



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 SCHULTZ, SHERMAN (via teleconference), NEIGER (excused until 4:07 p.m.), BRIARE, HOWARD, KELLER, JOHNSON, and MARTIN

EXCUSED: COMMISSIONERS WHITE, McCURDY, ARMENIAN, GEBRE, ASSELIN, and ZAMORA

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; 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:

MICHAEL KANE, Board Member of Mountain Ridge Little League, appeared with MELISSA VRAVIS, President, and noted he spoke with the Commission last month regarding field issues. MR. KANE appreciated the response and said most of the issues had been fixed, and he asked for the status on home run netting that was ordered in September. MS. VRAVIS thanked the Commission and STEVE GLIMP, Park Maintenance Manager, for resolving field safety concerns, noting there are 685 registered league players aged four to 16. They invited the Commissioners to attend the opening day ceremony at 10:00 a.m. on March 25th.

4. For possible action to approve the Final Minutes by reference of the Regular Meeting of February 7, 2023

Minutes:

COMMISSIONER SCHULTZ said he reviewed the minutes and they accurately reflect what was discussed at that meeting.

Motion made by Larry Schultz to Approve

Passed For: 8; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 7

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

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

Minutes:

LIEUTENANT JOHN GUILLEN, Department of Public Safety, provided statistics from the February Deputy City Marshals Report, a copy of which was submitted for the record. He read park arrest, citation, and calls for service statistics for each Ward from the report, and he listed the top arrest locations for each ward. He reported that a subject was arrested for assault and battery of a police officer at Woofter Family Park, and another was arrested for burglary at Derfelt Senior Center. LIEUTENANT GUILLEN explained there was a 15 percent increase in arrests and citations since January, and he believed 10 Marshals training in the field were a factor. He displayed photos of trailer cameras from the presentation, stating that they are taken to parks when there is a spike in crime. He advised that they engaged with the public at the Black History Dance Festival COP (Community-Oriented Policing) event, and they will have a table along with other jurisdictions at East Las Vegas Active Adult Center's Community Resource Fair.

COMMISSIONER BRIARE questioned if the trailer cameras were actively monitored. LIEUTENANT GUILLEN reported that camera videos could be viewed live and shared with other entities, and he stated they were looking to monitor the cameras 24/7 once staffing concerns were addressed. CHAIR BECKER believed there was a dramatic decrease in activity around trailer cameras, and the Lieutenant confirmed they are deployed after property crimes are experienced. COMMISSIONER KELLER asked for the trailer camera schedule and which parks they were deployed. LIEUTENANT GUILLEN reported that one trailer camera was located at Gary Reese Freedom Park and the other would soon move to Justice Myron E. Leavitt & Jaycee Community Park from Rafael Rivera Park. He noted that they typically have a three-week turnaround, and criminal investigators use crime statistics to select park locations. The Commissioner confirmed with LIEUTENANT GUILLEN that they have two trailer cameras. COMMISSIONER MARTIN said trailer cameras appear to be a good crime deterrent, and he wondered if there were plans to get more. The Lieutenant said there is a trailer camera preparing to be deployed downtown, and they would look at purchasing another.

In response to COMMISSIONER MARTIN, LIEUTENANT GUILLEN reported they were experiencing staffing issues alongside most law enforcement agencies, and he believed they need to stay competitive to retain staff. Further, he noted the recruiting department was getting the word out. The Commissioner asked the Lieutenant to bring staffing concerns and other issues to the Commission's attention.

6. Report by Steve Glimp, Park Maintenance Manager, regarding park maintenance updates -- All Wards

Minutes:

STEVE GLIMP, Park Maintenance Manager, utilized a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record, to display photos and provide information on park projects. He explained that the median was rebuilt at Essex Circle Park after damage from a vehicular accident, and Flexi-Pave walking trails were installed in areas two, three, and four at Floyd Lamb Park. Field access was improved with stairs and railings for two fields at All-American Park, and turf reduction completed at W. Wayne Bunker Family Park involved replacing Bermuda grass with wood mulch. Perimeter upgrades at Mike Morgan Family Park will include new boulders, tree planting, and a border trail of Flexi-Pave around the soccer fields, and a new native habitat garden will be installed at Bearden Family Park in conjunction with Get Outdoors Nevada. MR. GLIMP reported he was working with Nevada Department of Wildlife to come up with a viable solution to the rabbit problem at Mountain Ridge Park, and the butterfly shades at Centennial Hills Park will be retrofitted with expanded metal and will not need to be replaced for more than 20 years.

COMMISSIONER SHERMAN stated that she saw COUNCILMAN CREAR on television with materials for a vertical farm at James Gay Park, and she asked who would be responsible for the urban farm. STEVE FORD, Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, explained that supplies for the urban farm were purchased through a grant from MGM and is under the purview of the Youth Development and Social Initiatives Department. He said all utilities are connected and they are working to get the farm operational in the next month.

COMMISSIONER NEIGER questioned if palm trees were on the recommended list for xeriscaping, and MR. GLIMP advised they have moderate water use and are not a drought tolerant plant. The Commissioner asked if they would be replaced in parks with more drought tolerant plants. MR. GLIMP reported that they use a preferred species list based on drought tolerance developed by the Urban Forestry program and they do not use high water use plants.

