



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, ARMENIAN, GEBRE, HOWARD, MARTIN (via teleconference), ZAMORA, BURGOS, CORNWELL, ROBINSON, VOKITS, and JONES

EXCUSED: COMMISSIONERS KELLER, STITT, and WOHL

ALSO PRESENT: PAT O'MARA, Deputy Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Director; LISA TOVAR, Recreation Manager; STEVE GLIMP, Parks and Grounds Maintenance Manager; ASHLEY FOSTER, Administrative Secretary; REBECCA HOLDEN, Business Specialist; JIM LEWIS, Deputy City Attorney IV; and SAMANTHA DINICOLA, 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: Civic Center Building A, 525 South Main Street, 1st Floor; 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:

None.

4. For possible action to approve the Final Minutes by reference of the Regular Meeting of September 2, 2025

Motion made by Melody Howard to Approve

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

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

5. Report by the Department of Public Safety regarding a review of arrests, citations, and calls for service at City facilities and parks - All Wards

Minutes:

LIEUTENANT CHERYL MANNING, Department of Public Safety, provided statistics from a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record, highlighting year-to-date park and recreation center arrests and citations. Arrests and citations increased by 39.2 percent compared to last year, with the highest increases occurring at Gary Reese Park (Gary Reese Freedom Park). The marshals began using the Koper Curve strategy, which is a data-driven policing model that enhances frequent, brief, and randomized patrols in

high-activity areas. They have focused this strategy at Justice Leavitt Family Park (Justice Myron E. Leavitt & Jaycee Community Park), Lorenzi Park, and Kianga Isoke Palacio Park (Kianga Isoke Palacio Park at Doolittle Complex). Utilizing a new report, the Lieutenant reviewed top violations and locations for each ward from January to September 2025. She concluded by sharing September and October COP (Community-Oriented Policing) events, including a Public Health Fair at Doolittle Senior Center and Barktoberfest at Vistas Park and she encouraged the Commissioners to attend.

COMMISSIONER ROBINSON appreciated the new report format and wondered what unlawful presence at a children's park meant. LIEUTENANT MANNING explained that certain parks are designated for children only, and in order to utilize the park you must have a child aged 12 or under with you. If a marshal notices someone is violating this rule, they are able to make contact and explain the park rules. COMMISSIONER NEIGER confirmed with LIEUTENANT MANNING that records checks are conducted on individuals found unlawfully present at a children's park. The Lieutenant added that marshals document when contact is made with individuals in order to track whether the individual is a repeat offender.

COMMISSIONER JONES questioned how they could eliminate homeless encampments in parks, opining that two parks in Wards 3 and 5 had the heaviest number of encampments. The Lieutenant stated that the Department works with the MORE (Multi-Agency Outreach Resource Engagement) Team to provide resources to individuals. The marshals continue to monitor hot spot areas, check on parks at different times, and make contact with individuals they encounter.

COMMISSIONER VOKITS asked how the public would know a park was closed. LIEUTENANT MANNING explained that city parks have signage throughout that states the park hours. Additionally, park lights are turned off, and park gates are locked by marshals.

COMMISSIONER GEBRE wondered if marshals operated 24 hours per day, noticing most arrests and citations were for being in a park after hours. The Lieutenant said that they had been operating 24 hours per day for a while, adding that when marshals self-generate patrols or close up parks, they often find people in parks after-hours.

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 reflecting upgrades at parks within each ward, including a new dedication plaque at Bettye Wilson Soccer Complex, additional curbing added to the pickleball courts at Durango Hills Park, new outfield netting at Lorenzi Park, and new bocce ball court borders at Gilcrease Brothers Park. He highlighted upcoming upgrades to include the Police Memorial Park playground, an irrigation pump rebuild at Mayfair Park (Mayfair Place Park), and a pickleball conversion project at Bob Baskin Park.

COMMISSIONER BURGOS suggested updating the signage at the entrance of Floyd Lamb (Floyd Lamb Park at Tule Springs) to advertise free entry for handicap or disabled persons. MR. GLIMP stated that he would speak with the gatehouse manager regarding upgrading the signage.

