

Draft MINUTES

**Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission
January 25, 2023**

The Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission met in a scheduled session on Wednesday, January 25, 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>

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

1. Roll Call

Members Present: Doug Doolittle, Stephanie Chen, Timothy Dake, Kevin Joell, Maxwell DiNatale, Nicholas Martin Kearney, Lisa Rode

Staff Present: Denise Evans, Colleen Wallace Barnum, Jennifer Roebuck, Eric Crump, Michael Large

Absent: Omer L Rains

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge was recited.

3. Public Comment

Public comment from Mark Newman. Mr. Newman stated he was intending to put in his application for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission, and has been a Washoe County resident for over 60 years. He left his contact information for the Commissioners to ask him any questions.

4. Election of the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Chair and Vice Chair for a term of January 25, 2023 thru January 25, 2024.

Commissioner Joell asked if Chair Doolittle was interested in continuing as Chair. Commissioner Doolittle stated he is not interested, as he will no longer serve as of June 2023.

Commissioner Dake asked if Commissioner Chen would like to be Chair, Commissioner Chen stated that she would like to open the opportunity to other commissioners.

Chair Doolittle nominated Commissioner Joell as Chair, Commissioner Dake second. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Joell took over as Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

Commissioner Chen nominated Commissioner DiNatale as Vice Chair. Commissioner DiNatale declined the nomination.

Commissioner nominated Commissioner Martin-Kearney. Commissioner Doolittle second. Motion carried unanimously.

No public comment.

5. Approval of the Agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of January 25, 2023

No public comment

Motion by Commissioner Dake to approve the agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission meeting of January 25, 2023. Second by Commissioner Doolittle. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Approval of minutes for the Open Space & Regional Parks Commission Meeting of November 1, 2022.

Motion by Commissioner Doolittle to approve the minutes for the Open Space & Regional Parks Commission meeting of November 1, 2022. Second by Commissioner Rode.

No public comment.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Presentation by Darin Menante and/or Greg Wenzel from Washoe Golf Course on the Washoe Golf Course Operations for 2022.

Eric Crump, introduced Darin Menante and Greg Wenzel with Washoe Golf Course, who gave a presentation on Washoe Golf.

Commissioner Doolittle thanked Darin and Greg for the report and commended them for increasing rounds. In response to Commissioner Doolittle's question about weather and mold, Darin said they were removing snow as of last week and will put down fungicide.

In response to Commissioner Doolittle's question about the Pro Shop, Darin stated they have seen growth in the last few years. They've also added a simulator for members to use during winter.

Commissioner Dake thanked Darin and Greg for a good presentation.

Chair Joell commended Darin and Greg on the multiple use aspect of the golf course and incorporating disc golf. In response to Chair Joell's question on youth camps, Greg stated there is a cost, but they would work with anyone who is unable to afford the camp.

8. Presentation, discussion, and possible approval of a Special Event Agreement with E720 LLC for the Battle Axe and Tracks Music Festival to be held at Rancho San Rafael Regional Park October 7 & 8, 2023.

Colleen Wallace Barnum, Park Operations Superintendent, gave background on the event and introduced Ken Farley, who gave a presentation.

In response to Commissioner Doolittle's question about decibel readers and having staff verify those readings, Colleen stated decibel readings are required at a variety of locations in the agreement and the event coordinator did provide the decibel readers from the front of the stage and it did not exceed 100 decibels.

In response to Commissioner Doolittle's question on clean up, Colleen stated the agreement allows 2 days for clean up after the event.

In response to Commissioner's Joell's concern about complaints from public, Colleen stated the reasons for complaints were addressed in the agreement and they will be changing the stage orientation.

In response to Commissioner Joell's question on the length of the agreement, Colleen stated this is a 1 year agreement and can be reviewed each year based on the success of the event.

In response to Commissioner Rode's question about changing the event venue, Colleen stated that it is not the only suitable venue, but there has been music festivals before and any park with a large open turf area would be appropriate. Colleen stated that Hawkins Amphitheater was discussed, but the capacity would not allow for more than 1000 people.

In response to Commissioner Martin Kearney's question on the stage orientation, Colleen stated that the stage would be facing north and the sound travelling that way.

Public comment from Cindy Sullivan and Tina Nappe was forwarded to commissioners in advance.

Public comment from Tina Nappe. Tina thanked commission for serving. Tina stated that she is a resident closest to Rancho and one of the residents that sent a complaint in 2022. Tina stated there was no privacy or silence in her house during the event. Tina stated 100 decibels is too high for a residential area and is concerned that there will be more noisy festivals in the future. Tina requested that park staff look for a different decibel level in residential areas including Rancho San Rafael. Tina also requested a posting that the event will be happening and who residents can contact during the event.

