



## 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 NEIGER, SHERMAN (via teleconference), McCURDY, ARMENIAN, GEBRE, HOWARD, KELLER, MARTIN, CORNWELL, ROBINSON, and STITT

EXCUSED: COMMISSIONERS JOHNSON, ZAMORA, and BURGOS

ALSO PRESENT: PAT O'MARA, Deputy Parks and Recreation Director; STEVE GLIMP, Parks and Grounds Maintenance Manager; ERIN RADKE, Recreation Manager; ASHLEY FOSTER, Administrative Secretary; TIM GESWEIN, Deputy City Attorney IV; and BRIAN CARROLL, Senior 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 STITT to the Commission. The Commissioner said he is a Vietnam combat veteran and served 24 years in the Air Force. He worked as an airline pilot for 33 years and retired in 2003. He listed various sports that he has coached, noting that he teaches pickleball to veterans at Dula Community Center. Lastly, COMMISSIONER STITT expressed interest in improving recreational programming by serving on the Commission.

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

Motion made by Russell Martin to Approve

Passed For: 12; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 3

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

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

Minutes:

COMMISSIONER SHERMAN nominated CHAIR BECKER to serve as Chair and COMMISSIONER NEIGER to serve as Vice Chair.

Motion made by William McCurdy to Approve the nomination of Richard Becker as Chair

Passed For: 12; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 3

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

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

Passed For: 12; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 3

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

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

Minutes:

LIEUTENANT TONY KUMAMARU, Department of Public Safety, provided statistics from the January 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 a battery occurred at Bettye Wilson Soccer Complex related to a soccer match fight. The Lieutenant said trailer cameras were deployed at East Las Vegas Community Center in response to vandalism and Gary Reese Freedom Park due to auto burglaries and special events. Lastly, he listed Community-Oriented Policing events from the presentation.

COMMISSIONER KELLER clarified with LIEUTENANT KUMAMARU that the majority of arrests at Justice Myron E. Leavitt & Jaycee Community Park were park violations, including misuse of park amenities, being in the park outside of operating hours, and having alcohol in the park. The Commissioner wondered if there had been an increase in park violations. The Lieutenant advised that many unhoused people frequent the park, and he stated they were seeking guidance from the City Attorney's Office to clarify what constitutes a violation.

In response to COMMISSIONER STITT, LIEUTENANT KUMAMARU recommended calling dispatch at 702-229-6444 to report questionable activity.

7. Report by Steve Glimp, Parks and Grounds 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. Regarding asset replacement, he stated that seven artificial fields were replaced last year, and he expected around eight fields to be replaced this year. Eleven playgrounds had been newly installed or renovated, and fitness courts were added at Rainbow Family Park, Woofter Park, and Police Memorial Park. Pickleball court conversions took place at Justice Myron E. Leavitt & Jaycee Community Park, Aloha Shores Park, Centennial Hills Park, and Patriot Park. Eight dog parks had been overseeded, which would reduce maintenance costs and keep grass green throughout the year, and over 1,000 trees had been planted throughout the city. MR. GLIMP listed maintenance data from the presentation showing how 112 City staff service 87 parks, 145 playgrounds, and 80 restrooms. Lastly, he advised that goals for 2024 were to renovate 16 playgrounds, plant 1,900 trees, and replace 450,000 square feet of non-essential turf.

COMMISSIONER GEBRE believed park water fountains were being improperly used. CHAIR BECKER questioned if they would be replaced with bottle dispensers to discourage improper use, and MR. GLIMP confirmed that water fountains can be replaced after parks are surveyed.

COMMISSIONER MARTIN liked seeing water smart landscaping in parks. He expressed appreciation towards MR. GLIMP and park staff for resolving a major water leak at Charlie Kellogg and Joe Zaher Sports Complex a day after the issue was reported.

COMMISSIONER CORNWELL questioned if power sources were available at parks, and MR. GLIMP clarified that most park outlets are only turned on for reservations and special events. COMMISSIONER McCURDY observed people using power sources at Historic Westside Legacy Park, and he hoped the power could be turned off when not needed for special events. MR. GLIMP said he would check with City staff to ensure the power is turned off.

COMMISSIONER NEIGER advised that kurapia was being installed at his home, and he said it was a drought-tolerant alternative to grass. MR. GLIMP believed kurapia is not able to handle heavy traffic, noting it could be installed in parks special cases.

CHAIR BECKER appreciated the improvements at Majestic Park, and he thanked MR. GLIMP and his team for their work.

