



Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission Minutes

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Minutes:

CHAIR WHITE called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

PRESENT: CHAIR WHITE and COMMISSIONERS SCHULTZ, SHERMAN (via teleconference), BECKER, NEIGER, BRIARE (via teleconference), HOWARD, KELLER (via teleconference and excused until 4:07 p.m.), JOHNSON, MARTIN and ZAMORA (via teleconference)

EXCUSED: COMMISSIONERS McCURDY, ARMENIAN, GEBRE and ASSELIN

ALSO PRESENT: LISA MORRIS HIBBLER, Chief Community Services Officer, PATRICK VAUGHN, Park Maintenance Manager, KIM KLEIN, Administrative Secretary, VAL STEED, Chief 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 in accordance with the noticing standards as outlined in NRS 241.020: City Hall, 495 South Main Street, 1st Floor; 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 September 7, 2021

Motion made by Melody Howard to Approve

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

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

5. Report by Dr. Lisa Morris Hibbler, Chief Community Services Officer, regarding department updates – All Wards

Minutes:

DR. LISA MORRIS HIBBLER, Chief Community Services Officer, reported there have been changes in the administration of the Parks and Recreation Department. GREG WEITZEL, former Director, resigned at the

beginning of September, and as of October 5, 2021, STEVEN FORD was appointed the Acting Director. MR. FORD has been with the City of Las Vegas for more than 25 years, spent 16 years in Operations and Maintenance and also serves as the City's engineer. As a retired United States Air Force Reserves Lieutenant Colonel, they are happy to have him, to be moving the department forward and to continue to provide the great recreation, parks and amenities the City has long been known for.

DR. MORRIS HIBBLER provided the following updates:

Hay Barn at Floyd Lamb Park – Construction related to repurposing this historic building is on track.

Charleston Heights Park – STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and technology are very important in the community, so staff is excited about this \$5.7 million, first-of-its-kind tech park, which has been underway for quite some time.

Harris Marion Park – This is a new \$5.2 million park underway at Nellis Boulevard and Bonanza Road in Ward 3, which will include small soccer fields and equestrian elements.

Mini-Pitch – This project is at Freedom Park and is funded in part with a grant from the U.S. Soccer Association in partnership with the Las Vegas Mayor's Fund.

East Las Vegas Community Center Remodel – Three million dollars has been allocated for paint, to patch the interior and exterior, install new floors and build a room addition, along with other upgrades to the facility.

Historic Westside Legacy Park – This project is almost completed, with a ribbon cutting slated for December 4, 2021. It involves a collaboration between the City and Clark County, and everyone is excited to see the park come to life as all the elements are installed.

DR. MORRIS HIBBLER also named the following projects that have been completed: the Cimarron Rose Dance Studio addition, a \$1.1 million project, and the Shaq Courts, which had its ribbon cutting the week of October 25, 2021. This project was made possible through a donation from the Shaq Foundation in partnership with Icy Hot and the Las Vegas Mayor's Fund. She encouraged the Commissioners to stop by, as it is a beautiful amenity, which will be heavily utilized. She also noted the Garehime Skate Park was a \$120,000 project, and the Mountain Ridge Skate Park replacement in Ward 6 for \$224,000.

DR. MORRIS HIBBLER reported the following projects were in the design phase: Northwest Regional Park in Ward 6, Regional Pickleball Courts, Regional Aquatic Center, Huntridge Circle Park, the Regional Adaptive Sports Center, Cragin Park Soccer Fields and Police Memorial Park. She said she has been working closely with the team, and they have been meeting with the Council Offices on their Capital Improvement Projects. The City is fortunate in that funds are currently available, so there are some projects that were originally thought to be a couple of years out that can be accelerated. Staff will bring back and report on those projects at the next meeting.

COMMISSIONER SCHULTZ thanked DR. MORRIS HIBBLER for her report, who confirmed for the Commissioner that MR. FORD is the Acting Director. COMMISSIONER SCHULTZ asked about the timeline to fill the position with a permanent Director. DR. MORRIS HIBBLER indicated the recruitment may start around January 2022. She also confirmed the Acting Director and the new permanent Director, when hired, will report directly to her.

