



## 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, GEBRE, KELLER (via teleconference), MARTIN, BURGOS (via teleconference), CORNWELL, VOKITS, WOHL (excused until 4:10 p.m.), SLEEZER, and TAYLOR

EXCUSED: COMMISSIONERS ARMENIAN, ZAMORA, ROBINSON and JONES

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](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 new COMMISSIONERS SLEEZER and TAYLOR. He introduced COMMISSIONER SLEEZER as a baseball coach and President of Mountain Ridge Little League, and COMMISSIONER TAYLOR as having experience in city government.

COMMISSIONER SLEEZER thanked COUNCILWOMAN FRANCIS ALLEN-PALENSKE for the opportunity to serve as a Commissioner. As the President of one of the largest little leagues in the state and as a father, he spends multiple days on baseball fields and enjoys time with his family in nearby parks. Professionally, he has worked for federal, state, and local entities, and he expressed his eagerness to get to know the other Commissioners.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR stated that he was appointed by COUNCILWOMAN NANCY BRUNE and that he was born and raised in Las Vegas. He enjoys spending time at Centennial Hills Park and Floyd Lamb Park at Tule Springs, where he learned to fish. He graduated from UNLV (University of Nevada, Las Vegas) with a degree in political science and has since assisted small business owners with regulatory, gaming, and zoning matters. He added that he currently serves on UNLV's College of Liberal Arts Board.

4. For possible action to approve the Final Minutes by reference of the Regular Meeting of November 4, 2025  
Motion made by Brien Vokits to Approve

NOTE: Commissioner Taylor abstained from voting on this item, as he was not present at that meeting.

Passed For: 9; Against: 0; Abstain: 1; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 5

For-Richard Becker, Elizabeth Gebre, Steven Neiger, Micaela Keller, Debra Burgos, Sue Ann Cornwell, Brien Vokits, Russell Martin, Jesse Sleezer; Abstain-Nathan Taylor; Excused-Adroushan Armenian, Rudy Zamora, Bob Robinson, Walter Jones III, Bonnie Wohl;

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

Minutes:

CHAIR BECKER explained that elections were held annually and that himself and COMMISSIONER NEIGER would be honored to continue to serve as Chair and Vice Chair. He welcomed other nominations from any interested Commissioners.

PAT O'MARA, Deputy Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Director, used a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record, to review the nomination and voting procedures. He explained that discussion would begin for the Chair or Vice Chair position, followed by a motion and a vote. If the vote was successful, the Commissioners would proceed to the next position; if not, they would return to discussion and consider a new nomination.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR nominated CHAIR BECKER to serve as chair, and COMMISSIONER MARTIN nominated COMMISSIONER NEIGER to serve as Vice Chair.

Motion made by Nathan Taylor to Approve the nomination of Richard Becker as Chair

Passed For: 10; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 5

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

Motion made by Russell Martin to Approve the nomination of Steven Neiger as Vice Chair

Passed For: 10; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 5

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

6. 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:

PAT O'MARA, Deputy Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Director, stated that, due to the absence of a Department of Public Safety (DPS) representative, the information scheduled for presentation would be deferred until the following month. CHAIR BECKER requested that the reports be shared with the Councilmembers, noting that some were awaiting the information. MR. O'MARA explained that Commissioners with specific questions could submit them to ASHLEY FOSTER, Administrative Secretary, or to himself, and could also address questions directly to the DPS representative at the conclusion of their report.

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 highlighting upgrades at parks within each ward. Improvements included the addition of a fence guard at the little league field at Gary Dexter Park, replacement of trail signage at Angel Park, and installation of a gaga ball pit at Ethel Pearson Park as an Eagle Scout project. He also highlighted upcoming projects, including upgrades to the playground at Police Memorial Park, as well as pickleball court conversions and tennis court resurfacing at Bob Baskin Park.

COMMISSIONER VOKITS complimented the Parks and Grounds staff for their work and expressed appreciation for the new pickleball courts at Bob Baskin Park. He inquired whether the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs communicated project progress to the public. PAT O'MARA, Deputy Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Director, explained that the Department works closely with the communications team to share major accomplishments through social media and press releases. He also noted that ASHLEY FOSTER, Administrative Secretary, was preparing an annual milestones report to be shared with the Commissioners in the spring.

COMMISSIONER SLEEZER thanked staff for successfully securing facilities at Mountain Ridge Park for the upcoming season. He stated that he appreciates the opportunity to work with staff and to communicate needs or ideas for improvements.

COMMISSIONER GEBRE expressed appreciation for the reopening of Ethel Pearson Park, noting that residents were already utilizing the park.

Subsequent discussion on this item occurred under Item 10 and was reopened at the recommendation of DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY JIM LEWIS. COMMISSIONER VOKITS requested a status update on Ansan Sister City Park (Ansan) and the Rancho/Oakey Dog Park. MR. O'MARA stated that the Ansan project began in July and is projected to take 10 months to complete. He further explained that the Rancho/Oakey Dog Park is expected to be a year-long project, with a more definitive ribbon-cutting date anticipated in the third quarter of 2026. COMMISSIONER VOKITS suggested redirecting dog walkers to utilize the new park rather than the nearby pickleball courts due to parking availability.

