



Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission Minutes

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Minutes:

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

PRESENT: CHAIR WHITE and COMMISSIONERS SCHULTZ, SHERMAN (via teleconference), McCURDY, BECKER, GEBRE, NEIGER, KELLER and JOHNSON

EXCUSED: COMMISSIONERS ARMENIAN, HENLEY, BRIARE, ASSELIN, HOWARD and JIMENEZ

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 and The Nevada Public Notice Website – notice.nv.gov.

3. Public Comment: Comment during this portion of the agenda must be limited to matters on the agenda for action. If you wish to be heard, come forward and give your name for the record. The amount of discussion, as well as the amount of time any single speaker is allowed, may be limited.

Minutes:

None.

4. For possible action to approve the Final Minutes by reference of the Regular Meeting of April 6, 2021

Motion made by Richard Becker to Approve

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

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

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

Minutes:

DEPUTY CITY MARSHAL PATRICK KELLY presented the April 2021 Deputy City Marshal Report. He reported there were a total of 640 calls for service, of which 187 resulted in enforcement action involving arrests, citations or warning citations. He noted that the majority of calls for service, arrests and citations came from Wards 3 and 5 because of the Fremont Street Experience and Homeless Resource Center being located in those Wards. He provided percentages regarding the number of arrests and citations at Fremont Street

Experience and City parks, along with the percentage that involved assault and battery and park violations. A breakdown of the number and types of arrests and citations by Ward was also provided.

With regard to community-oriented policing events, MARSHAL KELLY stated there was an Easter Event on April 1, 2021, at Firefighters Memorial Park in Ward 1. A Spring Safety Event at Valley High School in Clark County and the Bolden Little League Opening Day at Kianga Isoke Palacio Park in Ward 5 took place on April 10, 2021. Lastly, on April 14, 2021, a Skate Park Event was held at Police Memorial Park in Ward 4.

COMMISSIONER McCURDY wished to make it known there are a lot of individuals smoking marijuana during the day at Lubertha Johnson Park while children are utilizing the park, and he hoped an unmarked vehicle could patrol the area. He also asked about the possibility of signs being installed in the parks regarding the use of marijuana not being permitted in parks. MARSHAL KELLY stated he would forward the sign request to his Sergeant and inquire about additional patrols in the Lubertha Johnson Park area. CHAIR WHITE thought there had been a previous discussion regarding the installation of signs when marijuana was first being considered for legalization, but asked for these topics to be included in the Deputy City Marshal report next month.

COMMISSIONER SCHULTZ noted in past months, a copy of the Deputy City Marshal report was provided to the Commission and asked if one was distributed or if there was a new procedure where one would not be provided. KELLY SCHWARZ, Senior Management Analyst, stated she did not receive the report this time from the Department of Public Safety, but in the future would ensure one was obtained prior to the meeting.

COMMISSIONER KELLER asked what the protocol was for someone caught smoking marijuana or another substance in a park. MARSHAL KELLY explained smoking such substances in public is considered a misdemeanor crime and would most likely result in a citation, but the age of the individual would also be taken into consideration. The Commissioner asked if different action would be taken for repeat offenders. MARSHAL KELLY stated even a first offense can result in an arrest, but typically that is not the case, and it is at the officer's discretion as to whether they issue a warning or citation or arrest the individual.

COMMISSIONER McCURDY stated people assume since marijuana is legal that they are allowed to smoke it in public parks, and he relayed an incident where he observed such the day prior. Although it really bothered him because of the children in the area, he did not report it because he realizes the challenge of catching these individuals when they see a marked vehicle. MARSHAL KELLY concurred that it is difficult to catch somebody in the act because they can hide it when they see the Marshals, making it hard to establish probable cause. He reiterated he would inform his leadership and inquire about a directed patrol or an enforcement event in that area.

CHAIR WHITE thanked the Marshal for his report.

6. Report by Greg A. Weitzel, Director of Parks and Recreation, regarding Get Outdoors Nevada Volunteers in Parks projects – All Wards

NOTE: Under Items 7 and 9, MR. WEITZEL indicated his report for Item 6 covered those items as well.

Minutes:

Using a PowerPoint presentation, which was submitted and is attached as backup, GREG WEITZEL, Director of Parks and Recreation, shared an overview of the various grants and partnerships that staff have applied for or are seeking along with other funding opportunities to help provide programs, services and facilities, including local sports teams and schools. These include grants, donations, partnerships, sponsorships, in-kind services, volunteer hours of support, agreements and Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs).

