



## 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: CHAIR WHITE (excused until 4:07 p.m.) and COMMISSIONERS SCHULTZ, SHERMAN (via teleconference), McCURDY (excused until 4:07 p.m.), ARMENIAN, BECKER, NEIGER, HENLEY, BRIARE and HOWARD

EXCUSED: COMMISSIONERS GEBRE, ASSELIN, JIMENEZ and KELLER

ALSO PRESENT: GREG WEITZEL, Director of Parks and Recreation, KELLY SCHWARZ, Sr. Management Analyst, JOHN RIDILLA, Deputy City Attorney, and CHEYENNE LARANCE, 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](http://www.lasvegasnevada.gov) and The Nevada Public Notice Website – [notice.nv.gov](http://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 pending clarification, but at this point such may be immaterial in nature. Due to the need to finalize these minutes procedurally and the fact that the Commission member who was to provide such clarification was not currently present, he recommended a vote be taken to accept the minutes as presented.

Motion made by Richard Becker to Approve

Passed For: 8; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 6

For-Richard Becker, Steven Neiger, Lisa Sherman, Bob Briare, Mike Henley, Adroushan Armenian, Larry Schultz, Melody Howard; Excused-Jesus Jimenez, Audrey Asselin, 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 March 2, 2021

Minutes:

VICE CHAIR SCHULTZ pointed out GREG WEITZEL, Director of Parks and Recreation, was referred to as Chair instead of Director in the third paragraph on Page 5.

Motion made by Richard Becker to Approve as amended

Passed For: 8; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 6

For-Richard Becker, Steven Neiger, Lisa Sherman, Bob Briare, Mike Henley, Adroushan Armenian, Larry Schultz, Melody Howard; Excused-Jesus Jimenez, Audrey Asselin, 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 MICHAEL REINARZ presented the March Deputy City Marshals report, which was submitted and is included in the backup. He provided statistics related to overall activity, which included the number of calls for service and location. He reported the total number of arrests were 93, 51 percent of which were transient related. Statistics were also provided related to the number of citations, traffic citations and warning citations along with the percentage of each that involved transient individuals. There were a total of 232 enforcement actions, with 46 percent related to transient issues. MARSHAL REINARZ also provided a breakdown of arrests, traffic citations and misdemeanor citations by Ward.

With regard to downtown cleanup, MARSHAL REINARZ stated there were 579 compliant individuals, who are individuals that agreed to move once contacted by an officer, and zero non-compliant individuals.

He displayed and referenced a chart showing a comparison of 2019, 2020 and current day in terms of the amount of activity. He noted one reason a high percentage of the transient population is being cited or arrested is because they cannot afford to go anywhere other than the parks. With fewer citizens in the parks over the last year, numbers are down, but as vaccinations increase, those numbers are expected to rise.

VICE CHAIR SCHULTZ turned the meeting over to CHAIR WHITE at this point. CHAIR WHITE thanked MARSHAL REINARZ for his report.

7. Report by Savonta Manor, Parks and Recreation Coordinator, regarding the Las Vegas Citywide Sports program – All Wards

Minutes:

Using a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted and is attached as backup, SAVONTA MANOR, Parks and Recreation Coordinator, spoke about the City of Las Vegas switching from community centers working individually, referred to as silos, to a centralized Las Vegas Citywide Sports program and how that will look going forward.

The spoke and hub model it was decided to use was displayed. He noted their office used to be called the Municipal Sports Unit (MSU), but is now going to be referred to as the Las Vegas Citywide Sports office. He named several of the community centers this office will work with. Additionally, the East Las Vegas Community Center will partner with the Chuck Minker Sports Complex, and some of the smaller facilities in the northwest, such as Cimarron Rose Community Center, will be paired with the Mirabelli Community Center.

