

**Draft MINUTES**

Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission  
September 3, 2019

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

**1. Roll Call**

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

**Staff Present:** Dave Solaro, Leslie Admirand, Johnna Chism, 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 September 3, 2019**

Motion by Commissioner Oliver to approve the Agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of September 3, 2019. Second by Commissioner Nenzel. Motion carried.

**5. Approval of the Minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of July 2, 2019**

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

**6. Acknowledgment and recognition of Park Operations staff for their outstanding service and contributions to Washoe County**

There were no acknowledgments at today's meeting.

**7. Eagle Scout Presentation**

There was not a presentation at today's meeting.

**8. Presentation by Wood Rodgers, Inc., on the SR-28 Shared Use Path, Parking, Safety and Environmental Improvements Project for the State Route 28 Scenic Byway corridor**

Derek Kirkland with Wood Rodgers, gave a presentation on the SR-28 Shared Use Path. Commissioner Lee asked for confirmation that this is a shared use path rather than just a bike path. Mr. Kirkland confirmed that yes, it is a shared use path. It is under the Federal Highway Administration standards, a 10 foot wide shared use path. Commissioner Lee said she visited the completed east shore part on a Saturday and was astounded by the number of cars parked on the shoulder of the road and how dangerous it was. She asked about the people going over the railsand

whether there are trails to get to the lake? Mr. Kirkland replied that there are trails, they are not formal – they refer to them as “social trails”. These are concerns for the forest service, TRPA, state parks because they are dangerous and can also become erosion issues. With the formal paths, they are starting to see a decrease in using the social trails. They have mapped the social trails and will try to reconfigure them and put people on safer trails when proceeding with the path. Commissioner Lee mentioned that there is not enough parking. She is glad they are doing something about it.

Commissioner Oliver asked about expanding the two lots, whether these were in Incline? Mr. Kirkland said, no, the lots are a couple of miles south of Sand Harbor. Commissioner Oliver asked if the Incline lots are complete or if there are plans to expand those? Mr. Kirkland replied that there are no plans to expand now but there is discussion about expanding the north parking area.

Commissioner Doolittle asked if Nevada State Parks will be looking at the social trails and improving and maybe adding trails? Karen Mullen - Ehly Inc., Consultant for the Tahoe Transportation District, said the social trails from Incline to Sand Harbor were redone with the recreation trails program grants. They revitalized the authorized trails. They decommissioned over almost eight miles of trails in that area and did some maintenance. They hope the same treatment will take place in the next segment – from Sand Harbor to Hwy 50. Commissioner Doolittle asked if the work on the social trails is being done by state parks or is it a combined effort? Ms. Mullen replied that it is a combined effort.

Commissioner Boardman asked if there is a trail at Thunderbird Lodge, whether this would change the way people access the lodge? Ms. Mullen responded that Thunderbird Lodge is excited about the trail coming their direction. They are looking forward to people accessing the lodge from the trail. There may even be a reduced rate for people who come by way of the trail. They are looking at transit being able to help bring people in.

Chair Doolittle thanked Mr. Kirkland and Ms. Mullen for the presentation. He said the trail is wonderful and hopes everyone gets out and uses it because it’s well worth the effort.

## **9. Presentation, discussion and possible recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners on the final draft of the Washoe County Park Master Plan**

Sophia Kirschenman, Park Planner, gave a presentation on the Park Master Plan. She focused on the executive summary which is six pages long and can function as a stand-alone document as it covers all of the main points of the Master Plan. Ms. Kirschenman said staff is proud of the master plan and thinks it provides excellent guidance for the parks program moving forward. They are greatly appreciative of Wood Rodgers for their efforts on this.

Chair Doolittle asked if the draft master plan meets all of the objectives of the operating staff as well as the planning staff? Ms. Kirschenman said it hasn’t been fully presented but she has gone out with most of the operations staff and listened to their perspective on what they feel needs to be updated and what their priorities are. She feels they are consistent with the goals applied in the master plan. Chair Doolittle said he has been concerned with the infrastructure in the parks system for the last 20 years and the ability to find funding to continue maintenance for existing parks and planning for future parks. He asked how that is going to be addressed? Park Planner Kirschenman said the funding will come from opportunities that arise. Most of the planned new parks are collaboration with developers, a lot of the funding will come from private entities. Some of the new funding

opportunities they are seeing are coming from the new State conservation bond. They will explore other opportunities to collaborate within the County when the situation arises. Chair Doolittle asked whether this is addressed in the master plan. Ms. Kirschenman said the plan recognizes the challenges in funding and staffing limitations. There will be a lot of creativity by staff; looking for grant opportunities, etc. Chair Doolittle is concerned about maintaining existing and new parks. The infrastructure gap will continue to broaden as we go through years.

Chair Doolittle opened public Comment:

Heidi Anderson, Executive Director of Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation, said the Parks Foundation was excited to see the completion of a service plan in the master plan. It can possibly address some of the concerns which would be the lack of funding for maintenance concerns going forward. As the plan alludes to, this will help assess the gap in funding for operations, maintenance, infrastructure, capital needs, and that first step in creating a park district which could be the funding that's needed for park trails, open spaces, management. The Parks Foundation has been working on this with the City of Reno and she would encourage Washoe County to start having those conversations with the City of Reno to get the service plans funded and done and hopefully finding the funds for our parks.

