

MINUTES

Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission January 24th, 2024

The Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission met in a scheduled session on Wednesday, January 24, 2024, 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, Neal Jones, Mariluz Garcia(BCC Liaison), Michaelangelo Aranda (Arrived at 1:32), Miles Gurtler (Zoom), Nicholas-Martin Kearney (Zoom)

Staff Present: Colleen Wallace Barnum, Eric Crump, Trenton Ross(ADA-Alternate for Lindsay Liddell, Brandon Roman, Scott Catron, Aaron Roelofs

Absent: Mark Neumann, Lisa Rode

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge was recited by Commissioner Neal Jones

3. Public Comment

No public comment.

4. Approval of the Agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of January 24, 2024

No public comment.

Motion by Commissioner Dake to approve the Agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of January 24, 2024. Second by Commissioner Jones. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Approval of the Draft Minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of November 29, 2023

Correction to Item 11, paragraph 3 will be verified and corrected if necessary.

Correction to Commissioner Gurtler's misspelled last name

No public comment.

Motion by Commissioner Dake to approve the draft minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of November 29, 2023, with changes. Second by Commissioner Jones. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Presentation, and discussion on the results of the Request for Proposal (RFP) #3236-24 for operation of Washoe County's Regional Shooting Facility including direction on possible terms and conditions to be included in a full management agreement between Washoe County and Nevada Firearms Academy for operation of Regional Shooting Facility; and possible recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners to approve the resultant agreement. (For possible Action)

Colleen Wallace Barnum, Park Operations Superintendent gave a background and information on the Shooting Facility.

Scott & Makala Catron, Northern Nevada Firearms, gave a presentation.

In response to Chair Joell's question on fees, Scott stated there will be some fee schedule changes. The fees will be \$10/senior users, \$15/adult users which would still be the cheapest range in Reno. The customers that have been polled about the fee increase were okay with the changes. The fees for user groups will not change. Nevada Firearms Academy will be working with user groups to increase their volume.

Colleen added that weapon and ammo rentals will be available, and individual range rentals will remain the same.

In response to Commission Gurtler's question about how the changes can help reduce shooting on public lands and trigger trash left in urban areas. Scott stated by continuing to educate the public and provide a safe place to shoot, it will encourage shooters to come back to the facility to reduce trash and fires.

In response to Commissioner Gurtler's question, Scott does not believe that fees are the reason for shooters in public land areas.

In response to Chair Joell's question about conflicts or competition between Nevada Firearms Academy and other groups, Scott stated that there will not be conflict, and he encourages training regardless of who it's with and has allowed other groups/businesses to hang information at the range. Scott is looking to build volume at the Shooting Facility with the help of those groups.

Commissioner Aranda acknowledged the previous staffing issues at the range, and thanked Scott, Makala and Aaron for stepping up.

In response to Commissioner Aranda's question about future staffing, Scott stated he can run the range with himself and an RSO and currently has a long list of volunteers. Aaron Roelofs will continue to operate the range along with Scott. The individual ranges that can be reserved require their own RSO and insurance.

In response to Commissioner Aranda's question about the fiscal impact, Colleen Wallace Barnum, Park Operations Superintendent, stated the agreement is still under negotiation, but the anticipation is Nevada Firearms Academy would take on budget expenses and Washoe County would only maintain the cost to run the public water system.

Colleen thanked Scott & Makala for their presentation. Colleen also added that there will be an additional operation day added to open the range to the public 5 days a week, rather than the current 4 and potentially 7-day operations in the future.

In response to Chair Joell's question about the current expenditures versus income, Colleen stated Washoe County has been subsidizing the facility for several years. Scott added that there was \$157,355 last year. Scott also stated that nothing is being asked of the County and is partnering with others to help bring in revenue. Chair Joell stated he would like to see some of the County's savings go back into the agreements or other investments to the Shooting Facility.

Commissioner Gertler asked if there has been a request from shooting groups or uses for an additional facility, Scott stated they have gotten requests for an outdoor facility in South Reno.

Chair Joell stated there was a request from Washoe County in the Lands Bill for some additional land for a shooting facility but had no additional information.

Public comment from Bradley Stocking, Western Nevada Pistol League (WNPL) President. Mr. Stocking stated WNPL is one of the main user groups at the Shooting Facility and has a positive attitude towards the changes and has met with Scott several times. Mr. Stocking stated WNPL is a 501a nonprofit and has some concerns about fee increases, as the fees went up recently from \$5 per shooter to \$6 per shooter. WNPL and Palomino Valley Gun Club (PVGCC) are asking for their

fees to remain the same as they have both spent considerable amounts of money for improvements to the facilities and helped develop over 75% of the range.

Public comment by Kenneth Johnson, Mr. Johnson stated he is a member of WNPL and shared history and information on the group. Mr. Johnson listed some of the major improvements WNPL has made at the range without cost to Washoe County Parks or Taxpayers. Mr. Johnson also stated they contribute to the safety of the range by having certified range officers at all their matches that re-certify every year. WNPL is concerned about fee increases and is requesting support and flexibility for their group.

