



Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission Minutes

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Minutes:

CHAIR BECKER called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

PRESENT: CHAIR BECKER and COMMISSIONERS NEIGER, SHERMAN (via teleconference), McCURDY, GEBRE, KELLER, ZAMORA (via teleconference and excused until 4:10 p.m.), BURGOS, CORNWELL (excused until 4:37 p.m.), and ROBINSON

EXCUSED: COMMISSIONERS ARMENIAN, ASSELIN, HOWARD, JOHNSON, and MARTIN

ALSO PRESENT: PATRICK O'MARA, Deputy Parks and Recreation Director; STEVE GLIMP, Parks and Grounds Maintenance Manager; KIM KLEIN, Senior Executive Assistant; 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:

CHAIR BECKER introduced Ward 1 representative COMMISSIONER BOB ROBINSON to the Commission. The Commissioner explained that he is an 18-year resident of the city, and he thanked COUNCILMAN BRIAN KNUDSEN and the City Council for giving him the opportunity to serve. He is a golfer and avid e- (electronic) bicyclist, and he enjoys the resources available within the city. Further, he hoped to help better those resources with the Commission.

4. For possible action to approve the Final Minutes by reference of the Regular Meeting of October 3, 2023

Motion made by William McCurdy to Approve

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

For-Lisa Sherman, William McCurdy, Richard Becker, Elizabeth Gebre, Steven Neiger, Micaela Keller, Debra Burgos, Bob Robinson; Excused-Adroushan Armenian, Audrey Asselin, Melody Howard, Almendra Johnson, Russell Martin, Rudy Zamora, Sue Ann Cornwell;

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 October Deputy City Marshals Report, a copy of which was submitted for the record. He read park arrest, citation, and dispatched calls for service statistics and top arrest locations for each ward from the report. He advised that Criminal Investigation Detectives arrested a subject at Gary Reese Freedom Park for battery with intent to commit robbery and battery with victim over 60 years of age, and a subject was arrested for robbery with a deadly weapon at Bunker Park. Further, the Lieutenant stated that a subject was arrested for stealing bicycles at Veterans Memorial Leisure Center. He said COMMISSIONER NEIGER had asked about violations at Majestic Park at the last Commission meeting, noting that three arrests/citations took place over two separate incidents and involved narcotics, lodging, and alcohol prohibited offenses. LIEUTENANT GUILLEN reported that trailer cameras were deployed at Freedom Park in response to auto burglaries and Lubertha Johnson to deter car club activities. Lastly, he listed Community-Oriented Policing events from the presentation.

COMMISSIONER McCURDY questioned if the Lieutenant was aware of a new gang operating within the city and Clark County, and LIEUTENANT GUILLEN advised that he would research to see if the activity would affect City properties. The Commissioner asked what information is shared from reports, and the Lieutenant stated that Marshals are provided general concerns and names are not shared. In response to COMMISSIONER McCURDY, CHAIR BECKER confirmed that Commission meetings are recorded and available to the public.

COMMISSIONER NEIGER asked if trailer cameras were having an impact. The Lieutenant noted that a car club gathered at Lubertha Johnson despite the trailer camera, and he advised that Marshals visited the area and spoke with the event organizer.

6. Report by Jasmine Freeman, Cultural Affairs Manager, regarding activities of the Special Events Division in parks – All Wards

Minutes:

