

MINUTES

Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission February 4, 2020

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

1. **Roll Call**

Members Present: Polly Boardman, Heidi Anderson, Doug Doolittle, Thomas Guinn, Chris Nenzel, Jennifer Oliver, Greg Shorts

Staff Present: Eric Crump, Colleen Wallace-Barnum, Michael Large, Kathy Emerson

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

3. **Public Comments**

No Public Comments

4. **Approval of the Agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of February 4, 2020.**

Motion by Commissioner Doolittle to approve the Agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of January 7, 2020. Second by Commissioner Nenzel. Motion carried.

5. **Approval of the Minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of January 7, 2020.**

Motion by Commissioner Oliver to approve the minutes. Second by Commissioner Shorts. Motion carried unanimously.

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

No items.

7. **Eagle Scout Presentation**

Commissioner Boardman requested that this item be held until the Eagle Scout arrived and continued to items eight through eleven before returning to item seven.

Nick Steuer, Washoe County Park Ranger based out of Davis Creek Regional Park, introduced, Eagle Scout Hyrum Gardner from Troop 240. Mr. Gardner's Eagle Scout project incorporated replacing sixteen fire pits and refurbishing four picnic tables by sanding or recoating them. Home Depot and United Rentals donated materials and twenty-five volunteers donated their time and labor to the effort. Mr. Gardner helped organizing the volunteers into groups for efficiency.

Commissioner Boardman thanked Mr. Gardner for his presentation.

Commissioner Doolittle thanked Mr. Gardner for his courage to stand in front of a large board and make his presentation. Mr. Doolittle especially thanked Mr. Gardner for volunteering asking him never to stop because people need help everywhere.

Commissioner Nenzel thanked Mr. Gardner for his hard work on behalf of all the people who will utilize the benches and fire fits.

Commissioner Shorts congratulated Mr. Gardner on his project and asked him what brought him the most job during the project or made him the happiest. Mr. Gardner responded that he really enjoyed helping the community and upgrading the facilities. Commissioner Shorts thanked Mr. Gardner.

Commissioner Oliver thanked Mr. Gardner for taking the time to help the community and making an impact to improve the resources that everyone uses. Commissioner Oliver also thanked him for making the presentation.

8. Presentation, discussion and possible recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners to approve an agreement between Washoe County and Reno Tennis Club for Washoe Tennis Center (For Possible Action)

Ms. Colleen Wallace-Barnum presented an agreement between Washoe County and Reno Tennis Club (RTC) for Washoe Tennis Center that Washoe County is recommending for approval before the Board of County Commissioners. Washoe Tennis Center has a total of six tennis courts situated off Moana Lane within the Washoe Golf Course area in Reno, Nevada. Since 2007, Washoe County has had an agreement with RTC to allow exclusive use of the courts in exchange for their operation management and maintenance. The agreement requires that \$3000 annually be placed into the maintenance of the area. RTC routinely invests four to five times this amount annually maintaining and improving the courts and surrounding facilities. Examples include resurfacing the courts on a three-year cycle, installing landscaping, reconstructing a new backboard for players to hit against, and repairing a deck and seating area. Ms. Wallace-Barnum thanked RTC for their public-private partnership with Washoe County and their continued excellence in maintaining the courts. Ms. Wallace-Barnum stated that Washoe County is in full support of the agreement, and though there are discussions about RTC finding better ways to operate in the future, they'd like to secure the agreement before discussing ways to improve their membership base and possibly charge fees.

Commissioner Doolittle thanked Ms. Wallace-Barnum for the presentation and asked how many hours of exclusive use was in the new agreement. The attachment of the agreement notates that RTC must have at least one court open to the public at all times and exclusive use of the rest of the courts is allowed during their normal "league play" for designated hours. Commissioner Doolittle asked about tournaments and special events with regards to court use. Ms. Wallace-Barnum stated that pre-approval is required for those special events when all six courts may be utilized and is reviewed on a case by case basis.

Commissioner Nenzel commented that RTC appears to donate upwards of \$12,000 to the courts. Ms. Wallace-Barnum stated that she is unaware of RTC's fees to join the club, but that they are required per the agreement to place at least \$3000 of those fees into the maintenance of the courts. Ms. Wallace-Barnum reiterated that they routinely spend three to four times that amount resurfacing the courts and manage the maintenance based on their own budget. Ms. Wallace-Barnum offered to obtain exact numbers for the board if they would like them. Commissioner Nenzel requested staff to conduct an impact study of RTC member vs. non-RTC members utilizing the courts and inquired if one had been

conducted in the past. Operations Division Direct, Eric Crump, stated that the agreement with RTC has renegotiated the exclusivity of the agreement about two terms ago based on the impacts to the public. Washoe County reduced the number of courts allowed for use during RTC's league play and asked that one court be available to the public at all times. Mr. Crump stated that while these are public courts, Washoe County recognizes that the public greatly benefits from RTC's use and regular maintenance of the courts.

