

## MINUTES

### Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission October 1, 2019

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

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

**Members Present:** Doug Doolittle, Stephanie Chen, Tom Guinn, Darla Lee, Chris Nenzel, Jennifer Oliver

**Staff Present:** Kitty Jung, Eric Crump, Colleen Wallace-Barnum, Dave Solaro, Leslie Admirand, 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 October 1, 2019**

Motion by Commissioner Oliver to approve the Agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of October 1, 2019. Second by Commissioner Guinn. Motion carried.

#### 5. **Approval of the Minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of September 3, 2019**

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

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

Colleen Wallace Barnum, Parks Operations Superintendent, recognized Marie Fong, Park Ranger, who started working for Washoe County as a seasonal employee in 1996. She is presently working at Rancho San Rafael Park as a Park Ranger II. She has worked in most of the regional parks at one time or another. Ms. Fong has 15 years of continuous service. Ms. Fong was presented with a certificate.

Ms. Barnum recognized Bill Carlos. Mr. Carlos started with Washoe County with the Cooperative Extension 1984. He has 35 years of continuous service with Washoe County. Mr. Carlos has been working at the May Arboretum for the last 15 years. He does a tremendous job with volunteers and staff. Mr. Carlos was presented with a certificate. Chair Doolittle thanked Bill for the great job he has done for the past 35 years. Mr. Carlos replied that it has been a lot of fun.

#### 7. **Eagle Scout Presentation**

There was not a presentation at today's meeting.

8. Update and Presentation on Smoke Free/Vape Free Parks by Kelli Seals, Washoe County Health District

Kelli Seals gave an update and presentation on the Smoke Free/Vape Free Parks. This is a combined regional effort between Washoe County, City of Reno, City of Sparks, and the Sun Valley General Improvement District. Signage is being put up in the parks. Staff will be following up to evaluate and monitor the success of the program. Ms. Seals thanked the Commission for their work on this. She recognized Chris Nenzel as the Commission's representative on the working group and Eric Crump, who participated in the work group meetings. She recognized Amy Ventetuolo for communications help and Colleen Wallace Barnum for help with the signage. Ms. Seals presented the Commission with a certificate of participation.

Chair Doolittle thanked Eric Crump, Colleen Wallace Barnum, Chris Nenzel, the rest of the commissioners, and the County commissioners for supporting this effort.

Commissioner Jung asked if the Washoe County campus (9<sup>th</sup> Street) is vape and smoke free. Ms. Seals answered no. She will follow up to see if this will be brought to the County Commission in the future. Commissioner Jung suggested that since it takes \$.22 to clean up a pack of cigarettes that each pack should be taxed that amount. She asked for a follow-up on this, also. She thanked Ms. Seals.

9. **Review and possible recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners on an agreement between Washoe County, Tianyu Arts and Culture and the May Arboretum Society for Dragon Lights Reno to take place within the May Arboretum and Botanical Garden for 5 weeks from late June through early August 2020. (For Possible Action)**

Colleen Wallace Barnum, Park Operations Superintendent went over the draft agreement for the Dragon Lights Reno. In 2018, there were 62,000 visitors over 37 days to the arboretum which was a pretty big impact on the site. They took a year off to see if the grounds recovered well. Staff, the May Arboretum Society and Tianyu Arts discussed changes: they included using a section of the Nevada Farms and Families which is a wide open area; they also negotiated that the event will be held June – August, with a five week minimum; Tianyu Arts requested additional days for tear down and set up so staff added an additional 7 days for tear down. Parking was challenging last time, so they will allow some in-park parking and will try to have off-site parking with a shuttle. They added provisions to protect the arboretum as much as possible. There will be 90:10 split with proceeds, with Tianyu getting 90% and Washoe County getting 10%. The 10% is dedicated to the May Arboretum Society's donation account. If total sales go over 1M dollars, Washoe County will get another 5%. They are still negotiating the dates.

Commissioner Nenzel asked if the sales go over 1M, does the County get 15% of the total sales or 15% of the sales above the 1M? Ms. Wallace Barnum said that should be negotiated in the final contract.

Commissioner Lee asked if whether Tianyu Arts will provide more staffing? Ms. Wallace Barnum said that Tianyu Arts likes to use local staffing. There will be one liaison from Tianyu Arts to take care of staffing and hiring with Washoe County. Commissioner Lee said she is glad they are taking more care to avoid potential damage to the grounds. She also noticed a typo under the "promoters responsibilities" – it should read "if the promoter **does not** have all of the equipment removed..." instead of "does".

Commissioner Jung thanked Commissioner Lee for safeguarding the protection of the condition of the park.