COMMISSIONER GEBRE questioned whether parks have a maximum occupancy, noting that she attended an event at Sammy Davis Jr. Festival Plaza where the large crowd led to pushing among attendees. MR. GLIMP did not think there were any specific limitations for parks, though he acknowledged that the Fire Marshal had made recommendations for park facilities. PAT O'MARA, Deputy Director of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs, clarified that the plaza fell under the jurisdiction of the Cultural Affairs Division. He offered to forward the information to the appropriate team.

7. Report by Lisa Tovar, Recreation Manager, regarding recreation and center updates - All Wards

Minutes:

LISA TOVAR, Recreation Manager, narrated from a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record, to provide a recreation update regarding class registration, Camp CAL, and Halloween events around the city. The month of September saw a seven percent increase in activity check-ins compared to last year, and the most popular classes were a citizenship class, Teen Scene, and table tennis. The Adaptive Recreation team hosted Camp CAL in Calabasas, California from September 29th to October 3rd. The camp

had 40 to 45 participants with diverse abilities, and this year's theme was Campchella. MS. TOVAR explained that Opportunity Village provides funding for the camp rental during the week. She said the City was launching a new targeted marketing campaign to introduce community centers to neighborhoods. She advised that recreation classes were moving to a monthly pay schedule beginning in 2026. She concluded by sharing Halloween events hosted at various community centers and parks.

SAVONTA MANOR, Recreation Supervisor, provided a recap regarding the 2025 Aquatics Summer Unit. He listed various City-operated pools and noted that the Municipal and Pavilion Pools operated year-round. Full-time and hourly staff included two coordinators, four aquatics leaders, and 95 to 105 summer lifeguards. The Regional Aquatics Center was projected to open in Spring 2026, and the east side aquatics centers offered a new sports sampler class to encourage children to engage in aquatics activities. MR. MANOR added that they received a grant to be used towards low-income families wanting to try swimming classes. He listed summer aquatics programs offered, along with the number of registrants per class. He explained that the Junior Guard Camp was very popular, and participants receive certification through American Red Cross. He stated that five sessions were offered this year, with hopes for more next year to help the City recruit additional lifeguards. Four different grants had been awarded to the City, including \$12,000 from American Red Cross and \$1,500 from Move Your Way. MR. MANOR reviewed upcoming opportunities and challenges for the aquatics unit. He hoped new aquatics leaders and additional programs would benefit the unit, and he expressed concern about Health District (Southern Nevada Health District) mandates, the demand for space, and the budget.

COMMISSIONER BURGOS confirmed with MR. MANOR that all pools provided chair lift equipment for participants.

COMMISSIONER CORNWELL wondered if the City could partner with CCSD (Clark County School District) to provide Honors Society credits for new lifeguards, and MR. MANOR said he would look further into it.

COMMISSIONER JONES expressed appreciation for the summer events held at the aquatic centers and wondered about the age range for classes offered. MR. MANOR advised that classes were offered for children aged two to 17, and he confirmed for the Commissioner that flyers were handed out at all elementary and middle schools advertising their classes. He added that they partner with the Housing Authority (Southern Nevada Housing Authority) as well.

CHAIR BECKER questioned the walking range for the new marketing campaign and MS. TOVAR stated neighborhoods within a 10-minute walk from the community center, noting the campaign would also be advertised on all social media outlets.

8. Report by Patrick O'Mara, Deputy Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Director, regarding an update on Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) accreditation - All Wards

Minutes:

PAT O'MARA, Deputy Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Director, narrated from a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record, to provide a comprehensive overview regarding the CAPRA (Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies) process. CAPRA ensures consistent policies and procedures by requiring 154 standards, including 36 fundamental, based on best practices within the industry. The initial accreditation requires completion of 90 percent non-fundamental standards, and reaccreditation requires 95 percent. MR. O'MARA displayed a CAPRA calendar highlighting the journey the City had taken to achieve this accreditation. He explained that the City successfully completed the accreditation prior but lost it during the recession. He stated that they must prove EOC (evidence of compliance) for each standard, which they are currently working toward. LISA TOVAR, Recreation Manager, is working with a team to review compliance with every standard to present to the Commission (Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies) toward the end of the year. MR. O'MARA advised that a review team from CAPRA would visit in the spring, after reviewing their completed packet, with their determination to be revealed at the next annual NRPA (National Recreation and Park Association) Conference.

