

Draft MINUTES

Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission
January 7, 2020

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

1. Roll Call

Members Present: Doug Doolittle, Heidi Anderson, Polly Boardman, Darla Lee, Jennifer Oliver, Greg Shorts

Staff Present: Eric Crump, Colleen Wallace-Barnum, Leslie Admirand, Sophia Kirschenman, Kathy Emerson

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Comments

No Public Comments

4. Election of the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of January 7, 2020.

Motion by Commissioner Doolittle nominated Stephanie Chen as new Chair with a second by Polly Boardman. Discussion included that the nominated Chair was not present, and she may decline the position in the future if she chooses. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Darla Lee to nominate Polly Boardman for Vice Chair with a second by Heidi Anderson. No other nominations, motion carried unanimously.

5. Approval of the Agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of January 7, 2020.

Motion by Commissioner Oliver to approve the Agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of January 7, 2020. Second by Commissioner Shorts. Motion carried.

6. Approval of the Minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of December 3, 2019

Motion by Commissioner Shorts to approve the minutes. Second by Commissioner Doolittle. Motion carried unanimously.

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

8. Eagle Scout Presentation

Nick Steuer, Washoe County Park Ranger based out of Davis Creek Regional Park, introduced, Eagle Scout Jason Funk with Troop #240. Mr. Funk, who camped at Davis Creek as a child, established a need to repair and/or replace the wood on the camp site tables and benches. Mr. Funk recruited volunteers through Facebook and sending out emails. Reno Lumber donated the wood, Larry Holmes LLC cut the wood and donated additional supplies, and volunteers provided help at the campsite installing the wood on the tables. The project was completed within a week with 32 people participating and over a total of

140 hours of work. Leftover varnish was donated to the park for continued maintenance on the tables and benches and the old wood that was removed was transferred to burn dumpsters at a nearby fire station.

Commissioner Shorts congratulated Mr. Funk and asked what was the biggest lesson Mr. Funk learned through the project. Mr. Funk stated that learning to communicate his ideas was very important noting that specifying the quantity of lumber needed for the project would have been beneficial as there was not enough material for all the benches and tables at first and additional supplies were requested. Commissioner Shorts thanked Mr. Funk.

Commissioner Doolittle thanked Mr. Funk especially for identifying the need for the park. As funds may not be available for such repairs, volunteer work from people like Mr. Funk is extremely important.

Commissioner Oliver thanked Mr. Funk and asked how Mr. Funk recruited his volunteers beyond Facebook and emails and inquired if the task was easy or not. Mr. Funk stated that he was unsure of the number of people who would show up as no one RSVP'd and he learned that he did not specify in the request whether or not volunteers should reply to the Facebook posts or emails. Mr. Funk was extremely thankful for everyone who showed up and volunteered.

Commissioner Lee asked if Mr. Funk is still a part of a troop. Mr. Funk was unsure of the specifics and stated that he thought he was.

Vice Chair Boardman thanked Mr. Funk again for his hard work and dedication.

9. Presentation, discussion, and possible recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners to approve an easement agreement and easement deed between Washoe County and TMWA for a water facilities easement totaling ±11,802 square feet and a temporary construction easement totaling ±23,588 square feet on APN 534-521-01, part of Sugarloaf Peak Open Space [at the appraised value of \$2,033.00]

Sophia Kirschenman, Park Planner, presented the item stating that Truckee Meadows Water Authority, TMWA, was requesting access and a water line across Washoe County's Sugarloaf Peak Open Space. Construction would include a new underground waterline and access road to provide system redundancy and potable water supply to the approved Harris Ranch Subdivision. Alternative water supplies west of Sugarloaf Peak do not have the capacity to serve the new subdivision in addition to the current demand. Waterlines on the west side of Pyramid Highway in the Pebble Creek subdivision are in a lower pressure zone than the future subdivision and would be able to flow to the Harris Ranch Subdivision due to the pressure differences. The Sugar Loaf Peak area was deeded to Washoe County in 2007. The new water line would attach to the existing water line and parcel currently owned by TMWA. The proposed project includes a permanent access and water facilities easement of approximately 11,802 square feet, with a temporary construction easement of approximately 23,588 square feet for an appraised value of \$2,033.00. Ms. Kirschenman noted that impacts and mitigation to the area would be considered. A trail in the area will not be impeded or closed during construction, hours of construction would be limited to Monday through Friday from 8:00Am to 7:00PM, and all undeveloped disturbed areas will be reseeded with a native vegetation seed mix as approved by Washoe County. Ms.

Kirschenman stated that staff recommends approval of the easement to the Board of County Commissioners.

Commissioner Shorts asked why the price of the easement was lower than the costs stated in the previous meeting for other easements. Ms. Kirschenman stated that the appraised area is not worth the same as the areas appraised previously brought before the Commission and that an approved appraiser was used. Mr. Shorts noted that it is worth about one fifth the amount of the previous easements presented. Mr. Shorts asked if the access road is going to turn into a trail and if there would be a trailhead there. Ms. Kirschenman stated that it will serve more as a walking access for the public to the existing trail, but that if there was a need for a trailhead in the future that it could be analyzed in more detail. Commissioner Shorts thanks Ms. Kirschenman.

