

**MINUTES**  
**Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission**  
**July 26, 2023**

**The Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission met in a scheduled session on Wednesday, July 26, 2023, 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>**

**Kevin Joell called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.**

### **1. Roll Call**

**Members Present:** Kevin Joell, Timothy Dake, Lisa Rode, Miles Gertler, Neil Jones, Mark Neumann, Mariluz Garcia, Michaelangelo Aranda

**Staff Present:** Colleen Wallace Barnum, Eric Crump, Lindsay Liddell, Brandon Roman, Adriana Albarran, Faye-Marie Pekar, Dave Solaro

**Absent:** Nicholas Martin Kearney, Maxwell DiNatale

Deputy District Attorney, Lindsay Liddell stated there were some changes to open meeting law, and the meeting can be attended via telephone at 1-346-248-7799 and entering the meeting ID 89826900042 and pressing pound. Public comment can be done via Zoom by using the raise hand feature.

### **2. Pledge of Allegiance**

The pledge was recited.

### **3. Public Comment**

Public comment by Assistant County Manager, Dave Solaro. Mr. Solaro stated that due to the timing of the agenda, there was no item to formally recognize the new commissioners. Mr. Solaro welcomed Commissioner Aranda, Commissioner Jones and Commissioner Neumann thanked them for their dedicated time to Park Commission.

Deputy District Attorney Lindsay Liddell suggested taking a recess from the meeting, as the new Commissioners had not yet completed their oath as required under Chapter 95. Eric Crump, Community Services Department, stated the Washoe County Clerk's office was preparing the oaths but Commission can continue with non-action items.

In response to Chair Joell's question if there is still a quorum without the new Commissioner oaths, Brandon stated there was not.

In response to Mark Neumann's question about a previous oath he took for the Sun Valley GID, Lindsay stated it would be similar but would not suffice for this office. The meeting could not continue without a quorum, so the board would be taking a short recess. Mark Neumann, Neil Jones, and Michaelangelo Aranda took the oath at 1:39p.

The meeting was in recess from 1:37p until 1:42p.

Public comment from Cindy Schardt. Cindy stated she and other are in support of an indoor pool and recreation center on the South Valleys Regional Park Master Plan. Cindy has over 600 signatures from residents in support of a community center and would like to know what action they should take to persuade representatives to make family living a priority in the south Reno area. Cindy would like assurance that the Master Plan is still current as it is dated for 2015, and the residents would like their taxes to go to these types of projects if parks does not have the funds.

Chair Joell stated the comments could not be discussed as it is not on the agenda, but to reach out to Colleen Wallace Barnum, Park Operations Superintendent for more information.

#### **4. Approval of the Agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of July 26, 2023**

No public comment.

Motion by Commissioner Neumann to approve the agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of July 26, 2023. Second by Commissioner Jones. Motion carried unanimously.

**5. Approval of the Minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of May 24, 2023**

No public comment.

Motion by Commissioner Dake to approve the minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of May 24, 2023. Second by Commissioner Jones. Motion carried unanimously.

**6. Pictures with former Commissioner Stephanie Chen to commemorate her 4 years of service and contributions as a Park Commissioner.**

The picture with former Commissioner Chen was taken during the recess.

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

Eric Crump, Community Services Department, recognized Colleen Wallace Barnum for 25 years of service to Washoe County. Eric stated Colleen started as a seasonal employee at Bartley Ranch and has been a fierce advocate for parks as well as an avid user of Washoe County Parks & Open Space. Eric thanked Colleen for her service and dedication to Washoe County.

Chair Joell thanked Colleen and congratulated her on 25 years.

**8. Presentation, discussion, and possible recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners to the following easement deeds between Washoe County (grantor) and Epic Wireless (grantee): a temporary construction easement and a permanent, non-exclusive access and public utility easement (PUE) totaling ±48,865 square feet on Washoe County's Galena Terrace Open Space, APN 144-010-22, for the implementation of the Mount Rose Wedge Cell Tower on an adjacent parcel owned by Truckee Meadows Water Authority (APN 144-211-23)**

Faye-Marie Pekar, Park Planner gave a presentation. Mark Lobaugh with Epic Wireless was also available for questions.

In response to Chair Joell's questions on the map in Faye-Marie's presentation, Faye-Marie stated that the map is proposed, but not recommended by staff. The TMWA water parcel and pipe would follow the same alignment as the gravel road.

In response to Chair Joell's question about drainage improvements, Faye-Marie said there is nothing proposed currently, the item is only for the easement.

In response to Commissioner Dake's question about the construction timeline, Faye-Marie stated it would depend on the permitting and review of Washoe County Planning staff, but it is anticipated 3-4 months. Mark Lobaugh with Epic Wireless, representing AT&T confirmed it would be 3-4 months after permits are issued.

In response to Commissioner Dake's question about the visuals of the tower, Mark stated that the Planning Commission will address the look and heights of the tower, however, water tank sites are ideal locations for cell towers as they are industrial areas that have already been built upon.

In response to Commissioner Neumann's question about designing the cell tower to look like a tree similar to others he's seen, Mark stated that it is not currently designed as a stealth tree as those are typically incorporated when they are in the backdrop of other trees. This tower will serve a different coverage objective than the towers designed as stealth trees. The tower can be painted to not stand out with non-reflective materials.

