



Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission Minutes

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Minutes:

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

PRESENT: VICE CHAIR SCHULTZ and COMMISSIONERS SHERMAN (via teleconference), NEIGER, BRIARE, ASSELIN, HOWARD, KELLER, JOHNSON and MARTIN (via teleconference and excused until 4:04 p.m.)

EXCUSED: CHAIR WHITE and COMMISSIONERS McCURDY, ARMENIAN, BECKER and GEBRE

ALSO PRESENT: GREG WEITZEL, Director of Parks and Recreation, KATIE SEARS, Senior 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: City Hall, 495 South Main Street, 1st Floor; Clark County Government Center, 500 South Grand Central Parkway; Grant Sawyer Building, 555 East Washington Avenue; Howard Lieburn Senior Center, 6230 Garwood Avenue.

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 May 4, 2021

Minutes:

VICE CHAIR SCHULTZ requested the wording of his comment made under Item 8 be clarified so it was understood he thought going dark during the month of June was not necessary.

Motion made by Steven Neiger to Approve as amended

Passed For: 9; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 5

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

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

Minutes:

LIEUTENANT DERICK MAJOR reviewed the July 2021 Deputy City Marshals Monthly Report, which was submitted and is attached as backup. He provided the total number of calls for service and indicated the top locations for those calls were the Homeless Resource Center and Fremont Street Experience. He reported 58 percent of the arrests and 54 percent of the citations took place in a city of Las Vegas park, with 10 percent of arrests and 22 percent of citations taking place at the Fremont Street Experience.

The Lieutenant provided a breakdown by Ward of the number of arrests, citations, and warning citations. He informed the Commission the issuance of warning citations has been discontinued while the City Attorney's Office re-evaluates their purpose and effectiveness. Such is normally issued when an officer is in contact with an individual for a violation, but does not feel a misdemeanor citation or an arrest is warranted. These individuals will now receive a verbal warning, a misdemeanor citation or be arrested. He stated most times citations are issued or arrests are made for park closure violations, unlawful presence in a children's park, possession and consumption of alcohol or for misuse of park amenities (i.e., washing clothes in the sinks or bathing in the restrooms).

With this policy shift, COMMISSIONER NEIGER asked if the officers anticipate an increase in verbal warnings or misdemeanor citations. LIEUTENANT MAJOR explained a lot of the problem parks have now been identified, and that the officers will determine what action to take on a case-by-case basis, also taking into account an individual's criminal history. An officer will normally issue a verbal warning to someone who is using the park for all intended purposes, but is unfamiliar with all of the rules (i.e., walking a dog in the park past the park closing time), but he reiterated it is at the discretion of the officer.

COMMISSIONER KELLER asked how long this new policy had been in place, and if it attributed to people using the park more frequently. LIEUTENANT MAJOR stated the policy has been in place for approximately two to three months, and that when the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department stopped issuing the warning citations, the Department of Public Safety (DPS) received direction from the City Attorney's Office to do the same. He indicated they did not observe any change in park usage, adding the paper record of issuing a warning citation was mainly so the person's information could be entered into SCOPE (Shared Computer Operation for Protection and Enforcement) to help other officers identify individuals who have been previously warned.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON asked if the report indicated whether the citations were issued to youths or juveniles, or if those would be handled in a different manner. The Lieutenant explained a citation can be issued to someone 12 years of age or older, and although not differentiated on the report, the majority are issued to adults. Depending on the violation, most times, juveniles are released to their parents with a verbal warning. He also stated that information could be included on future reports.

RHONDA ADAMS, Deputy Director, DPS, clarified the warning citation was not a part of their Department policy, and was no different than a verbal warning; it was simply another documentation tool and an alternative to incarceration. She stated no longer utilizing it, causes no hindrance or harm to anyone.

VICE CHAIR SCHULTZ appreciated the updated report. With the current trend related to the Delta variant and changes to laws and regulations, he asked if they foresaw any areas of concern in the next 12 months as it relates to parks and recreation facilities in the city of Las Vegas. MS. ADAMS stated they welcome any feedback as to what the Commission would like to see in the report, but that the monthly reports are very accurate and detailed, and provide a good prediction of what to expect in the future. She stated the juvenile offenses can be broken out as requested by COMMISSIONER JOHNSON, and she suggested the addition of a row that provided year-to-date numbers.

