



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 SCHULTZ, SHERMAN, McCURDY, ARMENIAN, BECKER, GEBRE, NEIGER, BRIARE, ASSELIN, HOWARD, FOEMMEL (excused until 4:02 p.m.) and JIMENEZ

EXCUSED: COMMISSIONERS HENLEY and LOZANO

ALSO PRESENT: GREG WEITZEL, Director of Parks and Recreation, KELLY SCHWARZ, Sr. Management Analyst, JOHN RIDILLA, 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 November 5, 2019.

Minutes:

COMMISSIONER HOWARD stated the minutes reflected her as both present and excused. DEBRA OUTLAND, Deputy City Clerk, stated a correction would be made.

See Item 10 for related discussion.

Motion made by Lisa Sherman to Approve as amended

Passed For: 13; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 2

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

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

Minutes:

DEPUTY CITY MARSHAL CHARLES SHEPHERD reported the numbers for the month were lower than usual because there were some hiccups with the new software and things are usually slower during the winter months. There were 341 events, which includes dispatch calls and Officer initiated calls. There were a total of 65 arrests,

51 citations and 73 warning citations. He noted Ward 3 had the most arrests followed by Ward 5, and the same was true for the number of citations. The total number of community service related events the Marshals worked was 20. Responding to questions from COMMISSIONER McCURDY, he noted the number of arrests in Ward 5 totaled 23 and occurred predominantly at Lorenzi Park. Staff distributed a copy of the report which is included in the backup.

COMMISSIONER NEIGER asked for an example of a pedestrian traffic arrest. OFFICER SHEPHERD explained pedestrian violations are considered traffic (i.e. jaywalking) and that someone can be arrested for such if they have multiple priors or failures to appear; it is at the Officer's discretion. The Commissioner also asked about a jaywalker that becomes belligerent. The Officer stated in that situation additional charges could be added such as Battery Against an Officer.

Discussion took place between CHAIR WHITE, OFFICER SHEPHERD and COMMISSIONER SCHULTZ regarding the new homeless law. The Officer explained currently their role is to educate the public as the enforcement component of that law does not go into effect until February 2020. He indicated no change in the behavior of homeless individuals has been observed. He also explained for COMMISSIONER McCURDY that there is already a law in place regarding obstructing sidewalks and that the new law has more to do with encampments with the goal of getting homeless individuals inside the proper facility where they will have access to the necessary resources. He informed the Chair that until that part goes into effect, the impact it will have on the jails is yet to be determined.

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

Minutes:

COUNCILWOMAN DIAZ introduced her son, XAVIER, and thanked the Commissioners who recently attended the opening of Baker Park; it meant the world to Ward 3 that they came out and supported that event, and she was indebted to those that took part in getting to this point. She hoped the Commissioners could again join Ward 3 on Thursday, December 5, 2019 for the event related to this park.

COUNCILWOMAN DIAZ thanked the Commission for abeying this item, as it was important to her as a new Councilperson to try to gauge what the community wanted this new park to be named. She and her team came up with various outreach ideas because each generation responds differently to different methodologies. She mentioned Facebook but that it was difficult because one could not gauge if those commenting lived in the Ward. They also went door-to-door and canvassed the neighborhood speaking to residents in the surrounding residential communities Thanksgiving week since most children were off from school. Additionally, they looked at the Get Outdoors Nevada map, geographic features and housing tract names to try to come up with the best name possible. They heard many ideas and recommendations that resonated with the constituents of Ward 3 and are thankful for the suggestions and guidance they provided.

After hearing from all of the stakeholders and going through the information gathering process, the Councilwoman stated her team's wish is for the park to be named East Las Vegas Family Park. This name was selected because family came up often in the interactions that they had. They also feel it will increase pride in the community and will complement other assets such as the East Las Vegas Library and the East Las Vegas Community Center, and they want to continue to build that pride and momentum in the residents on the east side in Ward 3. After running some of the last few names past her son, COUNCILWOMAN DIAZ stated he chose this name because family is important. She believes this park will bring families together, and having family in the name is very important. It is her hope that the Commission will support this request, and she will continue to look for opportunities to open more parks in Ward 3.