Commissioner Oliver asked if Washoe County was hearing any public feedback about not having access to the courts during league play. Ms. Wallace-Barnum stated that they do receive negative feedback and noted that there may be a public perception that one must be a member of RTC to use the courts, but protections have been put in place ensure the public still has access to at least one court. Ms. Wallace-Barnum reiterated that the facilities would not be in the great condition that they are without RTC's continued maintenance and presence. Commission Doolittle noted that RTC players have their own complaints regarding how to get onto the court and how long they may stay on the courts, but that there haven't been that many complaints from the outside.

Ms. Wallace-Barnum stated that there is one change in the agreement presented before the commission on page four. The agreement would be retroactive, commencing January 28th, 2020, but would go before the Board of County Commissioners on February 25th, 2020.

Commissioner Nenzel asked if this agreement was a renewal. Ms. Wallace-Barnum stated that the agreement was not a renewal. The agreement is for three years with two one-year renewals. This agreement is for the next "set" of five years. This agreement is for the next three years with the opportunity for two one-year renewals in the future. Ms. Wallace-Barnum stated current agreement is the second or third agreement that has been presented before the Commission.

No public comment.

Commissioner Doolittle moved to recommend approval to the Board of County Commissioners of an agreement between Washoe County and Reno Tennis Club for Washoe Tennis Center. Commissioner Nenzel seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Program/Park of the Month

Park Rangers Andrew Brown and Bob Holland presented the Park Ranger Association of California (PRAC) Conference 2020 which would be hosted by Washoe County this year. PRAC is an organization created for Park Rangers and other uniformed park employees in California and Nevada that seeks to establish professional standards through certification, legislation, and interagency cooperation. PRAC is made up of five regions and Ranger Brown has been the director of Region 5, the entire state of Nevada, since 2016. PRAC provides training and networking opportunities with local government agencies and non-profits. PRAC 2020 Conference will be held at Whiney Peak Hotel March 2-5, 2020, and will include several training sessions held by Washoe County staff members from Parks, Washoe County Manager's Office, the Washoe County Sheriff's Office, and the May Arboretum.

Commissioner Doolittle congratulated both park rangers on their leadership and involvement in the organization. Commissioner Doolittle especially congratulated them for bringing PRAC to the area

Commissioner Nenzel wished to “echo” Commissioner Doolittle’s praise of bringing the conference to the area and hoped that in the future PRAC would choose more areas of Nevada to hold the conference giving them opportunities to see more diverse parks.

Commissioner Boardman thanked Park Rangers Andrew Brown and Bob Holland.

10. Park District Report

Ms. Wallace-Barnum, Parks Operations Superintendent, reported that Christmas Tree Recycling numbers were reported to be about 3000 at Rancho San Rafael and 3000 at Bartley Ranch.

The “Come in From the Cold” winter family series is on program number five, at Bartley Ranch. These music programs last about an hour long with approximately one hundred people in attendance.

The Gardening in Nevada series in partnership with the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension begins tonight, Tuesday, February 4th.

Ms. Wallace-Barnum also stated that interviews were conducted for Park Ranger and Recreation Coordinator positions and they hope to introduce some new people to the Commission soon.

Ms. Wallace-Barnum distributed passes to the commissioner earlier for the Animation Academy which starts February 15th at the Wilbur D. May Museum.

Commissioner Doolittle asked when the budget would be presented for the budget for this year. Ms. Wallace-Barnum stated that the Assistant County Manager, Dave Solaro, may have more information about the budget during his report. Mr. Solaro, stated that a budget update would be presented in March. Commissioner Doolittle asked when the budget would be presented to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). Mr. Solaro stated that after presentations were made between the budget team, all Assistant County Managers, the County Manager, who then presents to the Board of County Commissioners individually, before presenting to the Board in a public meeting scheduled for May. Commissioner Doolittle asked if the Parks Commission would have input before the presentations to the Assistant County Managers. Mr. Solaro stated that at the last meeting he had requested any thoughts be submitted by email and to this date none have been received. There would not be a discussion in a public setting due to the current status of covering the escalating costs of the County and not having a lot within the budget to cover above-base requests county-wide.

11. Director’s Report

Assistant County Manager, Dave Solaro, January 2020, the Board of County Commissioners approved two easement agreements between Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) and Washoe County in both Arrow Creak and Sugar Loaf Peak.

The County is continuing to work through their budgeting process, receiving input from Park staff with a deadline of this coming Friday to submit any further requests for the upcoming budget. Mr. Solaro will bring an update of the budget in March.

Mr. Solaro hopes to have a full presentation of the Wild Creek Golf Course plans before construction begins.

Commissioner Doolittle asked Mr. Solar to clarify if the type of input he is requesting is for both budget and infrastructure preservation (IP). Mr. Solaro stated that they are requesting input for operation budget, but that IP input could be given at any time and is not tied to this operation budget that is currently under review

Commissioner Boardman thanked Mr. Solaro.

Michael Large, Deputy District Attorney, requested that the commission take a five-minute recess to allow accommodations for the Eagle Scout to arrive.

12. Commissioner's Comments
No Commissioner Comments

13. Public Comment
No Public Comment


14. Adjournment
Meeting adjourned at 3:20PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Johnna Chism, Office Support Specialist

Approved by Commission in session on March 3, 2020.



Chair