JASMINE FREEMAN, Cultural Affairs Manager, utilized a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record, to report that the Special Events Division is responsible for over 4,000 events that service over 1,000,000 community members each year. She listed services that the Division handles from the presentation, including permitting park events and neighborhood block parties. She stated that picnic shelters at 20 of the City's 87 parks can be reserved for special events through the City's website. MS. FREEMAN advised that picnic shelter reservations cost between \$15 and \$75 depending on their size, and she displayed reservation totals for 2022 and 2023. Further, she noted that the City received around \$128,000 in revenue for 825 rentals in FY23, and she clarified that April and October were the busiest months for reservations. She explained that City staff availability limits the amount of parks available for reservation and noted that staff cleans parks after every event. MS. FREEMAN displayed Park Special Event Use Permit criteria, which included hosting an event with more than 75 people, and she pointed out the importance of staff involvement so they can notify relevant departments, such as Las Vegas Fire & Rescue. She listed Park Special Event reservation totals for 2021 and 2022 from the presentation, and she said there were 573 reservations in 2023 as of October 18th. She said special event rates are based on event capacity and have a two-hour minimum, and she stated that includes complimentary time before and after an event to set up and tear down. Floyd Lamb Park at Tule Springs has higher rates to account for the park entrance fee, and the Floyd Lamb Park hay barn held four special events since it opened last fall, including the City's Company Picnic that had nearly 1,300 attendees. MS. FREEMAN explained that hay barn revenue is placed into a special revenue fund focused on historic reservation. The hay barn has received nearly \$5,000 in revenue, and she noted that a walking tour is hosted at the park on Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. Pop-Up Mobile Recreation visits underutilized parks to encourage recreation and has served over 5,000 participants, and she advised that they would hold pop-up sessions with homeschool groups in 2024.

Regarding challenges, MS. FREEMAN explained that City staff works with DPS (Department of Public Safety) when unpermitted people are using permitted space, and permitted users may receive a refund if they are unable to host their event. She noted that the Placer.Ai tool was available to all City departments, and she provided event information and attendance statistics for the Kizuna Japanese Spring Festival, Bluegrass

Festival, and Dia de Los Muertos. She showed Placer.Ai visitor data from the presentation for several parks, noting that the location-based service does not provide identifiable information. She stated that the information was helpful to City staff to know when parks are most often used. Further, she said City staff has a limited amount of time to clean areas between events. Lastly, MS. FREEMAN invited everyone to visit www.lasvegasnevada.gov/discover to learn more about upcoming City events.

COMMISSIONER SHERMAN asked for information on the Las Vegas Book Festival. MS. FREEMAN said event turnout was wonderful and information was acquired from Placer.Ai. She stated that REBECCA YARROS, speaker, filled the auditorium and stayed after the event to sign books. CHAIR BECKER said he attended the event as a vendor and had a wonderful time.

COMMISSIONER NEIGER commended the City for using Placer.Ai, and he questioned if additional liability insurance was required for larger events. MS. FREEMAN confirmed there were different insurance requirements and noted that special events may require a certificate of insurance. The Commissioner clarified with MS. FREEMAN that staff reviews Permits and provides all certificates of insurance to the City's Risk Manager.

7. Report by Steve Glimp, Park Maintenance Manager, regarding park maintenance updates – All Wards

Minutes:

STEVE GLIMP, Parks and Grounds Maintenance Manager, utilized a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record, to display photos and provide information on park projects, and he listed completed projects from the report. He stated that wrought iron fencing was installed at Justice Myron E. Leavitt & Jaycee Community Park to deter people from cutting chain link fencing. He reported that fields one and two at All American Park will receive new artificial turf, and he said bollards will be added at Centennial Hills Park to limit access and deter unsafe driving.

COMMISSIONER BURGOS advised that she attended the cleanup and tree-planting event at Polly Gonzales Memorial Park along with SHERRY SWENSK, Channel 8 Meteorologist. She thanked MR. GLIMP and his team for putting on the event, and she gave kudos to JANET McFARLAND for advocating for the park.

CHAIR BECKER explained that the path lights at Majestic Park did not turn on at night, and he said residents expressed concern regarding bleacher access near the championship diamond. MR. GLIMP clarified there are access panels available to clean the bleachers.