MR. MANOR explained the goal is to bring everyone together in order to offer more youth sports to everybody within the city of Las Vegas. The function of the office will be to offer youth and adult sports leagues, youth skills classes, sports tournaments and Esports. By working with the Clark County School District and other community partners, the City wants to partner with schools in those areas where recreation is not readily available to bring after-school programming and sports to those participants. He noted they will continue to provide allocation, short-term and sporting event permits for the sports fields.

MR. MANOR pointed out some of the external benefits to the customers will include consistent delivery of information and service, working as one office to understand the community needs, providing solutions to existing

barriers and increasing community participation. Internal benefits will include providing clear communication, supervision and responsibilities, ensuring continuity of staff training and most importantly, providing a single point of contact when dealing with community partners. MR. MANOR stated they are partnered with the National Alliance for Youth Sports, and all recreation leaders will need to go through the Certified Youth Sports Administrator's training, which is a 30-hour course, with annual recertification.

He noted many community centers benefit from the individual relationships people have with the professional sports teams now in Las Vegas, and a single point of contact will ensure that all centers will benefit and not just a single community. Community partnerships are important, and the City wants to offer a robust program to everyone in the community, both adult and youth alike. CHAIR WHITE confirmed through MR. MANOR that individuals with contacts in the community would be directed to this hub.

COMMISSIONER SCHULTZ commended those who came up with this new approach because he believes it leverages everyone's brainpower and energy together in one setting, creating more efficiency. He looks forward to seeing the results and hoped for a periodic update from staff as far as what was changed, what is working, what was learned along with any unintended problems and how those were corrected. He asked when this would go into effect. MR. MANOR replied it is in effect now, but will roll out when school starts in September. Based on this information, the Commissioner suggested an update be provided in January 2022.

COMMISSIONER HENLEY asked if the MSU has responsibility over facility allocation to parent-run organizations, to which MR. MANOR confirmed. The Commissioner asked how the Operations and Maintenance function fit into this decision making. MR. MANOR explained they work together with Operations and Maintenance. A lot of the programming being done already takes place on Las Vegas fields, and the hope is to expand that.

MR. MANOR informed COMMISSIONER HOWARD that MSU stood for Municipal Sports Unit and confirmed these individuals were City employees. He also reiterated the name MSU was changed to Las Vegas Citywide Sports.

With regard to field allocation, COMMISSIONER HENLEY asked if the City had an allocation policy that applies to all organizations that wish to use City-owned facilities, to which MR. MANOR confirmed, stating that will remain in effect.

Referencing the new reality as it pertains COVID-19, CHAIR WHITE asked if there was the ability to see someone speaking at one facility virtually from another facility. MR. MANOR confirmed they do have this capability. The Chair encouraged staff to utilize such.

COMMISSIONER BRIARE asked if the same programming would be offered at every facility or if each facility would still offer their own special programs, i.e., a cooking class at Mirabelli Community Center. MR. MANOR explained currently, what was presented only applies to sports programs. A yearly calendar will be created, with the goal of incorporating the same activities at all community centers and potentially starting leagues. In the past, the City has had to refund money when not enough children signed up for a program, such as basketball. It has moved away from that towards this centralized office, which will ensure those same children are now a part of a team and go into the Citywide league. The Commissioner thought this to be an exciting idea.

COMMISSIONER NEIGER was also excited about this change. With one of the goals being increased community participation, he wondered if this new structure might affect the ability of less fortunate communities as far as access to or signing up for these programs. MR. MANOR stated staff is aware of this, discussions have taken place regarding transportation and they will do their best to address it. When this has been an issue in the past, the City has utilized its vans to help transport participants. He pointed out Wards 3 and 5 have indicated they would like participation to stay within their communities, which is the goal.

COMMISSIONER HENLEY asked if the establishment of a special revenue fund will give the department more discretion on spending money and keeping it within the sports program rather than have it moved around in the General Fund. MR. MANOR stated there will be more responsibility to ensure the money is being allocated directly to these programs. The Commissioner asked if cost recovery targets have been established yet. MR. MANOR stated they have not come up with a percentage yet, but it is important to be on par with finances and what they are charging the community to ensure they do cost recovery.

