



Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission Minutes

1. Call to Order

Minutes:

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

PRESENT: CHAIR WHITE (excused until 4:02 p.m.) and COMMISSIONERS SCHULTZ, BECKER, GEBRE, HENLEY, LOZANO, BRIARE, ASSELIN, HOWARD (excused until 4:05 p.m.) FOEMMEL, and JIMENEZ

EXCUSED: COMMISSIONERS SHERMAN, McCURDY, ARMENIAN and NEIGER

ALSO PRESENT: MAGGIE PLASTER, Acting Parks and Recreation Director, SETH FLOYD, Deputy City Attorney, and PATTY HLAVAC, 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 March 5, 2019

Motion made by Richard Becker to Approve

Passed For: 11; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 4

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

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

Minutes:

JONATHAN BURDETTE, Deputy City Marshal, summarized the Deputy City Marshals Monthly Report for March 2019, a copy of which was submitted for the record. He said that there had been an increase in calls for service and arrests, as well as an increase in calls for individuals lodging on private property without the consent of owners, on city property, and at parks. He thought this was due to the nicer weather since people are staying outside later in the evening.

He reported on the arrest activity within the individual wards, noting that Wards 1 and 2 had a relatively low volume month and that Ward 3 had 36 arrests, which were mostly related to narcotics-related offenses. Ward 4 had three arrests, Ward 5 had 25, and Ward 6 had one.

MARSHAL BURDETTE shared some information that he learned while he was out on patrol. He made contact with a gentleman in Ward 1 who expressed issues about people who were walking their dogs in Bob Baskin Park without a leash. The gentleman specifically had concerns with the pedestrian gate along the south wall of the park near an apartment complex. MARSHAL BURDETTE referred the gentleman to the Ward 1 Councilperson and also spoke with Animal Control to see if patrol could be increased in this area. MARSHAL BURDETTE said he hoped to have an update on this item by next month.

COMMISSIONER SCHULTZ referred to the one unlawful act arrest made in Ward 6 and wondered if this was confidential or if the event could be shared. MARSHAL BURDETTE clarified that although he was not aware of the specific charges related to this arrest, typically unlawful acts are related to human excrement. He offered to look into this information further for the Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER BECKER recalled that the Commission had concerns that there would be an increase in people smoking marijuana at city parks after it was legalized. He wondered if this had leveled off. MARSHAL BURDETTE reported that marijuana smoking was more juvenile related, as opposed to adults, and that this was more of a problem on Fremont Street.

6. Report by Southern Nevada Water Authority representatives on water conservation efforts – All Wards

Minutes:

COLBY PELLEGRINO, Director of Water Resources for the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA), said that the City had completed over 85 individual incentive projects with SNWA, including converting almost 1 million acre-feet of turf in parks, which has been beneficial for conservation.

She provided an overview of SNWA, noting that they are a regional agency who is responsible for: water planning at the wholesale level, implementing uniform conservation programs, overseeing their forward-looking water supply planning, managing water quality and treatment, building the infrastructure that is needed to deliver water, and environmental stewardship, particularly as it relates to the Colorado River.

MS. PELLEGRINO reviewed a PowerPoint Presentation, a copy of which was submitted as backup documentation, which covered an update on Las Vegas' water resources.

She reported that Southern Nevada receives over 90 percent of its water supply from the Colorado River in any given year, and since 2000, the river has been experiencing extreme drought, which is affecting Lake Mead's water levels. The current drought has been the most severe drought in both length and duration in recorded history back to 1905.

Since Lake Mead is one of the two major storage reservoirs on the River, its elevations are declining. Referencing Slide 7 of the PowerPoint Presentation, she discussed how Lake Mead's elevations have been dropping since the late 1990s.