8. Report by Steve Glimp, Park Maintenance Manager, regarding emerging issues related to activities of the Parks and Recreation Division – All Wards

Minutes:

STEVE GLIMP, Parks and Grounds Maintenance Manager, introduced PATRICK O'MARA, Deputy Parks and Recreation Director, to the Commission. MR. O'MARA said he is a native Nevadan that worked in Tennessee for the prior 10 years, and he listed events that took place in October. The 18th Annual Las Vegas Mayor's Cup had 477 teams participate from 16 states and four countries. The city of Las Vegas is home to a Wheelchair Football League team through collaboration with the Bob Woodruff Foundation, Move United, and the Las Vegas Raiders. The team consists of 18 players, six of which are veterans, and their last tournament was held in Downtown Las Vegas on the Llama Lot. MR. O'MARA explained that citizens with disabilities are more likely to have negative interactions with first responders due to communication barriers, and the Ward 2 Office collaborated with first responders from Metro (Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department), the Fire Department (Las Vegas Fire & Rescue), and City Marshals to host the Heroes to Heroes program at Veteran's Memorial Community Center. Around 120 children from Sig Rogich Middle School and Palo Verde High School participated in the event to become comfortable with first responders and their vehicles. The Fall Festival was held at East Las Vegas Community Center and included a pumpkin patch and photo station through donations from Koolsville Tattoos, and 20 community groups participated as vendors and handed out candy.

MR. O'MARA noted there were challenges providing full-time coverage at all City facilities. He said programming was being built for Becker Technology Park and stated that a mentoring program was offered through a grant from the National Recreation and Park Association. He thanked COMMISSIONER ASSELIN for

her service on the Commission and announced that her Ward 4 seat will be replaced. Lastly, MR. O'MARA congratulated MR. GLIMP for receiving the Bill Tomiyasu Lifetime Achievement Award at the Desert Green Conference.

MR. GLIMP reported that the City received a \$5,000,000 Urban and Community Forestry grant from the USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) to plant trees on private property in disadvantaged zip codes affected by the urban heat island effect. He explained that a non-profit organization will plant between 5,000 and 6,000 trees, which will align with the Las Vegas 2050 Master Plan's goal of increasing the tree canopy.

COMMISSIONER KELLER asked how the areas would be selected. MR. GLIMP clarified that Wards 3 and 5 were the primary focus due to low tree canopy coverage, and he explained how people would be able to sign up. He stated that a tree will be planted along with a water smart irrigation system, and the non-profit organization will provide two years of maintenance. The Commissioner wondered how marketing would be sent to residents. MR. GLIMP said that information was TBD (to be determined) and expected the process to begin in January, noting they were reworking the scope after receiving less funding than requested.

COMMISSIONER McCURDY hoped that zip codes 89106 and 89101 were included in the criteria, as he believed the area had poor tree coverage. MR. GLIMP confirmed both zip codes are hot spots that will be focused on.

CHAIR BECKER encouraged MR. O'MARA to reach out to the Commissioners before the next Commission meeting in February.

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

Minutes:

COMMISSIONER BURGOS announced that the Cowboy Christmas and Classic Car Show will take place at Floyd Lamb Park at Tule Springs on December 2nd from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. She noted that cash will not be accepted to get into the park starting January 1, 2024. Lastly, she recognized Veterans Day by making a statement and thanking people for their service.

COMMISSIONER KELLER invited everyone to Santa in the Park at Huntridge Circle Park on December 9th starting at 10:00 a.m.

CHAIR BECKER advised that COUNCILWOMAN VICTORIA SEAMAN promoted a Veterans Day self-defense clinic from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and will host Breakfast Buzz from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on November 18th at Veterans Memorial Community Center located at 101 North Pavilion Center Drive. To RSVP, contact the Ward 2 Office.

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:

CHAIR BECKER announced that KIM KLEIN, Senior Executive Assistant, had been promoted and would no longer participate in Commission meetings. He said MS. KLEIN is an indispensable asset to the City and found her to be knowledgeable and an independent problem solver. He presented MS. KLEIN with a Service Excellence Award from the Commission, which was not submitted for the record.


COMMISSIONERS McCURDY, BURGOS, SHERMAN, and GEBRE congratulated MS. KLEIN on the promotion and commended her assistance with the Commission. COMMISSIONER CORNWELL thanked MS. KLEIN for giving her the confidence to serve on the Commission.

11. **Adjournment**


Minutes:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Brian Carroll, Deputy City Clerk

 for

Maggie Plaster
Acting 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