



Recreation and Parks Commission

ACCEPTED MINUTES

Tuesday ~ June 3, 2014 ~ 6:00 p.m.

Fire Station 11
7105 Mae Anne Avenue – Reno, NV

MEMBERS

Nate Daniel, Chair
Layne Van Noy, Vice Chair
Joe Arrascada
Troy Harsh
Erik Scalise
Tom Stille
Gerry Taylor
Vacancy
Vacancy

A public open house was held from 5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., prior to the regular scheduled Recreation and Parks Commission meeting, for public viewing of the Sierra Vista Park Concept Design Project.

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Chair Daniel called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. A quorum was established.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Nate Daniel, Troy Harsh, Erik Scalise, Tom Stille and Gerry Taylor, Layne Van Noy, Joe Arrascada and Council Liaison Oscar Delgado

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

POSITIONS VACANT: Two positions vacant

ALSO PRESENT: Julee Conway – Director
Leslie Smith – Program Assistant
Jeff Mann -- Park Manager
Sally Sheridan – National Park Service
Jennifer Budge – Park Planner, Washoe County

2. PUBLIC COMMENT – This item is for either public comment on any action item or for general public comment and is limited to no more than three (3) minutes for each commentator.

None

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MAY 6, 2014, MEETING OF THE RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION (For Possible Action)

It was moved by Commissioner Scalise; seconded by Commissioner Taylor; to accept the May 6, 2014, minutes as presented. The motion carried: Commissioners Daniel, Harsh, Stille, Taylor, Van Noy and Scalise assenting; Commissioner Arrascada abstaining; and two vacant positions.

4. PRESENTATION – SIERRA VISTA MASTER PLAN

Director Conway awarded Dale Doerr, Jana Vanderhaar, John L'Etoile, Tom Stille, Dan Kovach, Barb Santner, Alison Cotey and Ron Blackmore from the Northern Nevada Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), a Certificate of Appreciation from the City of Reno for the group's collective and individual efforts in the design of the Sierra Vista Conceptual Master Plan.

Sally Sheridan of the National Parks Service, and a facilitator for the Sierra Vista Master Plan process, acknowledged the partnership between the City of Reno and ASLA and its significance to the community. She recognized the eight landscape architects who participated in the conceptual design process by sharing their individual talents and expertise. Sierra Vista Park is recognized as a public service project, as well as a national project, by ASLA.

5. BUSINESS ITEMS:

a. Review, discussion and potential direction for a preferred design for Sierra Vista Park (For Possible Action)

Sally Sheridan discussed the conceived vision and goals for Sierra Vista Park and the design parameters. Common ownership was a shared theme among the participants. The desired vision is:

Sierra Vista Park is northwest Reno's community hub for enjoying natural open space, trails and outdoor recreation in the shadow of Peavine Mountain.

The project goals, among other things, will be to create a sustainable restoration plan, non-motorized trails, outdoor recreation, educational opportunities, a buffer zone for surrounding neighbors, a good maintenance plan, and continued effective partnerships, as well as to repurpose the former clubhouse. The group initiated an online survey and received an astounding 761 responses from the community expressing various ideas for park use and design.

Three design plans were developed during a two-day planning charrette on April 25-26:

- Neighborhood Park
- Active Recreation
- Art and Nature

Descriptions of all the plans and features associated with each of the three proposed park designs are shown on Attachment 1. It was realized during the design process that there were a lot of similar ideas shared between the Neighborhood Park plan and the Active Recreation plan, so they were combined. The Art and Nature design includes a 3-mile soft surface trail with four interpretive loops.

The City of Reno submitted and has received preliminary notification of receipt of a \$137,000 grant from the Nevada Recreational Trails Grant through the Nevada Division of State Parks. The grant will fund a perimeter trail around the park as the first phase of development. Additional elements were proposed by the Technical Advisory Group to incorporate a restoration plan, open land fire protection, and maintenance and operations of the site.

