



## Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission Minutes

### 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Minutes:

CHAIR WHITE called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

PRESENT: CHAIR WHITE and COMMISSIONERS SCHULTZ, SHERMAN, McCURDY (excused until 4:06 p.m.), NEIGER, HENLEY, BRIARE, ASSELIN, HOWARD and FOEMMEL

EXCUSED: COMMISSIONERS ARMENIAN, BECKER, GEBRE, LOZANO and JIMENEZ

ALSO PRESENT: GREG WEITZEL, Director of Parks and Recreation, KELLY SCHWARZ, Sr. Management Analyst, SETH FLOYD, Deputy City Attorney, and DEBRA A. OUTLAND, 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: 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.

### 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 4, 2020

Motion made by Mike Henley to Approve

NOTE: Due to technical difficulties, the video did not capture the vote. Please see below for accurate voting information.

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

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

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

Minutes:

DEPUTY CITY MARSHAL PRESTON HUHN provided a brief summary of the Deputy City Marshals' Monthly Report for February 2020. Staff distributed the report which is included in the backup. MR. HUHN reported there were 1,035 calls for service of which 248 had enforcement activity. Ward 3 had the most arrests and

citations at 44 arrests and 42 citations many of which occurred on Fremont Street. Change in weather, more foot traffic, open containers and narcotics were some of the reasons for the number of arrests and citations. COMMISSIONER SCHULTZ pointed out that 64 percent of all arrests were made on Fremont Street.

Ward 5 ranked second highest with 25 arrests and 27 citations most of which occurred at the Homeless Resource Center; however, MARSHAL HUHN was unsure if this was due to the new ordinance or if more people are utilizing the Homeless Resource Center now.

He stated that the Marshals conducted eight community-oriented policing events at community centers throughout the valley. With Sidewalk Cleanup with Rapid Response and the Department of Operations and Maintenance, Marshals were able to contact 112 individuals that were sleeping on the sidewalk. Three were non-complaint and asked to move along so Rapid Response could do their cleanup. He explained for CHAIR WHITE and COMMISSIONER NEIGER the process to move individuals who are non-compliant, which may include a warning citation but noted that no arrests have been made in accordance with the new ordinance.

Acknowledging the Deputy City Marshals' Monthly Report, COMMISSIONER SCHULTZ wondered if things will be better or worse in a year. MARSHAL HUHN hoped the numbers would drop but could not give a complete foresight. He indicated most enforcement action occurs at City parks.

CHAIR WHITE said in other communities with a similar homelessness ordinance, those individuals went into the community, away from parks, and have created issues for communities. MARSHAL HUHN commented that he has seen this happening more and more.

COMMISSIONER McCURDY noted Wards 3 and 5 have the most arrests and citations and acknowledged the difference in statistics of the other Wards. MARSHAL HUHN pointed out those Wards are around the downtown area, and calls for service are received for various reasons.

COMMISSIONER HENLEY said there was an article in the newspaper regarding the City Council's 2050 Master Plan, and as part of that process a consultant conducted a quality of life survey. He noted that generally respondents were happy with the neighborhood they lived in but felt unsafe in neighborhood parks. The Commissioner suggested focus should be directed towards this as it will continue to come up.

6. Report by the Department of Operations and Maintenance regarding park maintenance – All Wards

Minutes:

STEVEN GLIMP, Park Maintenance Manager, stated that staff finished condition assessment surveys for big ticket items in the parks such as shade structures, playground equipment, and artificial turf based upon an assumed life cycle in each category and the item's actual condition.

ADRIAN MONTENEGRO, Facilities Maintenance Supervisor, distributed a handout of parks project renderings, a copy of which was submitted and attached as backup, and explained that the renderings depict some new playground installments at Rainbow Family Park, Angel Park, Children's Memorial Park, and various other locations. Bettye Wilson Soccer Complex recently underwent a retro playground build and resurface, and artificial turf was laid over a continuation surface. MR. MONTENEGRO pointed out that the top right image on the handout illustrated the use of bonded rubber at Polly Gonzalez Memorial Park which requires less maintenance and has a lesser chance of creating potholes in the surface.

MR. MONTENEGRO pointed out the cork surfacing in the image with the four squares in the middle right and the image in the bottom left of the handout noting it is a sustainable and natural product.

He noted staff was proud of how well the Fitness Court at Bill Boyer Park came out, and it is a good example of updated fitness equipment being installed at the parks.

Lastly, MR. MONTENEGRO summarized that there are ongoing inspections of the playground equipment, and staff continues to meet with manufacturer representatives to ensure there is no delay on getting needed equipment or parts. He noted a fabric shade maintenance contract has been completed and a vendor has been selected to help expedite fabric shade repairs and warranty work.

COMMISSIONER McCURDY asked about and requested a list of planned projects for Ward 5. MR. GLIMP replied that he would provide that list.

COMMISSIONER SCHULTZ said in May of 2019, inspections of Ward 6 parks were conducted with JERRY WALKER, Director of Operations and Maintenance, and he requested to schedule inspections again for May of 2020.

