



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), ARMENIAN, HOWARD, KELLER, MARTIN, ZAMORA (via teleconference), BURGOS, ROBINSON, STITT, and VOKITS

EXCUSED: COMMISSIONERS GEBRE and CORNWELL

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; JIM LEWIS, Deputy City Attorney IV; BRIAN CARROLL, Senior Deputy City Clerk; and YVETT LOZOYA, 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 wished to observe 30 seconds of silence for the victims of the October 1 shooting in Las Vegas. He recognized COMMISSIONER NEIGER for running the previous month's meeting while he took his daughter to school and traveled on a book tour. The Chair reported that he was no longer coaching high school softball and will not encounter any future scheduling conflicts.

4. For possible action to approve the Final Minutes by reference of the Regular Meeting of September 3, 2024

Motion made by Adroushan Armenian to Approve

Passed For: 12; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 2

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

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

Minutes:

This item was heard subsequent to Item 8.

SERGEANT SARKIS JOPALIAN and LIEUTENANT TIMOTHY MULLINS provided statistics from the September Deputy City Marshals Report, a copy of which was submitted for the record. LIEUTENANT MULLINS read park arrest, citations and calls for service statistics from the report. SERGEANT JOPALIAN noted that three trailer cameras are active at Doolittle Park (Kianga Isoke Palacio Park), Darling Tennis Center, and near Main Street and Wyoming Avenue. SERGEANT JOPALIAN added that Community-Oriented Policing (COP) events will be held on September 21st at Centennial Hills Park and on September 24th at Lorenzi Park.

LIEUTENANT MULLINS covered a specific arrest at Becker Technology Center regarding a male and female sleeping in the park grounds. The Lieutenant reported that the female was on probation with several no-bail battery domestic violence warrants and had a BB (ball bearing) gun and six-inch knife in her possession. He added that the male was in possession of methamphetamine and a pipe, resulting in the arrest of both individuals who were transported to Clark County Detention Center.

SERGEANT JOPALIAN detailed a second arrest which involved an individual parked in an unregistered vehicle at Baker Park. The Sergeant stated that the individual is a convicted felon from California and became uncooperative, noting that a sword, three BB guns, and drug paraphernalia were located in the vehicle. The individual was arrested and transported to Clark County Detention Center under felony charges. The Sergeant detailed a final incident at Justice Leavitt Park (Justice Myron E. Leavitt and Jaycee Community Park) which involved two individuals sleeping in the park during closure hours. He reported that a nine-millimeter firearm was adjacent to them and the individuals were arrested and taken to Clark County Detention Center. It was later discovered that the firearm did not have a serial number attached to it, and was impounded.

LIEUTENANT MULLINS stated that they are emphasizing a zero-tolerance policy and the specific incidents highlighted the hypervigilance officers apply to all parks. He added the officers are receiving training to effectively apply themselves in appropriate manners.

CHAIR BECKER appreciated their due diligence.

COMMISSIONER STITT asked if officers look in the wash area of parks. SERGEANT JOPALIAN said the wash is included in their park patrols. The Commissioner noted that people received citations for parking in the dirt at Bob Baskin Park and did not know if the area was properly marked. The Sergeant clarified that vehicles were observed parking illegally which could cause traffic issues, so parking enforcement was called out. He attested that there are signs displaying designated parking areas and offered a tour of the area. The Commissioner noticed that the citations at Bob Baskin Park were not included in the September Deputy City Marshals Report, to which SERGEANT JOPALIAN explained the citations were not included because they were civil infractions.

COMMISSIONER VOKITS wondered how they would handle someone parking their RV (recreational vehicle) and camping overnight at parks. LIEUTENANT MULLINS said overnight parking is not permitted and urged citizens to call dispatch so they can send an officer to investigate, noting that if a crime was committed, the RV would be towed. The Commissioner asked if there was a length of time RVs could park. SERGEANT JOPALIAN clarified that any vehicle parked after-hours would be subject to an investigation and officers can either issue a warning or citation, since it is considered a criminal offense according to the City ordinance.

