



## Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission Minutes

### 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Minutes:

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

PRESENT: CHAIR BECKER and COMMISSIONERS SHERMAN (via teleconference), McCURDY, NEIGER (seated as Vice Chair after Item 5 and excused until 4:01 p.m.), BRIARE, ASSELIN, KELLER, JOHNSON, MARTIN (via teleconference), ZAMORA (via teleconference and excused until 4:05 p.m.), and BURGOS

EXCUSED: COMMISSIONERS WHITE, ARMENIAN, GEBRE, and HOWARD

ALSO PRESENT: STEVE FORD, Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs; KIM KLEIN, Administrative Secretary; TIM GESWEIN, Deputy City Attorney; and BRIAN CARROLL, 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](http://www.lasvegasnevada.gov); and the Nevada Public Notice website – [notice.nv.gov](http://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:

CHAIR BECKER welcomed COMMISSIONER BURGOS to the Commission. COMMISSIONER BURGOS is a native Nevadan that represents Ward 6 and has worked within the legal community since 1988. She co-founded Race To Erase 22 with her husband, which is a non-profit organization that raises awareness about military and first responder suicides. The Commissioner stated that she was born and raised in Las Vegas and has worked in the legal field for 35 years. She chairs the Clark County OHV (Off-Highway Vehicle) Advisory Committee that works on providing outdoor off-road recreation availability throughout Nevada. She said Las Vegas is dear to her heart, and she felt honored to be on the Commission.

### 4. For possible action to approve the Final Minutes by reference of the Regular Meeting of April 4, 2023

Motion made by William McCurdy to Approve

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

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

5. Discussion for possible action regarding the election of Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission Vice Chair – All Wards

Minutes:

CHAIR BECKER asked if any Commissioners had a compelling interest in being Vice Chair. The Chair nominated COMMISSIONER NEIGER for his experience and excellent attendance record, to which he was amenable.

Motion made by Lisa Sherman to Approve the nomination of Steven Neiger as Vice Chair

Passed For: 11; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 4

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

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

Minutes:

LIEUTENANT JOHN GUILLEN, Department of Public Safety (DPS), provided statistics from the April Deputy City Marshals Report, a copy of which was submitted for the record. He read park arrest, citation, and calls for service statistics and top arrest locations for each ward from the report. He reported that a felon was arrested at Justice Myron E. Leavitt & Jaycee Community Park for possessing firearms in the park. He explained that one trailer camera was deployed at Gary Reese Freedom Park, and a second trailer camera would soon be redeployed to Howard Lieburn Active Adult Center from the Fremont East District. LIEUTENANT GUILLEN listed COP (Community-Oriented Policing) Events from the presentation. He explained that DPS hired private security to lock restrooms and gates at all parks as of May 1st, and Marshals would be free to pursue other park activity.

COMMISSIONER KELLER asked for additional information on the reported firearm possession, and she questioned how long the trailer camera would remain at Gary Reese Freedom Park. LIEUTENANT GUILLEN clarified that proactive police work led to 10 charges, including three firearm related charges, which he listed. He advised that data is used as the driving force to decide where trailer cameras are moved, and there were no plans to remove the trailer camera from that park.

COMMISSIONER NEIGER thanked the Commission and said he was proud to serve, and he commended the Lieutenant for handling the firearm call without incident. The Commissioner asked if additional trailer cameras could be purchased or donated. LIEUTENANT GUILLEN explained that the sophisticated trailer cameras cost around \$90,000, and two were acquired around five years ago. He noted recent donations of AED (automated external defibrillator) equipment, and he said they would look at budgeting additional trailer cameras.

7. Report by Patrick Vaughn, Superintendent of Parks, regarding park maintenance updates – All Wards

Minutes:

PATRICK VAUGHN, Superintendent of Parks, utilized a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record, to display photos and provide information on park projects and list completed projects from the report. He noted that the contractor experienced issues resurfacing the south exercise area with Flexi-Pave at Woofter Park and completion was expected that week. MR. VAUGHN explained that Sprinturf was the contractor that replaced fields six and seven at Charlie Kellogg and Joe Zaher Sports Complex. He said the fields were previously installed around 2014, and fields one and five would be scheduled for replacement. He stated that 14 trees were planted around the playground area at Rafael Rivera Park and the basketball court was resurfaced at Durango Hills Park. He thanked the Las Vegas Golden Knights Foundation for primarily funding the ball hockey rink at Lorenzi Park, and he noted that they would provide four to six youth clinics per year. Regarding projects in progress, MR. VAUGHN reported that the playground was ordered and they were awaiting quotes for resurfacing the walking path at Coleman Park. Accessibility improvements were being made to the west parking lot at Charlie Kellogg and Joe Zaher Sports Complex, and there will be new fencing around the perimeter of field five at Children's Memorial Park. The shuffleboard courts were converted to pickleball courts at Justice Myron E. Leavitt & Jaycee Community Park, and the ribbon cutting ceremony will be held on May 19th from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Further, there will be a workshop and clinic, and open play will begin at

7:00 p.m. Ball field improvements were underway at Majestic Park, including batting cage installations, established warmup areas, bullpen rehabilitation, and landscape improvements. Lastly, MR. VAUGHN expected the butterfly shade retrofit at Centennial Hills Park to be completed within the next month.