In reviewing the future projections on Slide 8, she noted that the dashed lines indicate their projections for what will happen over the next two years. The lightest blue dash is their most probable projection; however, should drought conditions continue, the red dashed lines represent a probable minimum elevation. Once they cross the Tier 1 shortage threshold, this will be the first time they have a declared shortage on the Colorado River. They believe there is about a 50 percent chance this will happen next year, which increases to over 80 percent a year within their five-year time frame. Tier 2 represents additional shortage reductions in their allocation of water from the Colorado River.

She also discussed that there is a sizable risk of falling below the 1,000-foot elevation by 2025. She explained that an acre-foot, which is the water wonk talk for how they measure water use, is essentially taking an acre of land and putting a foot of water on top of it. Every year, 10 million acre-feet of water will go out of Lake Mead to supply Arizona, California, and Mexico. Should the elevation fall below 1,000 feet, there is a limited ability to meet downstream demands, and hydropower from the dam would be significantly reduced.

SNWA has been using four major initiatives to protect Southern Nevada's water supplies, which includes water banking, resource planning, infrastructure, and conservation.

Water banking is done by taking the unused water from Nevada and other states and storing it for future benefit. She discussed a snapshot of what Southern Nevada has stored for future use, which amounts to about eight years of annual use at the current use. She said this was a very robust safety net for transitioning for future resources or if the water runs short on the Colorado River.

In 2005, SNWA started planning infrastructure improvements to help with the declining lake levels. She explained that Slides 12 and 13 were examples of how their infrastructure sits inside the lake. In 2005, intake number 3 was put in to place to provide better quality water. Also, SNWA is currently putting in a pump station associated with this intake, which should be completed around 2021. She noted that the pump stations are commensurate with the elevation where they are located so that they can pump water from those elevations.

In water management, they manage their water supply as well as their water demand. SNWA has been partnering with other states on the Colorado River to implement a drought contingency plan, which is designed to reduce the risk of Lake Mead falling to critical elevations. This includes the state of California participating in shortages for the first time, as they currently do not contribute when these shortages are triggered. It also provides additional incentives to encourage all water users to leave their water in Lake Mead. Referencing the graph on Slide 14, she talked about the risk of Lake Mead's elevations falling below 1,020 feet, and pointed out that the orange line represents a climbing risk of the lake level approaching nearly 50 percent by 2026, and the blue line signifies what the risk portfolio looks like once they implement the drought contingency plan.

If the contingency plan is implemented, Nevada must give up some additional water to Lake Mead. She discussed what was being given up under the existing guidelines, and how the contingency plan would change the allocation of water. However, despite taking the reductions in the amount of water that are allowed on the Colorado River, the maximum amount is not being withdrawn, which is due to the great water conservation that has been done in the community.

MS. PELLEGRINO turned the conversation to water conservation, noting that one thing that is fundamental to understanding their conservation programs is their return flow credit system, as it is unique to the Las Vegas Valley and the majority of large metropolitan water users. The return flow process starts with drawing water out of Lake Mead and sending it through water treatment. The water is then forwarded on for outdoor and indoor use, and any water that goes through the sewer system gets treated and returned to Lake Mead. For every gallon of water that SNWA returns to Lake Mead, a gallon more can be taken out, and they are only charged for their net use and not their gross use from the lake.

She explained that SNWA's conservation focus is almost exclusively on programs for outdoor water use because this has a water resource impact on the water resource footprint for the community. She explained how this was different from other metropolitan users, and used Southern California as an example, as a lot of their water gets discharged into the ocean and is used for indoor conservation matters, which is more than what we do here.

The Water Smart Landscape (WSL) program is SNWA's flagship program, and they have removed enough grass to cover over 3,200 football fields, which is approximately 188 million square feet of turf. In looking at conservation, they monitor how much of the resource they are consuming, as well as the per capita water use. Referencing Slide 18, she discussed that in 2002, despite the population growth, water use had declined with the help of water conservation efforts. However, Slide 19 indicates that within the last few years population growth is up five percent, per capita water use is up two percent, and Colorado River water consumption is up eight percent, so despite having a great long-term trend, SNWA has lost the community somewhere in the last few years with respect to conservation ethics.