8. 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 on the City of Las Vegas Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs 2025–2030 Strategic Plan (Plan). The Plan was launched in 2025 and is guided by three primary priorities: training and empowering staff, standardizing practices across the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, and delivering the highest possible quality of service. Training and empowering staff includes programmer and social media training, with budget, reporting and forms, and facility rental trainings scheduled to roll out in 2026. MS. TOVAR explained that standardizing practices across the Department includes implementing a new onboarding process for full-time employees, facility rental standardization, and program development and evaluation procedures to be implemented in the future. To support the goal of delivering the highest quality services, the Communications Department conducted an advertising campaign targeting specific neighborhoods surrounding community centers. The campaign was highly successful, resulting in increased website traffic and a growth in total e-mail subscribers for the affected community centers. MS. TOVAR concluded by stating that one of the Department's goals is to create facility and special event specific e-newsletters for each community center, allowing constituents to subscribe to categories of interest.

COMMISSIONER SLEEZER inquired whether the facility rental training was limited to community centers. MS. TOVAR confirmed that it was, noting that the Municipal Unit's handbook was being referenced for standards.

CHAIR BECKER expressed enthusiasm for the partnership with the Communications Department. He noted that other jurisdictions have dedicated communications staff within their parks departments and commended staff for their accomplishments without such a position.

9. 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, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Director, utilized a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record, to review the Commission's bylaws, which were included in the backup materials. He noted that the bylaws were last updated 10 years ago and have not changed since their adoption. He advised that the Commission's role is to advocate for the community and serve in an advisory capacity when relaying community concerns to City staff.

MR. O'MARA explained that the Commission consists of 15 seats, with Commissioners serving three-year terms, and noted that procedures exist to replace Commissioners due to attendance or behavioral issues. CHAIR BECKER clarified that when previous Commissioners were chronically absent, he contacted them to remind them of their responsibilities. He added that Commissioners serve at the pleasure of the City Councilmember who appointed them while that Councilmember holds office, with the possibility of replacement through new appointments.

MR. O'MARA reviewed the roles of the Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary, noting that the Secretary is a non-voting member. He stated that Commission meetings must be held no less than quarterly and no more than monthly, with regular meetings scheduled for the first Tuesday of the month at 4:00 p.m. He further explained that special meetings may be held at the discretion of the Chair, the Director or designee, at the request of the Commission by majority vote of an agenda item, or upon request by a majority of the Commissioners.

MR. O'MARA suggested administrative clean-ups to the bylaws, including clarification of the Commission meeting location. He encouraged Commissioners to review the bylaws and submit proposed changes to the Chair, ASHLEY FOSTER, Administrative Secretary, and himself. He concluded by stating that Commission meetings would be held in the Public Meeting Room until further notice.

CHAIR BECKER noted that any Commissioner may request an item be added to the agenda by submitting the request to MS. FOSTER, MR. O'MARA, or himself.

MR. O'MARA explained that the park naming policy had been discussed at a November Commission meeting, during which recommendations were submitted. He stated that the policy has not yet been finalized and is currently under review by the City Manager's Office. He anticipated approval of the revisions in March, with the finalized policy to be presented at a future Commission meeting.

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

Minutes:

COMMISSIONER BURGOS shared that the Nevada State Veterans Memorial Groundbreaking Event will take place on January 14th from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Thunderbird Family Sports Complex. She added that the event was a great opportunity to see the Nevada State Veterans Memorial since its relocation from the former Nevada State Building.

COMMISSIONER GEBRE expressed concerns regarding a gathering of unhoused individuals receiving food donations at a park cleanup she attended at Lorenzi Park. She inquired about the number of attendees permitted at an event before a permit is required and noted that a community member had reached out to PAT O'MARA, Deputy Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Director, for information on hosting an event. MR. O'MARA explained that events with 75 or more attendees require a permit. He did not recall receiving a letter requesting information but stated that he would provide the Commissioner with his business card to ensure the correct contact information was shared. He also recommended contacting the Neighborhood Services Department when unhoused individuals are present so they may be connected with available resources. COMMISSIONER GEBRE added that the individuals cleaned up after their event and expressed interest in hosting their own park cleanup events.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR expressed excitement about the new park and police substation being constructed in Ward 6, noting that both were much needed.

COMMISSIONER CORNWELL shared that the Healing Garden would be hosting a workday at 11:00 a.m. on January 24th in order to prepare the garden for an upcoming project scheduled to begin on January 26th.

CHAIR BECKER shared that he spoke with COUNCILWOMAN KARA KELLEY, who expressed interest in touring parks in Ward 2. The Councilwoman introduced him to the new Ward 2 Arts Commissioner who had hopes of adding art installations into parks within Ward 2. The Chair added that the Ward 2 Breakfast Buzz was January 31st from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at Veterans Memorial Community Center. He suggested confirming attendance beforehand at ward2@lasvegasnevada.gov and mentioning parks during the meeting.

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.

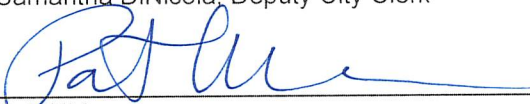
12. **Adjournment**

Minutes:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 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](http://www.lasvegasnevada.gov)

The Nevada Public Notice website – [notice.nv.gov](http://notice.nv.gov)

Civic Center Building A, 525 South Main Street, 1st Floor

City Hall, 495 South Main Street, 1st Floor