



Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission Minutes

1. Call to Order

Minutes:

CHAIR WHITE called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

PRESENT: CHAIR WHITE and COMMISSIONERS SHERMAN, McCURDY (excused until 4:07 p.m.), BECKER, GEBRE, NEIGER, HENLEY, LOZANO, BRIARE, ASSELIN (excused until 4:03 p.m.), HOWARD (excused until 4:17 p.m.) and JIMENEZ

EXCUSED: COMMISSIONERS SCHULTZ, ARMENIAN and FOEMMEL

ALSO PRESENT: GREG A. WEITZEL, Director of Parks and Recreation, SETH FLOYD, Deputy City Attorney, 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 September 3, 2019

NOTE: The video does not reflect the vote accurately in that Commissioner Asselin voted in the affirmative.

Motion made by Richard Becker to Approve

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

For-Richard Becker, Jesus Jimenez, Steven Neiger, Armando Lozano, Audrey Asselin, Malcolm D White, Lisa Sherman, Elizabeth Gebre, Bob Briare, Mike Henley; Excused-Eric Foemmel, William McCurdy, Larry Schultz, Adroushan Armenian, 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 thanked the Commission for having him, and expressed he was going to request that he be the Deputy City Marshal assigned to give this report every month.

OFFICER CALDWELL reported Lorenzi Park had the highest number of calls for service at 43. Although the parks sees a lot of calls for service, people also like to fish there and utilize the other amenities, so there is some

good as well. He noted the Department of Public Safety (DPS) is trying their best to have an officer presence as often as possible, but they are short officers. He also reported Kellogg-Zaher Park had 37 calls for service, which was the second highest. There have been a lot of auto burglaries in recent weeks, so lately, they have been doing saturations of the park as recently as the day before which resulted in violations related to speeding, possession of a controlled substance and drug paraphernalia. This is another large park where people enjoy the amenities, so they are working to get the calls for service down.

Calls for service at City Hall are up to 34; most of these calls occur during the swing and grave shifts and involve the homeless trying to camp out, but he felt the department was doing a good job of keeping the area safe for the employees coming to work in the morning.

OFFICER CALDWELL proceeded to review statistics for the Las Vegas Detention Center, Gary Reese Freedom Park, the Homeless Resource Center (HRC), Justice Leavitt Family Park, Floyd Lamb Park, Centennial Hills and Ethel Pearson Park. He also reviewed the total number of arrests for all wards, the number of citations, warning citations and incident reports and provided a breakdown of the arrests for each of the wards and shared details of a couple of incidents that occurred. He commented the officers are very busy every day trying to keep the parks and facilities safe.

OFFICER CALDWELL also provided statistics related to traffic and misdemeanor citations. Many of the traffic stops are being conducted either inside the park or right on the curbage of the park. He reiterated the officers are trying their best to keep City properties and the parks safe, and that will be easier once more Marshals come on board. Currently, there are nine officers in field training, with another eight coming out of the Academy and another Academy starting in January.

He concluded the report with information on National Night Out, which is included in the backup. He explained National Night Out is where the officers and the community come together to build relationships. One is scheduled for October 1st at the Doolittle Community Center from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Another is scheduled for this evening on Fremont Street and H Street from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. He noted there would be free food at these events.

CHAIR WHITE stated the Commissioners represent all of the wards and were there to support DPS and voice their concerns as to what is going on at any given park within their wards.

OFFICER CALDWELL confirmed for COMMISSIONER NEIGER that the patrol officers had heard that they were doing too many traffic stops outside of the parks, which is why during his report he mentioned most were on the curbage of the parks. They try to stay within their jurisdiction because their primary focus is keeping City properties safe. CHAIR WHITE stated he had not heard that information and asked what the primary violations were that the officers were seeing. OFFICER CALDWELL responded most of the traffic violations that he sees include driving too fast. The posted speed limit in the park is 10 miles per hour (mph), but some drivers are going 20 to 25 mph which is dangerous with children running around the parks.

COMMISSIONER McCURDY asked if the officers could pursue someone out into the street if the violation occurred within their jurisdiction at the park; OFFICER CALDWELL confirmed. The Commissioner commented in this circumstance, a passerby would not be aware of where the violation initiated. OFFICER CALDWELL indicated they can stop vehicles outside of their jurisdiction, but they would need a reason or to see the violation occurring in their jurisdiction. He stressed they are DPS and mostly stop vehicles for major violations that are a matter of public safety.