Speaking to the new Volunteers in Parks (VIP) Program, MR. WEITZEL stated since September 2020, VIP events have been held in almost 30 parks involving 941 volunteers, which is anticipated to reach 1,000 with the two upcoming events. This is a great accomplishment, especially considering the pandemic. The average length of these events was 45 minutes and involved more than 2,300 volunteer hours, picking up more than 1,500 pounds of trash and planting over 100 trees. He noted these events were evenly spread across all six Wards and expressed gratitude for the volunteers, as these events could not take place without them.

MR. WEITZEL stated alternative funding became even more critical when revenues were down and the centers were closed. Funding awarded totaled more than \$900,000 over the past year, which included CARES Act

funding for the Vegas Strong Academy and the Mirabelli Preschool Program, which operated during the pandemic. A federal grant from the Land and Water Conservation Fund was also received for improvements to the Floyd Lamb Park Bike Trail and Pump Track, which is scheduled during the next year. Food grant funding was also received from the National Recreation and Park Association, which helped provide lunches for the children in the Vegas Strong Academies. An adaptive recreation grant from the Department of Veterans Affairs helped provide adaptive programs for veterans. Staff is also working closely with the Nevada Division of Forestry, which provided numerous grants for tree plantings – \$20,000 for Freedom Park and \$10,000 for more tree plantings in Ward 5. Recently, the Commission for the Las Vegas Centennial awarded \$110,000 for the Las Vegas Days Parade (formerly Helldorado).

MR. WEITZEL stated approval is pending for the ORLP (Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership) Program grant in the amount of \$1,000,000 to assist with the Charleston Heights Park project slated to occur in the next year. Additionally, applications were submitted to the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act (SNPLA) for three projects: the Regional Pickleball Complex at Wayne Bunker Park for \$12 million, which made the primary funding list; a Regional Aquatic Complex, which made the secondary funding list; and the Downtown Civic Park and Plaza, which did not make the recommended funding list.

An application was also submitted to the Dick's Sporting Goods Foundation for assistance with youth sports and the National Swimming Pool Foundation – Step into Swim for \$34,000 to assist with providing free swimming lessons and swimwear to children who need it. Additionally, an application was submitted to the United States Department of Agriculture United States Forest Service and National Association of State Foresters for close to \$100,000 that would continue to help with the City's urban tree canopy expansion and improvements to its nurseries.

Also in process, staff is working with the National Football League Foundation and Grassroots Program on gathering the scope, demographics and numbers needed from the Parks and Grounds Maintenance teams in order to submit an application by May 25, 2021, through the Mayor's Fund to assist with field renovations. Staff is also working very closely with the Vegas Golden Knights on a Youth Hockey Program, as well as funding assistance to help renovate two outdoor hockey rinks. A project to improve the outdoor basketball courts at Kianga Isoke Palacio Park at the Doolittle Complex is also in the works, and staff is working with the U.S. Soccer Foundation to build mini-pitches or sports courts at Freedom Park.

MR. WEITZEL stated staff continues to seek more grants and assistance for many worthy causes and programs, including hunger relief, water conservation, free swimming lessons, free summer camp and free youth sports. He noted the low water level at Lake Mead, and stated staff is working very closely with the Southern Nevada Water Authority and the Las Vegas Valley Water District to identify ways to save water, as it is the second largest expense for the Department of Parks and Recreation, following salaries.

MR. WEITZEL thanked the Commission for allowing him to provide this update, but also wished to report on several upcoming events. April was a very busy month, and the same is expected for May. The Las Vegas Days Parade will take place at 10:00 a.m. on May 15, 2021, at Third Street and will be a drive-by parade. On May 22, 2021, the Bluegrass Festival will be held at Centennial Hills Park. This requires registration, which he indicated KELLY SCHWARZ, Senior Management Analyst, could assist with those details. A neighborhood meeting will be held in Council Chambers at 5:30 p.m. on May 25, 2021, regarding the Huntridge Circle Park, which has been closed for some time. He thought this meeting would also be virtual, so Commissioners could join that way if unable to attend in person. There are many more events, which he indicated MS. SCHWARZ would pass along to the Commission. Lastly, MR. WEITZEL stated copies of the Department of Parks and Recreation Annual Report were available after the meeting if the Commissioners had not already received a copy. Also, he noted the Commissioners will be provided with a jacket and shirt to wear when attending various events to help identify them as a representative of the City. The members could be sized after the meeting if they wished so the order can be placed and hopefully, the items delivered for next month's Commission meeting.

