

DRAFT MINUTES

Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission November 29th, 2023

The Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission met in a scheduled session on Wednesday, November 29, 2023, 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>

Kevin Joell called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Members Present: Kevin Joell, Timothy Dake, Neal Jones, Michaelangelo Aranda, Miles Gertler, Mariluz Garcia, Nicholas Martin Kearney, Mark Neumann

Staff Present: Colleen Wallace-Barnum, Eric Crump, Lindsey Liddell, Brandon Roman, Faye-Marie Pekar, Dave Solaro

Absent: Lisa Rode

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge was recited by Commissioner Gurtler.

Item 6 was moved up to the next agenda item.

3. Nicholas Martin Kearney to be sworn in for reappointment as a commissioner.

Commissioner Nicholas Martin Kearney was sworn in for reappointment.

4. Public Comment

Heidi Anderson stated via Zoom that there was no sound on the Zoom meeting, but it was working now.

5. Approval of the Agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of November 29, 2023

No public comment.

Motion by Commissioner Dake to approve the agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of November 29, 2023. Second by Commissioner Neumann. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Approval of the Minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of September 27, 2023

No public comment.

Correction to the spelling of Commissioner Neumann's and Commissioner Neal Jones' names under Roll Call. Correction of a spelling error on item 9.

Motion by Commissioner Dake to approve the minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of September 27, 2023, with the corrections. Second by Commissioner Neumann. 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 Celso Gonzales for 5 years, Shawn Bartlett for 10 years, and Juan Martinez for 20 years.

Chair Joell thanked staff for their hard work.

7. Presentation, discussion, and possible recommendation to Board of County Commissioners to approve an Easement Deed between Washoe County (grantor) and NV Energy (grantee): granting an easement totaling ±1856 square feet to NV Energy on APN 162-010-20, in the Southwest Truckee Meadows Planning Area, for the placement of a new pole ancho to support the change in wire alignment of an existing power pole on Whites Creek Open Space. (Commissioner District 2.) (For possible Action)

Faye-Marie Pekar gave a presentation on the Easement Deed.

In response to Chair Joell's question about the effect on any trails or trail alignments, Faye-Marie said there would be none.

In response to Commissioner Jones' question about the documents and if they are preliminary or final, Faye-Marie stated the documents have been reviewed by the surveyor and are ready to be approved. Commissioner Jones stated neither document is signed or stamped, Faye-Marie stated that they were not stamped but there are no changes.

In response to Commissioner Jones' questions on the documents not being stamped, Deputy District Attorney, Lindsay Liddell stated it is typical for them to not be stamped as what is being presented is a preliminary view of what is being recommended to the Board of County Commissioners. The signed documents with watermarks and signatures will be included once approved. Lindsay stated that the motion can also be made with the condition that all watermarks and signatures required by law will be included.

Chair Joell stated the Park Commission is only voting on whether it affects the parks and open space under Washoe County purview and all legal matters will be handled by the Board of County Commissioners.

In response to Commissioner Neumann's question about the easement, Faye-Marie stated the work order is included in the attachments given to. Thomas Sipaila, the utility design administrator for NV Energy, stated the pole location will be moved to a higher elevation for utility access. Thomas stated a gravel road will be permanent to the pole location.

Eric Crump stated the existing pole is on a Whites Creek parcel, the new pole as well as the gravel road will be on private property. The easement is to move the overhead alignment to the new pole.

No public comment.

Motion by Commissioner Aranda to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners to approve an Easement Deed between Washoe County (grantor) and NV Energy (grantee): granting an easement totaling ±1856 square feet to NV Energy on APN 162-010-20, in the Southwest Truckee Meadows Planning Area, for the placement of a new pole anchor to support the change in wire alignment of an existing power pole on Whites Creek Open Space. (Commissioner District 2.)

Second by Commissioner Dake. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Park/Program of the Month – Dragon Lights 2023 report by Horticulturist Luke Sorenson

Luke Sorenson, May Arboretum Horticulturist, gave the report on Dragon Lights 2023.

In response to Chair Joell's question about the new contract, Luke stated there are no definite dates yet but are aiming for 2024 and on.

In response to Chair Joell's question about set up and safety due to some concerns he saw, Luke stated they will discuss that during the negotiations.

In response to Commissioner Neumann's questions about the cost from damage, Luke stated Tianyu Arts & Culture gives money for all repairs. The current and future contracts state the promoter is liable for all damage and necessary repairs.

In response to Commissioner Garcia's question on the concessions' revenue, Luke stated that revenue was included in the money paid to the May Arboretum.