VICE CHAIR SCHULTZ indicated his question was not related to the structure of the report, but rather what types of issues or concerns there might be six months from now. MS. ADAMS said she did not foresee anything at this time, but with new legislative laws going into effect and the ever-changing trends of society, that may not be the case in the future.

6. Report by Steven Glimp, Superintendent of Parks, Department of Parks and Recreation, regarding parks maintenance updates – All Wards

Minutes:

STEVEN GLIMP, Superintendent of Parks, provided a general update as far as what has been done over the past year in terms of restructuring and trying to become more efficient. He reported on the following Capital Improvement Projects that are in the pipeline.

Ward 1 – Repainting and replacing, where necessary, the perimeter fence at All American Park.

Ward 2 – The playground at Angel Park is being resurfaced, and new playground equipment is being installed, with the hope the old playground equipment can be donated to another community.

Ward 3 – Shade is being provided over the new swing set that was recently installed at Freedom Park. Additionally, mini pitch soccer courts will be installed.

Ward 4 – The skate park at Garehime Heights Park is being revamped, and three playgrounds will be replaced at W. Wayne Bunker Family Park.

Ward 5 – The City is partnering with The Shaquille O’Neal Foundation and Icy Hot to redo the basketball courts at Kiangra Isoke Palacio Park at Doolittle Complex.

Ward 6 – MR. GLIMP stated the skate park at Mountain Ridge Park has been problematic as far back as he can remember, as it was continually being closed to make repairs. The mismatched components are going to be removed, and a new adaptive skate park will be installed. He noted he worked with an individual who was in a wheelchair to help make the skate park accessible for individuals with disabilities.

MR. GLIMP advised the Commission a more cohesive accounting of upcoming projects would be provided in the future, but generally staff over the past year closely reviewed efficiencies and how they do things. There has been some restructuring, and they are working on a Maintenance Management Plan. He explained the division is currently comprised of three sections – the park maintenance section, which provides daily routine maintenance in the parks; the facilities section, which handles projects and asset replacement; and the urban forestry section. Additionally, a Construction Project Administrator and a new field supervisor joined the facility asset replacement section, and a Park Maintenance Supervisor was recently hired, who he invited to speak.

PATRICK VAUGHN, Park Maintenance Supervisor, reported the Healthy Parks Program began during the pandemic, which gave non-essential employees the opportunity to help in the parks. In October, this evolved into bringing on part-time employees as additional resources. He reported current staffing includes 49 part-time employees, comprised of nine leads and 40 aides. Twenty report out of the east yard, and 29 out of the west yard. Staff would like to see this program become more robust and grow to 80 employees. These individuals currently work three different schedules: Monday through Thursday, 6:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.; Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 5:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.; and Saturday and Sunday from 5:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. He said this has been a wonderful resource to provide additional hands for special projects in the parks, specifically in keeping the parks clean and dealing with those things full-time staff struggle to get to on a daily basis. MR. VAUGHN stated this also provides the City with a hiring pool, as those individuals who have the drive and desire to become full-time employees with the City of Las Vegas can be more easily identified. To date, three have been hired as full-time maintenance workers within the Parks and Grounds Maintenance Division, and one more was just offered a full-time position.

MR. VAUGHN explained the Maintenance Management Plan is a quantitative system to help with planning, budgeting and labor resources. It is an asset-based program that begins by identifying all of the assets within each park. The maintenance activities, time standards and service levels associated within each asset is then determined. This will present a clear picture of the maintenance needs from a labor resource level, the total budgeting cost of maintenance for each park and will help with forward-planning as new parks come on board.

Additionally, a year and a half was spent in identifying Cityworks as the vendor to provide the CMMS (Computerized Maintenance Management System) software, which will work hand in hand with the

Maintenance Management Plan. The software is cloud-based, GIS based, and has both mobile and desktop applications. It provides staff accountability, along with strong analytical and reporting data. From the standpoint of asset management, staff will be able to schedule preventative maintenance and track associated costs of said maintenance and historical repairs. This along with the Maintenance Management Plan affords an opportunity to make smarter and more data-driven decisions moving forward. Both are in the infancy stage, but the hope is that the CMMS software can be rolled out late Fall or early next year. The Maintenance Management Plan will also be a fundamental component of the CAPRA (Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies) accreditation.