Lastly, COMMISSIONER HENLEY asked if Parks and Grounds Maintenance had the opportunity to recommend closure of certain facilities related to the fields when staff looks at the annual calendar. MR. MANOR explained those dates are automatically set with facility maintenance with regard to natural grass fields that are overseeded, and closures will start June 1, 2021 until the first weekend in October.

CHAIR WHITE appreciated the report.

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:

GREG WEITZEL, Director of Parks and Recreation, reported he is excited about the improvements related to the new Las Vegas Citywide Sports program and the opportunity for more youth and adults to participate in the sports programs. He acknowledged the growing inequity between kids who can afford to pay to play and those who cannot. The new Las Vegas Citywide Sports program, along with the Mayor's Fund for Las Vegas LIFE, will assist in providing financial assistance to these individuals. Another important factor he referred to as the free agency, where sometimes there are children that want to play a particular sport, but there are not enough kids that are interested. In these instances, a free agency will be established, where youth, regardless of where they live, will be aligned to a league, clinic or program. This will help bridge the inequities that existed even prior to the pandemic but which have grown even larger since. He referenced an email the Commissioners received that included information on the Las Vegas Citywide Sports program, which he encouraged the Commissioners to read.

MR. WEITZEL reported the City reopened its community centers on Monday, April 5, 2021. During the pandemic, they were only open for the Vegas Strong Academy program, serving 2,500 youth in distance learning. That program will continue, but the centers will now be open to the general public as well. The first couple of weeks will be a soft opening, gradually bringing back traditional programming. He noted details on the reopening plan could also be found in the email mentioned earlier. The phased approach over the next months will allow the City to bring back some of its more traditional programs, but also gear up for summer camp, which is one of the busiest programs throughout the entire year. MR. WEITZEL stated there would also be a community center welcome back campaign April 19-26, 2021. The Office of Communications team is assisting with organizing a marketing campaign with regard to Ward newsletters, radio, television and social media.

MR. WEITZEL also reported the ribbon cutting for the reopening of the Pavilion Pool just took place. Almost \$1 million in renovations were done, which included re-plastering the pool, deck and mechanical improvements, repainting the exterior along with many others. He stated this is one of the busiest pools in the entire valley and home to the Sandpipers, the largest swim team. Additionally, this is where most lifeguards in the valley receive their training, and several Olympic qualifiers train, as well.

With regard to the three Master Plan public meetings held March 16, 20 and 22, 2021, while only 10 people physically attended, there was an incredible amount of participation in other areas. Since the pandemic limited in-person meetings, staff took a unique approach and worked with the Office of Communications and others in order to launch these public meetings in a variety of ways. MR. WEITZEL reported there were 83,342 impressions on their digital ads, 1,927 website clicks, 3,722 total views of the public meetings on Facebook and more than 3,000 views on Twitter. When tweeted, 33,000 people saw the overall content with 562 engagements. Additionally, 327 people attended via live stream, with an average watch time of 38 minutes, and 49 people joined via Webex. All forms of communication combined, they were able to reach a much larger audience.

Instant polling was also conducted where individuals were asked a series of questions and could instantly respond, which was a new and unique way to gather information for the Master Plan. This is one of the few ways in which staff is gathering input from the public. They are also working on the next step with SurveyMonkey, which will include a survey on the website that will be statistically valid that anyone can complete.

MR. WEITZEL reported there have been a lot of Volunteers in Parks (VIP) program events lately, and it has been going very well. A volunteer tree planting event will be held in each Ward and is made possible by two grants received from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, United States Forest Service, in which the City received \$30,000 in funding to plant trees. Ninety trees will be planted in Coleman Park in Ward 5 and Lubertha Johnson Park as

well. Commissioners that would like to participate in these events were directed to the Get Outdoors Nevada website to sign up or they should let him or KELLY SCHWARZ, Sr. Management Analyst, know.