In response to Commissioner Aranda's question about 2020, Luke stated Dragon Lights took place in 2019, 2022, and 2023. Colleen Wallace-Barnum, Park Operations Superintendent stated the festival did not take place in 2020 or 2021 due to COVID. Colleen stated that they may move the festival to the fall months and the dates are under negotiation as well before working on a contract.

In response to Commissioner Neumann's question about the light festival at Washoe Lake, Chair Joell stated that Washoe Lake is a Nevada State Park but commented that the traffic extended very far and was well attended. Colleen stated that she can get the information on attendance from the State Park, but it would be different as the arboretum event would be walk through and Washoe Lake is a drive through event.

9. Update on the service plan for the proposed park district pursuant to NRS 318A.090 to 318.130

Colleen Wallace-Barnum, Park Operations Superintendent, gave an update on the service plan for the proposed park district.

In response to Chair Joell's question, Colleen stated Washoe County Park Commissioners and City of Reno did adopt the resolution and directed staff to create a service plan for the Park District. City of Sparks has not yet heard the resolution as they are in a transition of leadership and has not had a Parks & Recreation plan since 2013.

In response to Commissioner Neumann's question about the 379 bill, Colleen stated it does not provide funding, it only provides the mechanism to create the Park District.

Karen Mullen stated the City of Sparks does have a meeting on December 5th and once that meeting is completing, the hope is to have another joint meeting with Washoe County, City of Sparks and City of Reno.

In response to Chair Joell's question about joint commission meetings, Colleen stated there was a desire to have the collaborative meetings more often, potentially yearly. Colleen stated the topic of another meeting could be put on the January agenda.

In response to Mark Neumann's question about more funding for parks, Colleen stated the service plan would outline potential funding opportunities. The service plan digs into each entity and how operations are done, what the needs are and how they could potentially be funded.

In response to Commissioner Garcia's question on the General Improvement Districts, Karen stated that once Washoe County, City of Reno, and City of Sparks move forward the next step would be to engage with Incline Village and Sun Valley GIDs.

No public comment.

10. Parks Reports

Colleen Wallace-Barnum, Park Operations Superintendent, went over the programming in the parks. Park rangers hosted fall photo hikes and several parks in October. There is currently a wildlife series Wednesday evenings at Lazy 5.

Bower's Mansion Living History Day was on October 21st and was well attended by about 400 people. Living History Day is a self-guided tour hosted twice a year, once in May and once at the end of the season.

Rangers have rolled out a junior ranger program.

Christmas tree harvesting was done at Galena Creek Regional Park on November 28th, 2023.

Come In from the Cold at Bartley Ranch has been happening for over 20 years and starts again on January 6th, 2024.

Meet the Turkeys annual event was held at Rancho San Rafael on November 5th, 2023, and was attended by over 2500 people.

Wilbur D May Museum staff are currently getting ready for the Dinosaur Part 2 exhibit beginning in February. The arboretum will have Christmas lights up to get feedback as a potential event to have in coming years.

In response to Commissioner Neumann's question about Christmas trees, Colleen stated Trees for Special Families at Rancho San Rafael takes place December 7th and they are provided to Military and Foster families. Families must sign up in advance.

No public comment.

11. Director's Reports

Dave Solaro, Assistant County Manager stated that the Board of County Commissioners awarded the first phase of the effluent water project in the Hidden Valley Master Plan.

Commissioner Nicholas Martin Kearney was reappointed.

The Board of County Commissioners accepted a \$1.1 million grant from Tahoe Regional Planning Agency for the study and discussion of a bike way from Tahoe Trails to Incline Village.

Washoe County has purchased bikes for Incline Village and will begin patrolling trails in spring and are looking into enforcement actions.

Mr. Solaro also stated that he does regularly speak with the General Improvement Districts, and they are being brought into the discussion of a Parks District.

12. Commissioner Request for future agenda items

Chair Joell confirmed they will add an agenda item for January to request another joint meeting with City of Reno and City of Sparks.

Commissioner Garcia shared the statistics from Sierra Nevada Journeys at Sun Valley Regional Parks and shared them with Commissioners.

Commissioner Neumann inquired about Washoe County and lifeguard recruitment and training for Bowers Pool this summer. Eric Crump stated Washoe County recruits heavily throughout the community and does provide lifeguard training.

13. Public Comments

No public comment.

Commissioner Neumann gave a public comment. Commissioner Neumann stated that during the Summer Season at the Sun Valley Pool, Seniors 60+ can swim free from 11a-12p.

14. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 2:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Roebuck, Office Specialist

Kevin Joell, Chair