Conversation took place between COMMISSIONER McCURDY, OFFICER CALDWELL and DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY SETH FLOYD related to marijuana use in the park, smoking it in front of minors and whether or not any special enforcement was being done. MR. FLOYD confirmed marijuana can only legally be smoked at a residence. OFFICER CALDWELL reiterated there are not enough officers and noted part of the problem is that smelling marijuana is not enough proof, an officer has to see it in an individual's possession. He did point out, however, that within the past month, instead of briefings being conducted inside, field briefings are being held at the park to saturate it and respond to all violations seen. He added seeing a lot of officers in the parks acts as a deterrent.

6. 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:

KELLY SCHWARZ, Sr. Management Analyst, stated after discussions with COUNCILWOMAN DIAZ and her staff, they would like to move this item to the November 5, 2019 meeting.

Motion made by William McCurdy to Hold in Abeyance to 11/5/2019

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

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

7. ABEYANCE ITEM – Report by Savonta Manor, Recreation Coordinator, regarding improvements proposed for the Kianga Isoke Palacio Park ballfields – Ward 5

Minutes:

GREG WEITZEL, Parks and Recreation Director, stated SAVONTA MANOR, Recreation Coordinator, was out on paternity leave and that in his absence SANDY FOLEY, Recreation Supervisor, would be giving the report.

MS. FOLEY reported the grass on Field 1 has been completed and is currently in a rest period, with an expected opening date in December or early January. She stated Operations and Maintenance did a great job getting it ready. Additionally, new benches will be added in the dugouts, new sunscreens will be added to the dugouts and they will be re-painting the sidewalks and the dugout covers in preparation for the opening day ceremonies of Little League.

MS. FOLEY noted scoreboards will be installed in early spring as well. COUNCILMAN CREAR is working diligently to get them ordered, which she described as black, white and gold. Public Works Traffic Electrical and Field Operations (TEFO) is working on getting electricity lines drawn for the installation of those by March. After CHAIR WHITE stated the members had not seen what the scoreboards would look like, KELLY SCHWARZ, Sr. Management Analyst, indicated she would send them pictures.

In response to questions that have been raised with regard to field lighting and the Municipal Sports Unit (MSU), MS. FOLEY explained the lights are not turned on without an allocated permit for the field and a light field request form. The reason for this is that it costs approximately \$20.00 per hour to turn on the lights, and the City only collects about \$8.00 for an allocation. Additionally, they do not want to turn on the lights when the field is not being utilized due to safety concerns. So, if the lights are not on, that means that the user did not request the lights to be turned on or the City did not have an allocated user with a permit for that timeframe.

COMMISSIONER McCURDY wondered about the possibility of installing solar lighting around the walking paths for security reasons because there are a lot of elderly people who start walking at 4:30 a.m. CHAIR WHITE thought this was the first time this topic was brought up at a Commission meeting. It is an important question, and he asked if any type of solar lights were being used. MS. FOLEY stated there are solar panels at various locations, but there are no solar lights on the fields, and she was not aware of any on the walking paths. COMMISSIONER BRIARE did not think a solar light battery would last throughout the night, but he mentioned Bill Briare Park has lighting that stays off until a sensor detects a person coming up to it and then comes on.

COMMISSIONER GEBRE mentioned a discussion she had with COUNCILMAN CREAR with regard to the lights in the parking lot not being bright enough. MS. FOLEY stated Parks and Recreation does not control those lights, but staff could pass that information along to TEFO. The City controls the lights that are actually on the field, and TEFO controls the lights in the parking lot, on the pathway, etc. COMMISSIONER GEBRE also noted the lines in the parking lot at Doolittle Senior Center are faded making it difficult for the senior citizens to park correctly between the lines. MS. FOLEY explained Parks and Recreation is not responsible for that but would pass that along as well.

MS. FOLEY thought the park would look amazing when finished. COMMISSIONER McCURDY agreed and liked that the logo was the logo of the fraternity that donated \$10,000 to help refurbish the park.

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

Minutes:

COMMISSIONER SHERMAN thanked KELLY SCHWARZ, Sr. Management Analyst, for providing the Neon to

Nature Southern Nevada Trails brochure and maps, which is included with the backup under Item 10. She stated she is entering into her 28th year as a Parks Commissioner so she has been very involved in the City of Las Vegas parks, and she is finding a new phenomenon of more and more dogs in the parks that many times are not on a leash, especially on the trails. The owners proclaim their pet is safe and friendly, but she wondered if the City addressed this and what the City's liability was if a dog were to bite a child on the playground or a jogger along the trail.