With regard to grant activity, COMMISSIONER SCHULTZ asked what percentage the \$912,000 in grants was for similar activities (capital and other programmatic activities) of the total Department of Parks and Recreation budget. MR. WEITZEL stated prior to reorganization, their budget was \$25 million. He did not have the numbers in front of him, but offered to provide the Commission with more details as to the percentages. He stated most grants are program-based and play a significant part in the budget, and any additional funding is welcome, regardless of the percentage. Many grants require funding matches, and there is a very in-depth process by

which grants are approved by the City. He added the City is always appreciative of any outside funding that can help complete projects, while saving City tax dollars.

COMMISSIONER SCHULTZ asked about the status of the Grant Coordinator position. MR. WEITZEL stated a Grant Coordinator had started, but unfortunately left the Department, and that a new recruitment will be done in the next few months to fill that position again.

COMMISSIONER SCHULTZ confirmed with MR. WEITZEL the date and time of the Huntridge Circle Park meeting and that no prior authorization was necessary to attend.

COMMISSIONER KELLER asked if events were already planned for June and July, and if so, if those could be shared. Being cautiously optimistic that things will be back to full capacity starting June 1, 2021, MR. WEITZEL stated there is a tentative schedule, which they will share with the Commission.

COMMISSIONER McCURDY requested a copy of the cleaning schedule for Doolittle because he has noticed, and people have voiced to him, that it only gets cleaned when a Councilperson is scheduled to be onsite for an event. Additionally, he noted the homeless population has taken up residency at all of the parks. He understands not much can be done about that, but would like to ensure the walking paths and facilities are kept clean. MR. WEITZEL confirmed he will pass along the cleaning schedule.

COMMISSIONER NEIGER asked about the anti-bird feeding campaign and if it has reduced the amount of waste as hoped. MR. WEITZEL stated staff is still closely monitoring this, but unfortunately everyone is not following the rules, and he has witnessed families with large bags of popcorn still feeding the wildlife. Warnings are being issued through the Department of Public Safety, and staff is working with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to assist with the management of the wildlife population. It is a long-term solution, but he feels there are many people who have been educated through the campaign. As reported on the news, mountain lions and bobcats are now showing up in the parks, so everyone needs to be very cognizant of feeding wildlife to avoid these predators coming into the parks. He noted the City Council has requested a report to provide an update on this topic and stated he will present the same report to this Commission.

7. Report by Greg A. Weitzel, Director of Parks and Recreation, regarding grants and partnerships

Minutes:

GREG WEITZEL, Director of Parks and Recreation, indicated this item was covered under his report for Item 6. See Item 6 for related discussion.

8. Discussion for possible action regarding adjusting the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission meeting schedule for the months of June, July and August 2021

Minutes:

COMMISSIONER SCHULTZ recalled not holding meetings in July and August in the past couple of years, but felt going dark during the month of June was not necessary. He felt going dark for two months was sufficient, and was anxious to hear follow up reports requested on issues previously discussed.

COMMISSIONER KELLER thought it would only be necessary to go dark in July because of the holiday and to continue to meet in June and August. COMMISSIONER SCHULTZ supported this recommendation.

CHAIR WHITE deferred to staff for their recommendation. KELLY SCHWARZ, Senior Management Analyst, stated staff did not object to going dark for whichever months the Commission decided to do so. She noted, historically, it has been challenging to secure a quorum in July and August because of Commission members going on vacation, but that it was at the discretion of the Commission. The Chair asked the Commissioners about any planned vacations during those months.

COMMISSIONER SHERMAN said in the past, the Commission went dark in the summers due to the issue of establishing a quorum; however, there was always a contingency that a meeting could be called if necessary. To her knowledge, she did not believe there to be a lot of activity planned this summer that needed the Commission's attention and suggested the question be posed to GREG WEITZEL, Director of Parks and Recreation. MR. WEITZEL advised he had no preference and looked forward to meeting with the Commission every month if possible. They are in the middle of a Master Planning process as well as numerous other

projects, and also, the new budget starts July 1, 2021. Staff will be available if there is a quorum, and he looks forward to presenting.

CHAIR WHITE restated that the suggestion was to go dark in July and holding meetings in June and August if there was a quorum. He confirmed with DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY JOHN RIDILLA that a motion and vote was needed.

COMMISSIONER McCURDY motioned to go dark during the months of June and July. The Chair asked if there was any merit for this recommendation. COMMISSIONER McCURDY explained returning in August will allow them to handle anything that may arise with regard to the schools, partnering with the schools and ending summer programs. CHAIR WHITE stated typically the Commission has gone dark for two consecutive months. Under the impression that the motion needed to be seconded and none was voiced, he requested a new motion be made.

