

MINUTES

Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission March 6, 2012

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

1. Roll Call.

Members present: Anne Buckley, Jim Nadeau, Cliff Young, Bill von Phul, Ed Harney and Bob Jacobson. Sarah Chvilicek had an excused absence.

Board of County Commission Liaison: Kitty Jung

Staff present: Al Rogers, Deputy District Attorney, Leslie Admirand, Eric Crump and Joanna Schultz

2. Approval of the Agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of March 6, 2012.

Motion by Commissioner von Phul to Approve the Agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of March 6, 2012, second by Commissioner Nadeau. Motion carried.

3. Approval of the Minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of February 7, 2012.

Motion by Commission von Phul to Approve the Minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of February 7, 2012, second by Commissioner Harney. Motion carried.

4. Public Comments and Discussion Thereon:

No Public Comment

5. Possible recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners to approve an agreement between Washoe County and Silver Auctions to hold the Mitch Silver's Reno Collector Car Auction special event at Bartley Ranch Regional Park on August 7-12, 2012.

Eric Crump, Park Operations Superintendent explained that Parks is seeking the Commission's recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners to approve the agreement.

In response to Commissioner von Phul regarding how cars will be brought in, electrical reference in the draft agreement and fee, Mr. Crump said cars would be brought on stage from the south door and taken out through the back door. Electrical wording is standard in agreements and is by approval by the department. We are not anticipating the need to add electrical for this group's use. The fee for this event is \$19,786 is fee based on use.

In response to Commissioner Nadeau regarding Hot August Nights event dates, Mr. Crump said this event will be going on during Hot August Nights and it is not part of that event.

In response to Commissioner Nadeau regarding conflict with Hot August Nights, Mitch Silver, Silver Auctions said this auction was presented for Hot August Nights for 20-21 years. They did not have the auction last year. They have split from Hot August Nights and are no longer affiliated with them. Due to a court issue Silver Auctions has been restricted from holding their auction the week before and week after Hot August Nights for a 5 year period which ended in 2011.

In response to Commissioner Young regarding is this being advertised as a Hot August Nights event, Mr. Silver no.

In response to Commissioner Jung regarding the number of parking spots, Mr. Crump said there is ample parking and will also use the dirt area south of the horse arena.

Commissioner Jung expressed concern that this is the wrong thing to do at this point with Hot August Nights. Hot August Nights was nearly lost last year and they are trying to build themselves back up. Commissioner Jung is concerned that if we do this, we are going to give City of Reno and Sparks an impression that we don't support them and instead we want to compete. Environmentally this is not a great idea for the area that was just burnt. Commissioner Jung feels we are going to be used as a pawn in a precarious situation for one of the largest events we are known for. Commissioner Jung is not in support of approving this request.

Commissioner Nadeau also expressed concern that if the Park Commission takes action on this it would put the County in a situation.

Deputy District Attorney Leslie Admirand said that this is a work in progress, terms are not finalized and will take quite a bit of work before its approval. Ms. Admirand cautioned the Commission to be thoughtful of their reasoning when considering this item.

Al Rogers, Acting Director said the appropriateness is acceptable within the park, we are in a work in progress and any permitting or issues will be dealt with and heard before the Board of County Commissioners for final decision.

In response to Commission von Phul regarding this auction competing with a Hot August Nights event, Mr. Silver said their auction is scheduled the Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday with events occurring at the same time.

In response to Commissioner Nadeau regarding if the Commissioners voted, would it be to recommend as a work in progress, Mr. Crump said typically agreements brought to this Commission are in draft form and are finalized for the Board of County Commissioners for approval.

Commissioner Young would be interested to hear from City of Reno as he doesn't want to cause any problems.

Mr. Rogers said this item could be tabled and brought back. This request is for a Washoe County Regional Park facility and meets the criteria for holding an event in that park. There could be ramifications beyond this but Mr. Rogers asks the Commission to be thoughtful within the mission to make a recommendation based on the information we have at this time.

