



Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission Minutes

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Minutes:

VICE CHAIR SCHULTZ called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

PRESENT: VICE CHAIR SCHULTZ and COMMISSIONERS SHERMAN (via teleconference), ARMENIAN, BECKER, NEIGER, HENLEY (via teleconference), BRIARE, ASSELIN, HOWARD and JIMENEZ

EXCUSED: CHAIR WHITE and COMMISSIONERS McCURDY, GEBRE, FOEMMEL and KELLER

ALSO PRESENT: GREG WEITZEL, Director of Parks and Recreation, APRIL DI GIOVANNI, Administrative Secretary, JOHN RIDILLA, Deputy City Attorney, and ASHLEY FOSTER, 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 State of Nevada Executive Department Declaration of Emergency Directive 006: 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. ABEYANCE ITEM – For possible action to approve the Final Minutes by reference of the Regular Meeting of January 5, 2021

Minutes:

VICE CHAIR SCHULTZ stated these minutes were held in abeyance because clarification was needed from CHAIR WHITE regarding a statement made involving virtual meetings, and he asked if that had been obtained. GREG WEITZEL, Director of Parks and Recreation, stated staff was working with the Office of the City Clerk and would report back next month.

Motion made by Richard Becker to Hold in Abeyance to 4/6/2021

Passed For: 10; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 5

For-Richard Becker, Jesus Jimenez, Steven Neiger, Audrey Asselin, Lisa Sherman, Bob Briare, Mike Henley, Adroushan Armenian, Larry Schultz, Melody Howard; Excused-Eric Foemmel, Malcolm D. White, Elizabeth Gebre, William McCurdy, Micaela Keller;

5. For possible action to approve the Final Minutes by reference of the Regular Meeting of February 2, 2021

Motion made by Richard Becker to Approve

Passed For: 10; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 5

For-Richard Becker, Jesus Jimenez, Steven Neiger, Audrey Asselin, Lisa Sherman, Bob Briare, Mike Henley, Adroushan Armenian, Larry Schultz, Melody Howard; Excused-Eric Foemmel, Malcolm D. White, Elizabeth Gebre, William McCurdy, Micaela Keller;

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

Minutes:

DEPUTY CITY MARSHAL PATRICK KELLY presented the February Deputy City Marshals report, which was submitted and is included in the backup. He relayed statistics for the total number of calls for service and incidents, along with the number of those that resulted in enforcement action (arrests, citations and warning citations). He reported the percentages of those involving assault, battery and pedestrian violations and provided a summary by Ward of arrests, citations and warning citations. MARSHAL KELLY noted Fremont Street Experience continues to be the location with the highest number of calls for service and incidents, followed by the Homeless Resource Center, Gary Reese Freedom Park, the City jail and City Hall.

He stated he did not have any information as far as the Department of Public Safety looking ahead, but could possibly ask that and report back at the next meeting. With the transition occurring related to the pandemic, VICE CHAIR SCHULTZ wondered about the future trends of public safety. He indicated the reports presented are what he refers to as “rear-view mirror” reports, and he would like to also see something looking forward. MARSHAL KELLY commented with warmer temperatures approaching and restrictions being lifted with regard to capacity, an increase in crime is anticipated, especially assaults and batteries.

COMMISSIONER BRIARE asked what an arrest for a pedestrian violation would include. MARSHAL KELLY explained those violations typically involve jaywalking or someone being in the roadway when they are not supposed to be. Usually, this results in either a citation or warning citation, but many times will result in an arrest because the individual will have an outstanding warrant.

COMMISSIONER SHERMAN asked the name of the cemetery mentioned during MARSHAL KELLY'S report and wondered if the Department of Public Safety (DPS) monitored it as part of the parks. MARSHAL KELLY stated the cemetery he was referring to was Woodlawn Cemetery on the corner of Las Vegas Boulevard and Owens Avenue. He confirmed this is a City property that DPS patrols, and that occasionally they receive a call for service for that property.

VICE CHAIR SCHULTZ thanked MARSHAL KELLY for his report.