COMMISSIONER NEIGER liked the idea of meeting in June because it sounds as though both professionally and recreationally people will be attending mass gatherings again, and he thought they could have a discussion as far as what that looks like for parks and recreation prior to taking the month of July off.

Motion made by Micaela Keller to Approve going dark in July

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

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

9. 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, stated his report regarding emerging issues was included in his previous presentation.

Not realizing this, COMMISSIONER SCHULTZ stated he had some additional questions. He asked about the CAPRA (Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies) accreditation being put on hold at least until January 2022 due to the departure of the Deputy Director and the resumption of all other City Parks and Recreation activities. He didn't realize the extent to which the Deputy Director was involved in this process and asked if there was any other reason for this delay. MR. WEITZEL stated staff remains committed to accreditation, which is the foundational support needed for the Department to grow. He stated the reason for the delay involves a matter of staff capacity. It is very easy to close facilities, and a lot harder to reopen and get programs up and running again. Hourly support staff are now back onboard, but because the reopening is being done in phases, it is taking a lot of time and resources and this was a matter of balancing workload for the entire team. Achieving accreditation is a two-year process and no small task. He noted the City applied for an extension to its application, which he believed would be granted under the circumstances of the pandemic. He explained he had to weigh the workload of the entire staff and put priorities in place, such as reopening and the restoration of programs. Accreditation is very important, and this is merely on pause until all of the centers are up and running again. He apologized if it seemed that the Deputy Director leaving the Department was the sole reason for the delay.

COMMISSIONER SCHULTZ asked if there was any indication of a lack of support from elected leaders. MR. WEITZEL stated absolutely not. He believes the City's elected officials want to be a leading parks and recreation service provider not only in the state, but in the country. In 2008, the City was a finalist for the gold medal, and the City wants to get back to that level again, which starts with this accreditation. There are 10,000 park and recreation agencies, and only about 150 are accredited, which validates how tough the process is, MR. WEITZEL stated although a long-term process, they are excited to obtain accreditation. He is anxious to push forward, but he also needs to be cognizant of the stress and workload City staff is under. For accreditation, there has to be a system Master Plan, and that is continuing forward with consultants assisting in that process. The next step will be statistically valid surveys going out to the public, as well as surveys that can be done online, in the next month. Another element of accreditation is a Maintenance Management Plan, which the Parks and Grounds Maintenance Parks Superintendent is working on and is aware of its importance to their

operation. A Recreation Program Plan is also critically important to determine which programs the City wants to offer in the future. These elements are continuing forward, just not all 159 standards at the same time. COMMISSIONER SCHULTZ felt encouraged that things are moving forward, and asked that at the December 2021 meeting, there be a follow-up agenda item for a report regarding the status of the reactivation of the full accreditation efforts. MR. WEITZEL was in agreement.

See Item 6 for related discussion.

10. 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 will be holding her Breakfast Buzz event at Rachel's Kitchen on May 8, 2021, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. He stated he attended the Reopening of Bruce Trent Park event last month, along with COMMISSIONER SCHULTZ, and it was a great event. He named several organizations that were involved in the scope of revitalizing this community park. He also attended the Art in the Park event, and stated it was nice to see the artists and talent there again, and he hoped this event would grow even larger in the future. He commented how gorgeous the park was and that the playground equipment was amazing. He was touched personally by this because his family used to go to this park when it was the only one in the area. He complimented GREG WEITZEL, Director of Parks and Recreation, and his staff for doing a great job.

MR. WEITZEL thanked the Commissioners for their support and for those who attended the event, along with the more than 100 volunteers. It is his understanding that this was the first community-build playground project in the City's history, and it was wonderful to be a part of that and to see it all come together. He drives by the park often and sees it being used throughout the entire day and evening. He announced the next project will be at Freedom Park in Ward 3, as they continue to work with multiple partners to build a playground there.

COMMISSIONER McCURDY referenced the management staff that have left the Department. MR. WEITZEL stated the Deputy Director accepted a position in the Office of Cultural Affairs. The Commissioner commented about the hope for diversity in upper management in the Department of Parks of Recreation that reflects the entire city. MR. WEITZEL responded the City is an equal opportunity employer, and the most qualified individual is awarded any position. Additionally, diversity, equity and inclusion are at the forefront of all things done in Parks and Recreation, and they look forward to that recruitment.

11. **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.

12. **Adjournment**

Minutes:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Cheyenne LaRance, Deputy City Clerk

Greg A. Weitzel, Director of Parks and Recreation

Minutes Prepared by:
Debra A. Outland, Deputy City Clerk

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