COMMISSIONER HENLEY stated that last year the Commissioners worked with staff on the condition assessment surveys and asked about this year's evaluations. MR. GLIMP hoped they would be done in April or May but would have to work with MR. WALKER.

7. Report by Greg A. Weitzel, Parks and Recreation Director, regarding the Department of Parks and Recreation's top 10 goals – All Wards

Minutes:

GREG WEITZEL, Director of Parks and Recreation, distributed the Top 10 2020 Department of Parks and Recreation Q1 Goals, a copy of which was submitted and attached as backup, and stated that the Department's management team has had tactical meetings once a week and review the Department's goals. Regarding the first goal to organize the CAPRA (Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies) process, team and timeline, MR. WEITZEL reported that the application for CAPRA accreditation has been submitted and noted the process is going well. A kickoff was held two weeks ago and chapter leads were named. He was aware that several of the Commissioners were interested in helping in the process and would be able to sign up to work with a specific chapter.

The second goal to address the System Master Plan will require the Commission's help. He explained that a System Master Plan is a long-term vision of 20 to 30 years regarding where the community wishes to see the parks system, and it includes a five-year strategic plan. He noted one chapter of the 2050 Master Plan for the City of Las Vegas is on parks and recreation and open space, but it is not a full System Master Plan. This chapter of the 2050 Master Plan has been amended to include the criteria needed for CAPRA accreditation and will involve public meetings, surveys, and workshops. He emphasized that the System Master Plan is the number one criteria needed for CAPRA accreditation and mentioned that the typical cost of a System Master Plan for a city as large as Las Vegas is between \$300,000 and \$350,000. Because of the 2050 Master Plan, staff was able to get the final System Master Plan contract for approximately \$120,000.

MR. WEITZEL said that he and staff are working on a reorganization of the Department and would present it to the City Council at briefings on March 31<sup>st</sup> after which the same presentation would be given to the Commission.

The fourth goal to complete the budget and expanded requests has been completed. He noted several expanded requests were included in the budget such as the System Master Plan, a request to hire Get Outdoors Nevada to assist with volunteer events at parks as there is a desire to boost the Park Ambassador program, and some other minor requests.

Regarding the fifth goal, the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is being kept up to date, and a report was given at the February meeting.

In reference to the sixth goal, MR. WEITZEL explained that Smart Parks is an initiative with the Department of Information Technologies (IT), and the City of Las Vegas will be one of the first in the country to use technology to enhance how it maintains and operates its parks. For example, the Department is working with IT on automated locks for restroom doors which will save money and time. He mentioned there is also an interest to install optical sensors which will allow for the creation of geofences in parks, and he explained how they can be utilized to monitor the parks as well as provide a count of park visitors. A package is being put together to present to the City Council as well as to this Commission.

The seventh goal pertains to the eSports Strategic Plan. MR. WEITZEL commented that eSports is no longer just a trend and mentioned that two eSports tournaments were held in Los Angeles and Hurricane, Utah. He indicated the Departments of Parks and Recreation, IT, and Youth Development and Social Innovation are working closely together, and each has members serving on a committee to develop a strategic plan for how eSports will be rolled out in the City of Las Vegas.

The eighth goal involves outreach to 1,000 youth through the Mayor's Fund for sports and programming. He did not believe outreach was the appropriate word as the goal is to find youth who cannot afford to pay to

play. Last year 260 participants received subsidized funding, and the Department hoped to increase that amount to 1,000 by working with the Mayor's Fund.

Regarding the ninth goal, training and onboarding improvements for hourly and full-time employees is already in place, and the goal is to increase accountability towards staff.

Lastly, MR. WEITZEL stated that the Nevada Recreation and Park Society (NRPS) Conference will be held in Las Vegas on March 31, 2020, and award submittals have been completed for NRPS and the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA).

Referencing the eighth goal, COMMISSIONER HOWARD thought 1,000 youth was a small number given that the number of at-risk youth is large. She asked if this was a matter of funding or not enough space in the programs. MR. WEITZEL replied both but agreed with the Commissioner's thought. He explained the program is \$85 per child, and for 1,000 children it will cost \$85,000; this is the reason for partnering with the Mayor's Fund. There are some additional funds available through the Municipal Sports Unit to help subsidize. COMMISSIONER McCURDY agreed with COMMISSIONER HOWARD'S comments and added that Wards 3 and 5 are the hardest hit Wards in the city. Ward 5 has a majority of public housing, and he suggested partnering with the Southern Nevada Regional Housing Authority to ask for funding assistance through the ROSE Foundation. The Commissioner also suggested reaching out to the Raiders Foundation and the Golden Knights Foundation for donations to the Mayor's Fund.

COMMISSIONER SHERMAN asked if there will be a mechanism to ensure residents or homeless individuals will not be locked in with the use of automated locks on restroom doors. MR. WEITZEL replied yes and said the technology prohibits getting locked in, and sensors will alert staff of any unnatural movement. He mentioned that two parks were picked in each Ward as part of the pilot program, and staff worked with the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to determine those with the highest crime. COMMISSIONER HENLEY commented that in a previous place of employment of his, there was a problem with people living in the restrooms. As a solution, new restrooms were built with unisex signage and the rest of the restrooms were locked; he thought this could be considered.