In response to Commissioner Jung regarding a findings/criteria checklist, Mr. Rogers said we don't have a detailed checklist but can quantify those and bring it back to this Commission.

In response to Commissioner Young regarding timelines, Mr. Silver said it does become a challenge.

Commissioner Jung added that competition almost killed Hot August Nights and suggested this Commission send up minutes and concerns to Board of County Commission for a decision.

Mr. Rogers added that the department does have a Special Event Policy and criteria that we do go through to term an event park appropriate. This event is comparable to the Balloon Races held at Rancho San Rafael Regional Park and was held at Rancho in the earlier years. We do consider the impact on the park and have taken into account the fire. The timing of the event is such that we expect the park to be ready in August.

In response to Commissioner Buckley regarding does the auction have to be held the same weekend as Hot August Nights, Mr. Silver said the following weekend seven different auctions in Monterey and all of those survive with the competition.

Commissioner von Phul said this Commission could move this item to Board of County Commissioners as an appropriate use for the park and the Board of County Commissioners can make the final decision.

Motion by Commissioner von Phul to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners approval of an agreement between Washoe County and Silver Auctions to hold the Mitch Silver's Reno Collector Car Auction special event at Bartley Ranch Regional Park on August 7-12, 2012, second by Commissioner Harney.

Commissioner Nadeau said his concern is not whether it competes with Hot August Nights but that this is bringing the County into the issue going on with this event and Hot August Nights. We are at budget times where we have cut the Parks' budget consistently and \$20,000 added to the budget is a huge contribution to the operation of the Parks. Commissioner Nadeau supports the item but is very concerned with the County getting looped into this issue.

Commissioner Buckley agreed with the sentiment. She understands the political ramifications of this but at the same time the staff says this is appropriate and the fees would be helpful.

Motion carried

6. Review and possible approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement between Washoe County and Washoe County School District regarding maintenance of Verdi and Pleasant Valley school.

Eric Crump, Parks Operations Superintendent explained that there was a Reciprocal Use Agreement with the school district back from 2000 that involved many locations. That agreement was terminated December 2011 and we're in the process of renewing a Maintenance Agreement for the two locations. The Verdi location was jointly developed with the School District through Residential Construction Tax. Pleasant Valley was also jointly

developed with the School District. Both parks act as neighborhood parks when school is not in and this is why we would continue to maintain them.

Mr. Crump said some changes have been made since it was distributed to the Commissioners. The 100% reimbursement should actually be 50% of the costs associated with maintenance. Another change is in the past agreement we were not reimbursed for materials, equipment etc., in this one we will. Additional changes to the Verdi agreement will be to determine who will actually schedule the athletic fields. Parks has in the past.

In response to Commissioner Nadeau regarding clarification on costs and reimbursement at 50%, Mr. Crump said the costs associated with maintenance will include time and materials for field staff and fleet costs which we will be reimbursed at 50% by the School District.

Commissioner Nadeau motioned to Approve and Intergovernmental Agreement between Washoe County and Washoe County School District regarding maintenance of Verdi and Pleasant Valley schools, second by Commissioner Buckley.

Commissioner von Phul said signature page needs correction.

Motion carried

7. Update on Department 12/13 budget.

Al Rogers, Acting Director updated the Commissioners on the current status of Parks' budget, the Strategic Plan and timeline for preparing/presenting to the Board of County Commissioners. The Community Services Department (CSD), which Regional Parks is part of, is scheduled to present April 9, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. The CSD will present a budget as a whole but there are no plans of sharing budgets between departments.

In response to Commissioner von Phul regarding seasonal employees and budget reductions, Mr. Rogers said that if we are required to reduce the pooled positions there would still be a small amount in the General Fund to hire some seasonals.

In response to Commissioner von Phul regarding a realistic idea of how lack of seasonal employees is impacting parks. Commissioner von Phul fears permanent damage will happen and be very difficult to bring back if conditions improve. Mr. Rogers said a lot of the direct service impacts such as locking gates, mowing regularly or litter removal on a regular basis are tied back to not having seasonal staff. Operations are being handled by permanent staff and are far diminished from what it was.