In response to Commissioner Aranda's question about plans for improvement and responsibility, Mark stated they would entertain requests for improvement, but there currently no plans to pave the road or any language in the easement that necessitate improvements.

In response to Commissioner Rode's question about the fees, Faye-Marie stated the \$4880 is the easement appraisal and any additional fees would not be covered by Washoe County. In response to Commissioner Rode's question about the amount Washoe County is charging AT&T to use Washoe County Public Lands for a cell tower, Chair Joell stated this board only has the easement as representatives of Open Space, the cell tower will go through other permits and reviews as well as Planning Commission and the Board of County Commissioners. Washoe County parks is only collecting the easement.

Eric Crump, Community Services Department, stated that the road is not a Washoe

County maintained road, it is a public access road but there is no maintenance responsibility by Washoe County.

Mr. Crump also stated that the cell tower is going on a parcel owned by Truckee Meadows Water Authority, not a Washoe County owned parcel. The request from Epic Wireless is for an access and public utility easement for undergrounding following the existing road.

Commissioners can make recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners to approve the easement. The permit for the tower, will be heard by the Planning Commission and fees collected would go to the Planning department.

In response to Commissioner Dake's question about the square footage impact, Eric stated it would be the impact following the existing road.

No public comment.

Motion by Commissioner Dake to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners to the following easement deeds between Washoe County (grantor) and Epic Wireless (grantee): a temporary construction easement and a permanent, non-exclusive access and public utility easement (PUE) totaling  $\pm 48,865$  square feet on Washoe County's Galena Terrace Open Space, APN 144-010-22, for the implementation of the Mount Rose Wedge Cell Tower on an adjacent parcel owned by Truckee Meadows Water Authority (APN 144-010-23)

In response to Commissioner Rode's question about increasing the fees, Eric Crump stated that there have historically been easements granted for more than the appraised value if there were more severe impacts to Parks & Open Space. Based on the impacts to the particular area on the easement and the current and future use, the staff's recommendation of the appraised value is a sufficient amount.

Chair Joell stated that higher fees should be for easements that have higher impacts to the park to keep it fair to all applicants, and budget issues should not be taken out on one request. Commissioner Dake agreed the tower will have insignificant impact on the road and better cell coverage for the community and requiring hiring fees is not in the best interest of the community.

In response to Commissioner Gertler's question on the additional fees for other easements, and the current drainage on this parcel, Commissioner Dake, who is familiar with the site, stated that after the severe winter and spring, there is no significant signs of erosion, and the road was constructed with thought to drainage with a gravel topping. Mark with Epic Wireless stated that they will work closely with TMWA to make improvements to the road as needed and those concerns and agreements will be made during the building permit process.

In response to Commissioner Jones question about inspections on the project, Faye-Marie stated park staff is involved with permitting review, any mitigation efforts will go through the Planning Commission and Board of County Commissioners.

No public comment.

Second by Commissioner Jones. Motion carried unanimously.

## **9. Parks Reports**

Colleen Wallace-Barnum, Park Operations Superintendent highlighted July as Parks & Recreation month. Parks have multiple programs happening during summer. Bower's Mansion – Programs on the Porch, Bartley Ranch – Evenings on the Ranch, Artown shows at Hawkins Amphitheater, Galena Creek – Campfire programs, and the Lazy 5 Summer Concert Series.

Aquatics – North Valleys & Melio Gaspari Splash Park, and Bowers pool are open. Dragon Lights Reno at Rancho San Rafael happens daily through August 13<sup>th</sup>. A portion of the proceeds go to the Wilbur D May Arboretum.

The Senior Meal Program has started at Westbrook Community Center Monday – Friday. Westbrook is the third park location used for the program, it also takes place at Lazy 5 and Cold Springs.

Full time educator, Hannah Hill, has started Little Sprouts programs at the Arboretum.

High Desert Grazers has goat grazing for weed removal at the Hunter Creek and Carcione open spaces, and Swan Lake Nature Study area.

Washoe County applied for the Nevada Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Grant for almost \$75,000 for the Red Hill trail project in Sun Valley.

Commissioner Jones left the meeting at 2:30p.

## **10. Director's Report**

Dave Solaro, Assistant County Manager, Director of the Community Services Department gave updates.

In June, the Board of County Commissioners approved the easement for City of Reno and Washoe County for the sidewalk near the golf course and Tennis Center on Plumas and Urban. The Board of County Commissioners also approved the easement with USGS on White's Creek for a water monitoring gauge.

The Board of County Commissioners accepted donations for the operating and exhibits at the Wilbur D May Center.

The Board of County Commissioners allocated \$2 million of the American Rescue Act to begin the Master Plan at South Valleys Regional Park. Washoe County is currently working with the ball leagues at South Valleys who are matching the donation. Mr. Solaro also stated that most of the construction of South Valleys is owned by City of Reno, so Washoe County will be working with the City of Reno to discussions on how to partner.

In response to Commissioner Joell's question on other improvements in the Master Plan, Mr. Solaro stated it will be dependent on funding but there is a dedicated spot to indoor recreation.

Commissioner Neumann stated a donation was also accepted for the Sun Valley Bike Park.

## **11. Commissioner Requests for future agenda items**

Commissioner Rode requested to find out more about how easement fees are calculated, the request was acknowledged and noted.

## **12. Public comments**

No public comment.

### **13. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 2:32pm.

**Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Roebuck, Office Assistant III.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Joell", written over a horizontal line.

**Chair Kevin Joell**