CHAIR BECKER noted that bushes were removed at All-American Park, and he asked if the exposed sprinkler heads would be recessed into the ground. MR. GLIMP reported that his team would work with the Urban Forester to identify which emitters serve trees and the rest will be buried through the summer.

COMMISSIONER SCHULTZ commended MR. GLIMP and his team for upgrading parks for the public.

7. ABEYANCE ITEM – Discussion for possible action regarding the 2023 Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission meeting schedule – All Wards

Minutes:

STEVE FORD, Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, reported that the proposed calendar included presentations and days the Commission would go dark and not meet. He clarified that proposed presentations could be moved and having them listed would allow Commissioners to prepare questions.

CHAIR BECKER noted that the Commission tends to not have a quorum for meetings in August, and he believed they should have at least nine meetings. COMMISSIONER SCHULTZ liked how the calendar was laid out, and he believed having topics on the calendar would help with quorum issues. He recommended they remain flexible if adjustments are necessary, and he suggested holding a meeting in December if needed. COMMISSIONER BRIARE asked if the Commission could meet without holding a quorum, noting presentations on the calendar were non-actionable items. CHAIR BECKER thought only a few Commissioners could meet at once. DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY TIM GESWEIN confirmed that the Commission could not deliberate and take action without a quorum, and he expressed concern that small group meetings can become walking quorums. He explained that members of a group could meet with other Commissioners separately and unintentionally reach a broad consensus, which is collectively a deliberation. Further, this puts Commissioners at risk of violating Open Meeting Law and could invalidate Commission actions. The Chair questioned if the Commission could review items through a committee, and COMMISSIONER SHERMAN clarified that the City Council disbanded the committees since they did not meet Open Meeting Law requirements.

After the motion, COMMISSIONER SCHULTZ asked that the calendar remain flexible based on Commission and staff needs.

Motion made by Bob Briare to Approve

Passed For: 9; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 6

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

8. Report by Travis Buell, Deputy Parks and Recreation Director, regarding emerging issues related to activities of the Parks and Recreation Division – All Wards

Minutes:

STEVE FORD, Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, advised that TRAVIS BUELL, Deputy Parks and Recreation Director, was under the weather, and he introduced ANDREA ANZALONE, Adaptive Recreation Coordinator, to provide an update on the Corporate Challenge. MS. ANZALONE utilized a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record, to explain that Corporate Challenge is modeled after the Olympics and began in 1985. She listed potential participant organizations in three divisions separated by number of employees, noting 36 events will run over 12 weeks and conclude on May 13th. MS. ANZALONE believed that not all participants regularly play in a particular sport, and the Corporate Challenge would introduce them to parks and recreation facilities. She said some organizations have participated for all 36

years Corporate Challenge has run, noting it did not occur for two years due to COVID. She clarified that around 20,000 people participate every year, and all participants are required to sign a waiver at each event. MS. ANZALONE advised that all new City employees learn about Corporate Challenge during orientation to increase participation and awareness. She reported that all participants must be employed by a participating organization and noted employees of more than one organization could only play for one. She advised there are 40 teams participating this year and there were 85 to 90 teams in previous years. She explained that committees would be established next year to improve Corporate Challenge, and she requested Commissioners to advertise the event to local agencies they know.

COMMISSIONER SCHULTZ said this was the first time he saw an organized presentation on Corporate Challenge. He asked if Clark County Regional Flood Control District was a participant, and MS. ANZALONE responded not this year. In response to the Commissioner, MS. ANZALONE clarified that the torch relay was recently held and events would continue for 12 weeks. She explained that a marketing committee would be created next year to begin earlier marketing efforts, and she listed government entities that were participating this year. COMMISSIONER SCHULTZ asked for the PowerPoint presentation to be e-mailed to Commissioners so he could send it to the District, and COMMISSIONER NEIGER requested an e-blast he could forward to people he knew.

COMMISSIONER NEIGER asked if Corporate Challenge was advertised through the Chamber of Commerce. MS. ANZALONE confirmed and said it was advertised through the Las Vegas-Review Journal, the City's website, and e-mail blasts. CHAIR BECKER suggested telling companies that Corporate Challenge is a great team-building exercise, and he stated that he received internal communications when he worked for NV Energy.

In response to COMMISSIONER BRIARE, MS. ANZALONE confirmed that organizations could still join this year's Corporate Challenge. She expressed concern that late entrants need to pay the entrance fee, noting some events had already taken place. She explained that teams gain points through partaking in events, adding that points can also be acquired through donating time to charities, participating in a blood drive, and volunteering at Corporate Challenge events. The Commissioner confirmed with MS. ANZALONE that participants must be 18 years of age or older, and teams can register at www.lasvegasnevada.gov/CorporateChallenge. COMMISSIONER SCHULTZ asked if religious organizations could be asked to volunteer, and MS. ANZALONE welcomed everybody to volunteer.