GREG WEITZEL, Director of Parks and Recreation, deferred to DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY SETH FLOYD to address the liability issue, but he addressed dogs in parks in general. He noted last week he was at the National Parks and Recreation Conference with multiple staff where he presented on trends, and people bringing their dogs to parks is a trend being seen more and more. He said when he asked the audience how many believed that dogs are children too, nine out of 10 people raised their hand. As such, Parks and Recreation is trying to provide more opportunities with more parks having off-leash dog parks incorporated into them.

MR. WEITZEL stated the off-leash issue is an enforcement issue and he believed was the liability of the dog owner. MR. FLOYD stated there are signs posted with regard to leash requirements, but he has seen this issue himself and understands the Commissioner's concern. He provided a couple of analogies and then stated the City would only be liable if it knew about an unsafe condition and did nothing to fix it. It is very unlikely that the City would be held liable in a situation as described by COMMISSIONER SHERMAN.

MR. WEITZEL added it is a violation of City ordinances for anyone to have their dog off of a leash outside of the designated areas. He noted Woofter Park, a new dog park in the City, will be opening soon, and more dog parks are anticipated in the future.

CHAIR WHITE thought this issue could be raised during the Deputy City Marshal report item as well.

COMMISSIONER McCURDY recommended that a park be named after COMMISSIONER SHERMAN for her longevity on the Commission. Discussion took place regarding the rule as to whether or not a park could be named after someone if they were still living. MS. SCHWARZ explained at one time, someone had to be deceased before a park could be named after them, but that changed about 1992, so that is no longer a requirement.

COMMISSIONER BECKER announced a Pop-Up Event on Friday, October 11th, at Bruce Trent Park at 2:00 p.m. where there will be arts, crafts, sports, games, etc. This event also takes place in November and December, but he would provide those details at a later meeting.

9. Report by Greg Weitzel, Parks and Recreation Director, regarding upcoming Department of Parks and Recreation activities – All Wards

Minutes:

GREG WEITZEL, Director of Parks and Recreation, referred to the Neon to Nature Southern Nevada Trails Map that was distributed and is included in the backup. He reported the City was a partner in putting this map together along with Get Outdoors Nevada and many other partners. He hoped the Commissioners would enjoy it and being new to the city, he appreciated having such a valuable resource that identifies more than 400 miles of trails in the valley. It is up to date, with final edits being made as recently as one month ago and having been printed about two weeks ago.

MR. WEITZEL asked about COMMISSIONER BRIARE'S relationship to Bill Briare Park. The Commissioner explained he has a brother named Bill but that the park was named after his father. In cooperation with the National Fitness Campaign (NFC), MR. WEITZEL stated this park will include a unique outdoor fitness court, the 100th in the country. A conversation took place earlier in the day with the national leaders of this coalition, and staff is excited about some of the things in this park that will be unique to any other city. He asked KELLY SCHWARZ, Sr. Management Analyst, to report out on that conversation and some of the details of the park.

MS. SCHWARZ stated she has been on conference calls with this group dating back two years, and the City was finally able to say that they could fund this project. The design was shown at last month's meeting, and the hope is for work to start in November, finish in December with a launch in January. The NFC is very excited that this park is the 100th fitness court that will be built in the country, and Las Vegas will be considered one of their flagship cities. A very large public relations firm has been hired by NFC, and they are going to do a huge

opening with possibly celebrities. The City already obtained approval through NFC to build four more with some extra funding from them, so staff is hoping to have a fitness court in each ward. She noted Clark County and Henderson are trying to follow, but the City will have the first one in the valley. Once built, the hope is for this to be a very active fitness court and not just sit there as typically happens. There will be an app, scheduled workouts and classes along with an ambassador program, where the City can partner with various individuals. What is great about the location of this park is that it is also a part of the trail system; the concrete where the pad will be is also a connector to the trails. NFC has been super supportive and is putting in a lot of extra effort to make it really special for the City.

CHAIR WHITE asked if the trail system was in such a format where people could view it on their computers. MS. SCHWARZ responded not at this time, but that component is in the works. The app associated with the NFC will concentrate solely on the fitness court.