She noted some of the reasons for the increase in water use, such as economic growth, a warmer and drier climate, drought, and complacency. Additionally, since SNWA first implemented their program, society has drastically changed the way they connect; therefore, they need to improve their conservation signals. She described some of their current and upcoming outreach tools, some of which included direct mail and e-newsletters, social media, bill inserts, and advertising.

Outside of these efforts, SNWA's focus has been on unused turf, which they define as areas where turf is nonfunctional, such as roundabouts in traffic circle where the only person walking on it would be the landscaper. She clarified that they are not anti-turf; however, they are anti-nonfunctional turf, and through a turf assessment, they were able to identify such areas. They believe there are approximately 12,000 acres of lawn left and about 5,000 of that is non-functional turf. She shared that some of the largest opportunities within the non-functional turf areas are outside of single-family residential areas, noting that their estimated water savings associated with removing non-functional turf would be 12.2 billion gallons of water per year.

SNWA has recently taken some aggressive actions to spur the conservation program in the community, some of which included increasing their rebate ceiling on their WSL programming, water-waste enforcement increases, waiving the Water Efficient Technology (WET) program rebate ceiling for pilot programs for schools and parks, as well as work with municipal agencies to prohibit nonfunctional turf installations.

MS. PELLEGRINO discussed what was taken to their board for older parks, noting that these parks tend to have fewer amenities than newer parks, as well as some wasteful turf, such as up next to the parking lot where a border landscape may be more appropriate. She referenced photos of a few older and newer parks and discussed some alternatives, noting that a splash pad has a smaller water footprint than natural turf. MS. PELLEGRINO added that SNWA will continue to work with the City of Las Vegas and the Clark County planning staff to amend the landscape code.

Referencing slide 30, she said their water conservation programs are working. She pointed out that the blue bars represent the Colorado River water use and that the green bar represents the communities continued population growth, which indicates that the population can grow while still using less water.

MS. PELLEGRINO discussed the last three slides, noting that they relate to their 50-year Water Resource Plan. She provided a brief explanation as to how they establish this plan, noting that ultimately, conservation is the cheapest alternative for the community being sustainable, which is why they continue to make it their focus.

COMMISSIONER SHULTZ wondered about the number of staff in their agency. MS. PELLEGRINO explained that the Las Vegas Valley Water District provides retail water service to the city of Las Vegas, and they share a common staff with SNWA, which is over 1,200 people. She affirmed that SNWA does not have dedicated staff, as their checks come from the Las Vegas Valley Water District; however, she believed SNWA's time worked out to approximately 500 full-time equivalent employees.

MS. PELLEGRINO explained for COMMISSIONER SHULTZ that their funding comes from several different places, and what they recoup from these entities is what they call a wholesale delivery charge, for which she provided a greater explanation. She shared that they also receive quarter-cent sales tax revenue.

COMMISSIONER SHULTZ wondered if the federal government was supportive of their conservation efforts. MS. PELLEGRINO affirmed that they were very supportive, as they have been very successful in securing federal grants for their WSL program. However, she thought that in general, they typically deal with the United States Secretary of Interior's Office - Bureau of Reclamation Department, as they are on the forefront of what is coming with the hotter and drier future and extended drought.

MS. PELLEGRINO affirmed for COMMISSIONER SHULTZ that a copy of the PowerPoint presentation could be provided to the Commissioners through city staff, and that printed copies were also available.

COMMISSIONER HENLEY understood that when the initial contingency plan was put in place, much of the focus was on golf courses. He recalled that several of them were being fined, and he wondered what SNWA's position was at this time. MS. PELLEGRINO stated that their program has helped reduce the area of turf on a golf course by one-acre per hole, and they have removed enough turf to cover nine new golf courses. She explained that each golf courses is on a water budget and will be fined if they exceed it.

