

DRAFT MINUTES

Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission
September 5, 2017

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

1. Roll Call

Members Present: Chris Nenzel, Matthew Webber, Carissa Tashiro, Doug Doolittle, Thomas Guinn, Nathan Daniel

Staff Present: Eric Crump, Patrick O'Mara, Colleen Wallace Barnum, Dave Solaro, Joanna Schultz, Jen Purgitt

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Comments

Cathy Brandhorst spoke of items related to her personal interests.

4. Approval of the Agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of September 5, 2017

Motion by Commissioner Doolittle to approve the Agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of September 5, 2017. Second by Commissioner Guinn. Motion carried.

5. Approval of the Minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of July 13, 2017

Commissioner Daniel commented on the misspelling of Julee Conway and Karen Mullen's names and asked that they be corrected.

Motion by Commissioner Tashiro to approve the Minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of July 13, 2017. Second by Commissioner Guinn. Motion carried.

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

Commissioner Daniel stated that there was nothing to report this month.

7. Review and possible recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners on an agreement between Tianyu, the May Arboretum Society and Washoe County for a Chinese Lantern Festival to take place within the May Arboretum and Botanical Gardens in July/August of 2018

Colleen Wallace Barnum, Park Operations Superintendent, gave a presentation.

Commissioner Doolittle asked if there are any issues to be resolved other than dates. Ms. Wallace-Barnum believes the dates and having enough space to lay out their stuff are the only issues she is aware of. Commissioner Doolittle asked if any other group events such as weddings are scheduled for that weekend. Colleen stated that the dates are actually blocked off temporarily while the agreement is being processed. The Arboretum will only be closed in the evening hours so it will be free to the public from the time the park

opens until the event begins. Commissioner Daniel asked if their ticketed event started at 5:00. Ms. Wallace-Barnum said the event started at 5:00 pm but were discussing having it start at 6:00 pm. Commissioner Daniel asked if this co-sponsored event. Ms. Wallace-Barnum replied there is no fee associated with this event as it is a fundraiser for the Arboretum. Commissioner Daniel would like to see the agreement before voting on this item. Commissioner Doolittle would also like to see the agreement before voting because he would like to be able to say yes if asked if he has seen the details of the agreement.

Motion by Commissioner Tashiro to add this item to the next agenda. Second by Commissioner Guinn.
Motion carried.

8. Presentation by Eagle Scout Candidate Cody Scoble on his rebuilt section of fencing around the old pool at Bowers Mansion Regional Park

Nick Stoyer introduced Cody Scoble

Cody Scoble gave a presentation.

Commissioner Tashiro thanked him for all his hard work. Commissioner Doolittle said volunteers are very important to the Washoe County Parks Department and that Mr. Scoble's hard work will not go unnoticed. Commissioner Daniel thought this was one of the more complicated Eagle Scout projects the Commission has seen.

9. Presentation on Smoke Free Parks by Kelli Seals, Health Educator Coordinator, Washoe County Health District

Eric Crump, Director of Operations, gave an introduction.

Kelli Seals gave a presentation

Michael Large arrived at 2:44 pm.

Commissioner Doolittle asked about the definition side of designated areas stating all the things that are not to be smoked but this is unclear to him. Designated area should be defined as to what that means, not what is not allowed in sections of the park. Ms. Seals is trying to show what it means to have designated areas of the park for smoking/non-smoking. It is still unclear to Commissioner Doolittle what Ms. Seals is trying to show but he understands the concept. Ms. Seals stated that the group does have support from different organizations such as the Cancer Society.

10. Update and discussion on Smoke Free Parks Joint Agency Working Group

Eric Crump, Director of Operations, wanted to provide an update on the Smoke Free Parks Action Group. Three questions have come up from the action group they would like to bring back to their respective boards. Do we want to develop a policy or make it more law binding (ordinance, county code)? Do we want to address smoking in parks or tobacco (non-smoking) use in parks? Location – do we want to make it park wide or designated smoking areas in parks?