CHAIR BECKER pointed out that officers are responsible for locking the bathrooms once the parks are closed and suggested people do not use the bathrooms near closing hours.

COMMISSIONER BURGOS thanked the officers for protecting the community.

Motion made by Russell Martin to Approve rehearing the item

NOTE: An initial motion made by Debra Burgos to strike carried unanimously.

Passed For: 12; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 2

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

6. Report by Steve Glimp, Parks and Grounds Maintenance Manager, regarding park maintenance updates – All Wards

Minutes:

STEVE GLIMP, Park Maintenance Manager, used a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record, to display photos and provide information on park projects. MR. GLIMP covered the completed, in-progress, and future projects for all wards in the report. He noted that they are expecting to plant around 1,200 trees by the end of May.

7. Report by Erin Radke, Recreation Manager, regarding recreation and center updates – All Wards

Minutes:

ERIN RADKE, Recreation Manager, utilized a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record, to showcase previous and upcoming summer camp plans. MS. RADKE said that through the Mayor's Fund, Audacy, and Findlay car distributors in Las Vegas, they were able to host a swimsuit drive. Along with the swimsuits, they were able to collect 466 beach towels, 36 swim diapers, and 106 goggles. She added that they will have the swimsuits by May 2025 and new towels will be used as incentives for their Learn to Swim programs.

MS. RADKE provided insight on their Camp Kindness summer camp programs. She said they teach ages five and up and incorporate different values the kids strive to learn each week. For Kindness Awareness Day on November 13th, they will have a table at City Hall that highlights what the kids accomplished at camp. She added that for All STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) Ahead Day, 700-800 campers and staff made elephant toothpaste, decorated hoverboards, and participated in dance classes, noting that STEAM will be incorporated into their camps on a daily basis. During all camp days, each camp chose different themes and held different challenge activities to encourage excitement amongst the kids. She announced that Cimarron Rose camp won the overall summer camp of the year. MS. RADKE covered the increased enrollment comparisons from 2023 to 2024 and said that staff ensures the classes are filled while reaching out to community partners for more participants.

COMMISSIONER STITT congratulated MS. RADKE for the increased enrollment, and CHAIR BECKER said it was great that she is helping improve the quality of life in Las Vegas.

8. Report by Marco Velotta, Planning Project Manager, regarding the City of Las Vegas 2050 Master Plan – All Wards

Minutes:

CHAIR BECKER mentioned that COMMISSIONER VOKITS suggested the 2050 Master Plan be placed on the agenda to better inform the commission.

MARCO VELOTTA, Planning Project Manager, explained how the 2050 Master Plan specifically related to parks and recreation using a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record. MR. VELOTTA thanked those who participated in the master planning process, stating that their feedback was valued to help implement strategies. He explained that the Master Plan was adopted in 2021 and describes the City's vision of what they want to see in the future. He said that in 2023, the Planning Commission and City Council adopted the Imagine LV Parks System which is a supplement to the parks and open space requirements that are required under NRS (Nevada Revised Statute) 278.160. He attested that this provides ideas of identifying additional revenue opportunities and works as an assessment of the overall parks and recreation system. Further, he stated it was imperative that the Imagine LV Parks System Plan met the 2050 Master Plan principals of equity, resilience, health, livability, and innovation.

MR. VELOTTA disclosed that a demographic and trend analysis survey went out to the public and it was found that most people who enjoy doing recreational activities in Las Vegas were focused on general sports and fitness, with an interest in outdoor recreational activities. He added that participation in basketball, golf, and tennis was high and there was an increase in pickleball and tennis entertainment activities. He noted that a second survey rated parks and recreation facilities as excellent or very good, with the overall physical condition of the community centers and parks rated as good. MR. VELOTTA said that the top priorities included better trails and connectivity, recreational opportunities, public safety at parks, and more accessibility and inclusion at facilities, noting that a link of general comments made by the public could be provided to the Commissioners.