COMMISSIONER SHERMAN thanked COUNCILWOMAN DIAZ for coming to the meeting and for taking into account what the constituents wanted for this park to be. She mentioned for those who have not been on the Commission long, that when the East Las Vegas Community Center was built, there was so much pride in the neighborhood. The opening event was wonderful and something that she will never forget. She thanked the Councilwoman for taking the time and supported the recommended name as she likes the term "family", it encompasses what the City of Las Vegas is doing for the east Las Vegas community and it creates cohesiveness. COUNCILWOMAN DIAZ noted former COUNCILMAN GARY REESE was in office at the time the East Las Vegas Community Center was built, and in April of this year, the East Las Vegas Library was opened, which the community was very excited about. CHAIR WHITE concurred with COMMISSIONER SHERMAN'S comments.

COMMISSIONER McCURDY expressed his support of the recommendation and stated he admired COUNCILWOMAN DIAZ for taking this initiative because of his experience on the Park Naming Committee where oftentimes there was contention due to wanting to name a park after different individuals. He appreciated the neutrality and admired how she came up with something to represent all of the constituents of Ward 3.

COMMISSIONER BRIARE stated those who have been in Las Vegas for more than 50 years may remember there used to be a community called East Las Vegas, and it is nice that this not only encompasses the future but brings an historical aspect as well.

COUNCILWOMAN DIAZ stated it is important to her to make sure that with everything Ward 3 works on that they keep the community front and center because they are the motor that drives their work. This is why it was so important to abey this item until they felt they got the name right and was something that could bring everyone together. She wants to see the sense of community and pride grow.

Subsequent to the motion and vote, COMMISSIONER SCHULTZ asked if there was a date this would go before the Council. GREG WEITZEL, Director of Parks and Recreation, stated the deadline to get this on the December 18th agenda had already passed, so this would appear on the January 15, 2020 Council agenda. KELLY SCHWARZ, Sr. Management Analyst, added it had to go to that meeting because the first Council meeting in January falls on the 1st, which is a holiday, so there is no meeting that date. She stated a representative from the Commission would need to attend that Council meeting to make that recommendation. COMMISSIONER SCHULTZ volunteered in the event CHAIR WHITE was unable to do so.

Motion made by Lisa Sherman to Approve the name East Las Vegas Family Park

Passed For: 13; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 2

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

7. Report by Mike Habighorst, Parks and Recreation Sr. Management Analyst, regarding Capital Improvement Projects – All Wards

Minutes:

MIKE HABIGHORST, Sr. Management Analyst and Capital Improvement Project representative, used the handout which was distributed and is included in the backup to provide the following updates:

Ward 1 – Woofert Park – MR. HABIGHORST stated improvements to this park focused on the dog areas and that money left over from this project would go towards replacing the playground equipment. Staff wants to open the park as one unit so the hope is for the project to be completed by the end of December, but that could change because of having to order the new equipment. Additionally, the large rocks around the trees will be removed so the public can enjoy some shade underneath the trees. Although the construction fence is still up, he commented the park looks amazing and is the City's largest dog park in the valley.

COMMISSIONER SCHULTZ mentioned a lawsuit related to faulty playground equipment and asked about the playground equipment inspection program. MR. HABIGHORST replied Operations and Maintenance is tasked with inspecting and maintaining the equipment. He noted he was the advocate for replacing the equipment at this park, but oftentimes the general public brings such issues to their attention. There are several playground areas where the sand is being replaced with soft rubberized surface for a fall cushion, but it is expensive so that is being done in phases.

COMMISSIONER SCHULTZ made a general comment regarding the quality and reliability of the equipment structures in terms of ensuring they are not a safety hazard and present a liability for the City. GREG WEITZEL, Director of Parks and Recreation, pointed out the City has certified playground safety inspectors who have to go through significant training. Additionally, it is his understanding that Operations and Maintenance does a formal inspection of the playgrounds twice a year.

