



## Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission Minutes

### 1. Call to Order

Minutes:

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

PRESENT: VICE CHAIR SCHULTZ and COMMISSIONERS SHERMAN (excused until 4:06 p.m.), McCURDY (excused until 4:14 p.m.), ARMENIAN, BECKER, GEBRE, NEIGER, HENLEY, LOZANO, BRIARE, FOEMMEL and JIMENEZ

EXCUSED: CHAIR WHITE and COMMISSIONERS ASSELIN and HOWARD

ALSO PRESENT: MAGGIE PLASTER, Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation, KELLY SCHWARZ, Sr. Management Analyst, ELIAS GEORGE, Deputy City Attorney, CHEYENNE LaRANCE, Deputy City Clerk, 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 October 1, 2019

Motion made by Mike Henley to Approve

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

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

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

Minutes:

DEPUTY CITY MARSHAL ZHAQUAY CALDWELL stated it was an honor to represent the Department of Public Safety and discuss what is happening in the parks. Staff distributed the Deputy City Marshal Report for the month of October which is attached as backup.

OFFICER CALDWELL reported there was a decrease in the number of calls for service during the month of October, but that many of the calls were in the newer, central area and involved a lot of burglaries. While DPS has been proactive by setting up cameras, he noted that when Officers are proactive in one area, crime moves to another area. He reviewed the locations that had the highest number of calls for service, pointing out that Kellogg-Zaher Park had the second highest number of calls for service in September and fell to about number seven in October. He said this is a major park with high utilization so it is good to see the reduced number of calls. DPS has also been proactive in Ethel Pearson Park because of the number of vagrants in that area.

OFFICER CALDWELL also reviewed the total number of arrests in each Ward, along with the types of arrests and the hot arrest incident locations, which included Aloha Shores Park where calls rarely occur. He described an arrest he made in Rotary Park which involved a man with a firearm and who had a criminal history, and that he was happy to get another firearm off the streets.

Because of the Officers being more proactive in the north, he noted calls for service were up at Freedom Park so they will work on reducing that number. He informed the members that twice weekly his entire squad saturates the parks in the hope of lowering the calls for service.

OFFICER CALDWELL pointed out there were no arrests in Ward 6, which was surprising because usually they see some juvenile activity. However, 11 citations were issued at Centennial Hills Park, Gilcrease Brothers Park and Thunderbird Park which consisted of six driving violations and five narcotics/drug paraphernalia violations.

With the weather being so nice, he stated the parks are still very busy. DPS will continue to do the best job that they can along with saturating the parks, which is a big crime deterrent. He stated the Department is still short, but there are 13 trainees who will be coming online within the next two weeks which should help.

VICE CHAIR SCHULTZ thanked OFFICER CALDWELL for a very thorough report.

COMMISSIONER NEIGER asked the Officer if he felt saturation of the parks had a lasting effect. OFFICER CALDWELL thought the presence of Officers was a crime deterrent but that everything went back to normal once that presence was no longer seen in the park, which is why it is key to get more Officers on the street.

VICE CHAIR SCHULTZ commented the report is a summary of what took place over the previous 30 days, and he wondered in looking ahead for the next 12 months if there was anything the Commissioners needed to be aware of or concerned about. OFFICER CALDWELL thought the Department was moving in the right direction by getting more Officers on the street, which always deters crime. He indicated it would be helpful to have clear-coat signs at each park listing just the park hours because the current signs are too lengthy and people tend to not read them. VICE CHAIR SCHULTZ asked staff if that was something they were focusing on. MAGGIE PLASTER, Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation, stated staff had discussed changing the hours at Floyd Lamb Park to daylight hours so that the signs did not have to be changed out depending on the time of year. They also discussed various interpretive signs, but could look at including a simple sign with the hours as well.

COMMISSIONER GEBRE asked what type of traffic violations individuals were being cited for. OFFICER CALDWELL stated because of the many children playing in the park, their main focus is safety. As such, most of the traffic violations in the parks are related to safety on the curbage of the park. COMMISSIONER GEBRE commented that she did not see any speed limit signs posted within the park. OFFICER CALDWELL stated most of the parks are pretty small, but the larger ones, such as Kellogg-Zaher Park, have good signage. He thought it was a good suggestion to place such signs in the smaller parks too so that no one would have the opportunity to say they did not know.

COMMISSIONER HENLEY asked about the hours of the trail system. OFFICER CALDWELL responded the trails are a gray area because most of the trail systems are not limited to the parks and go out to the streets. He said he likes to tell people that DPS is not there to stop people from using the trails; they are simply trying to stop people that are up to no good.