7. Report by Greg A. Weitzel, Director of Parks and Recreation, regarding Capital Improvement Projects – All Wards

Minutes:

With regard to emerging issues, GREG WEITZEL, Director of Parks and Recreation, stated the Department is in the process of developing a Parks and Recreation System Master Plan. MR. WEITZEL noted three virtual meetings are scheduled for March 16, 2021, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.; March 20, 2021, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.; and March 22, 2021, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and that the same presentation will be given at each meeting. A handout with the meeting information was distributed and submitted for the record. He stated this effort is being done in conjunction with the Planning Department, which will be presenting on the 2050 Master Plan during the first hour of each meeting. Although these meetings are virtual, they will be interactive, with instant polling and questions, and he encouraged the Commissioners to participate.

MR. WEITZEL also reported on the Volunteers in Parks Program. Flyers highlighting the partnership with Get Outdoors Nevada and park cleanup projects were distributed and are included in the backup. He noted recently a group of students from The Meadows School, along with other volunteers, participated in a clean-up project at Bruce Trent Park, and a group of more than 50 volunteers planted 18 trees at Freedom Park in anticipation of the upcoming “super-build” playground project. He stated these are opportunities for the Commissioners to volunteer in the parks as well, and they should contact staff if interested in any upcoming events scheduled in March and April.

MR. WEITZEL stated the Department has partnered with several other Parks and Recreation Departments across the country for a TEDex training opportunity, not only for staff, but for anyone involved with the Department. This will

be a virtual event with free registration. Speakers have been lined up specific to parks and recreation, inclusion, diversity and equity. A handout was distributed for this event as well, and is included in the backup.

Through a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted and is attached as backup, MR. WEITZEL went on to speak about the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). He explained a Capital Improvement Plan is a short-range plan, typically four to 10 years, that identifies capital projects, including infrastructure, equipment purchases and major studies in conjunction with construction, completion schedules and financing plans. The Plan coordinates the planning, financial capacity and physical development. There are various funding sources, such as the General Fund, Parks and Recreation bonds, the Residential Construction Tax, the Regional Transportation Commission, state and federal grants, sponsorships and private donations. He commented what an awe-inspiring year it has been working on capital projects in cooperation with several other departments, as it takes a team to make these projects successful, and each department brings expertise, professionalism and teamwork to the table.

MR. WEITZEL named the various projects completed in each of the following Wards during the last year. Ward 1 – Woofter Park and Bill Briare Park; Ward 2 – Veterans Memorial Community Center and Pavilion Center Pool; Ward 3 – Baker Pool and Park, East Las Vegas Family Park, Stupak Preschool Classroom and Healing Garden North (Phase 2); Ward 4 – Trigono Hills Park; Ward 5 – Dula Community Center; Ward 6 – Teton Trails Park, Alyn Beck Memorial Park and the Floyd Lamb Park Mountain Bike Trails.

Looking ahead, MR. WEITZEL stated they do not have a lot of control over the Residential Construction Tax funds that each Ward receives, nor the types of projects put out for recreation bonds. The City does, however, have control over the five-year asset replacement schedule, which consists of \$1 million per Ward, as well as an additional \$1 million in CIP requests for Fiscal Year 2022 for each Ward's top five projects and concerns. Staff is currently in the process of meeting with the City Council to identify those projects for budget consideration. He shared one of the ideas that staff is working on includes the installation of SMART Parks technology in 15 different parks. Optical sensors will be used to help identify problems in the parks, create maintenance efficiencies and decrease response times to concerns brought to staff's attention. Additionally, one of the rooms at the Dula Community Center is currently being renovated to become an eSports facility. There is also an eSports Committee that is working together with the Departments of Information Technologies, Youth Development and Social Innovation and Parks and Recreation for a citywide team approach rollout for tournaments, leagues and clinics, as well as programming for coding and other jobs.

MR. WEITZEL reported FOX 5 News highlighted the 18 trees planted at Freedom Park, but with a grant that was recently awarded from the state, there are many other trees being planned for in the future. He stated the City Tree Legacy Program, where a tree can be purchased and planted in remembrance of a loved one or for another special occasion, is being finalized and should be rolled out within the next month.