COMMISSIONER HENLEY explained that in other communities where he has lived, municipal services had a different rate than commercial use, and he was interested in knowing who sets the rate for the city's use. MS. PELLEGRINO reported that the Las Vegas Valley Water Authority serves all city properties and their service rules would identify what each different class of customer is charged. JERRY WALKER, Operations and Maintenance Director, added that he was unsure if the city received a special rate but understood that it was tiered based consumption. MR. WALKER inquired if there were any use hours when the rate goes up, to which MS. PELLEGRINO reported that they do not have a time of day surcharge.

COMMISSIONER BECKER understood that most of the water used on golf courses was non-potable and could not be recycled. MS. PELLEGRINO explained that some of the golf courses were on non-potable water; however, many were on potable water. Additionally, she said that from a resource perspective, this does not positively or negatively affect SNWA's water resource portfolio, because non-potable water will be treated and returned to Lake Mead.

COMMISSIONER HOWARD asked, with respect to the water banks, what would stop other states from taking possession of the water. MS. PELLEGRINO said that this was prevented through a sizable amount of federal law, as SNWA has agreements with the entity that they bank with, which has levels of entity-to-entity cooperation, state to state cooperation, as well as the Bureau of Reclamation, and the Bureau of Reclamation serves as the Water Master for the lower Colorado River. MS. PELLEGRINO also affirmed for COMMISSIONER HOWARD that all of SNWA's conservation programs are within their budget.

MS. PELLEGRINO noted for MR. WALKER that the average annual consumption per square foot of turf was between 73 and 75 gallons of water.

MS. PELLEGRINO clarified for COMMISSIONER BRIARE that the allocation of water was on a per acre-foot basis for states and that the demand on the Colorado River is always going to be more than what the river can provide. She explained that when the compact was divided in 1922, which was one of the wettest periods on record, they anticipated that the flow of the river would be 18 million acre-feet, so they divided this up into providing portions for 16.5 million between the United States users and Mexico. Based on today's flow, it is more like 14.8 million acre-feet, which means there's a deficit that must be overcome.

7. Report by Jerry Walker, Operations and Maintenance Director, regarding park maintenance and improvements – All Wards

Minutes:

JERRY WALKER, Operations and Maintenance Director, stated that he strongly believes in what the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) is trying to do. The City has some maintenance issues coming forward with Howard Hughes in the Summerlin Homeowners Association (HOA), and if possible, he will include text in their pending agreement that facilitates turf reduction. As part of the City's process, he will also look at turf reduction options and target the \$3 per square foot reimbursement for 10,000 square feet.

MR. WALKER explained that the presentation for Service Reductions had been rejected, so instead, he put together a presentation for Service Modifications and Efficiency Improvements, which is very similar, which will be presented to City Council the week of April 8, 2019. Once this has been submitted to the City Council and provided there are no objections or problems, his recommendation will be for KELLY SCHWARTZ, Sr. Management Analyst, to forward this information on to the Commission members and for discussion at the next regular meeting.

MR. WALKER talked about a recent meeting that was held with the City Attorney's Office, City Marshals, Public Works Department, Parks and Recreation, and Operations and Maintenance Departments to discuss Park security issues. This group is reviewing how to address problems with trails and lodging, as they have become problematic in a few locations. They believe they can enforce no-lodging on the trails as a recreational component.

Additionally, there have also been some considerations on children's play areas because of some disconcerting activities that have been happening, especially with splash pads. They are considering language on their standard park sign that indicates enforcement of children only in the children's play areas.

Staff will be looking at Mayfair Park in late April, as well as meet with COUNCILMAN COFFIN or the new councilperson, to address options for some growing concerns. This will most likely involve some consideration of a children's park in a portion of the park.

He reported that they are currently on a tree planting project at Rainbow Family Park, which includes approximately 115 trees to replace the roughly 200 that have died or are missing. Additionally, the City has initiated a nursery program at their west service center that will most likely extend to their east service center within the next year or so. To help save on costs, the City plans to grow their own trees with treated water so that they can plant larger trees.