In response to CHAIR BECKER, MR. VAUGHN clarified that field five at Children's Memorial Park was the 90-foot baseball field towards the west end of the park.

COMMISSIONER SHERMAN questioned if the Commission could be addressed in the future regarding the program at Lorenzi Park, to which MR. VAUGHN responded in the affirmative.

8. Report by Brad Daseler, Urban Forester, regarding a tree planting update – All Wards

Minutes:

BRAD DASELER, Urban Forester, utilized a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record, to provide an update on the Urban Forestry program. He reported that 850 trees were planted in parks this year compared to approximately 500 last year and 250 the year prior. He stated that they were around 15 trees short of 100 percent infill downtown, and he expected completion the following week. Further, he said all trees were pumped with irrigation and mature-sized. MR. DASELER displayed an image of the TreeKeeper GIS (geographic information system) program that showed an inventory of trees in the city, noting that 90 trees were planted at Floyd Lamb Park in an effort to restore the orchard. He explained that the City operates two tree nurseries, which help get around 2,500 trees acclimated to the heat and ensure the quality of their roots. He stated that the nurseries contain many different tree species that support diversity of the tree canopy. MR. DASELER advised that trees are grown from seeds in collaboration with the Nevada Division of Forestry in greenhouses at Floyd Lamb Park. He said growing trees from seeds was a cheap way to produce and experiment with unique tree species, and he noted that around 1,500 trees were in production. Regarding maintenance and management, he clarified that 2,500 trees were pruned last year, and he stated that maintaining trees was important to ensure they have a long life. Lastly, he listed new positions that were added under the Urban Forestry program.

COMMISSIONER BRIARE questioned how trees were replaced on Sahara Avenue within different jurisdictions. MR. DASELER explained that they manage the median and street trees on the north end and both sides of Sahara Avenue near the I-15. Clark County manages trees east of the I-15 on the south end of Sahara Avenue. The Commissioner confirmed with MR. DASELER that some of the trees cut down on the Sahara Avenue median were replaced.

COMMISSIONER McCURDY asked if trees were planted in Historic West Las Vegas within Ward 5. MR. DASELER confirmed that trees had been planted at Doolittle Complex, Stupak Park, and Gary Reese Freedom Park, and trees would be planted at Lubertha Johnson Park in coming weeks. He said they were focused on the east side of Las Vegas in Wards 1 and 5.

COMMISSIONER NEIGER questioned how many trees were grown from seeds versus being imported. MR. DASELER explained that some trees were purchased full-grown, some in one-gallon containers and grown in larger containers, and some grown from seeds. In response to the Commissioner, MR. DASELER confirmed that trees imported from out of town are tested for invasive species.

COMMISSIONER KELLER asked if commissioners could receive a tour of the nurseries and greenhouses, and MR. DASELER responded in the affirmative. CHAIR BECKER thought it would be great to take the tour.

Regarding a downtown park built by Bank of America, COMMISSIONER BURGOS noted trees were being removed to deter the homeless from using them for shade, and she asked if any complaints had been received. MR. DASELER explained that they wanted to establish a tree canopy that all people can use, and he said that was a tough situation.

CHAIR BECKER stated that the City was a Tree City USA recipient for 31 years, and MR. DASELER confirmed the award was received that Friday.

9. Report by Andrea Anzalone, Adaptive Recreation Coordinator, regarding the Adaptive Recreation Program – All Wards

Minutes:

ANDREA ANZALONE, Adaptive Recreation Coordinator, utilized a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record, to provide information on various Adaptive Recreation programs. She listed staff within the Adaptive Unit, noting an additional employee would be hired in two weeks. She explained that Youth After-School programming allows children ages six to 18 to participate in various programs at Dula Community Center, which was recently procured as the adaptive center. Children decompress through snacks and light yoga in the Mindflow Program, learn how to behave through the Community Leisure Education Program, and utilize the Esports and Fitness Programs to stay active. MS. ANZALONE advised that the Stepping Stones youth program takes children ages 12 to 18 on monthly trips to increase social skills, and possible outings include sports games, shopping, or holiday events. Youth ages six to 18 with diverse disabilities participate in the Summer Camp Program, which hosts unique themed activities and field trips. She reported that the Drama Club began this year to give children the ability to express themselves with two talent shows held each year. The New A.G.E. (Activities, Games & Exercise) Program is designed for people with developmental disabilities coming from work programs to recreate, and MS. ANZALONE explained that the Cardio Drumming Program became inclusive after seniors at the Centennial Hills Active Adult Center expressed interest in joining. The Leisure Connection Program is a social group that provides outings and promotes social independence for adults with disabilities ages 18 and older. This year, Camp Malibu and Camp CAL will be held after being down for three years due to COVID, which are longstanding out-of-state camps held over five days. Twenty girls and 20 boys with disabilities are invited to each of the camps, and MS. ANZALONE said there is a waitlist to attend the program. She noted that some children visit the beach for the first time, and she opined that the camp provided respite for family members. She listed days in which Adaptive Fitness and Sports programs are held for adults with physical disabilities. Outdoor Adventure Hiking is provided through collaboration with Transition Services and Opportunity Village, and the B Fitness Program teaches health and proper nutrition. She explained there are around 10 participants in Inclusive Pickleball Clinics, and around 18 people participate in the Wheelchair Basketball Program. She listed Outreach and Special Event Programs from the presentation, including Handbell Programs with between 50 to 60 weekly participants. MS. ANZALONE and her staff are Certified Therapeutic Recreational Programmers and operate a 14-week internship program, and she provides Disability Awareness and Sensitivity training to City staff members and the community. Regarding veterans programs, she advised that the City received \$25,000 from the State of Nevada to operate the grant-funded program. She listed sports programs that are offered, noting that they were looking to add a cooking class and an arts and crafts class.