Commissioner Doolittle thanked Ms. Kirschenman for the thoughtfulness with regards to the impacts and mitigations for the easements. Commissioner Doolittle noted that the Commission has heard presentations on quite a few easements in the past few meetings and asked if there were more in the future. Ms. Kirschenman stated that while there were a few easement requests in a row that this presentation was the last that she was aware of for the time being. Mr. Doolittle thanked Ms. Kirschenman.

Commissioner Lee asked how many homes would be served by this water. Ms. Kirschenman replied that the Harris Ranch Subdivision would have 610 homes at its completion.

Commissioner Anderson asked if the trail that would be created would be maintained by Washoe County. Ms. Kirschenman clarified that the access road would not be a "trail", but would act as access to the existing trail for the public to use. Washoe County would not have any additional maintenance that would be required in the future beyond what is already maintained.

No public comment.

Commissioner Doolittle motioned to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners, approval of the easement agreement and easement deed between Washoe County and TMWA for a water facilities easement totaling ±11,802 square feet and a temporary construction easement totaling ±23,588 square feet on APN 534-521-01, part of Sugarloaf Peak Open Space [at the appraised value of \$2,033.00]. Second by Commissioner Shorts. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Parks Reports presented a by Colleen Wallace-Barnum, Parks Operations Superintendent.

Park District Report

Ms. Wallace-Barnum reported that Christmas Tree Recycling has ended and participation was lower than previous years, but she will retrieve the total numbers from KTMB (Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful) for the next meeting.

The "Come in From the Cold" winter family series will begin on Saturday, January 11th, at Bartley Ranch. These 10 programs that will last until mid-March are free with a voluntary donation.

Two staff vacancies will be filled this year. Park Ranger Marie Fong left Washoe County in December and she will be sorely missed. The Recreations Coordinator, Pat O'Mara, took a position in Tennessee.

May Center Report

The Arboretum hired Nicole Tracy from AmeriCorps in December, who will help with the education programs through August. A couple highlights from December included the Tuba Christmas Concert as well as the Sierra Arts Counsel Angel Art and the Gingerbread Festival. Ms. Wallace-Barnum thanked the museum for putting on the Gingerbread Festival which was greatly appreciated by the public. The Animation Academy, starting February 15th, will be the next exhibit at the museum.

Volunteer Service Report

Volunteer hours were up slightly this past year, reporting approximately 18,000 volunteer hours, equivalent to 9 full time staff.

Park Planning Report

Ms. Wallace-Barnum stated that staff was available for comment if the Commission had any questions about the reports they received. Commissioner Doolittle asked for the location of "Blackstone Estates" to which Ms. Wallace-Barnum reported was in Spanish Springs near Donovan Ranch. Mr. Doolittle asked if anyone from staff attended the Trails Conference put on by the State. Washoe County's Natural Resource Planner, Joanne Lowden, attended the conference held at Mont Bleu.

Commissioner Shorts requested that future Park Planning Reports have a slightly bigger font.

11. Director's Report

Assistant County Manager, Dave Solaro, stated that the Board of County Commissioners, BCC, did approve the Wild Creek Golf Design Contract at the December 10th BCC Meeting. Mr. Solaro has requested that the designer prepare a presentation for the Parks Commission in the near future. Construction is scheduled to begin in April 2020 with a projected opening of eight new holes in 2021.

The Board also approved the Dragon Lights Reno Agreement between Washoe County and Tianyu Cultures.

The Board will be taking action on January 14, 2020 for the Arrow Creek Easements that Ms. Kirschenman presented at the last meeting. The Board will have a resolution of intent in December and set a Public Hearing date for January 14th, any comment on those easements will be heard at the Board Meeting next week.

The Board accepted various donations from the community in the amount of \$35,366 of in-kind donations to Washoe County Parks and an estimated \$91,946 in various donations from other businesses.

Mr. Solaro stated that Washoe County is in the middle of "budget season" and requested that the board email him directly with constituent requests for Washoe County Parks. Feedback from the community would be greatly appreciated during "budget season".

Vice Chair Boardman thanked Mr. Solaro.

12. Commissioner's Comments

Commissioner Shorts requested a report from staff regarding what the Parks currently provides for veterans and what could be provided in the future. Commissioner Shorts wishes to report back to the Veterans Administration, the VA Hospital, as to what may be available for them.

Commissioner Shorts would also like to hear about updating trail maps on the website. Commissioner Shorts stated that the regional areas had been changed in the new Master Plan to a degree and he thought that changes would need to be made. He requested to hear more about that.

13. Public Comment

George Lee stated that Mr. Solaro announced that the driving range at the current Wild Creek Golf Course would be eliminated and inquired as to what funds would be required to have one placed back in the design plans should the public wish to fundraise for both the high school and public to use.

14. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:01PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Johnna Chism, Office Support Specialist

Approved by Commission in session on February 4, 2020.

Chair