



## Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission Minutes

### 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Minutes:

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

PRESENT: VICE CHAIR NEIGER and COMMISSIONERS SHERMAN (via teleconference), ARMENIAN (excused until 4:04 p.m.), KELLER, MARTIN, BURGOS, CORNWELL (excused until 4:05 p.m.), ROBINSON, STITT, and VOKITS

EXCUSED: CHAIR BECKER and COMMISSIONERS GEBRE, HOWARD, and ZAMORA

ALSO PRESENT: MAGGIE PLASTER, Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs Director; PAT O'MARA, Deputy Parks and Recreation Director; STEVE GLIMP, Parks and Grounds Maintenance Manager; ASHLEY FOSTER, Administrative Secretary; JIM LEWIS, Deputy City Attorney IV; BRIAN CARROLL, Senior Deputy City Clerk; and YVETT LOZOYA and NICK CRAWFORD, Deputy City Clerks

### 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:

None.

### 4. For possible action to approve the Final Minutes by reference of the Regular Meeting of June 4, 2024

Minutes:

Regarding Item 9 of the June 4, 2024 minutes, COMMISSIONER SHERMAN requested a correction to the following language: *of the four adopted children that were raised at that location and also made such positive contributions to the Las Vegas community.* DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY JIM LEWIS wanted to ensure those words were spoken at the meeting, noting that changes to the minutes were not to add new language. The Commissioner confirmed that she described their career choices as an Oncologist, Lawyer, Judge, and MFT (Marriage and Family Therapist). She said they were positive citizens of the community, which is why she recommended *pawsative* for the park name.

Motion made by Lisa Sherman to Approve as amended

Passed For: 8; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 6

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

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

Minutes:

LIEUTENANT TIMOTHY MULLINS, Department of Public Safety, introduced SERGEANT SARKIS JOPALIAN to provide statistics from the August Deputy City Marshals Report, a copy of which was submitted for the record. The Sergeant read park arrest, citations and calls for service statistics for each ward from the report. He advised there was a trailer camera at Kianga Isoke Palacio Park at Doolittle Complex to prevent vehicle thefts in the area, and the second camera remained at Centennial Hills Park to combat turf damage caused by trucks being driven on the turf. The third camera was deployed at Ron's Lot in response to illegal activity in the area. Lastly, he listed Community-Oriented Policing (COP) events from the presentation and noted there would be additional events with the upcoming holidays that would include LVMPD (Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department) and City Marshal presence.

LIEUTENANT MULLINS provided additional arrest and citation data from the previous year through July, which included 526 arrests by the Conditions Team and Swing- and Grave-shift Patrols, noting they had a more strategic approach to policing in the various parks and facilities in 2024. The Lieutenant believed the Grave units were instrumental by going to various hotspot parks at night, such as Justice Myron E. Leavitt & Jaycee Community Park and Lorenzi Park, to identify people in parks, discuss resources, check to see if they have any warrants (sic), and conduct pat downs, which may lead to warrants or narcotics-related activity. He said Justice Myron E. Leavitt & Jaycee Community Park had 281 arrests and citations, followed by Lorenzi Park with 158, and Ethel Pearson Park with 104. The top violations were remaining in the park after hours, unlawful presence of children in the park, and warrants. He listed the year-over-year increased percentages in citations and arrests for each ward through July, and he confirmed there had been 32 narcotic arrests in parks the previous month. LIEUTENANT MULLINS clarified that saturation efforts were geared towards Justice Myron E. Leavitt & Jaycee Community Park due to numerous complaints, and he stated that narcotics paraphernalia and methamphetamine were the top two arrests. Lastly, he advised that lewd and lascivious acts took place in two parks.

COMMISSIONER SHERMAN reported on a Nextdoor post about someone taking pit bulls that have attacked smaller dogs to Barkin' Basin Park, and she questioned if that had been addressed by the Department of Public Safety. LIEUTENANT MULLINS was unaware and questioned the times and frequency. The Commissioner explained she had encouraged the poster to send the photo to the Department of Public Safety. Regarding protocol, the Lieutenant advised they would accompany the Animal Protection Officers, who would assess and speak with the owner and other individuals in response to violent dogs. He asked the Commissioner to contact the neighbor and provide his email address, which he stated for the record.

VICE CHAIR NEIGER questioned if there had been an increase in homelessness at parks during the summertime, noting the population growth and difficulty affording housing. SERGEANT JOPALIAN confirmed that summer was a busier time with water features at the parks being used for baths, and he expected a decrease in the winter. He said resources for the Homeless Resource Center (HRC) and the Corridor of Hope are provided to the unhoused, and the MORE (Multi-Agency Outreach Resource Engagement) team provides resources throughout the week. Further, he said courtesy rides are offered to the HRC. LIEUTENANT MULLINS explained there was a 25-30 percent increase from summer compared to the spring and winter months.

