

## MINUTES

### Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission July 2, 2019

Commissioner Doug Doolittle called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

#### 1. **Roll Call**

**Members Present:** Doug Doolittle, Chris Nenzel, Stephanie Chen, Darla Lee, Jennifer Oliver, Polly Boardman

**Staff Present:** Eric Crump, Colleen Wallace Barnum, Dave Solaro, Leslie Admirand, Sophia Kirschenman, Kathy Emerson

#### 2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

#### 3. **Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

#### 4. **Approval of the Agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of July 2, 2019**

Motion by Commissioner Oliver to approve the Agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of July 2, 2019. Second by Commissioner Boardman. Motion carried.

#### 5. **Approval of the Minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of June 4, 2019**

Motion by Commissioner Chen to approve the Minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of June 4, 2019. Second by Commissioner Nenzel. Motion carried.

#### 6. **Presentation and Discussion of the Washoe County Park Master Plan. (For Possible Action)**

Eric Crump, Operations Division Director, started the meeting by letting the commissioners know that the entire meeting will be devoted to going over the Park Master Plan draft and gathering their input. Staff has been working on this for several years. Looking forward in terms of schedule, the final draft will be brought to the Park Commission at their August meeting, with a recommendation for the County Commission to hear this item in late August or early September.

Eric Hasty, Planner, with Wood Rodgers started his presentation. He has been working with Washoe County on this project for about two years. They brought it to the public in 2018 and have had several stakeholder meetings. Stakeholders were: developers, people from area park foundations, cities of Reno and Sparks. Public outreach consisted of four meetings in 2018 to get input from the public.

The goals for today's meeting are to receive comments from the commissioners and establish the Executive Summary that will be brought forward to the August meeting. Additional comments will be accepted through July 9, 2019. Staff email addresses have been provided in the presentation.

Below are comments/suggestions offered by the commissioners and staff during the meeting and recorded by Samantha Redmond, Assistant Planner, with Wood Rodgers.

### **General**

- Ensure the text and images for the final master plan document are legible online and in printed documents
- Larger maps should be placed in the appendix
- A table of contents should be located in the beginning
- Add the term “potentially underserved” instead of only “underserved” on the maps containing this phrase
- Page numbers should be reformatted so they are easy to locate
- An appendix with acronyms and definitions, as they relate to parks, could be added to the document
- Adopt a more active voice and assign an entity (when applicable) to complete the priorities/implementation strategies
- Be inclusive of all relationships, maybe a paragraph mentioning all of the entities within washoe county, IVGID, SVGID, GGID, City of Reno Parks, City of Sparks Park, State Parks, BLM, USFS, etc

### **Chapter 1**

- Wildcreek Golf Course should be mentioned as a recent acquisition by Washoe County
- Include Incline Village and Gerlach in the document (e.g. mention bike paths, recreation centers in these areas)
- Dorostkar land donation should be mentioned
- Mention the 2000 bond issue, intended only for park construction and acquisition, not for operations and maintenance

### **Chapter 2**

- Clarify the section on regional versus neighborhood public preferences from the survey
- Include a list of stakeholders either in this chapter or the appendix
- Note that parks can be included within residential developments

### **Chapter 3**

- Clarify that strategies are not listed in order of priority and all the strategies relate to each other
- Reference strategic planning process from ~2004
- Consider including percentage of strategies accomplished
  - However, consider carefully as this information may become dated over time

### **Chapter 4**

- Overall – maps should not have white labels, too challenging to read
- Betsy Caughlin Donnelly Park may not qualify as year-round park, so this should be a consideration with the underserved analysis
- Look at trail connectivity between planning areas of Peavine and North Valleys
- Add mention of collaboration between private developers and cities for RCT funding, either in this section or in a different chapter
- Discuss potential for collaboration with wastewater treatment facilities for non-potable reclaimed water usage at parks
- Discuss potential for collaboration with non-profits and other organizations
- Steamboat Planning Area – Note that while this area may have the least amount of Washoe County owned open space, there is a significant amount of federal land in this area for recreation
- Pyramid Planning Area – Note the existence of the Gerlach General Improvement District
- Truckee Canyon Planning Area – Include the addition of lands adjacent to river and highlight the Lockwood trail

## **Chapter 5**

- Add to “park district feasibility study” to the short-term collaboration section

### **Executive Summary**

- This summary should discuss how to proceed moving forward, detailing the plan, current funding, challenges, opportunities and what agencies can do to support the priorities of this master plan
- Include graphics/statistics from the plan in the executive summary
- Note that Washoe recreational facilities growth is lagging behind demographic/physical growth of region
- Highlight what public agencies need to do to support this master plan
- Note many people moved to this area for recreation opportunities that may not be met with existing setup
- Highlight the benefit parks have to the community both economically and emotionally
- Include comparison of the national average for per capita funding for parks and compare with the Washoe County
- Highlight the public input used to guide this master plan
- Note the beginning of the new Outdoor Recreation Commission
- Metrics for parks and expectation of park facilities have changed

Chair Doolittle reinforced that the commissioners and staff have the opportunity to provide comments and suggest changes until July 9<sup>th</sup>. There will also be another opportunity to look at this at the August commission meeting.

## **7. Director’s Report**

Eric Crump highlighted Board of County Commissioner items that would be of interest to the Commission.

Commissioners Chen and Doolittle were each reappointed by the County Commission to an additional 4-year term.

## **8. Commissioner’s Comments**

Commissioner Oliver said she did the east shore trail and it is a wonderful trail. She thanked the Parks staff. She also requested an update on or the policies that dictate the use of pesticides in parks.

Commissioner Lee said the in-depth presentation of the draft master plan was very helpful.

Chair Doolittle thanked Eric Crump and Colleen Wallace-Barnum for everything they are doing – the parks look great. He was at the ribbon cutting for the trailhead the previous week and it was wonderful.

## **9. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

Meeting adjourned at 4:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Kathy Emerson, Recording Secretary

Approved by Commission in session on September 3, 2019.

  
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Doug Doolittle, Chairman