COMMISSIONER SCHULTZ wished to make an editorial comment. As a long-term member, he said it would be nice for the Commissioners to be notified when there is a material change at the Director level in the future. DR. MORRIS HIBBLER responded that was an oversight, and his request was duly noted.

COMMISSIONER HOWARD asked how this would affect the accreditation process. DR. MORRIS HIBBLER stated that process was placed on hold due to the pandemic, closures, getting staff back into the centers and trying to get everything re-opened, but it would be re-visited in January, and this change did not affect the timetable.

CHAIR WHITE asked for a forewarning if anything else was going to be delayed. DR. MORRIS HIBBLER said a

report will be provided either in December or January, and meetings have taken place with management staff to discuss what the landscape looks like now coming out of the pandemic. Where they were prior to the pandemic is different from where they are today, and they need to consider where they are headed. As such, they are taking this time to do that. Accreditation is important, but it is also important for the City to understand its constituents and their needs. Many one-on-one meetings have taken place with the City Council, and staff will also be speaking with constituents as to what amenities, programs and classes they want to see, but regular updates will be brought to this body.

6. Report by Priscilla Scott, Recreation Coordinator and President of Nevada Recreation & Park Society (NRPS), regarding the 2021 Annual Conference – All Wards

Minutes:

PRISCILLA SCOTT, Recreation Coordinator and President of Nevada Recreation and Park Society (NRPS), reported her term as President concluded 10 days ago, and she now holds the title of Past President, which she will hold for the next year. She expressed excitement with her new role, which will entail training the incoming President-Elect and guiding that person through planning their conference and preparing them to take the Presidency in 2022, at which point, she will shift her focus to advocacy efforts and the state affiliate status with NRPS.

MS. SCOTT stated the NRPS is working on its newsletter, which will be provided to all of the Commissioners once it is ready. She said some great partnerships came out of the conference. One vendor taught a park maintenance workshop, with attendees from the City of Las Vegas, Clark County School District, City of Henderson, Southern Nevada Health District and people interested in learning about playground and equipment safety. She said there was a hands-on workshop at Justice Myron E. Leavitt Community Park, which provided instruction on how to properly repair the rubber, and all materials were provided.

As part of the conference, a two-day educational session was held October 19 and 20, 2021, at MEET Las Vegas, followed by the kickoff of LEAD (Leadership, Excellence, Alliance, Development) training at City Hall. MS. SCOTT provided a recap of the number of sessions, vendors, overall membership and conference attendees pre- and post-pandemic, noting it was monumental to see growth despite the pandemic. The City of Las Vegas Parks and Recreation Department has about 220 FTEs (Full-Time Equivalent), and 41 attended the Conference. The City received eight awards for programming and park projects, as well.

MS. SCOTT said a survey is still in process to capture what people liked and did not like, but from the responses received so far, there is an 86.7 percent satisfaction rate. Sixty-two and one-half percent said their main reason for attending the event was to network and find a support group, which she thought went back to people being tired of being isolated. Rated number one were the educational sessions, along with keynote speaker, JASON ELISSALDE, who hosted a session called Return to Abnormal. Rated lowest was the food and the lack of park maintenance sessions. She said they are working with the same vendor that worked with the City at Justice Myron E. Leavitt Community Park to put together an all-day forum, but on a smaller scale to learn how to operate some of the equipment and talk about the challenges and maintenance issues they face. To date, 93 percent indicated they were likely to attend the conference next year.

MS. SCOTT pointed out due to the cost of traveling and that the bulk of the membership is from Southern Nevada, NRPS decided to keep the conference in the south for the next two years; whereas, normally it would rotate between north and south. She said some of the recommended topics included motivating employees, how to help and guide employees, marketing and a session for first-time attendees on how to navigate through a conference.