Ward 2 – Pavilion Pool – MR. HABIGHORST stated this is a nice pool that needed some extra shade. The shade structure is now completed and the money left from this project enabled them to install new lockers for the aquatics facility. MR. WEITZEL asked MR. HABIGHORST to report to the Commission on other improvements at the Pavilion Pool along with the proposal for a second pool. MR. HABIGHORST stated every pool is also inspected for replastering, and this pool will be replastered during the next calendar year along with addressing the issue with the cool deck. He noted the Baker Park pool will be replastered as well, which was not part of the construction project at that park. A second pool at Pavilion Pool is also on the drawing board. Myrtha Pools will be at Mandalay Bay doing a swim competition and once that event is over, they are looking to sell that pool to a local agency. Speaking to the quality of the pools, he noted that The Olympics only use Myrtha Pools. He explained the pools are like a jigsaw puzzle that can be taken apart, stored and when the funding is secured, placed at Pavilion Pool and made a permanent pool at that time.

Ward 2 – Veterans Memorial Leisure Services Center – MR. HABIGHORST reported this facility was selected to get new LED lights throughout, which should be completed at the end of February 2020. MR. WEITZEL commended COUNCILWOMAN SEAMAN who has spent a lot of time touring the parks and has been an incredible advocate for Parks and Recreation during her short time on the Council.

Working with JERRY WALKER, Director of Operations and Maintenance, he stated they came up with a list of improvements in Ward 2 parks which included improvements to the trails, playground, shelters, restrooms and signage at Bruce Trent Park in the coming year which was not necessarily a Capital Improvement Project and had a different funding source.

Ward 3 – Harris Marion Park – MR. HABIGHORST stated this is a new park on the east side of town along the wash. It is a relatively small park for a large dollar amount, but a good portion of the money will be used to secure the border of the Las Vegas Wash; federal funds will be used to help secure the wash as well. This park will have an equestrian element which was strongly voiced during meetings with the public. One-third of the design is equestrian and will include an obstacle course for horses, which is a new trend, and two-thirds is park. The playground equipment being installed is the kinetic play type with a lot of ropes and learning aspects for the children.

MR. HABIGHORST named the major cross-streets, Bonanza Road and Nellis Boulevard, at the request of COMMISSIONER SHERMAN who also asked if there are a lot of horse properties in that area to which MR. HABIGHORST confirmed. COMMISSIONER NEIGER asked about the City acquiring the houses along the perimeter of the park. MR. HABIGHORST stated the City is not purchasing any lots, but the City will be improving the fence for two homeowners because the fence is somewhat on the City's property. He explained the process is that Public Works reaches out to the homeowners via a letter, and MR. HABIGHORST said he speaks to them during construction. COMMISSIONER NEIGER asked if Nettie Avenue was a dead end. MR. HABIGHORST stated there will be three accesses into this one street to go into the park; a pedestrian walkway, an equestrian walkway and a semi-truck gate.

MR. WEITZEL commented they are always looking at properties adjacent to parks and last month the City acquired property next to Bob Baskin Park that came up for sale for a potential park expansion in the future. He cited W. Wayne Bunker Family Park as another example.

COMMISSIONER McCURDY asked if the park improvements involved land acquisition in order to help make the area look better. He said he hears about good things happening in other Wards to make their parks look better, and he wondered if that was something he needed to talk to his Councilperson about. MR. WEITZEL offered to meet with the Commissioner on site and have a conversation. The Commissioner referenced not being able to make the scheduled meeting with the Director, but COMMISSIONER GEBRE interjected stating that meeting did not occur and had to be rescheduled. MR. WEITZEL reminded the Commissioners that APRIL DiGIOVANNI, Administrative Secretary, is working to schedule meetings with those he has not yet met with.

Ward 3 – Las Vegas Wash Park – MR. HABIGHORST stated this is the construction name for this park and COUNCILWOMAN DIAZ provided a recommendation to rename it. He invited the Commissioners to the opening of the park on Thursday, December 5, 2019, at 3:30 p.m. The park has a full-size soccer field with LED lights. He noted he had to get the permission of Risk Management to purchase the new style of kinetic playground equipment that will be installed.

COMMISSIONER JIMENEZ asked what was going to be done with the desert lot adjacent to the park. MR. HABIGHORST explained the City tried to purchase that land, but the owner wanted more than the appraised value and would not negotiate on the price.

Ward 3 – Baker Park and Pool – MR. HABIGHORST described various elements of this park while a video was shown. Specifically, he pointed out the large splash pad area, the word "SWIM" being the first thing someone sees going into the parking lot to highlight the pool, and that the artificial turf is similar to that which will be on the Raiders practice field. The construction costs of this park totaled \$8.8 million which does not include the permit and architect fees. He said it was a great park to be a part of, and the grand opening was amazing.