COMMISSIONER HENLEY wondered if the CIP process is completed prior to the budget. MR. WEITZEL replied in the affirmative stating the CIP is the first part of the budget that is done. He confirmed the City identifies those projects not funded within the CIP document.

He informed COMMISSIONER HENLEY that the System Master Plan contract would be with PROS Consulting. The reorganization proposal was completed in-house with assistance from another consultant who would also be working with the System Master Plan.

COMMISSIONER NEIGER stated that he recently met with the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), two different eSports companies, and one entertainment company and asked if the Department of Parks and Recreation is consulting with UNLV. MR. WEITZEL replied that one of the first things staff did was approach the Luxor Resort and Casino eSports facility. Staff has not reached out to UNLV but the committee may have. Staff is also working with Populus, an architectural firm building eSports facilities around the country, and the firm connected staff with Nerd Street Gamers who run facilities in several cities. COMMISSIONER NEIGER offered to share the names of those he met with at UNLV with MR. WEITZEL who would provide the information to the eSports committee.

COMMISSIONER ASSELIN asked if the CIP included new projects. MR. WEITZEL said yes and confirmed the Department would submit for Round 18.

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

Minutes:

COMMISSIONER McCURDY commended GREG WEITZEL, Director of Parks and Recreation, for attending the Good Time Fish Fry event at Doolittle Community Center and serving catfish and waiting on seniors.

COMMISSIONER SCHULTZ reported that two events were held on Saturday. The first event, represented by COMMISSIONERS HOWARD and SCHULTZ, was the Floyd Lamb Park Bike Trail and Pump Track groundbreaking. It was an exciting event and many people came with their bicycles. The Commissioner passed around photographs of the event.

The second event was the grand opening of Trigono Hills Park. COMMISSIONER SCHULTZ passed around photographs of this event and thanked COMMISSIONERS NEIGER, ASSELIN, HENLEY, and BECKER for attending. He noted the park is beautiful and multi-tier.

Finally, COMMISSIONER SCHULTZ reported that he met STEPHANIE RICHARD, Recreation Coordinator, and believed she had a great vision for the future of the Centennial Hills Active Adult Center.

COMMISSIONER BRIARE said the Las Vegas Mayor's Cup, a partnership between the City of Las Vegas and the Downtown Las Vegas Soccer Club, was held in February. Almost 700 teams participated in the tournament over the weekend and approximately 80 were foreign teams who traveled to participate. The economic impact of the tournament is about \$27 million for the city, and the Commissioner recognized the Municipal Sports Unit and MR. WEITZEL for their part as their contribution made it an incredible event.

CHAIR WHITE thanked the Commissioners for seeking opportunities within their Wards to report on.

COMMISSIONER NEIGER acknowledged COMMISSIONER SCHULTZ'S comments regarding Trigono Hills Park and said he saw a family taking photographs of a metal tower with chains. Upon closer examination, he was impressed to discover it was an air pump with bicycle tools attached. COMMISSIONER FOEMMEL commented that one of those exists at the Bonneville Transit Center and although it is often vandalized, it seems to be indestructible.

9. Report by Greg A. Weitzel, Parks and Recreation Director, regarding upcoming Department of Parks and Recreation activities – All Wards

Minutes:

GREG WEITZEL, Director of Parks and Recreation, spoke of an email sent by APRIL DiGIOVANNI, Administrative Secretary, and noted he would have her send emails more often to allow the Commissioners to stay informed of events.

He announced the Corporate Challenge Opening Ceremonies would be held on Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup> and would include children's activities, food, and an Executive Relay. KELLY SCHWARZ, Sr. Management Analyst, added that the Executive Relay generally has 40 to 60 teams, and she indicated should would inform the Commissioners of the event location once she knew.

The grand reopening of Woofter Park will be held on Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. MR. WEITZEL hoped the Commissioners could join him for the grand reopening as well as the unveiling of an adaptive swing at Polly Gonzalez Memorial Park the same day at 3:00 p.m.

MR. WEITZEL stated that the Blue Grass Festival would be held on Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup> from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Centennial Hills Park.

Lastly, he noted the passing of STEVEN HARSIN, the former Parks and Recreation Director.

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:

COMMISSIONER SHERMAN noticed the advertisement in the Parks and Recreation bulletins for nutrition classes at local community centers, and she recommended the Department consider changing the class name as Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 640E has recently been amended to indicate who can be qualified to be a nutritionist.

GREG WEITZEL, Director of Parks and Recreation, shared a video of the Nevada Desert Mermaids at Pavilion Center Pool.

In response to query by COMMISSIONER HENLEY, ADRIAN MONTENEGRO, Facilities Maintenance Supervisor, stated that spray pads would open again at the beginning of May. The Commissioner asked if the City of Las Vegas has spoken about the potential impacts COVID-19 might have on services. MR.

WEITZEL replied that it is being discussed, and the City Manager's Office and the Office of Emergency Management are putting plans in place.

11. **Adjournment**

Minutes:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Ashley Foster, Deputy City Clerk

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Greg A. Weitzel, Director of Parks and Recreation

THIS MEETING WAS 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