes by reference of the Regular Meeting of February 1, 2022

Motion made by William McCurdy to Approve

Passed For: 12; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 3

For-Larry Schultz, Lisa Sherman, William McCurdy, Richard Becker, Elizabeth Gebre, Steven Neiger, Bob Briare, Audrey Asselin, Melody Howard, Micaela Keller, Almendra Johnson, Russell Martin; Excused-Malcolm D. White, Adroushan Armenian, Rudy Zamora;

5. Report by the Department of Public Safety regarding issues at City facilities and parks – All Wards

Minutes:

LIEUTENANT JOHN GUILLEN, Department of Public Safety, provided statistics from the February Deputy City Marshals Report, which was submitted and is attached as backup. He reported a total of 31 arrests, 28 misdemeanor citations, eight traffic citations, one felony arrest, and five juvenile arrests or citations issued during the month of February. He noted the Unlawful Act arrest reported at Justice Leavitt Community Park will be relabeled to Unlawful Possession of Shopping Cart at the next Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission meeting. LIEUTENANT GUILLEN stated there were no arrests in Wards 2 or 6 and read park arrest locations for Wards 1, 3, 4, and 5 from the report. He provided misdemeanor and traffic citation locations for Wards 1, 2, 3, and 5 with no citations for Wards 4 or 6. There were no feeding violations in the month of February. LIEUTENANT GUILLEN reported the top enforcement location to be Justice Leavitt Community Park, and noted park violations were the most enforced violation. He stated graffiti and malicious destruction accounted for about 18 percent of total incident reports, and that six graffiti violations were recently cited including one at Doc Romeo Park. He also noted there was a community policing event held at Doolittle Community Center.

COMMISSIONER McCURDY noticed damaged fencing and emblem defacement at Historic Westside Legacy Park, and he asked that camera footage be checked and the area be patrolled by the marshals more often. He also asked LIEUTENANT GUILLEN to work with school police at West Middle School to investigate reported issues at Dollar General and McDonald's. VICE CHAIR SCHULTZ expressed concern about this damage since the park was recently opened, and asked that an investigation report be provided at the next meeting. LIEUTENANT GUILLEN stated he would look into these matters and research any reports.

COMMISSIONER SHERMAN applauded LIEUTENANT GUILLEN for the graffiti citation efforts at Doc Romeo Park, and asked for elaboration on these efforts. LIEUTENANT GUILLEN advised their Criminal Investigation section receives reports and work with resources, such as the Clark County School District Police Department, to identify perpetrators.

COMMISSIONER NEIGER believed a gang unit within the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department uses graffiti photos to keep track of gang activity.

COMMISSIONER KELLER noticed an increase in arrests and misdemeanor citations issued in Ward 3 and asked if the neighborhood should be made aware. LIEUTENANT GUILLEN advised increased staff allow for additional park patrolling and faster response time.

COMMISSIONER BECKER noted warmer weather traditionally increases park incidents.

COMMISSIONER BRIARE asked for clarification between park violation arrests and citations, and LIEUTENANT GUILLEN defined park violations as breaking posted park rules and are they typically park closure and alcohol prohibited offenses. First time offenders are given a warning or a citation, and new legislation requires a prior citation or conviction in order to make an arrest.

COMMISSIONER GEBRE clarified with LIEUTENANT GUILLEN that driving violations typically involve speeding, reckless driving and DUI (driving under the influence). He noted some parks do not have speed limit signs, but they are able to determine unsafe driving through observation.

COMMISSIONER KELLER requested additional details on the reported Unlawful Possession of Shopping Cart charge and asked about the arrestee's possessions. LIEUTENANT GUILLEN advised they may have had a prior citation for the charge, and their possessions would be taken to the facility with them. COMMISSIONER McCURDY expressed support for enforcement of this charge and believed it could eliminate some of the homeless people in public parks.

VICE CHAIR SCHULTZ asked if there were any upcoming trends or concerns, and LIEUTENANT GUILLEN expected the volume to increase in the summer months.

