

**Draft MINUTES**

**Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission  
June 7, 2022**

**The Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission met in a scheduled session on Tuesday, June 7, 2022, 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>**

**Acting Chair Chen called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.**

**1. Roll Call**

**Members Present:** Stephanie Chen, Timothy Dake, Nicholas Martin Kearney, Maxwell DiNatale, Kevin Joell, Darla Lee, Lisa Rode

**Staff Present:** Denise Evans, Colleen Wallace Barnum, Jennifer Penland, Sophia Kirschenmann, Lindsey Liddell, Dave Solaro, Bret Hartman

**Absent:** Doug Doolittle

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

The pledge was recited.

**3. Public Comment**

No public comment.

**4. Approval of the Agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of June 7, 2022**

No public comment.

Motion by Commissioner Dake to approve the agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of June 7th, 2022. Second by Commissioner Joell. Motion carried unanimously.

**5. Approval of the Minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of May 3, 2022.**

No public comment.

Motion by Commissioner DiNatale to approve the Minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of May 3, 2022. Second by Commissioner Joell. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Colleen Wallace Barnum, Park Operations Superintendent, recognized Bret Hartman, Park Ranger, for 5 years with Washoe County and thanked him for his service and contributions.

Colleen Wallace Barnum also recognized Denise Evans and thanked her for her 15 years of service and contributions.

Commissioner Chen congratulated Bret & Denise.

**7. Eagle Scout Presentation**

No items.

**8. Presentation, discussion, and possible recommendation to adopt the Carcione and Canepa Ranch Recreation Access Plan (Commission District 1.) (For Possible Action).**

Commissioner Joell was recused from Item 8 due to a potential conflict of interest. Item 8 was delayed until Commissioner Joell was out of Chambers.

Sophia Kirschenmann, Park Planner, gave an overview of the project and properties and turned over to Ben Fish, Project Manager with Design Workshop, who gave a presentation.

In response to Commissioner Dake's question about parking, Ben & Sophia stated that this plan would formalize parking.

In response to Commissioner Rode's question about homeless encampments, Sophia stated there is a concern from the community regarding potential future homeless encampments, if Washoe County developed formalized trailheads on either parcel, additional ranger and maintenance staffing would be needed and would have regular patrols to monitor for illegal activities.

In response to Commissioner Rode's question about trailers, Sophia stated the access plan identifies locations on the Canepa Ranch property for horse trailer parking for equestrian use on the trail system.

In response to Commissioner Rode's question on the timeline of the project, Sophia stated master planning efforts are implemented over several years and are implemented as funds become available. There is some funding available as well as some grant opportunities.

In response to Commissioner Lee's concern about the potential increase in traffic, Sophia stated there is only one way in and out of the property. Sophia did engage with NV Energy and Truckee Meadows Water Authority about potentially utilizing the bridge and road for secondary access. TMWA was supportive and would be willing to grant an emergency access easement, if supported by NV Energy, however, NV Energy has not responded to the inquiries. Restoration work would need to be done to improve the bridge and make it safe for emergency egress. Sophia stated that traffic increase was a key concern from the community. There were conversations with traffic engineers about potential mitigations to slow traffic down and ensure safety for the community.

Public comment was received by e-mail and sent to commissioners in advance and is available on the Washoe County Parks website from the following:

Barbara Fenne  
CR Albright  
Jean Bechdolt  
Kris Engstrom  
Luke & Naniece Bucci  
Samuel G Broyles Jr  
Stephanie & James Flowers  
Terry & Karen Melby

Public comment from Terry Melby. Mr. Melby stated that majority of the users all use the Mogul exit and the parking near NV Energy is done by homeowners in the subdivisions. The Carcione plan addresses easy accessibility off the Mogul exit and focuses on providing a parking area. Mr. Melby stated the existing trailheads on the East are utilized and well populated. The community would like to see the meadow reserved for wildlife.

Public comment from Paul DeMartini, resident, and President of Belli Ranch HOA. Mr. DeMartini stated that the consensus is that residents are not in favor of the plan due to the concerns mentioned, traffic, and increased crimes. Mr. DeMartini would like to know the budget and if it is a good use of public funds for a small user group. The community is in favor of the access to the river, but not a parking lot or restrooms.

In response to Commissioner Rode's concern about the meadow and disruption of wildlife. Sophia stated the proposed plan is conceptual and official design happens in the future and at that time, we can look at how to avoid environmentally sensitive areas.

In response to Commissioner Chen's question about future design and components coming back before Park Commission, Sophia stated that typically items do not come back to the board. The approval of the plan today is the elements of the plan, design would move forward on developments as funding arises. If a development is funded by grant money, it typically comes back before the Board.

In response to Commissioner Dake's question about why the properties were combined and not looked at independently, Sophia stated on the Carcione side there is a constraint with the railroad that is being actively pursued in hopes of gaining legal public access. If that public access is not secured, there is no way to provide a legal safe way for the community to get there. Combing properties allows the ability to look at multiple options for connecting the parcels and providing access from Canepa Ranch to Carcione if necessary. Given the proximity, a project on one side could potentially impact the other side. Properties could provide additional river access and disperse use from other, busier locations.

In response to Commissioner DiNatale's question about supporting the plan with modifications in place to cater to the homeowners in the area, Sophia stated the Board can approve with modifications. The concerns have been addressed with the community and a smaller parking area and potential traffic study was proposed. The plan is anticipating future growth, City of Reno has approved a large development to the west of Belli Ranch and there will be an additional need for recreation.