Public comment by Gregory Brown, Palomino Valley Gun Club (PVGC) President. Mr. Brown stated he is looking forward to the positive changes that will take place to the range under this contract. Mr. Brown stated that Washoe County has not invested appropriately into the range, and his club is committed to spending money and manpower to improve safety features at the facility.

Motion by Chair Joell to recommend approval to the Board of County Commissioners of the Request for Proposal (RFP) #3236-24 for operation of Washoe County's Regional Shooting Facility, and to continue negotiations to offset the cost to Nevada Firearms Academy using the Washoe County cost savings. Second by Commissioner Gurtler.

In response to Commissioner Aranda's question about County funds, Scott stated that county assistance with capital improvements would help. Scott stated they net about \$700 dollars and were staffed for 20 days; staff is currently being funded with funds from Nevada Firearms Academy Indoor Range.

Commissioner Dake stated he would like to see a formal proposal and contract with changes to fees and additional information before recommending to the Board of County Commissioners.

Colleen Wallace Barnum, Park Operations Superintendent, stated that there are still some negotiations, but the formal agreement will be very similar to the draft agreement.

Eric Crump, Community Services Director, stated that the decision to go out for an RFP came from the loss in revenue. The fees and charges policy states that the Shooting Facility should be 100% cost recovery. Mr. Crump stated that the goal is to model the range after golf and allow the private sector to do what they do best without any cost to taxpayers. Mr. Crump stated that agreements can always be amended if there is a need. Staff is looking for requests from the Park Commission that they would like to see incorporated into the agreement.

Colleen Wallace Barnum, Park Operations Superintendent added that there are grant opportunities as well through NDOW for ammo sales. Colleen also stated that the county has contributed capital funds to different projects at the range.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Possible recommendation of agenda topics and meeting date for the joint meeting with Washoe County Open Space and Regional Park Commissioner, City of Reno Recreation and Parks Commission, and City of Sparks Parks and Recreation Commission. (For possible action)

Eric Crump gave background on the joint meetings with Washoe County, City of Sparks and City of Reno and stated the meeting would potentially be scheduled in April and the agenda is typically limited to one or two items.

Chair Joell stated that he would like to continue discussions on a Park District between the three bodies. Chair Joell also suggested a presentation on standard trail construction guidelines for each agency and offered to give the presentation.

Commissioner Kearney stated that April sounded good and would like to discuss how the three agencies can encourage and promote park attendance, especially with younger groups. Eric stated he can work with the other agencies to see how the demographic can be better tracked.

Commissioner Gurtler requested an update, if available on the public lands bill and stated the end of April would work better for him.

Recording Secretary Brandon Roman stated that he will look at the schedule for Chambers and send some potential dates out to Commissioners.

Eric Crump stated he will also work with City of Sparks and City of Reno to determine a location for the meeting.

No public comment.

8. Presentation and discussion on the draft Truckee Meadows Trail Action Plan by Jay Howard, Trails Program Coordinator.

Colleen Wallace Barnum, Park Operations Superintendent gave history and background on Truckee Meadows Trails and introduced Jay Howard, Trails Program Coordinator.

Jay Howard, Trails Program Coordinator gave a presentation. Jay stated they will be working on a final draft in March to bring before the Park Commission at a future meeting.

In regard to Commissioner Jones questions on e-bikes and back country guards, Jay stated that they do plan to include all user groups, including e-bike users. There will be a toolbox on the website that will be updated and include information and bring resources together.

Jay also stated that the plan could potentially include back country guards for added safety. Truckee Meadows Trails will have signage implemented and advocates for trail etiquette.

Commissioner Garcia thanked Jay for the presentation and appreciates the emphasis on being a resource for different agencies and developers.

Chair Joell thanked Jay for his hard work and his work involving other agencies.

9. Parks Reports

Colleen Wallace Barnum, Park Operations Superintendent stated the free day for County employees at the new Museum exhibit – Rise of the Mammals – will be on Saturday, January 27th, 2024.

Commissioner Aranda stated that he attended the winter light show at the Arboretum and said staff did an amazing job, he would like to see that event expanded.

In response to Chair Joell's question on volunteer appreciation, Colleen stated that Denise Evans, Volunteer Coordinator, does a great job with volunteer appreciation but could potentially do a resolution for some volunteers.

Chair Joell mentioned Cynthia Reed, who does a great job helping police dog waste in the South off leash dog areas.

Colleen stated she would make sure Cynthia was made aware of their appreciation.

10. Director's Report

Eric Crump, Community Services Department, stated that on December 19th, the Board of County Commissioners approved the easement that came before Park Commission to NV Energy.

The Nevada Recreation & Park Society (NRPS) will be holding its annual conference in Lake Tahoe on April 16th & 17th at the Tahoe Blue Events Center. There is limited funding available for Commissioners who might like to attend. Commissioners should e-mail Brandon Roman before the end of February if they are interested in attending.

11. Commissioner Requests for Future Agenda Items

Request by Chair Joell for a briefing or presentation on open meeting law for the new Commissioners.

Trenton Ross stated that he will speak with Lindsey Liddel regarding a presentation or getting it sent to the commissioners in an e-mail.


12. Public Comments

No public comment.

13. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:37p.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Roebuck, Office Specialist, May 22, 2024.



Chair Kevin Joell