MR. WEITZEL stated staff is excited for a large community volunteer project coming up on Saturday, April 10, 2021, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Bruce Trent Park, which he noted was named after BRUCE TRENT, the first Parks and Recreation Director in the valley. The playground at this park is over 25 years old, and thanks to COUNCILWOMAN SEAMAN and some funding she secured, they are able to replace the playground, and decided to do so via a community build. Volunteer capacity has been reached, with more than 100 people expected to join staff on Saturday to help build the playground. He encouraged the Commissioners to stop by and stated they or their constituents should reach out to staff if interested in getting involved in a future community build.

Discussion took place between CHAIR WHITE and MR. WEITZEL with regard to capturing certain statistical and demographic data. MR. WEITZEL added as they move forward with surveys, they will know specifically where individuals live and will be able to break down that data by Ward.

With regard to the Master Plan online meetings, COMMISSIONER SCHULTZ stated he was unable to write down the website quickly enough to participate in the real time polling and asked if that website was made known to participants beforehand. MR. WEITZEL indicated with this being their first attempt at holding virtual meetings, they learned a lot and realized this during the first meeting, and kept the website up longer during the subsequent meetings. With the average watch time being around 40 minutes, they also learned that the meetings should be kept to under an hour. He acknowledged a few hiccups, but overall he thought they worked those out and would improve as they move forward. The Commissioner thought having that website prior would have been beneficial. MR. WEITZEL stated this was a great recommendation, and he would pass it along to the Communications team.

With regard to the tree plantings, COMMISSIONER HOWARD asked if the City was buying the trees. MR. WEITZEL stated the City has two nurseries where it grows trees; one on the east side and one on the west side. The trees being planted in the parks are the City's trees, so the funding received that is dedicated for tree plantings will be utilized to replenish the trees taken from the nursery, which will allow them to continue to grow for a few years to make them more sustainable in Las Vegas' harsh climate.

CHAIR WHITE thanked MR. WEITZEL for his report and very much supported utilizing new technology due to COVID-19.

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

Minutes:

COMMISSIONER BECKER announced COUNCILWOMAN SEAMAN would be hosting a Breakfast Buzz at Egg Works, 2025 Village Center Circle, on Saturday, April 10, 2021, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. On April 17, 2021, the Councilwoman will also be hosting the grand reopening of Bruce Trent Park, starting at 9:00 a.m., followed by Art in the Park from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. He noted this would be a good opportunity to see the new playground.

COMMISSIONER BECKER confirmed for COMMISSIONER SCHULTZ that the Art in the Park event would be an in-person event. Pointing out that he has not attended an in-person event in quite some time, COMMISSIONER SCHULTZ asked staff if there was a flyer containing the details of this event that could be sent to all of the Commission members. KELLY SCHWARZ, Sr. Management Analyst, confirmed, and the flyer was displayed as well. GREG WEITZEL, Director of Parks and Recreation, added the Commissioners were welcome to join them at the playground build on Saturday, April 10, 2021.

COMMISSIONER McCURDY complimented the Deputy City Marshals for doing a great job in the community. He asked MR. WEITZEL about the habitat partnership in Ward 3 and the status of the possible rebuild of the Doolittle Pool. These are issues in Ward 5 that he has brought up for many years and is hoping for a resolution. MR. WEITZEL stated a full presentation was done at the March Commission meeting with regard to Capital Improvement Projects happening in each Ward, and he would ensure that information was passed along to the Commissioner.

MR. WEITZEL introduced new Commission member ALMENDRA JOHNSON, who was in the audience, and will be representing Ward 1. COMMISSIONER JOHNSON stated she is glad to be a part of the Commission. CHAIR

WHITE welcomed her, stating they are interested to hear about the issues in Ward 1. COMMISSIONER SCHULTZ added they are looking forward to working with her.

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 4:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Cheyenne LaRance, Deputy City Clerk

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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](http://www.lasvegasnevada.gov)  
and  
The Nevada Public Notice Website – [notice.nv.gov](http://notice.nv.gov)