In response to Commissioner Nadeau regarding is revenue generated through use of parks go into the general fund, Mr. Rogers said they go into the general fund.

In response to Commissioner Buckley regarding is the general fund just for Parks or County as a whole, Mr. Rogers said as a whole. Mr. Rogers explained the funds coming in through Parks are not necessarily benefiting Parks unlike an enterprise fund where we would be able to use any excess after expenses.

In response to Commissioner Buckley regarding would the Silver Auction pay for itself, Mr. Rogers said yes. In our Special Event and Fees and Charges Policy it states that we would recuperate 100% of our cost.

In response to Commissioner Young regarding a profit associated with the Silver Auction, Mr. Rogers said he can't say that we are making a profit but are charging the appropriate amount based on the Fees and Charges and use of the park.

In response to Commissioner Buckley regarding government entities reserving facilities for free, Mr. Rogers said requested that this topic be addressed/agendized at another meeting as it is off topic. Deputy District Attorney Leslie Admirand suggested that this question be addressed under item #15, Commissioner's Comments.

8. Planning Division Report

Al Rogers, Acting Director highlighted report.

Commissioner von Phul commented that if you review the Planning Report you will see that many of them are funded through the Recreational Trails Program. This program is in serious jeopardy. The Senate is considering their Map-21 Plan, Senate Bill 1813 as is currently written Recreational Trails Program evaporates. Today Amendment 1661 is being considered that would put the Recreational Trails funding back into the Map-21 program.

9. Park District Report – North Region

Eric Crump, Parks Operations Superintendent highlighted report.

10. Park District Report – South Region

Eric Crump, Parks Operations Superintendent highlighted report.

Commissioner von Phul recognized District Park Manager Colleen Wallace and Park Ranger Jeff Kangas who completed the decking on the Lake Ditch Bridge that was destroyed in the Caughlin fire.

11. May Center Report

Eric Crump, Parks Operations Superintendent highlighted report.

12. Volunteer Service Report

Al Rogers, Acting Director highlighted report.

13. Golf Report

Al Rogers, Acting Director highlighted report.

14. Director's Report

Al Rogers, Acting Director reviewed Board of County Commissioners actions. Mr. Rogers gave an update on the North Valleys Phase IV project. A Request for Proposals was put out with four applicants submitting. Of those, two will be interviewed. Once the design firm is on board we will go through a public process, including the NAB, CAB and community forums to get feedback on what the Water Park will look like and how it will operate. With the timeline we are looking at approval sometime this year-end of summer, with construction beginning thereafter and anticipated opening date of June 2013.

Commissioner Humke raised the issue of dogs in parks. A status report will be taken to the Board of County Commissioners in April on the current issues of dog use in parks, dog parks and an opportunity to gather input from the Board and public on policies.

The Parks Department reconvened the Rancho San Rafael Advisory Board to address the demolition of the mine building at the Great Basin Adventure. The current condition of the building is beyond arrested decay and has become an attractive nuisance. A quorum was not present but a discussion was had and those present were supportive of demolition.

Rosemary Menard had been appointed the Community Services Department (CSD) Interim Director. Ms. Menard is the current Director for Water Resources. The Transitional Leadership Team continues to work on the consolidation of the five departments with one major milestone coming up. The Real Time Strategic Event will take place the week of March 19th and bring together 100 staff members from the five departments to have a strategic planning session.

15. Commissioner's Comments

Commissioner Young expressed concern that the recreational trails grants going away. As individuals he would like the Commission to write our Senators and let them know how that money is benefiting the community. Mr. Rogers said that Parks has been monitoring this bill and will continue.

Commissioner Buckley would like to know how reservations will be handled online with reciprocal groups as a future item.

16. Adjournment

Chairman Young adjourned the meeting at 3:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joanna Schultz