VICE CHAIR SCHULTZ was delighted to see the City adopt an activity-based accounting approach, which although a standard industry practice, he has not seen very much in local government.

COMMISSIONER SHERMAN wondered if the Department of Parks and Recreation was involved with or would be taking on maintenance of the Woodlawn Cemetery. MR. GLIMP stated currently their only involvement relates to the urban forest aspect – inventorying the trees and recommending pruning practices.

COMMISSIONER HOWARD complimented the Parks and Recreation team for their quick response to an issue she reported.

COMMISSIONER BRIARE asked about the CMMS system interface, such that if a light went out if it would generate a work order. MR. GLIMP said it has the capability to interface with whatever the City would like. MR. VAUGHN added it may not generate a work order if simply one lamp was out, but more so if the entire system was non-operational. He stated the vendor seemed very confident that they could find ways in which to integrate with nearly every system currently in place.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON asked if it was too late to include adaptive features at Garehime Heights Park. MR. GLIMP stated due to the small size of that park, nothing is higher than three feet, so it is effectively adaptive. The Commissioner asked if there was something more official certifying the park as such. MR. GLIMP stated not that he was aware of, but he reiterated the individual he mentioned earlier who rides his wheelchair at the skate park approved.

VICE CHAIR SCHULTZ thanked the gentlemen for their report and expressed excitement for the direction in which the City is moving.

7. Report by Greg A. Weitzel, Director of Parks and Recreation, regarding emerging issues related to the Department of Parks and Recreation – All Wards

Minutes:

Prior to hearing this item, VICE CHAIR SCHULTZ stated he received a message from CHAIR WHITE apologizing for his absence.

GREG WEITZEL, Director of Parks and Recreation, reported there are a lot of projects, programs and events being scheduled for the next year. He noted the Department's new Administrative Secretary, KIM KLEIN, would be joining their team on Monday, August 9, 2021. She's coming from Gillette, Wyoming, where she was the Executive Secretary for the Public Works Department. She also worked closely with their Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission and has a lot of experience in government. MS. KLEIN will be the Commission's main contact, but KATIE SEARS, Senior Management Analyst, will assist her initially.

With regard to grants, MR. WEITZEL stated the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Program got a boost in federal funding this year in the amount of \$150 million. Last year, the state was only allowed to submit one project, and the City applied for and was selected by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to move forward with a high-tech park project at Charleston Heights in Ward 5.

Staff is also diligently working on SNPLMA (Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act) grants. Last year, the City applied for three projects, two of which were forwarded for approval to the Secretary of the Department of Interior. One is a regional pickleball complex at W. Wayne Bunker Family Park in Ward 4, and the other is a regional aquatic center in Ward 2, adjacent to the Pavilion Pool Center. He expressed excitement over the swimmers who won Olympic medals and holding an event to celebrate those Olympians. He announced

another round of SNPLMA grants will be opening up on September 23, 2021, and staff is in the final stages of picking which three projects in Wards 1, 3 and 5 will be submitted for consideration.

MR. WEITZEL stated over 1,500 survey responses were received regarding the Department's system master plan, with more than 100 of the statistically valid surveys returned in each Ward. The data from these responses will be compiled, a report created, and another public meeting will be held, both in person and virtually, to outline these responses. He stressed the importance of people providing input as to what they want in the parks and recreation system in order to guide the City going forward. He shared some of the responses with the Commission, specifically noting that the majority of residents value parks and recreation more since the pandemic, and two-thirds indicated they would be willing to pay more property taxes for improving and expanding such in the city. Additionally, 87 percent rated the overall quality of programs and events as good or excellent. This is significantly higher than the national average of 78.7 percent. He also reported better awareness and distance to the nearest park were areas needing improvement.