There's also a bid on the walking path for the Rainbow Family Park, as well as some possible amenities. MR. WALKER conveyed that this should follow within the next few months.

He discussed the vandalism that took place at the west-side playground at Bettye Wilson Park last fall, noting that the City's insurance claim was denied, as it was deemed that the City had no value to pursue the claim due to the age of the component and asset value relative to the City's deductible. Therefore, the playground structure must be replaced along with the shade fabric and surfacing. MR. WALKER indicated that he had signed the purchase requisition for the playground equipment and that the project was in process.

He reported that the W. Wayne Bunker Family Park is missing a 2-5 age playground, and the 5-12 age playground is very aged. The City plans to move forward with replacing the playgrounds with some Ward 4 specific funding.

MR. WALKER conveyed that the children's park at Huntridge Park was recently finished and is now fenced in. He explained that the reason it was enclosed was to give it a sense of demarcation on the boundaries and to

make it easier for the City Marshals to enforce access requirements into the park and the children's play area. He mentioned that there is a development proposal with the developer at this location, as they are looking at improvements to the park. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed, and the park will remain closed for another six months, which includes the children's park. He plans to post new signage within the next week or so.

In regard to the historical components at Floyd Lamb Park, he reported that the bridge and the waterwheel were currently being reconstructed due to wood-rot, as they have fallen into disrepair. Additionally, the rabbit activities did not help, and the borroughs underneath the tower have all been sealed, as there was concern about the structural components related to the tower. Staff has been working with rabbit advocacy groups to help capture the rabbits and find them temporary or permanent placement, and the City is providing compensation for the spaying and neutering costs.

In summation, MR. WALKER discussed some overtime spring cleaning projects, noting that with staffing reductions, this provides a budget surplus for this year. As a result, they will be doing a series of overtime projects that include things such as weeding, trash collection, shrubbery trimming, and these types of routine activities over the next several weeks to bring the parks back up to City standards.

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

Minutes:

COMMISSIONER HOWARD noted that there was an interesting interview with a developer on Nevada Public Radio (NPR) - State Of Nevada if anyone was interested.

COMMISSIONER BECKER reported that Ward 4 will be holding a movie in Garehime Heights Park on May 17, 2019. He also understood that registration for the City's Summer Camp program started today April 2, 2019.

COMMISSIONER HENLEY stated that on March 12, 2019, Congress authorized the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which has been in existence for about 50 years; however, it lost its funding and authorization in 2015. This funding, which is a percentage of off-shore oil and gas royalties, equates to approximately \$1 billion per year and is distributed through federal agencies. He believed the state and local component for grants form this was substantial, noting that since the program's existence, over \$41,000 in urban and municipal projects had been done. He thought this would go into effect for the next budget cycle for the Federal Government, and that this would give the City another source of funding for capital projects.

COMMISSIONER GEBRE thanked JERRY WALKER, Operations and Maintenance Director, for the park tour as she felt it was beneficial. MR. WALKER noted that staff was available to provide a tour for the Commissioners and/or their respective Council offices, at a mutually convenient time, for anyone who would like to take the tour and look at their concerns.

9. Report by Maggie Plaster, Parks and Recreation Acting Director, regarding upcoming Department of Parks and Recreation activities – All Wards

Minutes:

MAGGIE PLASTER, Acting Parks and Recreation Director, reported that there is a Teen Camp for teenagers this summer. Staff will be taking them on field trips on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays throughout the Valley, and sometimes they will be exposed to things they haven't seen before, such as Lake Mead, cruises down the river, or ax throwing.

She also pointed out that today was Primary Election Day with seats for Mayor, and Wards 1, 3, and 5. She also noted that a Special Election would be held for Ward 2 during the General Election in June 2019. She reminded the Commissioners that their appointment is not coterminous with their Councilmember, as they have a three-year term, which is dependent on their reappointment date.

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:

Patty Hlavac, Deputy City Clerk

Maggie Plaster, Acting Director, 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