



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 ARMENIAN, GEBRE, ZAMORA, BURGOS, CORNWELL, ROBINSON, VOKITS, WOHL, SLEEZER, and TAYLOR

EXCUSED: COMMISSIONERS NEIGER, KELLER, and JONES

ALSO PRESENT: PAT O'MARA, Deputy Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Director; LISA TOVAR, Recreation Manager; ASHLEY FOSTER, Administrative Secretary; REBECCA HOLDEN, Business Specialist; TIM GESWEIN, 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:

CHAIR BECKER reminded the Commissioners to state their name and ward when speaking during the meeting. He also noted that they could contact staff if their questions were not addressed during the meeting.

4. For possible action to approve the Final Minutes by reference of the Regular Meeting of January 6, 2026

Motion made by Jesse Sleezer to Approve

Passed For: 11; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 3

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

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 JONATHAN BURDETTE, Department of Public Safety (DPS), 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 35.7 percent compared to last year, with the highest increases occurring at Gary Reese Freedom Park (Freedom Park) due to increased patrols.

The Lieutenant reviewed the top violations and locations for each ward, noting that the most common citation was for remaining in the park after posted hours of closure. He concluded by sharing information on January COP (Community-Oriented Policing) events, including a LEAD (Law Enforcement Appreciation Day) event at Police Memorial Park and the NAFB (Nellis Air Force Base) National Night Out at Freedom Park.

COMMISSIONER GEBRE asked for clarification regarding the definition of unlawful presence at a children's park. LIEUTENANT BURDETTE explained that certain parks are designated for children only, requiring an adult to be supervising a child age 12 or younger in order to be present in the park.

COMMISSIONER SLEEZER questioned whether a process exists to notify park users when a significant incident occurs at a park. He referenced an event at Mountain Ridge Park and asked how he could have been notified. The Lieutenant advised that no formal notification process is currently in place, adding that if a park needs to be closed, marshals are stationed at the entrances to secure the area. PAT O'MARA, Deputy Director of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs, stated that certain incidents require the DPS Watch Commander to prepare a report that is shared with staff. He clarified that report timelines vary and that while patrons are not typically notified, staff make efforts to communicate during ongoing investigations when appropriate.

COMMISSIONER VOKITS asked whether there was a specific reason for the increase in citations for being in the park after hours and what measures are taken to indicate park closures. The Lieutenant explained that park hours are posted on signs throughout all parks and that park lighting is controlled by timers. He stated that he was unsure whether the increase was attributable to heightened enforcement and advised that citations are typically issued well after park closure, when it appears individuals intend to remain overnight. MR. O'MARA further clarified that parks utilize two types of lighting: amenity lighting, which turns off at 11:00 p.m., and site lighting.

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

Minutes:

PAT O'MARA, Deputy Director of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs, utilized a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record, to display photographs reflecting park upgrades within each ward. Improvements included court resurfacing at Bob Baskin Park and Ethel Pearson Park, as well as regrading and compacting the horse trailer lot at Bradley Bridle Park. He highlighted upcoming projects, including parking lot resurfacing and striping at All American Park, soccer field fence repairs at Jaycee/Leavitt Park (Justice Myron E. Leavitt & Jaycee Community Park), and playground shade replacement at Kianga Isoke (Kianga Isoke Palacio Park). MR. O'MARA added that Jaycee/Leavitt Park was closed for two weeks for deep cleaning, tree planting, painting, and installation of new park entrance gates.

On Slide 8, MR. O'MARA provided updates on citywide park projects. Parks in the design phase included Firefighters Memorial Park, Heers Park, Wildwood Park, Teton Trails Park, and Bradley Bridle Park. He noted that the Lorenzi Park expansion is a SNPLMA (Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act) project and that Freedom Park (Gary Reese Freedom Park) will have restroom replacements and volleyball courts added. The Doolittle Complex will undergo development of a new master plan for the entire site, with a public outreach meeting anticipated in March. Parks in the construction phase included Rancho-Oakey Dog Park, AnSan Sister City Park, Angel Park, and Igor Soldo Park. The Regional Aquatic Complex is expected to open before summer, East Las Vegas Family Park is anticipated to be completed by the fall, and the Regional Pickleball Complex broke ground in January and is expected to take 12 to 14 months to complete. MR. O'MARA stated that staff was developing a master plan for fitness courts within parks to achieve a uniform design citywide. He concluded by advising that the Centennial Hills Park playground and splash pad will be completely replaced, with construction expected to take four to six months following the bid process.

COMMISSIONER SLEEZER requested an update regarding Skye Canyon Park. MR. O'MARA explained that a parcel of land has been designated for a Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD) substation, with a portion allocated for park use. He stated that the project was under construction, with the developer responsible for constructing the park once the substation is completed. Upon completion, the park will be turned over to the City and will include a practice field, obstacle course, and walking path. He added that the park will generally be located at the corner of Hualapai Way and Grand Teton Drive.

COMMISSIONER CORNWELL asked whether obstacles were planned for horses at Bradley Bridle Park. MR. O'MARA advised that staff was currently reviewing site plans to determine available options and feasibility of amenities, stating that public input will be solicited before plans are finalized. The Commissioner thanked staff for the work being done at the Healing Garden (Community Healing Garden) and expressed hope that it would address known issues.

