

Draft MINUTES

Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission

August 3, 2021

The Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission met in a scheduled session on Tuesday, August 3, 2021, in the Washoe County Commission Chambers, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada.

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>

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

1. Roll Call

Members Present: Stephanie Chen, Heidi Anderson, Doug Doolittle, Darla Lee, Chris Nenzel, Jennifer Oliver

Staff Present: Denise Evans, Lacey Kerfoot, Jennifer Penland, Colleen Wallace Barnum

Absent: Greg Shorts

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge was recited.

3. Public Comments

No public comments.

4. Approval of the Agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of August 3, 2021.

No public comments.

Motion by Commissioner Nenzel to approve the Agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of April 6, 2021. Second by Commissioner Doolittle. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Approval of the Minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of June 1, 2021.

No public comments.

Motion by Commissioner Oliver to approve the minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of June 1, 2021. Second by Commissioner Anderson. 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

No items

8. Presentation and discussion by Our Story, Inc. about the possible use of the garage structure at Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Park, and possible action to direct staff to negotiate with Our Story, Inc. regarding the same. (For Possible Action)

Colleen Wallace Barnum, Park Operations Superintendent, introduced Kenneth Dalton, President and Founder of Our Story, Inc.

Kenneth Dalton gave a presentation on Our Story, Inc.

In response to Chair Chen's question if the garage structure would be used only by Our Story, Inc or also by Washoe County Parks, Kenneth said that it would be used solely by our story.

In response to Commissioner Doolittle's question if there was any functional use by the parks department, Colleen said it was being used for storage and it would be no problem to clean out for Our Story, Inc.

In response to Commissioner Doolittle's question, if the garage was turned into a museum, would permits be needed from the building department? Colleen said that parks has not gotten that far but any permits required would be confirmed and obtained from the building department. Colleen said that if there were any agreements or permits put together with the building department, this item would come back before Park Commission.

In response to Commissioner Lee's question of how long the building was used a fire station, Kenneth said it was approximately 7 years.

In response to Commissioner Anderson's question about what other areas Our Story, Inc would be using and how often they would be used, Kenneth said that he would like to eventually have events for the School District and Fire Department, possibly lectures at Westbrook Community Center and collaborations with Washoe County Parks.

No public comment.

Commissioner Doolittle motion to allow staff to move forward with Our Story, Inc to develop parameters for an agreement for future use with Our Story, Inc. Commissioner Nenzel second. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Presentation, update, and discussion on the proposed construction of a one-million gallon water tank and associated infrastructure at Hidden Valley Regional Park for the storage and distribution of treated effluent water from the South Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility.

Sophia Kirschenman, Park Planner, gave a presentation and update on the proposed construction.

In response to Chair Chen's question if there has been any disruption to park or park usage during the construction, Sophia said there has been no disruption.

In response to Commissioner Doolittle's question of what mitigations are in place in case of tank failure, Sophia said she is not aware of any mitigations but that the project will comply with all building permit requirements and go through the standard Washoe County regulations.

Alan Jones was on the Zoom meeting for questions but was unable to be heard over Zoom. Chair Chen said any further questions can be e-mailed to Sophia and Alan and they will respond.

In response to Commissioner Doolittle's question about community involvement and any impacts this might have to them, Sophia said there was a discussion held with planning and they will have a neighborhood meeting. The community is aware and will be provided the opportunity to provide additional input.

Chair Chen thanked Sophia for update.

10. Program/Park of the Month – Outdoor Escape Room

Colleen Wallace Barnum, Park Operations Superintendent, said Ranger Nick was out of office ill but will give his presentation next month.

11. Parks Reports

Collen Wallace Barnum said programming came back and highlighted programs and attendance. Attendance at park programs, Artown and the May Museum has been higher post Covid.

In response to Commissioner Nenzel asking if Artown will be coming back to Washoe County, Colleen said that she was unsure, but we would be willing to do Artown next year if they are interested.

In response to Commissioner Oliver's question, if they are planning to put a stage at Rancho San Rafael for more events in the future due to the success of Artown, Colleen said that's been mentioned before.

Chair Chen thanked Colleen and her team for putting together activities for community.

12. Director's Report

Assistant County Manager, Dave Solaro, said in June/July Board of County Commissioner accepted donations from the community. The Board of County Commissioners also approved the Memorandum of Understanding between Washoe County and Trail Programs, as well as the sale of water rights. The Board of County Commissioners also accepted a grant from the State of Nevada Division of Parks and Recreation for the trail planning from Thompson Trail to Bower's Mansion, as well as adopted the Regional Archery Facility master plans.

No commissioner questions or comments.

13. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Oliver thanked Washoe County Parks' staff for making Artown happen and successful.

14. Public Comment

No public comment.

15. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:14pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Penland, Office Assistant III.