MS. SCOTT said LEAD training has started, which is a leadership institute that focuses on training parks and recreation professionals for whatever the next step is in their career. This year it was hosted at City Hall, and they kicked off with 23 participants, seven of who were from the City of Las Vegas, up from four in past years. Each attendee is matched with a personal mentor, who guides them through completing tasks throughout the year. It is a great opportunity to network with other agencies, while developing leadership skills, and forces some outside their comfort zone, while providing tools and guidance. She said mentor training was added this year, as they found mentors sometimes need mentoring as well, which should help strengthen the program even more.

CHAIR WHITE thanked for MS. SCOTT for the presentation.

COMMISSIONER SCHULTZ commented he was very impressed with the commitment of those from the City who attended the conference because he thinks professional development and commitment to such serves to elevate people to achieve higher results and higher levels of excellence. He hopes for this to continue in the future.

COMMISSIONER BECKER appreciated the report and hopes it is ongoing as well. For first-time attendees, he asked if consideration has ever been given to a dine-around to match them with senior people. MS. SCOTT said that has not been done before, but is something she will take back to the board. The Commissioner said sometimes better discussion can take place over a lunch or dinner versus during a session. MS. SCOTT thanked him for the suggestion.

CHAIR WHITE also suggested a retirement-type career training session for those who have been in the program for a longer period of time. MS. SCOTT thought that would be a really good session topic.

COMMISSIONER NEIGER stated it sounded as though they were doing a good job, and he was glad the conference will take place in Las Vegas again. He said conferences do a lot for organizations from a morale, creation, communication and innovation perspective. In terms of support, volunteers go a long way, and he offered the Commission members as being receptive to volunteering.

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

Minutes:

LIEUTENANT JOHN GUILLEN, Department of Public Safety, presented the Deputy City Marshal's report for the month of October, a copy of which was submitted and is attached as backup. He reported of the top 10 locations for Calls for Service, six involved parks, which he named. There were 122 arrests, which were a mix of misdemeanor, gross misdemeanor and felony arrests. He provided statistics for the number of citations and traffic citations issued, noting Calls for Service increased from the previous month, as did misdemeanor and traffic citations, while arrests decreased. He thought this may be attributed to the new Assembly Bill that limits misdemeanor arrests.

Park violations for October involved park closure and alcohol prohibited violations, with the highest number of enforcement calls being at Justice Myron E. Leavitt Community Park. LIEUTENANT GUILLEN explained for the Chair where to find the information he was referencing on the report.

COMMISSIONER HOWARD said she saw on social media where either a shooting had taken place or a group of young teens were creating havoc at Centennial Hills Park to the point where police went into the surrounding neighborhood and advised them not to go to the park after dark. LIEUTENANT GUILLEN said he did not recall a shooting and explained the Marshals only advise people of the park closure hours, but it was possible that incident involved the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department and had not been reported to them.

Noting Lorenzi Park was one of the top parks where feeding the wildlife violations were occurring, COMMISSIONER JOHNSON asked if there was any movement towards making this a regular citation. LIEUTENANT GUILLEN explained they educate the individual first, then a verbal warning is given and a citation could follow if a repeat offender, but none have been issued to date. The Lieutenant confirmed for CHAIR WHITE this involved the feeding of all wildlife. The Chair said they would address the excessive number of geese at that park with STEVEN FORD, Acting Parks and Recreation Director, at a future meeting.

CHAIR WHITE thanked LIEUTENANT GUILLEN for the report.

8. Report by Patrick Vaughn, Park Maintenance Manager, regarding park maintenance updates and emerging issues related to the Department of Parks and Recreation – All Wards

Minutes:

PATRICK VAUGHN, Park Maintenance Manager, provided the following updates:

All American Park – The repainting, replacement and repair of the fence project is now complete.

Woofter Park – Another National Fitness Campaign Fitness Court will be installed, which will be the same as that recently installed at Garehime Heights Park and Bill Briare Park. This project is anticipated to start in November and conclude in January.

Angel Park – The playground has been pushed back again due to supply chain issues, but the hope is for a mid-December completion date.