Commissioner Daniel appreciates bringing this to the meeting as an action item. Commissioner Nenzel stated the other Commissioners have largely been in favor of prohibiting smoking but not full tobacco use especially Sparks as they feel it would cause issues with their large sport complexes. If there are not designated areas and tobacco use is outlawed people attending events may have to drive a distance to use tobacco. Commissioner Doolittle asked how much research has the committee done with other park districts, cities, counties on the enforcement side of the policy. Mr. Crump said they have reached out thru

NRPS to put some questions and feelers out there and with 1500 participating entities it is all over the board. Commissioner Doolittle was just in Salem and they have no smoking in their parks but it's a struggle to enforce it and the responsibility falls on the part-time seasonal staff. Mr. Crump can reach out to some of the 1500 agencies with similar demographics to find out what they do. Commissioner Tashiro was wondering in regards to the first question if an ordinance or policy should be developed, what are the differences in enforcement between the two and timeline for implementation for the two. Mr. Crump answered that policy can be approved by the board and really has no teeth per se. An ordinance is in our county code and can be enforced. Currently Park staff does not have enforcement authority. Michael Large, District Attorney, stated it would take about three years to update Chapter 95. To update an ordinance it would take between two to three meetings and would need to be put in front of the Board of County Commissioners for initial reading, place it on the agenda for public comment and another meeting for enactment. It is very difficult to get ordinance changes. Mr. Large would recommend we send it to staff to make a recommendation in regards to how an ordinance would look and also how a policy might look as well in order to implement this in a timely fashion. Commissioner Daniel asked if this would not fall into the enforcement section of Chapter 95. Mr. Crump said it would be if Parks staff was to receive enforcement powers. The working group would like to create something that was consistent among all the other agencies. City of Reno and Sparks are looking at creating an ordinance. Commissioner Nenzel didn't want to complicate things but other districts such as Sun Valley and Incline haven't been included as to what they would like for their parks. Mr. Crump said that Chapter 95 is specific to Washoe County Parks not Washoe County. Commissioner Guinn questioned the liability of an ordinance or a rule in instances such as a fire. Mr. Crump said negligence would have to be found in either instance. Commissioner Doolittle asked what the next steps were. Mr. Crump will bring it back to the October meeting with some direction. Commissioner Daniel stated that the City of Sparks wanted an ordinance or nothing because they didn't want to have a rule that was unenforceable. He also believes that the City of Reno wants an ordinance. Commissioner Daniel believes one set of rules across all parks is the best plan. Commissioner Nenzel is in agreement. Commissioner Doolittle asked what things need to be in place to develop language in Chapter 95. Mr. Crump said the biggest issue is enforcement authority and the other is bringing the language up to date. As of right now in Chapter 95, the Director of Parks has the ability to designate areas within parks as non-smoking. Commissioner Guinn would like to see smoke-free for the entire park. Mr. Crump will bring something back regarding smoke vs tobacco. Smoke-free is a far reach. Tobacco is not really impacting the parks. They are open to some direction from this board. District Attorney Large asked about marijuana usage in the parks as he is under the impression it is legal. Mr. Crump said this has come up and under current law marijuana use in parks is prohibited. Commissioner Daniel would like to see the subcommittee bring back a recommendation to the board. Commissioner Nenzel said the subcommittee can provide but they were looking for recommendations from this board. Commissioner Daniel feels in regards to chewing tobacco that it is an overreach as it doesn't affect anyone's ability to breathe. Commissioner Nenzel smokeless tobacco can be an issue if it is the large leaf tobacco or pouches. Commissioner Tashiro asked if something could be said to the effects of vaping. Mr. Crump has not heard of any issues relevant to vaping. Commissioner Nenzel pointed out that Major League Baseball outlawed chewing tobacco so it shouldn't be too difficult for us to do it for recreational leagues. Commissioner Doolittle would support smoke-free regardless of what anyone is using. Commissioner Tashiro feels like the only drawback is the after-hours special events. Mr. Crump stated that some of those events are during business hours.