COMMISSIONER GEBRE commented she and COMMISSIONERS SCHULTZ and BRIARE attended the grand opening which she thought was amazing and complimented staff on doing an excellent job. MR. WEITZEL added that this was a collaborative park project, which does not always happen. He commended Public Works and their staff as well as Operations and Maintenance and the Parks and Recreation Department who worked really hard to see this come to fruition. He thought it showed that when you work together as a team, great things happen. MR. HABIGHORST stated there were many individuals at the design table, and they will be putting together an award for Team of the Quarter. The project took longer than anticipated, but it was worth it and was reflected in the end result.

COMMISSIONER SCHULTZ echoed some of the comments made, and stated the biggest reward when considering all of the City staff that worked on this project is the people that live there and use the park. While pictures are good, seeing the excitement of the people using the park firsthand is even better.

Ward 4 – Trigone Hills Park – MR. HABIGHORST reported this park is almost completed, and they will be doing their punch list at the end of the month, which can take another 30 days thereafter. He noted the terrain

at this park slopes down so part of the playground area will be incorporated into the slope and terrain. Because the park is next to the Red Rock area, some concrete pads were designed for movies in the park and the parking lot was designed a little differently. Additionally, a streetlight and stop sign will be installed at the corner to ensure the public can safely cross the street.

Ward 4 – Cimarron Rose – MR. HABIGHORST stated this is a small community recreation center on the northwest side of town. It was designed back when the schools had track breaks, but now the facility is programmed really well and attendance is so high that two more classrooms are being added along with additional parking.

Ward 5 – Las Vegas Senior Center – MR. HABIGHORST stated this center is currently being modernized and should open in January 2020. COMMISSIONER GEBRE had questions regarding the entrance so he described the location of the entrances and emergency exits for her.

Also in Ward 5, he noted a major roof remodel was just completed at Doolittle Community Center. This facility always leaked so a new roof and air conditioning units were installed. COMMISSIONER McCURDY stated he has expressed his concern for years regarding building a new pool on the campus at Doolittle because he has been told a shade structure cannot be placed over the existing pool. He also asked about the status of improvements that were to be made to the park area. MR. HABIGHORST stated the east side of Doolittle Park was totally redone with a three-story playground area and splash pad. The Commissioner asked about the mesh shade over the dugouts and scoreboard for the baseball fields. MR. WEITZEL interjected saying the final design of the scoreboards was just signed off on the week prior so they are being ordered and should be installed within the next two months or so. He did not have a report regarding the mesh.

COMMISSIONER McCURDY did not believe it was fair that the children in west Las Vegas do not have the same amenities that are in other areas.

Ward 5 – Charleston Heights Park – MR. HABIGHORST stated this started out as a park improvement, but COUNCILMAN CREAR wanted a tech center so funds were secured to design that which is the phase it is currently in. This will be for the youth community to enjoy, and he compared the size to that of Cimarron Rose. Staff met with the Luxor esports team several times to make sure the building is designed well to incorporate some high-tech aspects. The park will be done along with this remodel, and the parking lot was extended to the back corner to provide visibility for security purposes.

COMMISSIONER SHERMAN asked if the Mirabelli Center was attached to this park. MR. HABIGHORST informed her it was not. The Commissioner also asked what an art court was. MR. HABIGHORST explained staff is still researching and gathering ideas on this, but they want some sort of a portal so that when walking into the facility, people will experience technology in some fashion before actually entering the facility.

Ward 6 – Teton Trails – MR. HABIGHORST reported this project involves adding a third field with artificial turf and will be completed in the next 20 to 30 days. He said it will be a nice add-on to the existing inventory.

Ward 6 – Alyn Beck Memorial Park – MR. HABIGHORST stated this park is located in Skye Canyon. This project includes two natural turf soccer fields with nice amenities and is adjacent to two elementary schools.

COMMISSIONER HOWARD stated it looked like new equipment had been installed at Pop Squires Park, and she asked if the City was responsible. COMMISSIONER NEIGER stated this was part of the delivery conditions of his client before donating the park to the City. He also wished to comment that in poverty, there is the general perception that all of the wealthy people get the good things while the lower income areas get the bad things in terms of spending, but according to his calculations, the highest income Ward is receiving the least amount of improvements whereas the highest expenditures were in the highest density, lowest income Wards; Wards 3 and 5. He just wanted to say he noticed and is grateful for that.