COMMISSIONER HENLEY added the Regional Trail System was designed to connect to large parks, and there are access points into the parks. Since the trail system is open all of the time and the parks close at a certain

hour, he asked if there were gates at the access points to the parks. OFFICER CALDWELL stated he has yet to see any gates, and that the trails are always open.

6. ABEYANCE ITEM – Discussion for possible action to name a park being constructed at Washington Avenue and Lamb Boulevard, currently known as Las Vegas Wash Park – Ward 3

Minutes:

VICE CHAIR SCHULTZ referred to the flyer for the Grand Opening of the Las Vegas Wash Park on December 5th at 3:30 p.m. A copy of the flyer is included with the backup under Item 9.

KELLY SCHWARZ, Sr. Management Analyst, stated COUNCILWOMAN DIAZ was going to speak on this item, but was unable to attend so the item would have to be abeyed again until December.

DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY ELIAS GEORGE advised that a motion to hold the item in abeyance would need to be taken and that it had to be attached to a specific date for the record. MS. SCHWARZ stated the date would be December 3, 2019.

See Item 9 for related backup.

Motion made by William McCurdy to Hold in Abeyance to 12/3/2019

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

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

7. Discussion for possible action to re-name Baker Park located at Eastern Avenue and St. Louis Avenue – Ward 3

Minutes:

KELLY SCHWARZ, Sr. Management Analyst, stated the Council Office requested this item be stricken.

Motion made by William McCurdy to Strike

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

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

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

Minutes:

COMMISSIONER BECKER reported Ward 2 is promoting the Turkey Trot and Swim at the Pavilion Pool on Saturday, November 16th. Check-in is at 7:30 a.m. with the race starting at 8:00 a.m.

COMMISSIONER SHERMAN stated there was an outstanding obligation to name a park after fallen LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN POLICE OFFICER IGOR SOLDO who was with OFFICER ALYN BECK. KELLY SCHWARZ, Sr. Management Analyst, informed the Commissioner that this was done and a park had been named after OFFICER SOLDO.

MAGGIE PLASTER, Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation, stated the Mayor's Cup was very successful, and she asked COMMISSIONER BRIARE to comment on it. The Commissioner said this event was not in his Ward, but the soccer club that partners with the City of Las Vegas, Downtown Las Vegas Soccer Club, presented it. He stated some of the fields that were showcased included Bettye Wilson Park and Kellogg-Zaher Park which are some of the largest and best facilities in the world. Ed Fountain Park and All American Park were also utilized. Five hundred and five teams from around the country participated, with 45 teams coming from outside of the country to participate. These included teams from Canada, Mexico, Ecuador, Brazil, Japan, Costa Rica, etc. He noted Japan had an outstanding team, and it was exciting to see these 12 year-old kids playing so well. The weather was good on Friday and Saturday, with some wind on Sunday, but the facilities were great, and the

event was wonderful. He commented how great it is for the City to present and showcase its fields and facilities that are a part of this event and that he has not heard any complaints about either.

COMMISSIONER McCURDY reported the Safe Nights event at Doolittle was very successful with 4,000 to 5,000 people in attendance. He mentioned the City Marshals participated in an exercise at Kianga Isoke Palacio Park where there was horseback riding, etc. He asked that his appreciation be extended to the Parks and Recreation staff at Doolittle for their work and professionalism in helping to coordinate this event.

VICE CHAIR SCHULTZ stated COUNCILWOMAN FIORE attempts to hold a constituent meeting at the Centennial Hills YMCA Ward 6 office several times a month, and he attends when he can. He noted such a meeting was held on Friday, November 1st, where certain concerns were brought up and identified to staff who are working on them. He encouraged the Commissioners to attend any such meetings held by their respective Councilperson because they provide a good opportunity to hear directly from the people.

VICE CHAIR SCHULTZ also reported he was happy to hear that the new Parks and Recreation Director is conducting one-on-one meetings with each of the Commissioners, and that Ward 6 is scheduled for a meeting on November 19th. This is something new, they look forward to that discussion, and hopefully it will lead to something bigger and better overall for the City and its constituents.

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

Minutes:

MAGGIE PLASTER, Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation, stated invitations were sent out from APRIL DiGIOVANNI, Administrative Secretary, regarding meeting with GREG WEITZEL, Director of Parks and Recreation. She believed the only Ward scheduled so far was Ward 6, so if the Commissioners were interested in a one-on-one meeting, they should let MS. DiGIOVANNI know so she can set that up.

