



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

COMMISSION MEETING DATE: September 6, 2022

DATE: August 30, 2022
TO: Open Space and Regional Parks Commission
FROM: Colleen Wallace Barnum, Park Operations Superintendent
THROUGH: Eric Crump, Operations Division Director
SUBJECT: Discussion an possible action about the newly adopted Chapter 95 section of Washoe County Code specific to the powers and duties of the Open Space and Regional Park Commission as well as setting a schedule for the frequency of meetings. (For Possible Action)

SUMMARY

Chapter 95 of Washoe County Code was recently amended, and the ordinance was adopted by the Board of County Commission in May of 2022. Chapter 95 is specific to Washoe County's Parks and Open Space. Some of the changes were simply updates as the Chapter had not been substantially updated since the mid-1980's. The changes also included additional powers and duties that have been granted to the Open Space and Regional Park Commission. The powers and duties, pursuant to Chapter 95.020 section 7 include final approvals of the fee schedule, park district and master plans, park naming and design, park policies and guidelines, and special event agreements.

In Chapter 95.020 section 6, Meetings; Records; Quorum, the minimum number of meetings has been changed from nine to four meetings annually. Staff is requesting the commission discuss and provide direction on the number and frequency of meetings to be held annually.

PREVIOUS ACTION

May 24, 2022 – The Board conducted a second reading of the proposed ordinance and adopted Washoe County Code Chapter 95, governing parks and recreation.

May 10, 2022 – The Board introduced and conducted a first reading of the proposed ordinance and set the public hearing for a second reading and possible adoption for May 24, 2022.

September 28, 2021 – The Board directed the County Clerk to submit the request to the District Attorney for preparation of a proposed ordinance for County Code Chapter 95 (repeal and enact), pursuant to Washoe County Code Section 2.030 and 2.040.

June 1, 2021 – Open Space and Regional Parks Commission reviewed, discussed, and approved proposed changes to Washoe County Code Chapter 95.

July 5, 2016 – Open Space and Regional Parks Commission reviewed, discussed, and approved proposed changes to Washoe County Code Chapter 95.

June 7, 2016 – Open Space and Regional Parks Commission reviewed and discussed proposed changes to Washoe County Code Chapter 95 (no action taken).

April 5, 2016 – Open Space and Regional Parks Commission reviewed and discussed proposed changes to Washoe County Code Chapter 95 (no action taken).

July 1, 2009- Open Space and Regional Parks Commission recommended to the Board of County Commissioners approval of the changes to Washoe County code, Chapter 95 – Parks and Recreation.

June 2, 2009 – The Open Space and Regional Parks Commission provided input on proposed changes to Washoe County Code Chapter 95 – Parks and Recreation (no action taken).

2004 – The Board of County Commissioners amended code to reflect the department name to Regional Parks and Open Space.

2003 – The Board of County Commissioners amended code to reflect the commission name change to Open Space and Regional Parks Commission.

2002 – The Board of County Commissioners amended the section of code regarding the collection of fees.

1987 – The Board of County Commissioners approved updates to several sections of the code.

BACKGROUND

Public input was received from the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission at two public meetings and the Park Commission formally recommended these changes on July 5, 2009. The changes, additions and modifications included:

- Reduction in number of mandatory meetings of Open Space and Regional Parks Commission. Currently the minimum number is 9 meetings in a year.
- Provision for designating off-leash areas in parks.
- Provision for use of remote-control devices in parks.
- Provisions for use of food storage lockers in parks.
- Adding powers for enforcement officers to issue notices of violation and citations for violations of Chapter 95.

The Department involved many staff in reviewing and recommending changes to the Code from 2014 through 2016. The recommended changes to the Code include reorganization from three general areas into eight more specific categories to make it easier to research and understand. The original areas were:

- Open Space and Regional Parks Commission
- Department of Regional Parks and Open Space
- Use of County Park System Facilities

The new specific categories are:

- General Regulations

- Motor Vehicles
- Non-Motorized Vehicles
- Domestic Animals
- Visitor conduct
- Overnight Use
- Cultural, Historic, Natural and Wildlife
- Enforcement

This was approved by the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission July 5, 2016. There are a few sections with recommended changes since 2016. Major changes include:

- Greater authority for Open Space and Regional Parks Commission (items that will be approved by the Park Commission rather than the BCC)
 - Fee schedule for Regional Parks and Open Space
 - Park District Plans
 - Park Master Plans
 - Park Naming and Design
 - Special Event Agreements
 - Park Policies and Guidelines
 - Discretionary Permits as outlined in section 110 of Washoe County Code
 - Resolutions of Support
- Smoke Free parks
- Motorized use on trails (e-bikes)
- Enforcement authority would be given to enforcement officials to issue notices of civil penalty (NCP) or citations.

Due to the fact that the Open Space and Regional Park Commission has additional powers and duties, it is important to conduct meetings often enough so as not to delay approval processes. If we have less frequent meetings, it is possible that when we do have meetings, the meetings may run longer than usual due to the potential for more agenda items. Meetings can still occur on Tuesdays in the Commission Chambers, but the start time may need to be adjusted. Currently, on the first Tuesday of the month the Truckee Meadows Fire and Rescue Board meets at 10:00, and the Washoe County Planning Commission meets at 6:00pm. Staff recommends meeting every other month for a total of six meetings in a calendar year.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Open Space and Regional Park Commission moves to set the regularly scheduled number of meetings to six times annually, to occur the first Tuesday of November, January, March, May, July, and September.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Commission agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: "The Open Space and Regional Parks Commission moves to set the regularly scheduled number of meetings to six times annually, to occur the first Tuesday of November, January, March, May, July, and September."