8. Report by Erin Radke, Recreation Manager, regarding recreation programming – All Wards

Minutes:

ERIN RADKE, Recreation Manager, utilized a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record, to report on emerging recreation trends, which included replacing facility lights and increasing the use of facilities for positive mental and physical health. MS. RADKE noted that adaptive programs are being expanded across communities through increased outreach efforts. She stated that staff was focused on social media channels to disseminate information about events and outreach activities. Additionally, she mentioned that the aging population has had an increased need for active adult centers, and she described the availability of the Recreation Pass to everyone, including the homeless population, as a hot topic. While many homeless individuals use the pass to access amenities, such as computers, electrical sockets, and gyms, there have been instances of homeless individuals blocking facility entrances. There has also been an increase in graffiti and property damage, and she advised that proactive measures were being taken to prevent further occurrences. MS. RADKE highlighted the availability of a universal fitness pass, which is priced at \$10 per month for seniors and \$15 per month for adults. This pass grants access to various workout classes, rooms and sports fields. She noted that the response to this pass has been positive, as it offers significant savings to constituents and allows the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department to optimize programming across the valley. Furthermore, there had been opposition from residents near W. Wayne Bunker Family Park regarding construction of the new pickleball courts. Regarding noise concerns, the Public Works Department is conducting a study to find ways to mitigate noise levels. MS. RADKE also shared that there were several upcoming renovations and upgrades at facilities such as Chuck Minker Sports Complex, Doolittle Community Center, and Veterans Memorial Community Center. These improvements include new lighting, floors, bathrooms, paint, upgraded cardio equipment, and an expansion to one of the facilities. She stated that a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Doolittle Community Center will be at 2:30 p.m. on February 22, 2024. Lastly, she listed recent events that took place throughout the valley, including the East Las Vegas Winter Wonderland and Winter Camp.

COMMISSIONER HOWARD questioned the pricing for the universal fitness pass. MS. RADKE clarified that an Active Adult membership is \$10 per year and is separate from the Fitness Pass, which is a pass that allows access to several fitness classes for a monthly fee. She noted that the Active Adult membership includes access to free activities within each community center.

COMMISSIONER McCURDY confirmed with MS. RADKE that Doolittle Community Center would reopen on February 22nd. MS. RADKE invited all Commissioners to attend the ceremony.

Regarding pickleball noise concerns, COMMISSIONER CORNWELL wondered if a Juvenile Justice Courts program could be used to create an art piece for a wall. MS. RADKE said that was an excellent suggestion, and she opined that introducing young men and women to arts can help reduce crime. CHAIR BECKER proposed implementing a tile program to enable more artists to contribute to the current renovations, and he suggested that the tiles could be replaced annually to continually showcase new artwork. MS. RADKE expressed support for the idea, highlighting that it coincided with the Department's 75th year, and she recommended incorporating this milestone into the tile program.

9. Discussion for possible action regarding the 2024 Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission calendar of presentations and meeting schedule – All Wards

Minutes:

PAT O'MARA, Deputy Parks and Recreation Director, utilized a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record, to display the proposed 2024 Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission meeting schedule, noting that the Commission would go dark in July, August, December, and January. He advised that there is a good slate of presentations scheduled for the Commissioners, and he added that March would contain a presentation honoring former Commission chair MALCOLM WHITE. April will feature a presentation on trees and tree planting, while May will focus on homelessness in parks with a presentation by the Department of Neighborhood Services. In June there will be a recap of the annual corporate challenge event, followed by discussions on the Capital Improvement Plan in September. Tennis will be discussed in October, and they will end the year with a presentation on the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) in November.

COMMISSIONER McCURDY appreciated that a tree would be planted for MR. WHITE. CHAIR BECKER clarified with MR. O'MARA that the tree would be planted at Durango Hills Park.

COMMISSIONER MARTIN confirmed with MR. O'MARA that he has been the Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation since November. MR. O'MARA explained that he began his career in Reno, Nevada as a lifeguard and has since held various positions for the City of Memphis. He recently returned to Nevada and now serves as Deputy Director.