Commissioner Doolittle wanted to make certain of the impact on daily use and weddings at the park. Ms. Wallace Barnum answered that revenue loss for these in 2018 was around \$15,000. There will be an impact. The museum will be left open for reservations. The arboretum will be open and free during the day for daily use to see the exhibits. Chair Doolittle asked how the daily reports of revenue are audited. Ms. Wallace Barnum replied the fiscal compliance officer will audit the reports. They will cap the number of people at 3,600.

Commissioner Oliver said Section 4.a. of the agreement states that free access to the arboretum during the day does not include weekends. Ms. Wallace Barnum said she will work on the wording. The arboretum will be open all days.

Chair Doolittle asked if the agreement will come back to the Commission in a final form? Ms. Wallace Barnum replied that they are going to try to get it to the County Commission on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Commissioner Jung said she will make sure the changes get made.

There was no public comment.

Motion by Commissioner Oliver to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners approval of the agreement between Washoe County, Tianyu Arts and Culture and the May Arboretum Society for Dragon Lights Reno to take place within the May Arboretum and Botanical Garden for 5 weeks from late June through early August 2020. Second by Commissioner Nenzel with the stipulation that the Park Commission changes are included. Motion carried.

## 10. Program/Park of the Month

### **-Presentation on the 2019 Hawkins Amphitheater Season at Bartley Ranch Regional Park – Zach Lewis, Recreation Specialist**

Colleen Wallace Barnum introduced Zach Lewis, recreation specialist, managing the Hawkins Amphitheater, in his fifth season. Zach works full time for the school district – this is a second job for him. He has a tremendous amount of dedication. Zach gave a presentation on the background, location, and information about the amphitheater. They get a lot of support from the Robert Z. Hawkins Foundation.

Commissioner Jung thanked Mr. Lewis for his dedication. The Hawkins Amphitheater is one of her favorite venues.

## 11. Parks Reports

Colleen Wallace Barnum highlighted the park reports. The annual KTMB clean-up occurred last Saturday (9/28). They had record numbers of volunteers. Mayberry, Dorostkar, Ambrose, Lockwood, and Galena Creek parks were cleaned up; Park Ranger Nick Steuer has been hosting several Story Strolls on Saturdays at Davis Creek Park. They have been quite popular. There is another one coming up on October 5<sup>th</sup>; Bower's mansion will have a civil war reenactment on October 19<sup>th</sup> from 10-3; the great Reno Balloon Race was a success, the balloons couldn't go up on Sunday but Saturday was a record breaking attendance day; the last walk with Washoe is today

(October 1<sup>st</sup>) at Rancho San Rafael Park; there is an Art of Aloha exhibit at the May Center Museum which closes October 20<sup>th</sup>.

Staff will be conducting interviews for the permanent, part time Range Safety Officer position in a few weeks.

Joanne Lowden, Natural Resource Planner, highlighted some items on the planning report: The Hunter Creek Bridge project was completed in August. This was a combined project with the Forest Service. They are gearing up for the Crystal Peak planting volunteer event on October 12<sup>th</sup>, a partnership project with the Nevada Land Trust and funding from REI. If anyone is interested in volunteering, they are starting at 9am at Crystal Peak Park.

Chair Doolittle asked about impacts to any of the parks from fires. There was about an acre burned in Cold Springs Park and they are planning to do some restoration in the fall.

## **12. Director's Report**

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

The Board followed the recommendation of the Park Commission and approved the 2019 Regional Parks Master Plan on September 24<sup>th</sup>. The document will serve as the guide moving forward for the next decade or two. Mr. Crump thanked staff, Colleen Wallace Barnum and Sophia Kirschenman.

The Board awarded a contract for the re-roofing of the historic Huffaker schoolhouse for over \$100,000 with contingency built in.

Staff is working on the request by Commissioner Oliver regarding the use of pesticides in County parks. They plan to present that at the November meeting.

## **13. Commissioner's Comments**

Commissioner Lee relayed a comment by one of her friends who takes her dog to the dog park at Rancho San Rafael Park. She thought that if there was a fee charged, it might help funding to completely fence in the dog park area. Also, a bench or two and a restroom would be beneficial.

Commissioner Guinn asked folks to put a rock or secure the cover somehow on their trash cans when it is windy. This will prevent the trash cans from falling over and making a mess. Second, it is now rutting season for deer. He would ask that people keep their distance from them and don't feed them. Also, he appreciated the passes for the balloon races.

Commissioner Nenzel thanked everyone for the work they put in on the presentations and the gathering of data. In addition, now that the cows are no longer at Betsy Caughlin Donnelly Park, he hopes that the park will reopen to the public.


Chair Doolittle thanked staff for their hard work during the summer season.

**14. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

Meeting adjourned at 3:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Kathy Emerson, Recording Secretary

Approved by Commission in session on November 5, 2019.

*for Doug*

  
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Doug Doolittle, Chairman

