

Draft MINUTES

Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission
March 2, 2021

The Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission met in a scheduled session on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 via Zoom.

No members of the public were allowed in the Commission Chambers due to concerns for public safety resulting from the COVID-19 emergency and pursuant to the Governor of Nevada's Declaration of Emergency Directive 006 Section 1 which suspends the requirement in NRS 241.023(1)(b) that there be a physical location designated for meetings of public bodies where members of the public are permitted to attend and participate. This meeting was held by teleconference only.

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>

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

1. Roll Call

Members Present via Zoom: Doug Doolittle, Darla Lee, Chris Nenzel, Jennifer Oliver, Stephanie Chen

Members Absent: Heidi Anderson, Thomas Guinn, Greg Shorts

Staff Present via Zoom: Colleen Wallace-Barnum, Dan O'Connor, Denise Evans, Jennifer Penland, Sophia Kirschenman, Eric Crump, Joanna Schultz, Vahid Behmaram

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge was recited

3. Public Comments

No public comments

4. Approval of the Agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of March 2, 2021.

Motion by Commissioner Doolittle to approve the Agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of March 2, 2021. Second by Commissioner Oliver. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Approval of the Minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of February 2, 2021.

Motion by Commissioner Nenzel to approve the minutes. Second by Commissioner Oliver. Motion carried unanimously.

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

No items

7. Eagle Scout Presentation

No items

8. Resolution of appreciation for Christi Cakiroglu of Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful for her outstanding service and contributions to Washoe County. (For Possible Action).

Commissioner Chen read the resolution of appreciation.

Commissioner Doolittle moved to approve the resolution. Second by Commissioner Oliver. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Doolittle said Christi did a fabulous job with the community and County. She has been great to work with and wishes her continued success.

Commissioner Chen thanked Christi for her commitment and dedication and wished her luck.

Eric Crump, Division Director Operations thanked Christi for everything she's done for the community and wished her the best.

Commissioner Oliver thanked Christi for leaving a mark and her service over all the years.

Colleen Wallace Barnum, Park Operations Superintendent said she hand delivered the resolution to Christi at her drive thru farewell party on February 7th. She thanked Christi for all the years of service and leaving it a better place.

9. Discussion and possible recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners to hold a public hearing pursuant to NRS 533.550 to approve the Agreement for Purchase and Sale of Truckee River Water Rights Claim DTR-50/50A between Washoe County and Great Basin Land and Water on behalf of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe for the sale of 28.55 acre feet of water rights [at the appraised value of \$197,000], having made all four findings in accordance with the NRS; and, if approved, authorize the chair to execute the associated water rights deed prior to the closing of escrow. (For Possible Action).

Sophia Kirschenman, Park Planner said she feels the potential sale will benefit parks programs and the public. The proposal has come to this Commission on several occasions. The proposal is to exchange the inland portions of the County's riverbend property for the river front portions of the adjacent property located between Old US Hwy 40 and the Truckee River in Verdi. The goal is to create a trailhead and trail.

The water rights were originally purchased using State Bond funding that requires it be maintained for recreation and natural resources. A deed restriction was placed to ensure conformance. The County and

State of Nevada have agreed to amend the agreement to transfer from the County's existing property to a new property. To amend and transfer, conservation nonprofits must be notified and would need to disclaim their interest in the property. Great Basin Land and Water have interest in 28 ½ acres of the water rights. Their goal is to acquire Truckee River Water Rights to be deeded to Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe. It benefits wildlife, including endangered species. Staff identified excess water rights in Mogul for potential sale.

Staff recommends approval. A potential motion is on page 4 of the staff report. Sophia said Vahid Behmaram with Washoe County Planning and Development and Nancy Shannahan from Great Basin are available for questions.

In response to Commissioner Doolittle regarding if the price was consistent with the water rights in that area, Vahid said it was consistent.

Commissioner Oliver motioned to recommend the Board of County Commissioners hold a public hearing. Second by Commissioner Doolittle. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Program/Park of the Month – North Valley's Phase V presented by Dan O'Connor, Parks Maintenance Supervisor.

Dan O' Connor, Maintenance Supervisor for the north gave a presentation. North Valleys Regional Park is 160 acres of open space that includes sports fields, playgrounds, skate park, community center, splash park, picnic pavilions and trail systems. Phase V added more baseball fields, a trail head installation, and irrigation improvements. Improvements included adding a pump, frequency drive unit, filtration system, three miles of trails, a stacked loop bike trail for beginning to advanced riders, hikers, runners and equestrians.

In response to Commissioner Chen regarding the traffic counters, Dan said they were installed when first built and rangers would have the visitor counts. The visitor numbers have increased 50% through COVID.

In response to Commissioner Chen regarding the splash park opening in 2021, Colleen Wallace-Barnum, Park Operations Superintendent said we plan to open aquatics facilities for 2021 season.

Colleen Wallace-Barnum said that we won an award for Phase V improvements and thanked Dan for his presentation.

Commissioner Doolittle commended Dan and staff on keeping the park looking great.

Commissioner Oliver thanked Dan for his excellent presentation and commented that it shows how much work goes into maintaining parks for the public.

Commissioner Chen agreed and thanked Dan.

11. Parks Reports

Colleen Wallace Barnum, Park Operations Superintendent said Thomas Muratori is the newest Park Ranger I. Thomas was a previous seasonal employee and will begin full time Monday, March 8th.

Seasonal positions are posted. Staff will be working on hiring seasonal staff for the coming busy season.

12. Director's Reports

Eric Crump, Division Director Operations highlighted the Board of County (BCC) Commissioners items.

- The BCC approved an easement of 47 square feet to anchor to an existing power pole in Verdi to NV Energy at the February 9th meeting.
- The BCC accepted \$3,300 from businesses and organizations, and \$372,800 from Silverstein Gift Trust for improvements to Bowers Mansion at the February 16th meeting.

In response to Commissioner Lee regarding the Mazzaferri and the First Tee, Eric said this Commission recommended going forward to the BCC for the first meeting in April.

In response to Commissioner Oliver regarding the Artown proposal, Eric said the proposal goes before the BCC next Tuesday, April 9th.

13. Commissioners comments

No Commissioner comments

14. Public Comments

No public comments

15. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:14 pm

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Penland, Office Assistant III.