

**Draft MINUTES**

Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission  
September 1, 2020

The Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission met in a scheduled session on Tuesday, September 1, 2020, in the Washoe County Commission Chambers, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada.

No members of the public were allowed in the Commission Chambers due to concerns for public safety resulting from the COVID-19 emergency and pursuant to the Governor of Nevada's Declaration of Emergency Directive 006 Section 1 which suspends the requirement in NRS 241.023(1)(b) that there be a physical location designated for meetings of public bodies where members of the public are permitted to attend and participate. This meeting was held by teleconference only.

The meeting was televised live and replayed on Washoe Channel at:

<https://www.washoecounty.us/mgrsoff/Communications/wctv-live.php> also on YouTube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/WashoeCountyTV>

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

**1. Roll Call**

**Members Present in Chambers:** Doug Doolittle, Darla Lee

**Members Present via Zoom:** Heidi Anderson, Stephanie Chen, Chris Nenzel, Greg Shorts (joined the meeting at 2:41 pm)

**Members Absent:** Thomas Guinn, Jennifer Oliver

**Staff Present:** Lindsay Liddell, Kathy Emerson, Katy Stark

**Staff Present via Zoom:** Dave Solaro, Eric Crump, Colleen Wallace-Barnum, Sophia Kirschenman

**Staff Present via Phone:** Commissioner Kitty Jung was present for a few minutes. She had to leave the meeting due to technical difficulties with the phone line and Zoom.

**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 1, 2020**

Motion by Commissioner Doolittle to approve the Agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of September 1, 2020. Second by Commissioner Anderson. Motion carried.

**5. Approval of the Minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of August 4, 2020**

Motion by Commissioner Anderson to approve the Minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of August 4, 2020. Second by Commissioner Nenzel. Motion carried.

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

Colleen Wallace-Barnum acknowledged several Park Operations staff for their service. She said that they have 145 years of service to recognize today through seven different employees.

Samantha Szesciorka is the Parks Operations Recreation Coordinator and works out of the May Museum. Her certificate is for five years of continuous service. Samantha started with the County in 2010 as a volunteer, she then moved on to become a seasonal employee for one season. She was then hired as a contract employee for three years before becoming full time with Washoe County. Samantha has strong marketing skills and takes care of the collection very well. She also does a great job at the museum. She handles a lot of the smaller exhibits that come in. Ms. Wallace-Barnum thanked Samantha for her hard work and hopes she has many more years with Washoe County.

Gregorio Garcia is a Parks Operations Maintenance worker. He started at the South shop in 2005 and worked from there for a couple of years. He currently works out of the shop at North Valleys. He primarily maintains parks in the Spanish Springs area: Lazy 5, Desert Winds, Eagle Canyon, Gator Swamp. He does a really good job taking care of those parks. If you ever meet Gregorio, you will see a smile on his face. Ms. Wallace-Barnum thanked Gregorio and congratulated him on 15 years of service.

Bradon Franklin started as a seasonal employee with Parks Operations. He then worked for two years as a Park Aide Ranger and for a few years as a Park Aide Maintenance worker, both with the Arboretum and Rancho San Rafael Park. He was hired as a Park Maintenance worker, spending time at the south shop before transitioning to the Arboretum full time. Bradon is a certified arborist. Ms. Wallace-Barnum thanked Bradon and congratulated him on 15 years of service.

Paul Brunner is a Parks Operations Equipment Mechanic. He works out of Rancho San Rafael Park. Paul started at Washoe Golf Course – he was there for about 12 years and then moved on to Rancho San Rafael where he is the ground equipment mechanic. Two years ago, he and Colleen went through every shop and every piece of equipment that they had. She was very impressed with his knowledge base. He helped create a budget that they have now for their medium equipment. Ms. Wallace - Barnum thanked Paul for all of his hard work and for 15 years of service.