She referred to the flyer in the backup and invited the Commissioners to the Grand Re-Opening of Baker Park on November 14th at 4:00 p.m. She noted this is the largest investment the City has made in rehabbing a park in recent history, and that it looks incredible. She also reported the Grand Opening of Las Vegas Wash Park would be on Thursday, December 5th, at 3:30 p.m. There will be other openings, to include Alyn Beck Park and the Lacrosse field at Teton Trails, at the end of this year and the beginning of next year that are not yet scheduled, so it is a great time for Parks and Recreation. The Igor Soldo Park has not yet been built but is planned for the other side of U.S. Highway 95. There is also Trigono Hills Park, which is the only park COUNCILMAN ANTHONY has seen built during his tenure. She noted the City received two \$25 million bonds which have allowed this type of investment in the community.

MS. PLASTER noted the Kindness Trees in the hallway on the second floor of City Hall are the result of the City's summer camps, and that this is the second year they have made kindness the focus of those camps. Every week they focus on a different aspect of kindness, and then the children fill out a heart with what they appreciate about someone. She invited the Commissioners to the November 20th City Council meeting as COUNCILWOMAN SEAMAN is sponsoring a ceremonial item to talk about her efforts in kindness and a Parks and Recreation employee will be honored as the Employee of the Month at that meeting as well.

After showing a Camp Kindness video, MS. PLASTER said Parks and Recreation is the best department at the City because of the impact they can make on kids' lives.

She noted the City has a Camp Thankful Fall Break Camp during the week of Thanksgiving, November 25-27, 2019, from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Cimarron Rose Community Center, East Las Vegas Community Center, Mirabelli Community Center and Veterans Memorial Center.

MS. PLASTER announced there will be a first-of-its-kind Polar Express event at Cimarron Rose Community Center on December 18th and 19th. As mentioned by COMMISSIONER McCURDY under Item 8, the Doolittle Halloween event was incredible this year with 9,000 people attending. It is a great community event, and the City is trying to do more of these in all of the Wards.

Also over the weekend was Dia De Muertos at Lorenzi Park. Even though that event had to compete with the same event at the Springs Preserve, staff felt it was very successful as well with 4,100 people in attendance.

She noted the new registration software, CivicRec, is coming on-line soon. They have experienced some delays, but hopefully it will be implemented in December.

MS. PLASTER stated MR. WEITZEL is all about going to the centers to look at the programs the City has to offer and interviewing staff. Two videos were shown; one of his visit to the Centennial Hills Active Adult Community Center and the other of the Wheelchair Rugby Program. MS. PLASTER stated the Centennial Hills Center is the busiest adult center that the City has. With membership to that center, people can utilize the YMCA facilities as well.

MS. PLASTER and MS. SCHWARZ commented on how special BOB MURRAY, Sr. Inclusion Recreation Specialist, is. He runs wheelchair rugby, basketball, cycling, etc. He has an awesome, positive attitude and although he will be retiring in July, he still loves his job, and they will miss him. MS. SCHWARZ added MR. MURRAY has attended the last four or five Special Olympics as the coach of wheelchair rugby and changes his beard to red, white and blue when traveling to other countries. She noted he will also be going to Japan for the 2020 Olympics.

VICE CHAIR SCHULTZ commented MS. PLASTER'S report was very insightful.

COMMISSIONER McCURDY complimented the Parks and Recreation Department stating they are an excellent team, the administrative staff is very compatible, and the Director is outstanding and creative in getting the citizens of Las Vegas to interact and participate.

COMMISSIONER SHERMAN wondered if the videos played during the meeting would be shown on the government channel or be used as a Public Service Announcement to encourage people to utilize the centers. MS. PLASTER explained the videos are mostly being shared internally at this point, but staff hopes they can be cut down and shared on social media channels. MS. SCHWARZ added the files are huge, so it is difficult but they are working on it.

VICE CHAIR SCHULTZ asked if streaming technology on demand was an option. MS. SCHWARZ responded the Office of Communications told them the videos are too long because they are four to five minutes in length while a typical video runs 30 seconds to two minutes on a social media platform. VICE CHAIR SCHULTZ commented the videos are very positive and relay a good message, and he wondered about the possibility of a condensed version.