He explained that an effort was made to emphasize adult fitness and exercise classes at community facilities to ensure the same opportunities and pricing were being offered as surrounding municipalities. He indicated that there are gaps where publicly accessible community centers are located, specifically in the northwestern and older parts of the city. He said that roughly 60 percent of houses or dwelling units in Las Vegas are within a half-mile of a park or city facility and felt that there was room to improve. He wished to develop new recreational programs and offer additional programs to increase frequency while continuing to market parks and recreation facilities to grow interest. MR. VELOTTA explained that SNPLMA (Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act) is the primary funder of parks and trails in Southern Nevada, but since their fund is shrinking, they have been developing a concept that requires a certain amount of open space to build a park as a part of development and mixed-use projects.

CHAIR BECKER felt the presentation gave the Commissioners a broader view and appreciated the physical handout so they can study the data. The Chair asked MR. VELOTTA to expand on the Vegas Valley Rim Trail. MR. VELOTTA said that the trail has been in development for about 25 years and some sections of the trail have been completed with SNPLMA funds, and County (Clark County) sections in the southwest have been completed with funding they received through an assembly bill. The Chair felt the multijurisdictional effort to complete the interlinked trail system was interesting.

In regards to accessibility and inclusion, COMMISSIONER BURGOS wondered if there was a list of the equipment located at each park. PAT O'MARA, Deputy Parks and Recreation Director, reported that as equipment is placed, it is logged and he said they will work on getting the list accessible to the Commissioners before it is ready to be posted on the City of Las Vegas webpage.

9. Report by Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs staff regarding an overview of current tennis facility operations in the city of Las Vegas – All Wards

Minutes:

This item was heard subsequent to Item 5.

PAT O'MARA, Deputy Parks and Recreation Director, utilized a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record, to cover current tennis facility operations at All American, Darling, and Lorenzi Tennis Centers. MR. O'MARA reported that All In Tennis is the newest operator for All American Tennis Center, but they have not fully implemented their operations due to renovations to the clubhouse. They have been operating since September 1, 2024 and in that time, they have offered 46.5 hours of 30-minute private tennis lessons. He added that they have not hosted any tournaments yet, but they host 34 weekly public group lessons and have held 34 league matches.

MR. O'MARA reported that CJMS Tennis Management has been the operator for Darling Tennis Center since September 3, 2010 and they hold 50 group classes per week, 200 private lessons per month, and between 25 and 30 large-scale tournaments per year. He introduced JEFF FOLEY, Director of Darling Tennis Center, to speak more about the programs they offer. MR. FOLEY noted that they hold collegiate and professional tournaments, in addition to their senior, adult, and junior leagues. He detailed that they have a stadium court that holds 2,500 people and about 150 league teams with about 14 members each that play throughout the year. He added that they have 12 to 15 professional tennis players that give private lessons to all ages and 50 provide drop-in clinics that are offered to all levels throughout the day. To get more people interested in tennis, they offer the 30 for 30 program six days per week that provides beginners with 30 days to visit any beginner adult clinic for \$30.

CHAIR BECKER said he has been to Darling Tennis Center and reported that it was a beautiful facility. COMMISSIONER BURGOS added that she played at Darling Tennis Center in 2010 and agreed the facility was beautiful.

PAT O'MARA stated that VTM Lorenzi Racket Club has been operating at Lorenzi Tennis Center since August 19, 2009. He said they will be receiving three additional tennis courts and a new clubhouse in the next couple of years. They hold around 20 group lessons every week, roughly 19 tournaments per year, and have one primary league.

10. Discussion for possible action regarding possible topics for the 2025 Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission calendar of presentations and meeting schedule – All Wards

Minutes:

PAT O'MARA, Deputy Parks and Recreation Director, explained that in November, information will be provided regarding capital improvement projects that were swapped out in September for the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act. MR. O'MARA offered the Commissioners an opportunity to discuss what educational topics they would like to see brought forward in 2025.

COMMISSIONER SHERMAN wondered if a presentation could be made for each new class that is offered at different centers, specifically the new technology at Becker Technology Center.