Motion made by Micaela Keller to Approve

Passed For: 12; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 3

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

10. Review by staff of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission Bylaws and the Parks, Recreation Facilities, and Other City Facilities/Property Naming Policy/Procedure – All Wards

Minutes:

PAT O'MARA, Deputy Parks and Recreation Director, utilized a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record, to review the Commission's bylaws, which was included in the backup. He noted that the bylaws were last amended around eight years ago. He advised that the Commission's duty was to make recommendations on public parks and recreation programs, and he noted that the Commission is an advisory group that relays concerns from the community to City staff. MR. O'MARA said Commissioners are appointed by the City Council for three-year terms, and he stated there are methods to replace Commissioners for attendance or behavior issues. CHAIR BECKER clarified that the Commissioners serve at the pleasure of the City Council. Regarding leadership, MR. O'MARA explained that the chair presides Commission meetings, and the vice chair serves in the chair's absence. Commission meetings are to be held no less than once per quarter, and special meetings can be requested by the chair or through a letter submitted by a majority of the commissioners. He noted that any updates to the bylaws would require an agenda item at a future Commission meeting.

MR. O'MARA advised that the Park, Recreation Facilities, and Other City Facilities/Property Naming Policy/Procedure allows the Commission to name facilities. He stated that amenities and rooms within facilities

may be named after financial contributors or people significant to an area. He explained that the Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs Director identifies parks and facilities that need a new name and acquires feedback from the community, which is then provided to the Commission for recommendation to the City Council. MR. O'MARA noted that the renaming process requires a unanimous vote by the City Council. He said a survey was given to the community for an upcoming dog park, and he expected to present recommendations to the Commission in the spring.

CHAIR BECKER recommended the Commissioners review the bylaws on their own.

COMMISSIONER CORNWELL stated that a memorial was being built by the County (Clark County), and she said community members expressed concern that the Las Vegas Healing Garden could be dissolved. She wondered how the healing garden could become a permanent memorial. MR. O'MARA believed that would need to be heard by the City Council, and he advised that he would begin conversations with the Department. CHAIR BECKER supposed that could be agendaized to a future Commission meeting. COMMISSIONER McCURDY advised COMMISSIONER CORNWELL to speak with the appropriate Councilmember to help make the healing garden a permanent structure.

COMMISSIONER STITT requested an update on the pickleball program at W. Wayne Bunker Family Park, and MR. O'MARA offered to provide an update at a future meeting.

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

Minutes:

COMMISSIONER STITT announced that the Love for All Pickleball tournament would be held at Durango Hills Park on February 17th with COUNCILWOMEN FRANCIS ALLEN-PALENSKE and NANCY BRUNE.

CHAIR BECKER stated that COUNCILWOMAN VICTORIA SEAMAN will host Breakfast Buzz from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on February 10th at Veterans Memorial Community Center located at 101 North Pavilion Center Drive. To RSVP, contact Ward2@LasVegasNevada.gov. The Chair explained that the Clark County School District will sunset middle school softball for risk mitigation, and he said the Councilwoman was exploring creating a non-competitive league for that age group. He announced that the tree memorial on behalf of former Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission Chair MALCOLM WHITE was tentatively scheduled for March 29th at 10:00 a.m. at Durango Hills Park. He advised that COMMISSIONER ARMENIAN will contact MR. WHITE'S family to ensure their availability, and he asked staff to extend invitations to elected officials and City staff. Lastly, CHAIR BECKER thanked ASHLEY FOSTER, Administrative Secretary, for managing the memorial.

COMMISSIONER McCURDY stated that he has worked with the City for over 35 years, and he announced that he would not seek reappointment to the Commission. He clarified that his company, McCurdy & McCurdy Media Group, would be working with SHELLEY BERKLEY on her campaign for City of Las Vegas Mayor, and he expected there might be a conflict with COUNCILMAN CEDRIC CREAR, who was also seeking that office. The Commissioner expressed gratitude towards several Commissioners for their service together, and he said he would continue attending Commission meetings to champion building a swimming pool at Doolittle Community Center.

CHAIR BECKER said COMMISSIONER McCURDY is a champion for Doolittle Community Center and served on the Commission for 23 years. He provided the Commissioner with a thank you letter, which was not submitted for the record. COMMISSIONER SHERMAN expressed appreciation towards COMMISSIONER McCURDY'S dedication to the City, noting they served together for several years on the Youth Committee and Park Naming Committee. COMMISSIONERS GEBRE and NEIGER thanked COMMISSIONER McCURDY for his service to the Commission and the community.

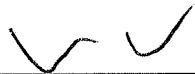
12. **Citizens Participation:** Public comment during this portion of the agenda must be limited to matters within the jurisdiction of the Commission. No subject may be acted upon by the Commission unless that subject is on the agenda and is scheduled for action. If you wish to be heard, come forward 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:  
None.

13. **Adjournment**

Minutes:  
The meeting was adjourned at 5:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

  
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Brian Carroll, Senior Deputy City Clerk

*for*   
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Pat O'Mara  
Deputy Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Director

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