Jen Conlan started at Sierra Sage Golf Course as a mechanic. She also did some maintenance work there. She was in the south region for four years and then came to Rancho San Rafael Park. She has been at Rancho for the last eight years. All of the amazing turf, the trees, everything at Rancho that is not part of the arboretum is Jen's responsibility and she does a tremendous job. Jen has a lot of dedication and is very good with the special event groups. Ms. Wallace-Barnum thanked Jen and congratulated her on 20 years of service.

Kristy Lide is the curator at the May Museum. She has 35 years of continuous service. She started with the County in 1985 as a Park Planner. She was in that position for three years. She then moved on to the Museum where at one time she was the superintendent and oversaw the museum, arboretum and the Great Basin Adventure. She then transitioned to just overseeing the museum. She pretty much knows the history of the May Center and the museum. She has been there since that has been in operation at Rancho San Rafael. Kristy is accommodating to anyone who comes into the May Center. She does a great job and has put together the traveling exhibits for many, many years. Ms. Wallace-Barnum congratulated Kristy on 35 years with Washoe County. Kristy said it's been fun.

Joe Perody is getting a certificate for 40 years with Washoe County. Ms. Wallace-Barnum is calling him the "living legend". Joe started as a seasonal employee at Sierra Sage Golf Course, then he worked

out of Rancho at the central shop on the ball fields. Basically, Joe has worked on every ball field that they have at every one of the Washoe County parks and has probably worked at every park in Washoe County. He is currently working out of the North maintenance shop and takes care of all of the fields in the north: North Valleys, Eagle Canyon, Lazy 5 and he does a great job. She is super proud to say thank you for all of the years he has been there and showing up and doing a great job for Washoe County.

Ms. Wallace-Barnum said it is her privilege and honor to be able to recognize these employees in front of the Commission and to show how much dedication their employees really do have for the department.

Commissioner Doolittle said it has been his great privilege to work with each and every one the staff. The amount of time they have put in with the County and the parks system has been absolutely tremendous and their growth has been outstanding. He applauds all of their efforts. He wishes they were here in person so he could shake their hands. He told them to keep on with the good job that they've been doing. He said it's great hearing their names & seeing their faces and knowing that they are still out there contributing to the County and to the people who enjoy the parks. Thank you.

Chair Chen added congratulations and thanked all of the staff for their years of service and commitment to Washoe County Parks Operations. She said it was great for Colleen to share a little bit about each employee.

Commissioner Nenzel said that it sounds like a few people have found a job that they love and that's a rare thing. He complimented all of them for that.

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

There was not a presentation at today's meeting.

#### 8. **Presentation, discussion and possible recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners to approve an Easement Deed granting an easement (totaling ±47 square feet) to NV Energy on APN 038-112-09 in Verdi, NV for the placement of an underground anchor to support the relocation of an existing power pole above the Truckee River ordinary high water mark. (For Possible Action)**

Sophia Kirschenman, Park Planner, provided a staff presentation. Brandi Quaglieri with NV Energy was on the line for any questions. There were no questions from Commissioners.

Motion by Commissioner Doolittle to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners to approve an Easement Deed granting an easement (totaling ±47 square feet) to NV Energy on APN 038-112-09 in Verdi, NV for the placement of an underground anchor to support the relocation of an existing power pole above the Truckee River ordinary high water mark. Second by Commissioner Shorts. Motion carried.

#### 9. **Program/Park of the Month - Greenhouse Operations within the May Arboretum and Botanical Garden – Bill Carlos, Washoe County Horticulturalist**

Bill Carlos gave a presentation on the May Arboretum Greenhouse. The arboretum is a Nationally accredited Level II arboretum. It was dedicated in August 2017. Bill said it has been a bonus for

them to be able to do what they are doing and help the community and employees while also saving money on costs of plants for the arboretum as well as the Parks Department.

Chair Chen thanked Bill for his presentation. He and his team are doing tremendous work. She also added that it was a pleasure working with Bill during the installation of the employee community garden in the courtyard. She appreciated the collaboration to get the garden up and running.