Commissioner Joell thanked Tina for her comments and let her know that they will be reviewed and that some concerns have already been looked at.

In response to Commissioner Joell's question about a policy on sound at events in general, Colleen stated she was unaware of a sound policy for events, but she would look into it.

Director Eric Crump stated the Board of County Commissioners did approve a special event policy for all parks and park specific policies. Eric Crump stated the background on 100 decibels came from early music events being held at Rancho San Rafael and has worked in the past, but as events move it can be adjusted.

Commissioner Joell stated the concern is the decibel levels in the neighborhood. In response to Commissioner Joell's question about the decibel readings, Colleen

stated readings are done by the promoter per the agreement but could be done by a contractor.

Commissioner Doolittle stated he understands the concerns and impacts noise levels have on neighborhoods and recommended to come back before the commission for a policy with decibel readings based on industry standards and other community standards.

Colleen stated with the recent changes to Chapter 95, the Park Commission is the final approving body for this and any other special event.

Commissioner Rode said she would make a motion to approve with conditions to know the final decibel level.

Colleen stated page 4 of the agreement with Battle Axe & Tracks requires promoter to provide sound monitoring services at regular intervals throughout the event and a motion could be made changing the decibel level once it is updated in the special events policy. Once the policy is approved and updated, the agreement would comply with the policy.

In response to Commissioner Dake's question about sound monitoring, Ken Farley stated they could receive the sound level from throughout the event and would know if it needed to be lowered.

In response to Commissioner Rode's question about monitoring other locations, not just park entrances, Commissioner Doolittle stated they would need to test the sound level at every house in the neighborhood. Colleen stated the Washington Street entrance will be monitored.

Motion by Commissioner Doolittle to approve the agreement with E720 LLC for the Battle Axe & Tracks Music Festival to be held at Rancho San Rafael Regional Park on October 7th & 8th 2023 with the amendment that the decibel reading be at staff discretion but not to exceed 100 decibels at the measuring points.

Second by Commissioner Dake. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Presentation, discussion, and possible recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners to approve concession agreements for four leagues: Silver State Cal Ripken, Spanish Springs Cal Ripken, Valley Providence Little

League, and Washoe Little League; and to approve a lease agreement for a storage facility for Washoe Little League

Colleen Wallace Barnum, Park Operations Superintendent gave background on the concession and lease agreements.

In response to Commissioner Rode's question about restrooms, Colleen stated that per the agreement leagues clean the bathrooms after use of the facility.

In response to Commissioner Doolittle's question about the Babe Ruth fields at South Valleys, Colleen stated it is managed by Washoe County and permitted to different groups.

In response to Commissioner Joell's question on the agreements and renewals, Colleen stated the agreements are only for the concession buildings and one storage building.

In response to Commissioner Rode's question about the 5-year contract terms, Colleen stated it is consistent with the lease agreements throughout the county.

In response to Commissioner Rode's question about the 5% profit, Colleen stated there is no need for a change in the percentage Washoe County is collecting from the leagues.

No public comment.

Motion by Commissioner Doolittle to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners to approve lease agreements for four parks concession buildings located at South Valleys Regional Park, Eagle Canyon Park, North Valleys Regional Park, and Lemmon Valley Park and one lease agreement for storage building at South Valleys Regional Park. All leases are 60-month terms commencing April 1, 2023 through March 31, 2028 with two 12 month renewal options. Second by Commissioner Dake. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Possible recommendation of agenda topics for the joint meeting with Washoe County Open Space and Regional Park Commission, City of Reno Recreation and Parks Commission, and City of Sparks Parks and Recreation Commission on February 21, 2023, 6:00pm-8:00pm at the McKinley Arts and Culture Center Auditorium.

Colleen Wallace Barnum, Park Operations Superintendent gave a background on the past meetings and stated the last meeting was 2019.

In response to Chair Joell's question about agenda topics, Colleen stated there should be a maximum of 3 topics. The other agencies will also be reviewing the topics, and the agencies will all agree on the topics for discussion before the meeting.

Commissioner Doolittle recommended postponing the joint meeting as City of Reno currently has no Director, the Director at City of Sparks is retiring, and until new Washoe County Commissioners have more experience.

Colleen stated the meeting was discussed and approved with City of Reno's director before her retirement. Commissioner Doolittle stated he believes it would be beneficial to have the new director involved in discussions or to meet again once they start.

Deputy District Attorney, Michael Large, stated the meeting is a community meeting and not a meeting of Directors and recommended moving forward with the meeting if the other agencies would like to move forward.