It was confirmed for COMMISSIONER McCURDY that the Historic Pioneer Trail was included in the trail map that was distributed. The Commissioner wanted to make sure a fitness court would be placed in all of the wards because there are a lot of senior citizens in the Historic Westside who need to work out. He tries to convince people that the City of Las Vegas is not leaving that part of the city or the eastern portion of Ward 3 out. He is happy that the City is taking care of the Doolittle fields and the dugouts and bringing the area up to the standards of other areas in the city. CHAIR WHITE thanked the Commissioner for his attention to his ward.

With regard to the trail map, COMMISSIONER BECKER asked if any consideration has been given for geotagging or something similar so people can draw information about the areas on the trail system. MR. WEITZEL thought that was a great suggestion, and MS. SCHWARZ indicated she would bring this up at a meeting scheduled for the following week. MR. WEITZEL stated there is also a Neon to Nature Facebook page and a website if the Commissioners wished to check that out. Staff will include a link once the digital component is up as well.

With regard to the fitness court, COMMISSIONER BECKER stated it was his understanding from last month's meeting that the City would be interested in sponsors and/or program developers who want to take the fitness court and do something with it at any given time; MR. WEITZEL confirmed, stating the City is currently in the process of looking for partners who wish to help with programming and activating the space.

In direct relation to questions asked of DEPUTY CITY MARSHAL ZHAQUAY CALDWELL under Item 5 relating to cannabis in the parks, MR. WEITZEL reported that staff is working with COUNCILMAN KNUDSEN along with the Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD) on a tobacco-free park ordinance that would also include cannabis and vaping. This is still in the early stages, but he wanted to include it in his report since the topic was raised earlier in the meeting. Tobacco-Free Parks is a national campaign, and in the last two cities where he worked, there were tobacco-free park ordinances, mostly around playgrounds and children's youth areas, such as athletic fields. He noted one of the biggest issues is enforcement. A Marshal will not be sent out; it will be self-enforced with community pressure being a factor. MR. WEITZEL stated this has been proven to be very successful around the country, and staff is looking forward to working with the Councilman and SNHD on this ordinance.

For the benefit of the Commissioners who have not been on the Commission for a long time, MS. SCHWARZ added there is currently an ordinance prohibiting smoking within 50 feet of a playground or sports field, so this proposal would be the next step.

COMMISSIONER McCURDY shared a story regarding reserving park space and thought all of the park rules and regulations should be broadcast on the City's television channel to remind citizens of what they are. CHAIR WHITE thought this was an interesting concept.

MR. WEITZEL stated staff is diligently working on changing their registration software. It has been two years in the making, and the hope is that it will be done in January. They are currently using RecTrac and are going to CivicRec which should make it easier for individuals to register for their programs and activities. It is a turnkey operation software system, and they are looking forward to having that done as every division in the department is involved with CivicRec in some form or fashion.

MR. WEITZEL stated MS. SCHWARZ is working diligently with the seventh floor communications team on a marketing and advertising plan for 2020 to get the word out to people in new ways regarding all of the programs, activities and special events the City has to offer.

MR. WEITZEL stated APRIL DiGIOVANNI, Administrative Secretary to the department, will be contacting each of the Commissioners within the next week to schedule a meeting with him either individually or as a ward. He stated he would work with their schedules and was open to a park tour so the Commissioners could point out anything they wanted to bring to his attention.

MR. WEITZEL also spoke about another trend – eSports. The Luxor has an eSports facility, which is a hot trend right now in Parks and Recreation, and is about connecting youth who are playing video games and eSports in the recreation centers. Staff is working with COUNCILMAN CREAR on a Charleston Heights eCenter where sports games will be brought in, excluding those with a shooting component, for tournaments to get kids, specifically teenagers, engaged. It is becoming incredibly popular, and he will be sharing a video at the next Commission meeting highlighting where eSports is going. The Charleston Heights Community Center would be the first in the city to include this element, with the hope that model could be used at other community centers.

This is a new way of getting youth out of their homes. A lot of the kids like to watch others play so it becomes a social activity for them as well. Many people think about the cons of playing video games, but they are not going away, so they are trying to think of new ways to connect with the youth who play these games to get them out to their centers.

MR. WEITZEL stated every week he sends out an email to his approximate 500 staff members, but he decided to take this one step further and as reported at the last Commission meeting, he is touring every center and park and learning and listening. Using an iPhone, a short two-minute video of these tours along with other events he is participating in is created, which has turned out to be a hit.