Freedom Park – The installation of a shade structure over the swing set has also been delayed due to supply chain issues, and is now expected to be completed in December.

Trigono Hills Park – There were concerns at this park with the turf grass due to a problem with a master valve failure over the Fourth of July weekend that resulted in most of the turf grass being lost. The park's entire common area has now been reseeded, and some new growth was seen this week. It is late in the season, but temperatures have been cooperating, and staff hopes for full restoration of the turf.

Centennial Hills Park – Staff is excited about this project, which is being done in conjunction with Get Outdoors Nevada and involves the installation of a pollinator garden between the Fire Station and butterfly play area. Some interpretive signs with QR codes may also be installed that will help educate the public, as well as neighboring schools and the YMCA as to the importance of pollination and insects.

MR. VAUGHN reported after some logistical challenges regarding seed, the soccer fields have now been overseeded, and the natural grass soccer fields were opened over the past weekend for the Las Vegas Mayor's Cup soccer tournament, which was a success.

COMMISSIONER BRIARE noted he was involved as a user at the Bettye Wilson Soccer Complex during the Las Vegas Mayor's Cup, and there is no facility in the country that any team has played on that can match the quality of this park. He thanked the maintenance crew, as every team was amazed at how it looked and performed. MR. VAUGHN indicated he would pass that compliment along to his team, who did a fabulous job.

COMMISSIONER SCHULTZ appreciates the hard work MR. VAUGHN and his team are doing to keep the parks looking good. The Commissioner asked about the degradation of the turf at Trigono Hills Park since it is a relatively new park. MR. VAUGHN reiterated the problem that occurred with the failure of the main master irrigation valve over the Fourth of July weekend, noting that the weather through September was not conducive for good germination, so they had to wait to reseed. MR. SCHULTZ suggested staff check the warranty on the valve to see if partial liability might rest with the developer of the park, as that might be an opportunity to recoup some of the costs. MR. VAUGHN thought this was a great idea and said they would look into it further. COMMISSIONER SCHULTZ asked for a follow-up report in the future.

COMMISSIONER MARTIN asked as the Colorado River and Lake Mead dry up, at what point that will affect the parks. MR. VAUGHN stated that was difficult to answer, but he thought direction would most likely be provided by the Southern Nevada Water Authority. In the meantime, staff is taking a proactive approach as they look at future non-functioning turf removals throughout the park system for water-saving measures, which they anticipate happening over the upcoming winter.

9. Discussion for possible action regarding a recommendation to allow dog parks to be open 24 hours a day from Memorial Day through Labor Day – All Wards

Minutes:

COMMISSIONER MARTIN stated he requested this agenda item because with the brutally hot sun in the summer months, the only time people with pets can enjoy the park is at night.

CHAIR WHITE thought this would be up to the Parks and Recreation Department to determine if have they staff to maintain the parks, and he wished for their input.

COMMISSIONER SHERMAN expressed her concern with consistency being lost in the overall park areas because it would confuse the public if only the dog parks were open. She said she knows what it is like to walk a dog at midnight because she had to do that for almost the entire month of June, but she was also concerned

the park Marshals may not be available during those hours, and having dogs out at that time may not be in line with City and County ordinances. Also, some dog parks back up to people's homes, which might trigger complaints, so she thought it was a more complicated issue that required further discussion at the City and City Attorney level as opposed to this Commission.

PATRICK VAUGHN, Park Maintenance Manager, said staff discussed this internally when they saw it on the agenda, and from a Parks and Grounds Maintenance perspective, they agree with the safety and security concerns expressed regarding having only part of a park open 24 hours. He said this would fall under the Department of Public Safety's (DPS) purview, but it may also be precedent setting for other park activities to be allowed 24 hours a day. He acknowledged the concern with the heat, but the number one challenge from a maintenance standpoint is with watering. They receive a lot of complaints about the turf being wet in the morning depending on the site and irrigation system, so it is already challenging to water the dog parks at such a time that allows for them to dry prior to the park opening at 7:00 a.m.

DR. LISA MORRIS HIBBLER, Chief Community Services Officer, suggested staff be given some time to complete an analysis and report back.