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, providing a recreation update on Peace Week and Black History Month activities held throughout January and February. She noted that a water polo game will take place prior to the Super Bowl on Saturday, February 7th, and that Corporate Challenge registration closes on February 6th, with the games scheduled to run from March 1st through May 16th. MS. TOVAR also displayed current photos and proposed future renderings of the Doolittle Active Adult Center entrance. She explained that concerns had been raised regarding visibility, shade, and safety, and that the updated entrance is intended to address those issues. She added that classes and events will continue throughout construction and that staff was partnering with a nearby school and the Doolittle Community Center to help mitigate parking impacts while a portion of the parking lot is closed for construction.

COMMISSIONER GEBRE agreed with concerns regarding the Active Adult Center entrance and asked whether the parking lot would be restriped. PAT O'MARA, Deputy Director of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs, explained that restriping was not specifically included in the project scope but would be completed shortly after the renovations if not otherwise addressed.

8. Report by Jennifer Kleven, Deputy Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Director, regarding cultural programming - All Wards

Minutes:

JENNIFER KLEVEN, Deputy Director of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs, narrated from a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record, providing an overview of the Cultural Affairs Division. She explained that the Percent for the Arts Program was established in 2003 and is used to purchase and maintain public art. Art projects within the program are considered Capital Improvement Projects, may take several years to complete, and help establish a sense of identity within communities. On Slide 4, a project timeline was presented illustrating how art is selected throughout the city through the Arts Commission. MS. KLEVEN highlighted recent art projects, including the Doc Romeo Skate Park Mural and the Mirabelli (Mirabelli Community Center) Mural Project, with the Heers Park and Centennial Hills Park tile murals expected to be completed later in 2026. She added that both mural projects incorporated community participation and staff input. Recently approved projects included murals at Stupak Community Center, Cimarron Rose Community Center, Doolittle Pool, Pop Squires Park, and the Arts District Garage. She clarified that project contingencies are included in the budget to offset projects that exceed projected costs.

MS. KLEVEN explained that the Cultural Affairs Division includes a Performance and Festivals Section. The Bluegrass Festival is the most popular festival and is held at the Centennial Hills Amphitheater, with Sierra Hull headlining this year. The Caribbean Heritage Festival is scheduled for April 25th at the Sammy Davis Jr. Festival Plaza. The Cultural Affairs Division is also responsible for planning mayoral and City Council events, totaling approximately 500 events annually. She highlighted the West Las Vegas Arts Center, which hosts a 13-week Boys and Girls Rites of Passage Program focused on expanding arts education for teens. The Performing and Visual Arts Camp is an eight-week summer program that concludes with a two-day performance. She added that the West Las Vegas Library has been relocated and that the City plans to transform the parcel into a new arts center. MS. KLEVEN concluded by highlighting the Charleston Heights Arts Center, home to the Rainbow Company Youth Theatre, and explained its partnerships with Vegas City Opera and USA Ballroom.

COMMISSIONER CORNWELL wondered whether the Division has a partnership with the juvenile courts to help engage youth in positive art projects. MS. KLEVEN advised that there is no direct partnership; however, existing partnerships bring youth participants from the Regional Justice Center. The Commissioner also asked whether artists must be well known to submit artwork. MS. KLEVEN explained that public art projects utilize two prequalified artist lists presented to the evaluation panel. The panel determines whether to select an artist from

those lists or open the call for additional artists through the City's website. She recommended joining the mailing list to receive notifications regarding open calls for exhibits.

COMMISSIONER ARMENIAN confirmed with MS. KLEVEN that while artists are not required to be local, approximately 90 percent of projects are awarded to local artists.

COMMISSIONER VOKITS asked about the process a group would follow if it had funding and wished to install an art piece in a park. MS. KLEVEN recommended contacting the appropriate Arts Commissioner to request an item be placed on an Arts Commission agenda for review. Once agendized, the artist would present the project to the Arts Commission for approval and to staff for a feasibility review. She added that the City occasionally receives donated art that is not feasible due to maintenance requirements or site limitations and must decline those donations.

CHAIR BECKER thanked MS. KLEVEN for the report and shared that he recently met with the new Ward 2 Arts Commissioner, noting a great discussion regarding art in parks. MS. KLEVEN recommended sharing contact information with the corresponding Arts Commissioner to stay informed about activities within each ward.

COMMISSIONER GEBRE expressed concern regarding crowd sizes at festivals held at the Sammy Davis Jr. Festival Plaza and asked whether there is a limit on the number of vendors selected. MS. KLEVEN advised that the venue has 10 vendor spaces, noting that vendors may share a space and split the cost, allowing up to two vendors per space. She added that vendor opportunities are advertised through Formstack and a press release announcing availability for each event.

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

Minutes:

COMMISSIONER BURGOS shared that A Games, a sporting event for children on the autism spectrum, would be held on April 11th, with free registration at agameslv.com.

COMMISSIONER SLEEZER stated that Opening Day for Mountain Ridge Little League would take place on March 7th, with a parade at 9:30 a.m. and an opening ceremony at 10:00 a.m.

10. **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.

11. **Adjournment**

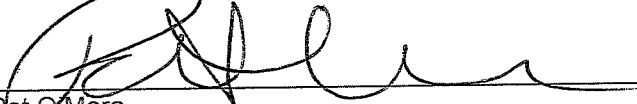
Minutes:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:04 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