In response to Chair Joell's question about a recorded meeting, Colleen was unsure if it will be recorded but will find out.

Commissioner Martin Kearney suggested the agenda could be just the first item of park updates.

Colleen and Chair Joell would like to keep the topic of a Park District on the agenda.

District Attorney, Michael Large stated they will be discussion topics and no action items.

No public comment.

Commissioner Doolittle suggested discussion of consolidation of the three agencies and services provided.

Motion by Chair Joell to recommend the following topics for the joint meeting with Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission, City of Reno Recreation and Parks Commission, and City of Sparks Parks and Recreation Commission on February 21, 2023, 6pm to 8pm at the McKinley Arts and Culture Center Auditorium.

Topic 1: Updates to the major park projects or park additions by all agencies.

Topic 2: Discussion on the formation of a Regional Park District and consolidation of services.

Topic 3: Potential land swaps between agencies

Second by Commissioner DiNatale.

In response to Michael Large's question to Chair Joell about moving the meeting, Chair Joell stated that he wants to move forward with the joint commission meeting.

In response to Commissioner Doolittle's suggestion about relocating the meeting to Washoe County Chambers, Colleen stated would need to check availability and will discuss the location with other agencies.

Motion carried unanimously.

11. Review and possible recommendation to approve an update to the fees and charges policy including but not limited to section five, deposits, and refunds.

Colleen Wallace Barnum, Park Operations Superintendent gave a presentation.

No public comment.

In response to Commissioner Doolittle's question about golf, Colleen stated we do not charge fees for golf or annual passes.

Motion by Commissioner Chen to approve the updated fees and charges policy to be effective February 1st, 2023. Second by Commissioner Doolittle.

In response to Commissioner Joell's question about how often fees are reviewed, Colleen stated they have been reviewed every 2-4 years.

Motion carried unanimously.

12. Review and Possible recommendation to approve an update to the fees and charges schedule that increases fees for the first time in five years to reflect inflation and current prices and costs with an average increase of 14%

Colleen Wallace Barnum, Park Operations Superintendent stated the fee schedule was reviewed annually under the guidance of the fees and charges policy. The recommended increase is in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) to meet cost recovery goals.

The current revenue for Parks is \$950,685 in revenue, with the increase there is an anticipated additional \$145,578 in revenue for fiscal year 2024.

Chair Joell and Commissioner Doolittle thanked Colleen for her clear reports.

Colleen stated there is one fee that is not listed under the Regional Shooting Facility, and should be increased to a \$60 minimum and \$6 per shooter over 10 shooters and requested to add it into the motion.

No public comment.

Motion by Commissioner Doolittle to approve the fees and charges schedule to be effective February 1st, 2023 with the amendment of \$60 minimum for the Regional Shooting Facility Group Reservations and \$6 per shooter over 10 shooters. Second by Commissioner Chen. Motion carried unanimously.

13. Parks Reports

Colleen Wallace Barnum, Park Operations Superintendent gave recent highlights.

Come In From the Cold at Bartley Ranch will continue until March 11th, on Saturday nights at 7pm.

Park staff has been working on landscaped areas from damage to parks. Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful Christmas Tree Recycling at Bartley & Rancho San Rafael were successful.

The Dinosaur Exhibit at Wilbur D May had the biggest day historically at \$9000 on Sunday, January 22nd.

In response to Commissioner Joell's question about accepting branches at the recycling event, Eric Crump, Director stated it was a suggestion from Commissioner Hartung.

14. Director's Report

Eric Crump, director introduced new park planner, Faye-Marie Pekar.

The Board of County Commissioners authorized temporary employees to drive county vehicles.

Washoe County accepted two public trail easements and the associated maintenance agreements for access to Red Hill for developments in Spanish Springs.

Washoe County accepted a \$212,000 grant from the Nevada Division of State Parks Land & Water (LWCF) for a trailhead and access path at Riverbend and a \$455,000 LWCF grant for an all-inclusive playground at Rancho San Rafael.

In December, the Board of County Commissioners approved the agreement between Washoe County and the Biggest Little Trail Stewardship

The Board also approved Amendment Number 5 with Tahoe Transportation District regarding the East Shore Trail.

The new Commissioner Liaison for the Open Space & Regional Parks Board is Mariluz Garcia as of January.

In January, Washoe County accepted a \$345,000 grant from The Commission for Cultural Centers and Historic Preservation, which will start the restoration for the Galena Creek School House.

Director Crump also stated Commissioners were contacted and agreed on a Wednesday meeting at 1:30p.

15. Commissioner Request for future agenda items

No requests.

16. Public Comment

No public comment.

17. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:36pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Roebuck, Office Assistant III.