6. Report by Steve Glimp, Superintendent of Parks, regarding park maintenance updates – All Wards

Minutes:

STEVE GLIMP, Superintendent of Parks, provided an update on park projects broken down by ward.

Ward 2 – The playground construction at Angel Park has been completed.

Ward 3 – The mini-pitch courts at Freedom Park will likely be completed on March 2, 2022, and there should be 150 trees planted by April 28, 2022. The Commissioners will be informed when the ribbon cutting date is scheduled.

Ward 4 – The picnic pavilions and restrooms at Bunker Park have received new roofs.

Ward 6 – In partnership with Get Outdoors Nevada, a pollinator garden, which consists of native shrubs and wildflowers, will be installed at Centennial Hills Park on March 5, 2022. COMMISSIONER JOHNSON advised this event will run from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

All Wards – There have been 210 trees planted at various parks in all wards since January.

COMMISSIONER BECKER asked if the City of Las Vegas has applied for the Tree City USA program, and MR. GLIMP noted they have been a member of the program for 25 years.

COMMISSIONER KELLER asked if children were allowed to attend the pollinator garden event and asked if names were needed ahead of time to participate. MR. GLIMP advised this community event was a pilot project with Get Outdoors Nevada, and the event was open to everybody.

COMMISSIONER McCURDY expressed maintenance and littering concerns for Doolittle Community Center and Lubertha Johnson Park. MR. GLIMP appreciated the feedback and he will work with staff to those resolve concerns.

COMMISSIONER MARTIN thanked MR. GLIMP for the 55-gallon trash containers installed at Kellogg Zaher Sports Complex.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON asked if water drinking fountains at parks would be replaced by water bottle refill stations similar to those installed at Bruce Trent Park. MR. GLIMP advised that all new parks would have water bottle refill stations. Further, water drinking fountains that reach the end of their life cycle would be replaced with the refill stations.

VICE CHAIR SCHULTZ requested a monthly event calendar be provided to Commissioners, and STEVE FORD, Acting Director of Parks and Recreation, said he would have the Park Special Events Unit provide this.

COMMISSIONER BECKER noticed the fields at Majestic Park appeared brown and splotchy, and MR. GLIMP stated the fields were not overseeded this year due to environmental concerns on water usage. They worked with the leagues to confirm this would not affect ball fields' functionality.

COMMISSIONER BRIARE commended staff for maintaining soccer facilities for the Las Vegas Mayor's Cup International Showcase.

COMMISSIONER GEBRE recommended that Commissioners tour their parks.

7. ABEYANCE ITEM - Discussion for possible action to rename Charleston Heights Park, located at 2221 Maverick Street – Ward 5

Minutes:

STEVE FORD, Acting Director of Parks and Recreation, requested Charleston Heights Park be renamed to Ernest and Betty Becker Family Technology and Recreation Park, or Becker Technology Park for short. The

scope of the project would be a complete renovation of the four-acre park site, and this would be the first park within the City of Las Vegas that combines high-tech with recreation. New park amenities would include shaded children play areas, a basketball court, reservable picnic shelters, parking lots and walking pathways with user- or motion-activated LED (light-emitting diode) lighting and grass play areas.

MR. FORD reported the Tech Center will be a 5,800 square-foot community building with an attached 550 square-foot restroom with outside access. The multimedia and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) amenities will include podcast equipment, a green screen with lights, cameras and microphones, an Esports room, laptop checkout with printers and 3D printers, and additional equipment to-be-determined. He noted the proposed staffing would be one Center Coordinator, two Recreation Leaders and some part-time hourly workers. This \$5.2 million construction project received the notice to proceed in October 2021, and the estimated construction turnover date is October 2022. They have performed outreach to the Clark County School District, University of Nevada, Las Vegas' (UNLV) College of Engineering and Department of Film, and Nevada State College to find potential uses for the non-traditional community center. Eight out of 49 high schools and 20 out of 61 middle schools do not have a robotics program, and creating a program for these schools would contribute to the success of the recreation center. An interdepartmental City of Las Vegas team comprised of staff from the department of Youth Development and Social Innovation and the Office of Cultural Affairs will use their technology expertise to develop programming.