MR. WEITZEL stated he spent several hours at every summer camp site and shared how joyful it was to see kids and staff in the business of recreation again. Between the Vegas Strong Academy and summer camp, there have been 63 or 64 consecutive weeks of camp or academies running. He recognized the staff working those events because it is very difficult to be the teacher and recreation leader nonstop for that length of time. The summer camp theme was Planet Play, with more than 600 kids participating, and on August 5, 2021, they will be burying time capsules as a way of putting COVID-19 and the past year behind them. He extended an invitation to the Commissioners to attend, and also indicated the Fall program would be announced in the coming week.

MR. WEITZEL reported the senior centers and active adult centers are up and running. He stated there would be a request on the September Commission agenda to rename all of the senior centers to active adult centers. With regard to aquatic centers, all the pools are in operation except Baker Pool. The Pavilion Pool experienced delayed renovations, and the pumps went out a couple of times; however, the pool is now back open. Staff is in the process of obtaining spare pumps for all pools because of the difficulty in obtaining replacement parts throughout the country. He noted how difficult it has been to find lifeguards this year, and acknowledged the full-time managers who stepped up and took over this role to ensure the facilities were safe and the pools were open this season. In order to try to secure more lifeguards next season, the rate of pay has been increased by \$2.00.

MR. WEITZEL stated city-wide sports, which includes flag football, soccer and field hockey, are up and running. He attended the football camp sponsored by Las Vegas Raider DARREN WALLER, the Mayor's Fund For Life and Howard Hughes Corporation. A video was shown of this event.

MR. WEITZEL stated he also went to Zion National Park with COUNCILMAN CREAR, his staff, the special events team and two busloads of kids from Wards 3 and 5. He said 95 out of the 100 kids had never been to a national park before, and it was a very rewarding experience for all involved. He expressed how much he loves it when kids get to experience nature and learn new things. He thanked COUNCILMAN CREAR for his help and assistance in sponsoring this field trip, as well as the National Park Rangers, who took them on multiple tours and trails.

MR. WEITZEL apologized for not sending the Commissioners a monthly newsletter this month, but guaranteed it would be sent next month.

He reported on the Volunteers in Parks (VIP) Program with Get Outdoors Nevada (GONE), which is one of the City's major partners. He noted COMMISSIONER JOHNSON leads the VIP Program, with the mission to connect people to the outdoors through education, service, community engagement and collaboration. GONE assists by recruiting community volunteers to help preserve, protect and enhance the neighborhood parks and trails. A video was shown of the various events that took place throughout the past year, after which MR. WEITZEL recognized the Councilmembers and their liaisons for their efforts. Overall, 28 events were held that involved more than 1,200 volunteers who contributed close to 3,000 hours of service by collecting 1,865 pounds of trash, planting 119 trees and helping to build two playgrounds. The total value of these volunteer hours to the community is over \$80,000, but he thought it was priceless because of the relationships being built. He mentioned how individuals thanked him for the opportunity to volunteer and work in the parks. Going forward,

two more events will be hosted in each ward, plus an additional six events, along with the launch of a pilot native habitat garden to connect youth to nature through recreational programming.

Although unable to do so this year because of the pandemic, MR. WEITZEL said a volunteer appreciation event will be held at the end of June 2022, to which he invited the Commissioners. To get involved and volunteer, he directed people to either call, email or go to the GONE website.

VICE CHAIR SCHULTZ recognized MR. WEITZEL'S enthusiasm. COMMISSIONER SHERMAN echoed this sentiment and expressed her appreciation. She asked if the survey was available to the public and how to access the results. MR. WEITZEL explained the surveys closed July 30, 2021, and the data is being compiled, which will be shared at a public meeting and at a future Commission meeting.