COMMISSIONER GEBRE asked if the one-on-one meeting with the Director would be an all-day meeting. MS. PLASTER believed the meetings were being scheduled for one to two hours. VICE CHAIR SCHULTZ confirmed his meeting was scheduled for about an hour but thought that may extend to an hour-and-a-half. MS. SCHWARZ confirmed the intent was not for it to be a full day. COMMISSIONER GEBRE asked if they could choose any park in which to meet. MS. SCHWARZ stated it was up to the Commissioners where they wanted to meet. COMMISSIONER BECKER added his understanding was they have the option of meeting in a park or someplace to eat.

VICE CHAIR SCHULTZ asked about the duration of Camp Kindness. MS. PLASTER responded this is their second year running this program. It is an 11-week program, and each week they focus on one aspect of kindness. The Vice Chair asked how many participants there were and the number of staff members it takes to support the program. MS. PLASTER stated there are approximately 600 unique children. MS. SCHWARZ estimated 250 staff, but indicated it was hard to provide a number because they rotate in and out. MS. PLASTER stated there were 40 to 50 or so hourly employees in the room during summer camp training, and when adding in the all hands on deck full-time employees, she estimated about 100.

COMMISSIONER NEIGER asked what was meant by "unique" children. MS. PLASTER explained that simply meant 600 children, with no double counting of kids each week. The Commissioner asked for a profile of who was attending the camp. MS. PLASTER stated there is a lot of competition throughout the valley, but these camps are very affordable. Camp is offered at six different facilities with diverse neighborhoods, but the best attended camp is at Veterans Memorial Center with 195 to 200 children all from that neighborhood. Cimarron

Rose Community Center also sells out every year and they accommodate about 90 children. Staff would love to see more participants at the camps in the more economically challenged areas, such as the Doolittle Community Center, Stupak Community Center and East Las Vegas Community Center. Although the City offers financial aid, they are having trouble filling these camps, so they are unsure if it is a marketing issue or if the price point is still too high. The price point is \$75.00, but with financial aid can go as low as \$25.00 for the family or \$5.00 a day.

COMMISSIONER BECKER thought this might be an opportunity to create a community scholarship fund but also look at engagement. MS. PLASTER mentioned using the Mayor's Fund which when first established one year ago could only be used for very specific programs. She thought maybe they should indicate simply youth programming instead of youth sports as was done previously to allow fundraising for anything involving youth. She informed the Commissioners of an app called Mayors Fund LV, which makes it very easy to donate.

COMMISSIONER NEIGER offered his assistance with the underprivileged neighborhoods with regard to identifying whether the issue with engagement is cost and the possibility of a trial scholarship program. MS. PLASTER thanked him and indicated they should discuss that option further.

COMMISSIONER McCURDY was happy to hear COMMISSIONER NEIGER'S offer to help as he has found in Ward 5, particularly in Historic West Las Vegas, that people have been complaining about not having the funds to bring their children to Doolittle. He noted the efforts of MIKE FLORES, Nevada Youth, in trying to raise money. He stated it is always a struggle in Wards 3 and 5 because these communities do not have large businesses or the housing infrastructure.

COMMISSIONER NEIGER asked if this program generally broke even or cost the City of Las Vegas money. MS. PLASTER stated when looking at all of the summer camps in totality, they are at about the break-even point, which is the goal. As a Department, they are at about a 27 percent cost recovery. She explained they try to break up services into the categories of a private benefit, a public benefit, or somewhere in-between, and staff feels the summer camps are more of a private benefit since it is for that one child and a place for them to go while their parents go to work. They try to get 100 percent cost recovery on camps. VICE CHAIR SCHULTZ could see the camps being a public benefit in Wards 3 and 5 because if children are engaged in a positive camp program, they are not engaged in something mischievous, which benefits the public.

COMMISSIONER McCURDY stated he represents the City of Las Vegas on the Southern Nevada Regional Housing Authority so he has experience dealing with the developments in Wards 3 and 5 where unemployment is 14 to 15 percent, and many times these children cannot afford to go anyplace. They have to fight to live. Personally, he has paid for children who are less fortunate to go to events. He also spoke of raising money for Camp Brotherhood to give kids the opportunity to go to Mount Charleston and Lee Canyon. The affluent Wards do better because they have the resources, so he is glad the City is reaching out and he would like to see a focus on helping Wards 3 and 5.

VICE CHAIR SCHULTZ reiterated the videos shown were excellent.

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:

VICE CHAIR SCHULTZ stated the next meeting would be held on December 3, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.

11. **Adjournment**

Minutes:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Debra A. Outland, Deputy City Clerk

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Maggie Plaster, Deputy 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