COMMISSIONER NEIGER added if there is one place in the country that should have a 24-hour dog park, it should be in the city that never sleeps. He commented with all the work being focused on downtown in bringing it to the next level, his recommendation would be to do a trial run downtown and sell it as the only 24-hour dog park in the valley. In trying to bring people downtown to live, not just to work, this might be an attractive element. CHAIR WHITE commented on the accessibility of the entry and exit areas.

COMMISSIONER HOWARD referenced a five-acre, fully-fenced dog park she recently visited in Wisconsin, with no surrounding playground, where the city charges a license fee to use that particular dog park to offset the cost of providing security and maintenance.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON asked DR. MORRIS HIBBLER to include in the discussion with her team options regarding a special event, such as a Bark Night, versus a whole summer-long window. DR. MORRIS HIBBLER said staff would take that into consideration. CHAIR WHITE commented about two to three days a week being an option and looking to Parks and Recreation Departments in other states to see if there is something that is feasible.

COMMISSIONER MARTIN realizes the challenges that accompany his suggestion, but thought there were some workable options and staff could come up with a solution.

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

Minutes:

COMMISSIONER BECKER stated he was at a softball tournament at Majestic Park over the weekend, and it seems some communication is needed to ensure the safety of attendees at that particular park with regard to parking. The bulk of parking for the lower softball fields is located on the west side, about 100 steps up a hill, which leaves a very small premium number of parking spaces available directly east of the entrance to the park. This results in attendees trying to use the Challenger School parking lot adjacent to Police Memorial Park once the premium spots fill up. Unfortunately, the Challenger School does not have signs posted that the gates will close, and when that happens, 50-100 attendees are stranded, forcing them to drive over the sidewalk in order to exit the park. He recommended staff speak to the Challenger School to encourage signs be posted to deter park attendees from parking in their lot or that better communication be provided that that particular lot is completely off limits. He also noted most people think the only option to enter the lower fields is via the 100 steps or a steep ramp because most people do not know the sidewalk is there, which one can use to walk down to the lower lots on an even surface. He thought any one of these options would help alleviate the problem of people driving over the sidewalk.

COMMISSIONER BECKER commended the Parks and Recreation Department on the last Art in the Park event held at Bruce Trent Park. It was very nice, brought a small number of artists and the community together, and it was quite successful. The Commissioner announced on Friday, November 4, 2021, Disney's Cruella will be showing at Bruce Trent Park. Breakfast Buzz with COUNCILWOMAN SEAMAN will also take place on

November 13, 2021, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at Hash House A Go Go at 10810 West Charleston Boulevard. Lastly, on that same day, there will be a document shredding and medicine disposal event at the Pavilion Center Pool.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON announced park cleanup events at Cragin and Rotary Parks over the upcoming weekend in Ward 1. Volunteers include high school students who need community service hours. Another clean-up event will be held on November 13, 2021, at All American Park with the community association groups who are picking up trash in their neighborhoods.

With the change in leadership in the Parks and Recreation Department, COMMISSIONER SCHULTZ requested the Commission members continue to be kept apprised of any ceremonial events as they have in the past so they have the opportunity to participate. DR. LISA MORRIS HIBBLER, Chief Community Services Officer, re-introduced KIM KLEIN, Administrative Secretary, and assured the Commission they were taking notes and that would continue to happen. CHAIR WHITE commented he is looking forward to the standards being kept.

COMMISSIONER BRIARE thanked the City staff who were involved in the Las Vegas Mayor's Cup, as they are invaluable in their ability to make that event a tremendous success.

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 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Debra A. Outland, Deputy City Clerk

Patrick Vaughn, Park Maintenance Manager

THIS MEETING WAS PROPERLY NOTICED AND POSTED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NOTICING STANDARDS AS OUTLINED IN NRS 241.020:

The City of Las Vegas website – www.lasvegasnevada.gov
The Nevada Public Notice website – notice.nv.gov
City Hall, 495 South Main Street, 1st Floor