COMMISSIONER KELLER asked how pool closings are communicated to the public, such as with Baker Pool. MR. WEITZEL stated technically Baker Pool did not open to the public this year. It had been closed for several years, and staff felt it could remain closed due to the lack of lifeguards. They wanted to have a ceremony and open the pool, but they were unable to do so this year. The Commissioner asked what the next steps were for Huntridge Circle Park. MR. WEITZEL stated a public meeting was held and a survey was done. Information from these, along with other proposals received, will be compiled to come up with three different concepts to take back to the public and let them vote and provide feedback. This would then be brought forward for approval to reopen the park in the future. An architect was hired, and a meeting held to present the data received to date so renderings can be put together. The next step will be another public meeting to unveil those concepts.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON expressed excitement about the VIP Program next year. They are in the early planning stages, and all the Commissioners will be invited to attend these events. The energy is amazing, and people really do show up and thank the staff for making them work. Referencing the Deputy City Marshals report, she asked about the kinds and frequency of meetings happening with the Marshal teams regarding the violations and how the parks facilities affect some of those things going on. MR. WEITZEL stated the Parks and Recreation Department works very closely with the Department of Public Safety (DPS), and that LOUIS MOLINA, Director, DPS, is committed to helping reduce crime and incidents in the parks. He spoke of smart park technology, ranging from the installation of new cameras to automatic locks and gates. Currently, there are 79 restrooms that have to be manually unlocked, so automated locks would provide greater efficiency. He deferred to STEVEN GLIMP, Superintendent of Parks, to comment further.

MR. GLIMP stated they do not have scheduled meetings with DPS, but are in daily contact. A meeting was held with DPS a few months ago to discuss communication, and they just moved forward with that, and it seems to be working very well. MR. WEITZEL added that there are several initiatives in the future where they will be working even more closely with DPS. One relates to homelessness and another involves the accreditation process for CAPRA (Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies).

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON asked if the Marshals were citing for feeding the wildlife. MR. WEITZEL stated the Marshals are giving warnings at this time. While he has seen a reduction in the amount of feedings, there are also those that are ignoring the ordinance.

VICE CHAIR SCHULTZ asked if members who played an integral part but have since left the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission were somehow recognized. MR. WEITZEL informed him the City Clerk's Office sends a certificate recognizing their years of service. The Vice Chair thanked former Commissioner MIKE HENLEY for his contributions and insight.

He also asked with the Delta variant running rampant throughout the country, if staff saw any changes related to the parks or programs other than the current requirement for indoor masking. MR. WEITZEL stated as part of their summer camp, they have been very vigilant, even prior to the mandate, in requiring masks be worn by staff and students. They have also recently reinstated health checks at the entrances of the centers. They will continue to follow the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) and Clark County recommendations that come forth to the best of their ability.

VICE CHAIR SCHULTZ asked about social distancing and how that was being reconciled with the masking for the programs indoors. MR. WEITZEL stated the last he heard, the requirement was three feet, so they have tried to adhere to that at their camps.

The Vice Chair reminded everyone that CAPRA accreditation was to be revisited at the December meeting along with an overview of grants, both historically and looking forward to 2022, and the percentage that were a part of the total operating budget. He also asked about the Grant Coordinator position. MR. WEITZEL stated the final interviews are being conducted, and they should have someone on board next month. He noted there are a lot of grants in the works, and he will be presenting to the City Council on the Life is Beautiful Agreement, the U.S. Soccer Foundation to build four soccer mini pitches and working with the Golden Knights on an agreement to renovate two outdoor hockey rinks, but an updated report will be prepared and presented to the Commission as soon as possible. MR. WEITZEL emphasized how knowledgeable MR. GLIMP is when it comes to skate parks because he has been skateboarding since he was a child.

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

Minutes:

VICE CHAIR SCHULTZ stated he attended the Huntridge Circle Park neighborhood meeting which was held in Council Chambers on June 15, 2021. A lot of people attended, and it was a good exchange of information. He also attended the Harris Marion Park groundbreaking on June 23, 2021, with MAYOR GOODMAN and COUNCILWOMAN DIAZ. An ice cream social was held on July 8, 2021, in Ward 6 for seniors who normally attend the Centennial Hills Active Adult Center. MR. WEITZEL explained this facility is the only center with active adult in its name; the others will be considered by the Commission as a whole for a name change, which will be forwarded to the City Council.

The Vice Chair reminded the other Commissioners to share information on events happening in their Wards, so they can do their best to participate and be active.

9. **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.

10. **Adjournment**

Minutes:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:13 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:

City Hall, 495 South Main Street, 1st Floor

Clark County Government Center, 500 South Grand Central Parkway

Grant Sawyer Building, 555 East Washington Avenue

Howard Lieburn Senior Center, 6230 Garwood Avenue