CHAIR BECKER questioned if the City was following the current or newer CAPRA standards. MR. O'MARA stated they were following the current standards, since the new standards were not available when they started the process. He explained that the new standards were reduced to 67 to make them more condensed and eliminate overlaps. He added that if they do not meet compliance prior to the deadline, they would have to switch to the new standards.

COMMISSIONER ARMENIAN wondered what the benefit of achieving this accreditation was. MR. O'MARA said the biggest component was becoming more standardized with their procedures to ensure every facility is operating in the same way.

COMMISSIONER VOKITS congratulated staff for their progress in achieving CAPRA accreditation and asked if there was anything this Commission could do to help. MR. O'MARA stated that their support and hospitality would be appreciated when the review board visits the following year.

CHAIR BECKER concluded by stating that the 154 best practices were used across the country and gave organizations something to aspire toward.

9. Discussion for possible action regarding the 2026 Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission calendar of presentations and meeting schedule - All Wards

Minutes:

PAT O'MARA, Deputy Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Director, displayed possible meeting topics for 2026 through a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record. He explained that the Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs Department was broken into four divisions: Parks and Grounds Maintenance, Recreation, Administration, and Cultural Affairs. He highlighted each month's topic for discussion in 2026, noting that the Commission would be dark July, August, and December.

CHAIR BECKER advised the Commissioners that if they thought of other topics to discuss throughout the year, they were able to share their topic with himself or staff.

Motion made by Steven Neiger to Approve

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

For-Adrroushan Armenian, Richard Becker, Elizabeth Gebre, Steven Neiger, Melody Howard, Rudy Zamora, Debra Burgos, Sue Ann Cornwell, Bob Robinson, Russell Martin, Brien Vokits, Walter Jones III; Excused-Micaela Keller, Earl Stitt, Bonnie Wohl;

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

Minutes:

COMMISSIONER BURGOS thanked the recreation program that hosted the Woman's Warrior event, adding that many attendees felt it was a great event. She shared there would be a park cleanup event hosted by Get Outdoors Nevada on October 25th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Gilcrease Brothers Park.

CHAIR BECKER announced that there was a new Councilwoman representing Ward 2, who would be hosting a Trunk or Treat event on October 10th at 6:00 p.m. at Bruce Trent Park and a Ward 2 Breakfast Buzz on October 25th from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at Veteran's Memorial Community Center.

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:

ALICIA MIERKE utilized a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record, to provide information regarding the Healing Garden (Garden) and volunteer events that occurred in September and October 2025. She listed volunteer tasks for the Garden, including removal of old rocks, cleaning the water feature, picking up trash, and spreading mulch around trees. Volunteer events were held on September 13th, 20th, and 25th, with over 158 participants from different organizations that helped maintain the vibrant garden. Tile painting fundraising events helped generate \$884.54, which was donated to The Mayor's Fund for Las Vegas LIFE. Over the last three years on October 1, the Garden has hosted a remembrance lunch for the families of the 58 victims. MS. MIERKE concluded by sharing pictures from a Healing in the Outdoor event that occurred on October 3rd at the Garden.

CHAIR BECKER acknowledged the importance of the Garden and thought it was an example of how the community could come together. He noted that COMMISSIONER CORNWELL was prominent in the pictures shown in the PowerPoint.

COMMISSIONER CORNWELL stated that maintaining the Garden was a team effort, and she recognized the Garden as a place to heal. She added that it was not just a place for survivors to visit, but rather anyone wanting to find peace and hope. She expressed gratitude for City staff for their help with the Garden, and she encouraged people to attend the October 1 remembrance ceremony the following year.

COMMISSIONER GEBRE recalled volunteering when the Garden was being built. She commended the improvements that occurred and stated she gets emotional every time she visits.

12. **Adjournment**

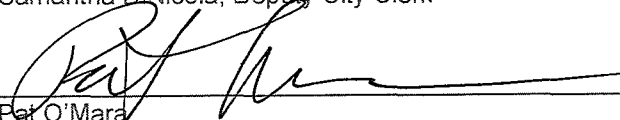
Minutes:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Samantha DiNicola, Deputy City Clerk



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
The Nevada Public Notice website – notice.nv.gov
Civic Center Building A, 525 South Main Street, 1st Floor
City Hall, 495 South Main Street, 1st Floor