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

Minutes:

COMMISSIONER SCHULTZ stated he and COMMISSIONER HOWARD attended a breakfast meeting with GREG WEITZEL, Director of Parks and Recreation, where they discussed mutual expectations for Ward 6 as well as staff leadership expectations to make sure they were on the same page. The Commissioners never had that opportunity before, and he found it very helpful and productive.

COMMISSIONER SCHULTZ reported on the November 26, 2019 meeting with MR. WEITZEL at the Centennial Hills Active Adult Center. This was a follow up to some staff and program issues raised by the Active Adult Center members. It was hosted by COUNCILWOMAN FIORE and was a good opportunity to have these individuals air their concerns and for the Director to hear them firsthand. The Commissioner

commented that seniors are very vocal so they are looking forward to hearing back from staff leadership regarding the plan moving forward and being a part of that with them. COMMISSIONER HOWARD reiterated the seniors were very vocal and quite angry, but MR. WEITZEL handled it very well and very gracefully

COMMISSIONER SCHULTZ also noted he and COMMISSIONERS BRIARE and GEBRE attended the opening of Baker Park. He commented it is one of the nicest parks he has ever seen, and the people were very happy to have it reopened.

COMMISSIONER BECKER reported the Ward 2 breakfast meeting with MR. WEITZEL had to be rescheduled because his colleague could not make it, but they are looking forward to that and going over the things happening in Ward 2. Additionally, he invited the Commission and those listening to a breakfast hosted by COUNCILWOMAN SEAMAN at Egg Works located at 2025 Village Center Drive on Saturday, December 7, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

CHAIR WHITE thanked all of the Commissioners for their reports and for participating in their Wards.

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

Minutes:

GREG WEITZEL, Parks and Recreation Director, stated many of the items he was going to report on were already covered. He did report, however, that COUNCILMAN KNUDSEN proposed an ordinance change at the November 20, 2019 City Council meeting to expand the prohibition of smoking in the parks as currently it only prohibits smoking within 50 feet of a child playground, bleachers or sports field. This includes electronic vaping devices and generally applies throughout the entire park instead of specific areas. The ordinance was introduced at that meeting and no action was taken. The amendment came out of the December 2, 2019 Recommending Committee meeting with no recommendation and is on the upcoming City Council agenda. He noted there has been a lot of press regarding this proposal, and he will keep the Commission informed as it goes through the process.

MR. WEITZEL thanked COMMISSIONERS SCHULTZ and HOWARD for attending the breakfast and the Centennial meeting. He thought it was very productive, and he learned a lot. He appreciated COMMISSIONER SCHULTZ taking minutes, and they look forward to helping and addressing the concerns of those seniors.

He also reported that staff is working with Clark County on multiple park projects in several different Wards. Currently, they are all in discussion, but this will be a partnership with the County, and he will report more as it moves along.

On December 4, 2019, City staff will be welcoming National Recreation and Park Association Chairman of the Board JACK KARDYS to Las Vegas. He is the former Director of Miami Dade County and will be meeting with MR. WEITZEL, his chief and CITY MANAGER SCOTT ADAMS to talk about the future of parks and recreation in the city.

MR. WEITZEL stated Parks and Recreation would be having their annual department meeting the week of December 9, 2019. As part of that, they will be working on a new mission, vision and values for the department and will bring a draft before the Commission for its review in the future.

Lastly, he invited the Commissioners to the new National Fitness Campaign Fitness Court at the Bill Briare Park on January 30, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. KELLY SCHWARZ, Sr. Management Analyst, indicated she would send out an e-vite.

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:

DEBRA OUTLAND, Deputy City Clerk, stated she understood the motion for Item 4 to include an amendment to the minutes to reflect the presence of COMMISSIONER HOWARD at the last meeting, but she believed COMMISSIONER HOWARD was absent and asked if a new motion was needed. COMMISSIONER HOWARD

confirmed she was absent from the meeting, and DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY JOHN RIDILLA advised a new motion was not necessary and that a correction to the record would suffice.

11. Adjournment

Minutes:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Debra A. Outland, Deputy City Clerk

Greg 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