COMMISSIONER VOKITS was appreciative of the 2050 Master Plan being brought to the Commission, noting the importance of the information within the plan. The Commissioner was interested to know where they stood with the CAPRA (Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies) certification and the percentage of dwelling units within walking distance to a park. He also wanted to know if increasing park acreage to seven acres per 1,000 residents was obtainable, presuming the guiding principles outlined in the Master Plan would help.

CHAIR BECKER recommended that the Commissioners forward any ideas to discuss in a future meeting to MR. O'MARA and said he would like to be included as well. The Chair clarified that only himself and ASHLEY FOSTER, Administrative Secretary, would be included in the e-mails to avoid making a quorum and stay in compliance with Open Meeting Law.

CHAIR BECKER wished to see self-assessment and increased engagement among the Commissioners and proposed addressing policies and procedures that are in place for the Commissioners at every other Commission meeting in 2025.

MR. O'MARA proposed a field trip for the Commissioners if they were interested and said it would be on the agenda with no action being taken.

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

Minutes:

CHAIR BECKER used a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record, to report that over the summer he had an opportunity to join COMMISSIONERS ROBINSON and VOKITS and ASHLEY FOSTER, Administrative Secretary, to visit various recreation centers and participate in the annual Camp Kindness Challenge. The Chair touched on the effort that staff and participants put into the camps decorations and announced that Veteran's Memorial Community Center came in first place, followed by Doolittle Community Center and Mirabelli Community Center in second and third place. He encouraged people to visit their community centers, especially during the summer.

COMMISSIONER VOKITS reported feedback from pickleball players in Wards 1, 2, and 4 to name an amenity at Police Memorial Park after a pioneer who was responsible for bringing the sport to that venue 10 years prior. The Commissioner said that they are adding more courts and recommended beginning the process of naming them after JOHN DONOVAN SLOAN who is now retired. In response to COMMISSIONER VOKITS, CHAIR BECKER advised staff to move forward with the process, but clarified that staff needs to obtain additional feedback from the community before it is able to be placed on the agenda and voted on. PAT O'MARA, Deputy Parks and Recreation Director, clarified that they discussed the possibility of naming the courts with the Councilmember of that ward and said that it will be brought to the Commission in the future to potentially go to City Council. COMMISSIONER SHERMAN recommended naming pickleball courts at another park to avoid any conflicts.

COMMISSIONER BURGOS thanked the 250 volunteers comprised of mainly youth that were involved in the 911 Remembrance Ceremony and community garden cleanup at Floyd Lamb Park. The Commissioner reported a livestreaming event on Channel 2 will be held for each victim of the October 1 shooting, noting that they will have their name read and a candle lit in their honor at the Las Vegas Healing Garden on October 1st, at 10:05 p.m. She advised those who are interested to look for nearby parks or police command center events for National Night Out on October 8th.

COMMISSIONER SHERMAN reported that Lorenzi Park is having their Community Fun Day on Saturday and a new pickleball facility is being built at Wayne Bunker Park. The Commissioner said the new facility will feature 25 courts and felt that would be an appropriate place to name after the founder of pickleball in Las Vegas.

CHAIR BECKER advised that COUNCILWOMAN VICTORIA SEAMAN would host Breakfast Buzz on October 5th from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at Veterans Memorial Community Center located at 101 North Pavilion Center Drive. To RSVP, contact Ward2@LasVegasNevada.gov. Also on October 5th, the Commissioner said Barktober Fest will be held at Veterans Memorial Community Center from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. He added that Trunk or Treat will be held at Bruce Trent Park on October 11th at 6:00 p.m. which will be free for children. The Las Vegas Book Festival will be held on October 19th from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at The Historic Fifth Street School and feature roughly 100 authors on site.


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.

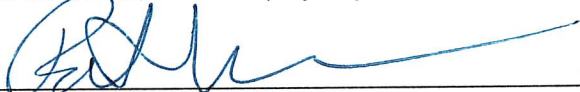
13. **Adjournment**

Minutes:
The meeting was adjourned at 5:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Brian Carroll, Senior Deputy City Clerk



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

Minutes Prepared by:
Nick Crawford, Deputy City Clerk

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