6. 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. He listed completed, in-progress, and future projects from the report. He stated that staff was focused on spraying out turf areas for conversion and advised there was a high tree mortality rate, primarily of species that are not drought-tolerant. He explained that enhancements would take place at Bruce Trent Park to make the farmers market more user friendly. MR. GLIMP reported they could not get the original slats for Baker Park's restroom, stating they were

replaced after being vandalized in the spring. Lastly, he noted they were adding to the existing fence around the pickleball court at Durango Hills Park.

COMMISSIONER BURGOS stated there were conversations on social media concerning the ponds and a deceased fowl at Floyd Lamb Park at Tule Springs. MR. GLIMP responded the water was tested for E. coli and other pathogens and came back clean. He confirmed they retrieved a sick duck that passed away and was sent to the Nevada Department of Wildlife for testing. He said the ponds were closed for precaution.

COMMISSIONER BURGOS noted she was contacted by adaptive athletes that the skate bowl transitions at Doc Romeo Park were not visible and caused skaters to fall. They believed the new painting disguised the different lips. MR. GLIMP advised that he is an avid skateboarder and no one in the skateboarding community mentioned it being more difficult to skate. The Commissioner responded she would have them reach out to him.

VICE CHAIR NEIGER wondered if water reductions for turf conversions were being tracked with the Water Authority (Southern Nevada Water Authority). MR. GLIMP confirmed water was one of their largest budget items and the Water System Technicians tracked all of the water use. He noted they typically move to subsurface irrigation as they complete turf conversions, which hits 99 percent efficiency, while overhead spray has between 40-60 percent.

7. Report by Patrick O'Mara, Deputy Parks and Recreation Director, on the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) program and a review of Las Vegas projects funded under that program – 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 report that the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act (SNPLMA) was passed in 1998 to conserve naturally sensitive areas and connect people with recreation. He advised that Federal parcels could be sold for development and proceeds are placed towards public infrastructure. He noted that revenue is distributed in several areas, stating that they generally receive funding through the Parks, Trails and Natural Areas (PTNA) portion. MR. O'MARA advised that Southern Nevada entities primarily used the funds, while Eastern Nevada, Lake Tahoe, and Carson City submitted for funding in Round 20. He said the City might apply for a grant and serve as a pass-through for organizations such as the Springs Preserve, and he listed several SNPLMA-funded projects from the presentation from 2002-present, including Arroyo Vista Park, the Regional Pickleball Complex, and Lorenzi Park Tennis Center additions. He displayed renderings and photos of the Round 20 projects under consideration, which he listed as the Bettye Wilson Soccer Complex Renovation, Chuck Minker Sports Complex Replacement, and Darling Tennis Center Expansion, and he expected to hear what funding was approved by the Secretary of the Interior in December 2024. MR. O'MARA explained that the Bettye Wilson Soccer Complex was open grass and not engineered to be sporting turf, and he said the renovation would add four synthetic turf soccer fields, a playground with a shade canopy, and an illuminated walking path that ties into the Lone Mountain Trail. He clarified that Bettye Wilson was the only project recommended. He advised that a feasibility study had been completed for the Chuck Minker Sports Complex to rework the site with dividable court space, multiple dance rooms, and a larger fitness and cardio space. He stated that the Darling Tennis Center Expansion would add 11 courts. MR. O'MARA stated that their priority was availability to the masses without any barriers, noting that rental rates and court fees were generally not well perceived.

COMMISSIONER VOKITS was happy to see more facilities and wondered if the projects would have increased parking. MR. O'MARA confirmed that Bettye Wilson would have expanded parking, and he advised that a parking project by itself would not generally be considered. In response to the Commissioner, MR. O'MARA said adding parking was discussed internally, and they consider overbuilding parking in all developments. COMMISSIONER VOKITS questioned the start date for the Bettye Wilson and W. Wayne Bunker Family Park projects. MR. O'MARA clarified they needed to first receive grant funding for Bettye Wilson, and he did not have a date for Wayne Bunker.

VICE CHAIR NEIGER understood that Clark County land is 90 percent owned by the Federal government and SNPLMA plans to sell a portion of that land to citizens. He noted that proceeds go to the Federal government and the community, and he asked if the funds the City requested would come from those proceeds. MR. O'MARA advised that funding distribution is handled through rounds, stating that some are linked to a calendar

year. He said Rounds 18, 19, and 20 were over multiple years, and he cited COVID as the reason for Rounds 18 and 19. He clarified that a variable amount of funding is available for each round, and PTNA generally has a larger portion of funding with around \$340 million available this year. He noted that 22 projects submitted for funding and not everyone would win. DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY JIM LEWIS confirmed that all money generated from the Disposal Boundary, which he clarified as the greater Las Vegas Valley, goes back to the State of Nevada. He said most land earmarked for sale goes to real estate developers, noting that one chunk of land was sold in 2004-2005 for \$550 million, and funding is distributed through a formula.