MR. FORD introduced HARRY WILLIAMS, Neighborhood Outreach Specialist, who said several years ago COUNCILMAN CREAR'S office had been planning a standard renovation to Charleston Heights Park, until Bolden Area Command and Liberty Baptist Church suggested converting an Albertsons grocery store into a community center to deter delinquent youth crimes. COUNCILMAN CREAR'S office performed public outreach with Gibson Middle School, youth and seniors in the neighborhood, and worked with the Metropolitan Police Department and entities named by MR. FORD, to incorporate a technology-based community center within Charleston Heights Park. MR. WILLIAMS noted the Charleston Heights Construction Company was owned by the Becker family, who built communities and donated many buildings and land to the City of Las Vegas, including the land Charleston Heights Park was built upon. He stated there are several Charleston Heights neighborhood associations and the Charleston Heights Library, and COUNCILMAN CREAR asked that the park be renamed after the Becker family instead of the construction company. The nearby Cox Innovation Lab at Strong Future Technology Training Center was recently opened at the Historic Westside School, and they host Esports tournaments and technology training courses. This training center shows the need for a technology-based community center, especially since the community does not currently have a community center at all.

VICE CHAIR SCHULTZ asked that the report be e-mailed to the Commissioners and expressed support of the proposal.

COMMISSIONER McCURDY believed the renaming decision should be left to him and COMMISSIONER GEBRE as the Ward 5 Commission representatives. He has known the Becker family for over 50 years and acknowledged the various communities they have constructed. He and COMMISSIONER GEBRE expressed support for renaming the park after the Becker family.

COMMISSIONER SHERMAN suggested that the community center be named after the Becker family instead of renaming the park, and she worried that the local community was not informed of the potential renaming. MR. WILLIAMS stated several neighborhood meetings were held at Charleston Heights Park and reiterated the desire to honor the Becker family name as opposed to their construction company.

VICE CHAIR SCHULTZ asked which computer operating system the community center would utilize, and MR. FORD said that decision has not been made.

COMMISSIONER BRIARE felt renaming the park would be an honor to name the park and facility after the Becker family and expressed support.

DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY JOHN RIDILLA confirmed the proposed name with MR. FORD.

Motion made by William McCurdy to Approve the name Ernest and Betty Becker Family Technology and Recreation Park

Passed For: 11; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 1; Excused: 3

For-Larry Schultz, Lisa Sherman, William McCurdy, Elizabeth Gebre, Steven Neiger, Bob Briare, Audrey Asselin, Melody Howard, Micaela Keller, Almendra Johnson, Russell Martin; Did Not Vote-Richard Becker; Excused-Malcolm D. White, Adroushan Armenian, Rudy Zamora;

8. Discussion for possible action to rename Doolittle Senior Center, located at 1930 N. J Street, to Doolittle Active Adult Center – Ward 5, and Lieburn Senior Center, located at 6230 Garwood Avenue, to Lieburn Active Adult Center – Ward 1

Minutes:

STEVE FORD, Acting Director of Parks and Recreation, stated the proposed name change was part of a national trend to be inclusive and to be more descriptive of the variety of active programs offered. He believed renaming these senior centers would be advantageous from a marketing and consistency standpoint, noting Centennial Hills Active Adult Center's name.