The videos of his visit with Get Outdoors Nevada at the Las Vegas Community Healing Garden and the inaugural Floor Hockey game at Veterans Memorial Community Center were shown. The Commissioners expressed interest in receiving a copy of these videos every week; MS. SCHWARZ will make sure they get copied on these. MR. WEITZEL said it is a great way to learn about all the things that Parks and Recreation is doing.

MR. WEITZEL added they are working with the Vegas Golden Knights (VGK) to develop a Floor Hockey League city-wide. It is a low-cost game that people can participate in. There will be a tournament at the end which will be sponsored by VGK, and the winners will get to play with them. He also shared his experience playing wheelchair rugby for the first time.

MR. WEITZEL stated Ward 6 is holding a Movie in the Park event on October 4th at Centennial Hills Park. He noted OFFICER CALDWELL already mentioned National Night Out in Ward 4. There will also be a Movie in the Park in Ward 3 at Gary Reese Freedom Park on October 18th. There will be a Halloween Celebration in Ward 6 at Floyd Lamb Park and at the Ranch House and Gazebo on October 31st. There are Pop-Up Mobile Parks and Recreation events at Bruce Trent Park the second Friday of every month, but they are also the second Saturday of every month at Justin Myron Leavitt Park from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., on the third Friday of every month at Gareheim Heights Park, the third Saturday at Floyd Lamb Park and the fourth Friday of every month at Rainbow Family Park and Lorenzi Park.

Lastly, he reported on The Great Job and Career Match with COUNCILWOMAN DIAZ and the Latin Chamber of Commerce. The event is in Ward 3 and is designed to bring more than 30 employers that are currently hiring into a community struggling with high unemployment. Employers are given the opportunity to have face-to-face discussions about job opportunities with attendees. He stated more information can be found at nvcareercenter.org

CHAIR WHITE thanked MR. WEITZEL for his report and appreciated the videos that were shown.

COMMISSIONER SHERMAN stated for those not familiar with eSports, they are taking on quite an important meaning in our society where even colleges and universities are recommending tournaments, awarding scholarships, and they are being covered by ESPN. She supports Parks and Recreation for recognizing this trend.

COMMISSIONER McCURDY thanked MR. WEITZEL for considering and accepting the Director of Parks and Recreation position at the City of Las Vegas. He acknowledged and commended him for being innovative since his arrival, and he thought this innovation would bring quality of life to all of the citizens in the city of Las Vegas. MR. WEITZEL thanked COMMISSIONER McCURDY. CHAIR WHITE said he was sure that sentiment was shared by the entire Commission.

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:

BENJAMIN BOYDA stated he has been a citizen of Las Vegas since 2008. He shared his frustration while signing his son up for SafeKey and was happy to hear about the software upgrades mentioned under Item 9. He thought Floor Hockey sounded cool but added all of the basketball courts at some parks in South America and Europe also have a goalpost, which might be something inexpensive and easy to do.

MR. BOYDA said he and his friend, FRANCISCO ASUNCION, came to the meeting to talk about the fitness courts. MR. BOYDA stated they are both huge users of the parks throughout the city and have a Google shared document which was created by MR. ASUNCION showing all of the fitness courts and parks in the City of Las Vegas, Henderson, North Las Vegas and Clark County so they are aware of what the City has and what it does not. He shared he recently went to Philadelphia and saw one of their fitness courts. He found it very inspiring being there and working out on the equipment and the story behind it where a citizen helped with the design and to get it built through the City Council; as was the case with another park in San Francisco where a citizen stepped up. He was hoping they could start a similar relationship.

MR. BOYDA acknowledged the park improvements the City is doing but stated they observed that usually there is one thing wrong with every park; i.e., maintenance, design issues, user friendliness, age/weight discrimination, etc., and they want to offer their help.

CHAIR WHITE appreciated MR. ASUNCION and MR. BOYDA'S participation and statements and offered to have them come back to give a formal presentation under a scheduled agenda item; COMMISSIONER HOWARD also appreciated them stepping up. COMMISSIONER McCURDY encouraged these gentlemen to contact GREG WEITZEL, Director of Parks and Recreation, to see if there was some way they could partner with the City.

CHAIR WHITE added any suggestions regarding the fitness courts are of great benefit.

11. **Adjournment**

Minutes:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Debra A. Outland, Deputy City Clerk

Greg A. Weitzel, 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