MR. WEITZEL reviewed the CIP Funding Summary and projects for each Ward, noting CIP funding totaled a little more than \$42 million. These projects include the following:

Ward 1 – Rainbow Family Park Playground and Cragin Park Soccer Field Addition

Ward 2 – Regional Aquatic Complex at Pavilion Center Pool and the Playground Community Build at Bruce Trent Park

Ward 3 – Harris-Marion Park improvements, a dog run at Baker Park and a dog park at the East Las Vegas Family Park

Ward 4 – Regional Pickleball Complex at Wayne Bunker Park and the construction of an additional room at Cimarron Rose Community Center

Ward 5 – Charleston Heights Park and Community Center, Historic Westside Legacy Park and the Regional Adaptive Sports Complex

Ward 6 – Floyd Lamb Park Hay Barn Restoration and the Northwest Regional Park (Phase 1)

Lastly, MR. WEITZEL stated putting the projects together has been a lot of work, specifically the asset replacement schedule over the next five years. He pointed out any project over \$100,000 is required to go through the Public Works process, requiring a formal bid, etc. Those that are under \$100,000 still require a quote process through Purchasing. As it takes staff to complete these projects, the Department of Parks and Recreation has requested a recruitment to fill the Senior Management Analyst position vacated due to the recent retirement of MIKE HABIGHORST, who was with the City of Las Vegas for 30 years and over the CIP. Additionally, new positions for a Construction Project Administrator and a Facilities Maintenance Field Supervisor have been requested. These three individuals, along with ADRIAN MONTENEGRO, Facilities Project Manager, will represent the Parks and Recreation Department with regard to these \$42 million in projects.

VICE CHAIR SCHULTZ complimented MR. WEITZEL on a thorough and complete presentation, which he found helpful. He mentioned at the last meeting concern was raised about the equity of planning and programming across the Wards, and he believed that was addressed via this presentation, noting in reviewing the funding summaries, the figures for Ward 5 were the highest of all of the Wards. He added the Mayor and Council are the ones who deliberate on funding priorities and allocations. MR. WEITZEL confirmed that to be the case, stating what was presented is simply a snapshot in time and that the \$30 million requested in grants was not included in these figures, which if granted, would influence the total amounts. Also, some inequities may be due to the fact that the Residential Construction Tax is based on construction, and some Wards have more construction than others. Ward 3 is built out, while there is heavy development occurring in Ward 6. He stated the pillars of Parks and Recreation are conservation, health and wellness and equity, and they want to be equitable in everything that they do, especially projects. With regard to the \$54 million recreation bond money from six to seven years ago, he was told by the City Manager's Office that that funding was distributed equally across all six Wards when it was originally awarded.

VICE CHAIR SCHULTZ asked for clarification regarding the fire suppression system at Floyd Lamb Park, which was mentioned during MR. WEITZEL'S presentation. MR. WEITZEL indicated he was not familiar with the details, but believed the opening of the renovated hay barn was delayed due to the fire suppression system permitting process.

VICE CHAIR SCHULTZ referenced a postcard he received in the mail for the three virtual meetings, stating he signed up for one. MR. WEITZEL believed postcards had been mailed to approximately 50,000 residents. After the Vice Chair commented the sign-up process was somewhat difficult on the website, MR. WEITZEL stated he would pass that information along to the Communications team.

COMMISSIONER HOWARD asked if by statute, Residential Construction Tax funding had to remain in a specific Ward, to which MR. WEITZEL confirmed.

COMMISSIONER BRIARE wondered if in a year, the Commission would see the same projects being completed or if there would be new ones. MR. WEITZEL explained the Commission would see something similar to what was presented at this meeting – an overview of those projects that were completed along with any upcoming projects. He indicated he highlighted only some of the projects and that there are many more projects happening within each Ward. He offered to share a complete project list by Ward with the Commissioners.