Motion made by William McCurdy to Approve

Passed For: 11; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 1; Excused: 3

For-Larry Schultz, Lisa Sherman, William McCurdy, Elizabeth Gebre, Steven Neiger, Bob Briare, Audrey Asselin, Melody Howard, Micaela Keller, Almendra Johnson, Russell Martin; Did Not Vote-Richard Becker; Excused-Malcolm D. White, Adroushan Armenian, Rudy Zamora;

9. Report by Steve Ford, Acting Director of Parks and Recreation, regarding emerging issues related to the Department of Parks and Recreation – All Wards

Minutes:

STEVE FORD, Acting Director of Parks and Recreation, reported that Harris Marion Park and Charleston Heights Park were under construction, while several other parks were in the design phase. He advised the recruitment advertisement for the permanent Director of Parks and Recreation closed on February 24th, and 141 applications were received. They plan to interview eight candidates and provide a second interview for two or three candidates with CITY MANAGER JORGE CERVANTES and CHIEF COMMUNITY SERVICES OFFICER DR. LISA MORRIS HIBBLER. MR. FORD expected the position to be ratified at the April 20th or May 4th City Council meeting.

VICE CHAIR SCHULTZ requested that the final candidate's resume be provided to the Commission, and MR. FORD said he would make that suggestion to MR. CERVANTES.

COMMISSIONER BECKER asked that a Commissioner be included in the second interview, and VICE CHAIR SCHULTZ suggested COMMISSIONER BECKER take that role unless his term expiration excluded him.

COMMISSIONER SHERMAN did not believe the resume should be shared since it may contain private information, and DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY JOHN RIDILLA believed the resumes of all candidates were public record.

COMMISSIONER McCURDY asked MR. FORD if he applied for the position, to which he said no.

VICE CHAIR SCHULTZ asked if supply chain issues were a problem. MR. FORD noted the computer chip shortage may present an issue with equipment orders, but he expressed more concern with hourly wage staff recruitment.

10. Report by Commission members regarding parks issues and events within their respective Council Wards and at large – All Wards

Minutes:

COMMISSIONER BECKER restated concern regarding the fields at Majestic Park and believed dry grass could affect functionality. He announced the upcoming Breakfast Buzz being held at Egg Works, located at 2025 Village Center Circle. The Senior Guardianship Seminar will take place on March 21, 2022 between 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., and will be held at the Sahara West Library. The Art in the Park event will take place on April 23, 2022 at Bruce Trent Park, and COMMISSIONER BECKER will have a booth with his daughter. Ward 2 RSVP details can be found on the website at www.LasVegasNevada.gov.

COMMISSIONER McCURDY expressed concern regarding cleanliness on walking paths at Ward 5 parks.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON announced volunteer and cleanup events taking place in March: a native habitat pollinator garden at Centennial Hills Park on March 5, 2022 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., students from Howard University will be at Lorenzi Park on March 8, 2022 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., and the cleanup and neighborhood block party will take place at Mayfair Place Park on March 19, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Participation information can be found at www.getoutdoorsnevada.org. VICE CHAIR SCHULTZ confirmed with COMMISSIONER JOHNSON that these events are in partnership with the City of Las Vegas and Get Outdoors Nevada.

COMMISSIONER GEBRE announced that COMMISSIONER McCURDY will be in the second group of honorees at the Historic Westside Legacy Park. COMMISSIONER McCURDY stated he has been involved with the City of Las Vegas government since 1965; he currently serves on the Board of Directors for Habitat for Humanity Las Vegas and is a Commissioner for the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission. He noted his nephew, CHASE McCURDY, and son were involved with the Historic Westside Legacy Park, and he felt honored by the nomination. VICE CHAIR SCHULTZ congratulated COMMISSIONER McCURDY on behalf of the Commission.

COMMISSIONER BRIARE reported redistricting caused some parks to change Wards and asked if a new list of parks could be provided. STEVE FORD, Acting Director of Parks and Recreation, advised a list and a map would be provided.

11. **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, come forward and 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.

12. **Adjournment**

Minutes:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Brian Carroll, Deputy City Clerk

Steve Ford, Acting Director of Parks and Recreation

THIS MEETING WAS PROPERLY NOTICED AND POSTED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NOTICING STANDARDS AS OUTLINED IN NRS 241.020:

The City of Las Vegas website – www.lasvegasnevada.gov

The Nevada Public Notice website – notice.nv.gov

City Hall, 495 South Main Street, 1st Floor