Commissioner Doolittle said it was a very impressive presentation. The facility is impressive and he thanked Bill for all of the planning that went into it. He is very appreciative of everything Bill, Phil and Bradon have done and are doing. It's wonderful that they can provide this to the community. Unfortunately, with COVID-19, they can't do as much as they'd like to do. The volunteers over the years have been outstanding. He also recognized the Wilber D. May Foundation for all of the monetary support that they have provided and all the moral support, too. He said he would like to get to the arboretum for a tour soon if that's allowed. Bill said yes, he would love to have him come up and show him all of the changes that are happening at the arboretum.

#### 10. **Parks Reports**

Colleen Wallace-Barnum did not have any highlights but said she can answer any questions. She gave a more detailed presentation at the last meeting.

Commissioner Doolittle asked how the public facilities like the campgrounds and the museum are handling things during COVID-19. Ms. Wallace-Barnum said the campground is extremely busy. It's one of the few places of respite for people in the local area. The museum did a small exhibit, one of the few Artown exhibits, and the museum reopened at the end of June. Staff let her know that business was steady and everyone was doing a good job complying with wearing face coverings. The indoor facilities can't accommodate more than 25 people at a time for social gatherings. Most groups are either cancelling or rescheduling. Very few are reducing their numbers to 25. Camping, using the parks and hiking is very steady and busy. Commissioner Doolittle asked if there is an increase or decrease in graffiti? Ms. Wallace-Barnum answered yes, there is an increase. The trailhead at Golden Eagle has been hit several times. They did make an arrest – some adults and one youth were arrested. They hope that this curbs some of the graffiti. They do see graffiti pop up from time to time but it's been worse this year.

Commissioner Anderson asked about the Portland Loo that was installed. She asked Colleen if she had an update on how it's being used. Ms. Wallace-Barnum said that she went to the ribbon cutting which was very well done. She has not heard how it's going but it sounds like it was planned very well. It is right outside of Brodhead Park, along the bus route. It's actually a flush toilet and seems like it will be easy to clean and maintain. If this is a success, they are looking to get a few more along the river.

#### 11. **Director's Report**

Dave Solaro, CSD Director and Assistant County Manager, let the Commission know that the workshop to start talking about the budget will be held on Friday, September 25, 2020, at 1:00 pm. It looks like there will be six commissioners in attendance which will be really good. He also updated the Commission on the golf course operators. He expects to get some unsolicited proposals from them. The current license agreements all expire at the end of June 2021 and he has had some calls on what the County is going to do. He said things are going very smoothly now and the two operators have some different ideas on how to move into the future with golf courses. He has asked them both to provide proposals. He expects to get at least some of the proposals to this

Commission so they can provide input in the December or January time frame. He said it would be good to have input from the Commission on the future of golf in Washoe County.

Commissioner Doolittle said he has to be away on September 25<sup>th</sup> and won't be available for the workshop. He asked if he could meet with Mr. Solaro, Mr. Crump, Ms. Wallace-Barnum, or all three of them to talk about ideas he has on the workshop and budget? Mr. Solaro answered yes, that would be great. If Commissioner Doolittle would send them a few dates that he is available, they would love to set aside some time and get those ideas from him.

Commissioner Shorts said he noticed that the Crispy Golf baskets are going up at the County golf course. He dropped by and asked about the course they are putting in. It looks like it will be an interesting course and a nice addition. He was wondering how that will work with the balls flying. Mr. Solaro said that was one of the items that the Washoe Golf operator touched on when he came to talk with the Commission. He thinks it's going to be a good addition to that property. It will get some "traditional non-golfers" out to see the golf course and he is told that it will not interfere with the game of golf.

**12. Commissioner's Comments**

Commissioner Doolittle said he was sorry he will not be available for the workshop on September 25<sup>th</sup>. He will try to meet with staff to give them some of his comments.

**13. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

Meeting adjourned at 3:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kathy Emerson, Recording Secretary

Approved by Commission in session on October 6, 2020.

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Stephanie Chen, Chair