COMMISSIONER SHERMAN asked about the location of the two fitness courts proposed to be built in the future. MR. WEITZEL stated one has been approved for Ward 4 at Garehime Heights Park and the other is being considered in Ward 1 at Woofter Park to replace the outdated exercise stations. However, prior to moving forward with that project, COUNCILMAN KNUDSEN has requested a neighborhood survey be conducted to find out if that is something the residents of Ward 1 would like to see in their neighborhood park.

With regard to the Residential Construction Tax, COMMISSIONER HENLEY explained it equates to approximately \$1,000 per dwelling, and there is an associated time limit. He asked if the Capital Improvement Plan included future unfunded projects and as park acreage increases, if they were able to add to the budget requisite staff and equipment to maintain such. MR. WEITZEL confirmed the Residential Construction Tax money is \$1,000 per dwelling unit and must be spent within three years of the final construction. With regards to the Commissioner's other question, MR. WEITZEL stated a deferred maintenance schedule is maintained for each park. However, there is never enough money to do everything they would like to do, so they have to be selective and prioritize. He also

explained currently there is no formula with regard to the additional acreage as it relates to staffing and equipment, but they wish to address that in their System Master Plan.

COMMISSIONER BECKER asked if the City of Las Vegas uses a system in which money awarded from grants or bonds is placed in an account that accrues interest, and whereby those funds can then be used to supplement some of the maintenance going forward. MR. WEITZEL stated he understood the question, but indicated he would have to check with the Finance Department as to how this is done at the City.

Subsequent to discussion on this item, MR. WEITZEL confirmed for VICE CHAIR SCHULTZ that his presentation covered Item 8 as well.

See Item 9 for related discussion.

8. Report by Greg A. Weitzel, Director of Parks and Recreation, regarding emerging issues related to the Department of Parks and Recreation – All Wards

Minutes:

See Items 7 and 9 for related discussion.

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

Minutes:

VICE CHAIR SCHULTZ referenced the presentation by SUSAN QUINTANA, Parks and Recreation Administrative Section Manager and CAPRA (Commissioner for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies) Coordinator at the February Commission meeting, and thought it provided an opportunity for the Commissioners to be active in the process and volunteer to help with the 10 Chapters of CAPRA. He named the areas in which he signed up and indicated he had already made contact with those Chapter leads.

Mentioning a playground opening that took place on February 13, 2021 and the loosening of restrictions by the Governor, the Vice Chair asked staff to consider inviting the Commissioners to such events, in their Wards and at large, as was done pre-pandemic. MR. WEITZEL confirmed increased capacity is anticipated at these events, and staff would ensure the Commission is invited to all future ribbon cuttings for parks and projects. He added he planned to include upcoming events in his emerging issues report going forward.

VICE CHAIR SCHULTZ said he and COMMISSIONER HOWARD have a park tour and inspection scheduled for April 8, 2021.

COMMISSIONER BRIARE asked who he could contact to coordinate bringing a large group to the volunteer events. MR. WEITZEL indicated he could either reach out to staff and they would connect him to Get Outdoors Nevada, or he could contact ALMENDRA JOHNSON, Volunteer Program Director, Get Outdoors Nevada, directly. MR. WEITZEL added the City Council is supportive of funding for more trees, and instead of solely doing litter pick up, there will be more tree plantings in the parks, which is great for larger groups. COMMISSIONER BRIARE thought this would be a good event for soccer teams that are required to do some kind of community service. MR. WEITZEL referred the Commissioner to KELLY SCHWARZ, Senior Management Analyst, to help in scheduling that event.

At the request of DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY JOHN RIDILLA, VICE CHAIR SCHULTZ announced Items 7 and 8 were heard together.

10. **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.

11. Adjournment

Minutes:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Ashley Foster, Deputy City Clerk

Greg A. Weitzel, Director of Parks and Recreation

Minutes Prepared by:

Debra A. Outland, Deputy City Clerk

THIS MEETING WAS PROPERLY NOTICED AND POSTED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STATE OF NEVADA EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY DIRECTIVE 006
The City of Las Vegas website – www.lasvegasnevada.gov
and
The Nevada Public Notice Website – notice.nv.gov