Motion by Commissioner Oliver to recommend to the Board of County Commissioner approval of the 2019 Parks Master Plan. Second by Commissioner Chen. Motion carried.

**10. Presentation, discussion and possible recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners on the Blackstone Estates Park Agreement between Washoe County and JC Blackstone, LLC for use of Residential Construction Tax funds [not to exceed \$280,000] to build the Blackstone Estates Park**

Sophia Kirschenman, Park Planner, gave some information and background on the agreement with JC Blackstone, LLC, on the use of the Residential Construction Tax fund generated by the Blackstone Estates and Sugarloaf Ranch subdivisions for the construction of a neighborhood park. The subdivisions will be located northeast of the intersection of Pyramid Highway and Calle de la Plata. The total amount of funds expected to be generated is \$280,000 as there are 280 approved lots. The park property will not be deeded to Washoe County but will be owned, operated and maintained by the HOA in perpetuity. Washoe County staff have been working with the developer on the design of the park, the conceptual design will include playground infrastructure, walking paths, turf areas and a pet station, among other things. Staff does feel that this is consistent with the 2019 Master Plan as this is a collaboration between Washoe County and the developer, which is identified as a strategy in the Master Plan. The Master Plan identifies underserved residents located less than one mile away from the location of this park that would be served by the Blackstone Estates park. Construction is expected to be completed in the next 9-12 months. After construction is complete, the developer will submit a line item invoice to Washoe County and will begin building. The developer will submit invoices on a quarterly basis until all of the RCT funds that have been generated through these subdivisions have been reimbursed to the developer. Staff is working with the developer to create a park maintenance plan to be included in the HOA's CC&R's. A maintenance agreement must be executed between Washoe County and the HOA before the property is deeded to the HOA. This is all included in the agreement. Staff is recommending approval of the agreement.

Chair Doolittle asked about the completion date for the park. Ms. Kirschenman said the developer expects the park to be completed in 9-12 months, all of the lots should be completed in 18 months.

Motion by Commissioner Chen to recommend to the Board of County Commissioner approval of the Blackstone Estates Park Agreement between Washoe County and JC Blackstone, LLC for use of Residential Construction Tax funds [not to exceed \$280,000] to build the Blackstone Estates Park. Second by Commissioner Oliver. Motion carried.

There was no public comment.

## 11. **Program/Park of the Month**

### **Volunteer Programs Updates - Denise Evans**

Denise Evans, Volunteer Coordinator for Washoe County Parks gave a presentation and an update on the program. The volunteer program is in its tenth year. They are up to 17,000 volunteer hours for last year which is equivalent to eight full time positions. Ms. Evans thanked the Park Commission staff since they are also volunteers.

Commissioner Lee thanks Ms. Evans for being a fantastic coordinator and for doing a great job.

Chair Doolittle echoed that and said Ms. Evans has done a great job leading this effort. Ten years is remarkable. He also thanked all of the volunteers. The parks can always use volunteers, they help in so many ways. Especially since funding has been reduced, the volunteers have picked up the slack and have done a great job.

## 12. **Parks Reports**

Dave Solaro, Interim County Manager, highlighted the park reports. The Hunter Creek Crossing at the Michael D. Thompson trailhead bridge is in. That's a big win for the community. The Crystal Peak Park art installation is complete. Public art in public places is an important thing in our community. There are four sites for the Truckee River clean-up on September 28th: Mayberry; Dorostkar, Ambrose, and Lockwood parks. The Great Reno Balloon Races will be starting this week with a media day on Thursday. This is a crowning jewel for the love of our parks. Mr. Solaro also informed the commission and public that all of the splash parks and pools are closed for the season. He thanked the crews that are taking care of the parks – they do a fantastic job.

Chair Doolittle agreed that staff has done a great job keeping the parks green and maintained and asked that this be extended to the operations staff. He also asked if they will get a detailed golf report sometime. Mr. Solaro responded that they could arrange for that.

## 13. **Director's Report**

Dave Solaro highlighted Board of County Commissioner items that would be of interest to the Commission.

The Board accepted the annual donation from the May Foundation which is helpful for staff to continue the operations at the park and provide training opportunities for staff. The Board accepted the purchase and sale agreement for D.R. Horton drainage easement down south of Zolezzi Lane. The funding agreement regarding the residential construction tax for neighborhood park development with the Sun Valley General Improvement District was approved. As of around July

19<sup>th</sup> Washoe County became the owner of a third golf course as part of the Wildcreek sale with the RSCVA and the school district. The commission will see some informational items concerning improvements to the golf course in the future. Mr. Solaro said that an end of season wrap up on the golf courses could be brought to the commission in November.

Chair Doolittle asked if consideration is being given to an 18-hole executive course? Mr. Solaro replied that this is being presented in the architect's concepts.

#### **14. Commissioner's Comments**

Commissioner Oliver said she is a regular park attendee and is at the regional parks at least once or twice a week and is always impressed with staff and the grounds. She thanked staff.

Commissioner Chen passed around a magnetic information sheet. The Health District and GIS partnered to create an interactive parks directory. This is to remind everyone to use our local parks – it includes all parks in Washoe County, Reno and Sparks.

#### **15. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

Meeting adjourned at 3:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kathy Emerson, Recording Secretary

Approved by Commission in session on October 1, 2019.

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Doug Doolittle, Chairman