Motion from Commissioner Doolittle that the committee brings back a report for a review after they digest the information we provided. Motion dies.

Commissioner Guinn asked Mr. Crump to please repeat the three questions... Mr. Crump repeated the questions.

Motion from Commissioner Guinn for staff to come up with an ordinance that is smoke free throughout the entire park area. Second by Commissioner Doolittle. Guinn amended motion to add no smoke and no vape in county parks. Commissioner Guinn withdrew first motion.

Motion from Commissioner Guinn for staff to come up with an ordinance that is smoke free and vape free throughout the entire park area in all Washoe County parks. Second by Commissioner Doolittle. Motion failed.

Commissioner Tashiro is more supportive of an ordinance because it has teeth unlike a policy.

Commissioner Nenzel, if he is understanding the motion correctly, is under the impression staff will create the ordinance. Commissioner Daniel said if they took our recommendation they would draft an ordinance. Nenzel would like to point out that the Smoke Free Commission is still working with other agencies to be unified on this issue so it may be a little premature to draft an ordinance. Commissioner Daniel agrees.

Motion by Commissioner Nenzel to take to the Smoke Free subcommittee the idea that the Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission would like to draft an ordinance that all Washoe County parks are smoke free and vape free. Second by Commissioner Guinn. Motion carried.

11. Presentation on AB 379 Park and Trail Special District initiative by Julee Conway and Karen Mullen-Ehly

Mr. Crump, Director of Operations Division, introduced Julee Conway

Julee Conway gave a presentation on AB 379 Park and Trail Special District Initiative.

Commissioner Doolittle said thank you to Ms. Conway for doing a tremendous job leading this effort. Commissioner Daniel echoed Commissioner Doolittle's statement. Commissioner Daniel made a suggestion for someone who may want to nominate someone for the Golden Pinecone Award that Assemblywoman Amber Joiner would be a great nomination.

12. Program/Park of the Month: Aquatics Updates

Patrick O'Mara gave a presentation.

Commissioner Daniel looks like you doubled the number of attendees at Bower's. Mr. O'Mara said it was actually more than that. Commissioner Daniels said great job to staff as it was a hot summer.

Commissioner Doolittle left at 3:56 pm.

13. Parks Reports

Colleen Wallace Barnum, Parks Operations Superintendent, highlighted reports.

Commissioner Daniel stated the Parks Foundation has granted \$70,000 to Washoe County.

Cheryl Surface, Natural Resource Planner, and Dennis Troy, Park Planner, highlighted the Planning report.

Commissioner Guinn appreciated the work done on the consolidation issue. Project sheet from when Commissioner Guinn started same budget as four years ago. He likes seeing the efficient budget and appreciates the hard work. Commissioner Daniel echoed Commissioner Guinn's statements. Mr. Troy said the North Valleys Phase 5 project would have never happened without creative funding.

District Attorney Large in regards to the Ballardini property specifically wanted to thank Cheryl Surface and Rosemarie as their actions have been nothing short of phenomenal.

14. Director's Report

Dave Solaro, Director, highlighted the Board of County Commissioner's Actions Reports

Commissioner Daniel is unsure of the rationale of the ice rink in South Valleys. Director Solaro will bring back any information he receives.

15. Commissioner's Comments

Commissioner Guinn first wanted to thank the County Commission for appointing him to a second term. Secondly, he wants to give Wayne Fitch kudos for 122 hours volunteering. Thirdly, he heard the Reno Balloon Races almost didn't happen and Washoe County really stepped up and it is greatly appreciated.

Commissioner Daniel would like to recognize Anne Buckley for her 8 years of service on the Commission.

16. Public Comments

Cathy Brandhorst gave comments from her personal interest.

17. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:33 pm