COMMISSIONER VOKITS asked for the renovation status of Cragin Park and Police Memorial Park. MR. O'MARA clarified those projects were not SNPLMA funded. He said Cragin Park was underway and Police Memorial Park had begun that morning with completions expected in May or June.

8. Discussion for possible action regarding the renaming of the tennis complex at Lorenzi Park, located at 3333 West Washington Avenue – Ward 5 (Crear)

Motion made by Sue Ann Cornwell to Strike

Passed For: 10; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 4

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

9. **ABEYANCE ITEM** - Report by staff regarding marketing and communication efforts to increase awareness of parks and recreation activities and opportunities – All Wards

Minutes:

PAT O'MARA, Deputy Director, advised that the Office of Communications was unavailable, and he utilized a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record, to display images of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department website. He said the Department sends out a monthly newsletter, which is the largest newsletter recipient list for the City with around 60,000 recipients. The newsletter includes upcoming programs, special events, and a space to register for programs. MR. O'MARA said they provide sub-newsletters, including the weekly camp newsletter that is sent to all camp registrants and includes the Kindness Campaign's theme of the week. He reported that content is provided through City social media accounts, and he listed posts that were boosted, such as the one-year anniversary of Becker Tech (Ernest & Betty Becker Family Technology and Recreation Park) that generated 4,300 visits to the City website. Further, he said the City works with social media influencers that helped connect 30,000 parents to spring programs. Lastly, MR. O'MARA advised that social media posts and flyers are provided in English and Spanish.

COMMISSIONER KELLER wondered if the Commissioners could be provided digital assets to share with their private community's social media. MR. O'MARA said they would identify ways to provide links.

COMMISSIONER SHERMAN asked if they considered using Nextdoor, and MR. O'MARA offered to contact the Office of Communications, noting that social accounts were not broken down by department.

COMMISSIONER BURGOS had seen other cities identify adaptive equipment at parks on their websites, and she believed that would be helpful. MR. O'MARA stated that was a great idea and planned to bring it up at their next meeting.

COMMISSIONER VOKITS wondered if there was a master calendar showing events happening at all facilities. MR. O'MARA did not believe they had anything that interactive, noting the registration system had some of that capability.

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

Minutes:

COMMISSIONER BURGOS announced that Concert in the Park: Brian Wine and the Las Vegas Jazz Ensemble will be held on September 13th, and Concert in the Park: Phantom and the Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber will be held on September 21st. On September 14th, the 9/11 Remembrance and Service Day will be

held from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at Floyd Lamb Park at Tule Springs. The Commissioner noted that the community gardens will be decorated to honor the lives lost on 9/11, and she encouraged families to bring their children to learn about the sacrifices that were made on that day.

COMMISSIONER VOKITS relayed questions from patrons in Ward 1 and County (Clark County) participants. He inquired about the accessibility of AED (automated external defibrillator) devices at all venues to provide CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) for individuals after physical activities. PAT O'MARA, Deputy Parks and Recreation Director, said the AED devices are strategically placed around community athletic complexes and centers. He added that staff members are encouraged to be CPR and AED certified. Further, he believed that they work with the Fire Department (Las Vegas Fire & Rescue) to provide and install AED devices and said he would get more information to provide to the Commissioners.

DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY JIM LEWIS clarified that in order to completely answer the Commissioner's questions, in-depth conversations should be placed on a future agenda due to the limitations of Open Meeting Law. VICE CHAIR NEIGER appreciated MR. LEWIS for this notice.

COMMISSIONER VOKITS explained he aimed to report the feedback he received from staff to patrons of all facilities in his ward and other wards. VICE CHAIR NEIGER thanked the Commissioner for communicating emerging issues in the community.

COMMISSIONER CORNWELL reported that clean-up workdays at the Las Vegas Community Healing Garden would be at 7:30 a.m. on September 7th, 14th, 16th, 17th, 23rd, and 24th. She invited anyone who is interested to join.


- 11. **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.

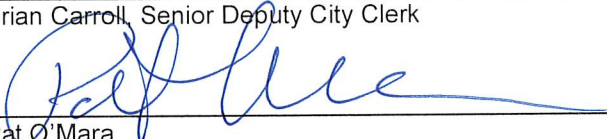
Minutes:  
None.

- 12. **Adjournment**

Minutes:  
The meeting was adjourned at 5:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

  
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Brian Carroll, Senior Deputy City Clerk

  
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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