MR. FORD noted that he would like to address questions asked at the last Commission meeting. Firstly, the memorial tree for OFFICER TRUONG THAI had been planted at Police Memorial Park and the Southern Nevada Law Enforcement Memorial Foundation purchased a boulder for him. Further, boulders for fallen officers had been ordered and would be planted at the park for Metro (Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department) OFFICER JUSTIN TERRY and U.S. MARSHAL JOSE GOMEZ. Secondly, they were working with a company to produce permanent plaques at Historic Westside Legacy Park, and he hoped to have them installed by June.

MR. FORD reported that the Las Vegas Mayor's Cup was recently held on February 18-20, 2023 for 560 boys' teams and February 24-26, 2023 for 322 girls' teams. There were 17,640 youth participants represented by 29 states and the following countries: Canada, Mexico, Japan, New Zealand, England, France, and Bolivia. He stated that the event grew from 80 teams when it first started to nearly 900 teams. He announced the next Mayor's Cup will take place on October 28-29, 2023 for U8 through U16 players. The Director stated that the City received three awards at the recent Nevada Recreation & Park Society conference: the Elmer H. Anderson Park Excellence Award for the hay barn renovation at Floyd Lamb Park, the Program Excellence Award for Community Events for the Bows & Bowties Family Dance held at Mirabelli Community Center, and the Program Excellence Award for Sports for the Silver and Black League with Historic Westside Schools Flag League and the Las Vegas Raiders. MR. FORD advised that the Gold Medal Award application was submitted to the American Academy for Parks and Recreation Administration. He explained that the award honors public and park recreation agencies that demonstrate excellence in long-range planning, resource management, and innovative approaches to delivering superb park and recreation services. He said they are in the largest class with populations of 400,000 or more and previously won a semi-finalist award in 2008. Lastly, MR. FORD planned to work on CAPRA (Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies) accreditation later

this year, noting that the submittal deadline is April 1, 2024. He conceded that the CAPRA process is stringent, and he planned to ask for help from Commissioners in the future.

COMMISSIONER SCHULTZ requested a monthly activity list of recreation activities be provided to the Commissioners. He stated that a previously provided list had unneeded information, and he asked for significant community events to be included. MR. FORD said they could do that.

COMMISSIONER BRIARE said all City staff members involved with the Las Vegas Mayor's Cup were professional and made the event easy to run. He advised that Canada's national youth championship team played on the new fields at Ed Fountain Park and said they were great. Further, the national Olympic Development team for ages 13 and 14 were impressed with the facilities and the tournament. MR. FORD said he was blessed to have professional staff members, and he would share the Commissioner's comments with them. He confirmed with COMMISSIONER BRIARE that Major League Soccer recruiters and close to 400 college recruiters were in attendance, along with around 100 American referees from outside of Las Vegas, around 30 European referees, and between 35 and 50 Mexican referees. Further, the Commissioner said thousands of families attended, and it had a great economic impact on Las Vegas.

CHAIR BECKER commended MR. FORD and his team for applying for the Gold Medal Award. He stated that he helped the City of Henderson win their first Gold Medal and his wife helped win their second. He offered assistance in creating the recap video required if the City makes it to the semi-finals, noting Gold Medal winners were not allowed to submit new applications for five years.

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

Minutes:

COMMISSIONER SCHULTZ stated that he lives in Ward 4 and previously resided in Ward 6. He explained that COUNCILWOMAN BRUNE met with constituents on February 9th at Centennial Hills Active Adult Center, noting the Councilwoman was very active in the community. He advised that constituents expressed concerns that were addressed regarding trees at Polly Gonzalez Memorial Park. COUNCILWOMAN ALLEN-PALENSKE met with constituents on February 17th at Durango Hills Active Adult Center, and the Commissioner expressed concern that the size of the facility limited the amount of constituents that could attend. STEVE FORD, Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, said he had conversations with the Councilwoman about Durango Hills and opening a new facility in Ward 4. He worried that adding onto Durango Hills would remove park or parking lot space, and there is limited empty space in the ward to build a new facility. COMMISSIONER SCHULTZ announced that he recently toured nine parks within a few hours with MR. FORD, COMMISSIONER HOWARD and COUNCILWOMAN BRUNE, and he recommended Commissioners tour parks with their Councilperson. He thanked MR. FORD and his team, and COMMISSIONER HOWARD stated that the tour was well put together.

CHAIR BECKER announced that COUNCILWOMAN SEAMAN would host a pet adoption event from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on March 18th at Bruce Trent Park. He asked rescue pet organizations that wanted to participate to contact the Ward 2 Office at (702) 229-2420 or Ward2@LasVegasNevada.gov. He said a veteran appreciation barbeque event with various activities would take place from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on April 1st at Bruce Trent Park. The Chair reported that he would not attend next month's Commission meeting due to conflict with his job as Assistant Coach for Doral Academy, and he would ask COMMISSIONERS SCHULTZ or MARTIN to provide an update on events in May.

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:

None.

11. **Adjournment**

Minutes:

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

Respectfully submitted:



Brian Carroll, Deputy City Clerk



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

The Nevada Public Notice website – notice.nv.gov

City Hall, 495 South Main Street, 1st Floor