In response to Commissioner Rode's question about modifying the plan with Canepa Ranch and Carcione being treated as two separate properties, Sophia stated the Board could recommend the approval of improvements to one property and not the other. Sophia stated the Canepa Ranch property is the property with the meadow.

In response to Commissioner Martin Kearney about the locations, Sophia stated the Avansino Ranch house is located on the Carcione open space property.

Motion by Commissioner Dake to adopt the Carcione and Canepa Ranch Recreation Access Plan. Second by Commissioner Lee. Motion carried.

Motion opposed by Commissioner Rode.

### **9. Park/Program of the Month – Project Highlights from the Integrated Vegetation Management Program, presented by Natural Resource Planning AmeriCorps team.**

Claudia Pighetti and Elizabeth Ott-Bales with AmeriCorps gave a presentation.

Commissioner Lee thanked the AmeriCorps representatives for their presentation and said she was eager to see the completion. Elizabeth said the pollinator garden should be complete by the end of the summer.

Commissioner Chen thanked AmeriCorps for their presentation and time and dedication.

In response to Commissioners Joell's question about the survival rate, Elizabeth stated there was no data on other areas but they have had a good success rate.

Eric Crump introduced Natural Resource Planner, Joanne Lowden. Commissioners thanked Joanne for her hard work.

## **10. Discussion on cancelling the July 5, 2022, Park Commission Meeting (For Possible Action)**

Commissioner Chen stated discussion on potential cancellation is due to not meeting quorum in the past due to the holiday weekend.

Commissioner Rode & Joell stated they were okay with cancelling or still holding the meeting if quorum is met.

Commissioner Dake stated if there is a quorum, the meeting should still be held.

Motion by Commissioner Rode to still hold the July 5, 2022, Park Commission Meeting. Second by Commissioner Dake. Motion carried unanimously.

## **11. Parks Reports**

Colleen Wallace Barnum, Park Operations Superintendent, highlighted events for the busy park season. Colleen said staff is very busy with park volunteers, visitors, and events.

Bowers Pool passed inspection and the pool will be opening June 11th and will be open daily until the new school year starts. Bowers splash pad features should be installed to open in two weeks. The grant for the splash pad and pool remodel was generously donated by the William M. Pennington Foundation.

Ranger walks are happening in the parks and information can be found on the Washoe County Parks website.

Bowers Mansion is open Friday – Monday beginning Monday, June 13<sup>th</sup>.

Rancho 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary exhibit is open to the public at the Wilbur D. May Museum and a full day celebration event will happen on June 25<sup>th</sup>.

Volunteer hours reached twice the normal number for the month of April.

## **12. Director's Report**

Dave Solaro, Assistant County Manager, stated the Board of County Commissioners did approve the budget for fiscal year 2023 which includes a big impact to Washoe County Parks.

The Board of County Commissioners heard the second reading and adopted the changes to Chapter 95, the county Code section that governs parks and open space. Dave stated one provision is the number of meetings per year. Once a new chair is elected, there can be a discussion on moving forward with meetings. Chapter 95 gives field staff more authority.

The Board of County Commissioners approved the lease for the Polygrarian Institute.

The Board of County Commissioners recommended approval of the golf management license for CalMaz Golf to extend at Wildcreek Golf Course. Continuing to create agreements to fully transfer the property to First Tee.

The Board of County Commissioners approved the slope and landscape easement at Lazy 5 Regional Park and adjusted the pay scale for lifeguard positions.

Correspondence was provided to the Board of County Commissioners regarding Silver Knolls Park. Washoe County is reliant on a small water company who has had struggles with arsenic in the water. The water company has been working with the Nevada Department of Environmental Protection to create a filter system. In January, rates were raised 5 to 6 times great than other water companies to irrigate the parks. Washoe County had to make the unfortunate decision to disconnect water service and is working for short term water solutions. The health of the trees will be monitored and hand watered if necessary.

In regard to Commissioner Joell's question about using reclaimed water, Mr. Solaro stated we would utilize the most appropriate water for irrigation of the park as it moves forward.

**13. Election of the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Chair and Vice Chair for a term of June 7, 2022, thru December 31, 2022. (For Possible Action)**

Item 13 was postponed to the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting for July 5, 2022.

**14. Presentation, discussion, and training on open meeting law.**

Assistant Deputy District Attorney, Lindsay Liddell gave a presentation on open meeting law.

In response to Commissioner Joell's question about social events, Lindsay Liddell recommended not talking about park matters and to avoid a quorum present at park events.

**15. Commissioner Requests for Future Agenda Items**

Commissioner Joell asked about a parcel in Stead that is currently owned by the Bureau of Land Management that is unofficially used as a motocross track. Stated there is some interest in adding into the Truckee Meadows Lands Bill. Commissioner Joell would like to see the parcel be requested by Washoe County to be managed by a Motocross group, similar to the Archery Facility. Commissioner Joell stated he could arrange a presentation at the next meeting. Dave Solaro, Assistant County manager said the item could be brought before the board to vote on. Commissioner Joell and Mr. Solaro will work with the motocross group to get the item on the agenda.

**16. Public Comments**

No public comment

**17. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 3:56p

**Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Penland, Office Assistant III.**