In response to COMMISSIONER BRIARE, MS. ANZALONE explained that some youth and adult programming is provided through nominal fees. She stated that the membership fee for outdoor programming is \$10 for six months, and the veterans program is provided at no cost to clients.

CHAIR BECKER commended MS. ANZALONE for thinking about diversity and inclusion in her work.

10. Report by Steve Ford, Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, regarding emerging issues related to activities of the Parks and Recreation Division – All Wards

Minutes:

STEVE FORD, Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, welcomed COMMISSIONER BURGOS to the Commission and looked forward to working with her. He reported that TRAVIS BUELL was no longer employed with the City. MR. FORD was working with the City Manager's Office to fill the Deputy Parks and Recreation Director and Recreation Manager positions. He said park tours were scheduled in May for Wards 1 and 4, and those wards' Commissioners should have received invitations to attend. He advised that next month there will be a presentation from Get Outdoors Nevada, and he will provide the department's goals for the upcoming fiscal year. He explained that a presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record, was given to the City Council explaining what the department does, and he made copies available to the Commissioners. MR. FORD noted that the presentation for the Capital Improvement Program would be approved in May, and he would later provide an update to the Commission.

COMMISSIONER McCURDY questioned who was responsible for installing plaques at Historic Westside Legacy Park, and MR. FORD responded the Division of Cultural Affairs. The Commissioner asked if the honoree plaques would be installed before the inductee dedication on June 3rd. MR. FORD clarified that the remade plaques were recently received and would be installed.

COMMISSIONER BURGOS asked who was responsible for adaptive equipment in parks, such as wheelchair slides. MR. FORD stated that a large allocation was expected in the Capital Improvement Program to install adaptive equipment, and he said that was the responsibility of Parks and Grounds Maintenance. He explained that his goal was to install adaptive equipment in at least two parks in each ward and a plan would be presented to the City Council.

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

Minutes:

COMMISSIONER KELLER announced that COUNCILWOMAN OLIVIA DIAZ will have a ribbon cutting ceremony at Justice Myron E. Leavitt & Jaycee Community Park on May 19th from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The event will include instructions on how to play pickleball.

COMMISSIONER BURGOS stated that Movie in the Park would feature Top Gun Maverick on May 12th, and the Ward 6 Pet Parade would take place on May 20th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. These events will take place at the Centennial Hills Park amphitheater and details can be found on the City of Las Vegas website.

CHAIR BECKER announced that COUNCILWOMAN VICTORIA SEAMAN will host the Lace Up to Save Lives Skin Cancer Awareness 5K on Saturday at 8:00 a.m. at Charlie Kellogg and Joe Zaher Sports Complex located at 7901 West Washington Avenue. Breakfast Buzz will be held at Charlie's Lakeside Casino on May 20th from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at 8603 West Sahara Avenue. To RSVP, contact Ward2@LasVegasNevada.gov.

12. **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:

JANINA BRONKOVICH (phonetic) stated she lives in an apartment complex and this was her first time visiting the City. She asked for information on public spaces, electric bikes, and a community apartment complex. STEVE FORD, Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, offered to provide assistance after the meeting.

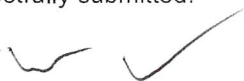
CHAIR BECKER thanked former Commissioner LARRY SCHULTZ for serving 10 years on the Commission, noting his role as Vice Chair. The Chair thanked the Commissioners for attending the meeting, and he asked them to commit to monthly attendance.

13. **Adjournment**

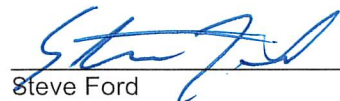
Minutes:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



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Brian Carroll, Deputy City Clerk



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Steve Ford  
Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs

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](http://www.lasvegasnevada.gov)

The Nevada Public Notice website – [notice.nv.gov](http://notice.nv.gov)

City Hall, 495 South Main Street, 1st Floor