Community members present at the meeting asked for additional information regarding area water rights, outdoor lighting, ADA access, and the availability and location of restrooms. Jeff Mann, Park Manager, responded:

- There are no designated water rights to the site. The City would have to acquire the rights. Drought-resistant vegetation would be selected for the site. There are no large areas of turf designated in the design. However, there would need to be potable water for restrooms.
- LED lights would be used to keep with the “Night Sky” effort. The parking lots have to be lit per City standards; therefore, the design shall include down lighting.
- The land around the park is mostly privately owned so access into the park is limited. Also the terrain is quite hilly, so there are concerns about compliance with ADA. The design will optimize ADA accessibility standards.
- The park is within the City service limits which require flushable toilets. Composting toilet units are not permitted and the existing ones will be decommissioned.

Sally Sheridan provided a power point presentation which displayed conceptual designs for the different park features and amenities including: large stone sculptures, perimeter trail, single track trails, art loop walking trails, nature and birding trail, teaching and restoration trail, pedestrian bridges, history trails, paved ADA trails, amphitheaters, clubhouse restoration (privately operated event center), disc golf course, dog park, volleyball or basketball areas, restrooms, group picnic areas, benches and overlooks, an archery range, PUMP bike course, and restoration ideas for the maintenance shed.

Commissioner Van Noy thanked the Stakeholder Committee for their hard work and great ideas. Commissioner Taylor congratulated the Committee for thinking outside the box with great ideas. She also recommended lists be made to identify the “must haves” versus what would be “nice to have.” Commissioner Arrascada voiced concerns about meeting accessibility requirements throughout the park for people pushing strollers, using wheelchairs, or the elderly with scooters or walkers. Accessibility seems quite limited for people with disabilities. The park should be accessible to everyone in the surrounding community. It was recognized that the area is very hilly for accessibility and may be limiting. These limitations will be reviewed by the Reno Access Advisory Committee.

Paul Reed, a member of the Stakeholder Committee, said that a plan is a process that is constantly evolving and nothing is in concrete. He also shared that it would be a good idea to put the PUMP course near an emergency access area for obvious reasons.

Lystra Pitts, owner of Wasting Arrows Indoor Archery in south Reno and principal organizer of the Junior Olympic Archery Development Program, spoke about the need for an archery park in the Reno area since none exists. The students in his program need to practice on a level range in order to be competitive.

A recess was called at 6:59 p.m. to allow for the public to view the concept plans in light of the information presented regarding the project.

Sally Sheridan requested feedback from the Commissioners and the community members for which type of park they desire, specific types of available activities, ideas and themes, an Art & Nature or an Active Recreation. The group interacted with the displayed designs by marking their preferred features/designs with stickers during the recess. The meeting was reconvened at 7:29 p.m.

After closely examining the plans, the Commissioners and community members took a vote: 20.5 voted for the Active Recreation Plan, versus 7.5 for the Art & Nature Plan. The top six park plan ideas include: (1) perimeter trail, (2) art loop walking trail, (3) single track trails, (4) archery field, (5) dog park, and (6) a tie between the amphitheater and the hard surface trails.

The next steps to a preferred alternative plan were reviewed by Jeff Mann:

- Redraft the preferred alternative so that the top features are incorporated into the design;
- Request additional feedback from the surrounding Homeowner Associations;
- Forward the design to other City of Reno Boards and Commissions for review; and,
- Post on the City website to solicit additional information from citizens.

The areas that are not going to be built or converted into something will be restored to their natural surroundings. Archeological survey for the entire sight must be done because federal monies are being used to restore the site. Great Basin Institute, which is affiliated with UNR, will do the survey. Once approved by the State, initial construction for the perimeter trail system can begin. The long-term timeline for construction will depend upon the availability of funding for both capital and operations and maintenance. Some features, such as archery facilities, come with significant funding. The Nevada Department of Wildlife has funding available for archery facilities. As a result, this feature could be accelerated.

Maintenance and Operations: Once the plan has been circulated through other agencies, the final plan will be taken to the City Council for approval and adoption, possibly in the fall of 2014. Maintenance will be a critical issue. The perimeter trail is low maintenance. Other features such as single track trails, mountain bike trails, and archery are often supported by people who are passionate about the activity. Volunteers will be an important aspect of the maintenance. Overall, this is a long-term project and the next steps will be determined by funding availability.

It was moved by Commissioner Van Noy; seconded by Commissioner Stille; to accept the Stakeholder Committee's decision to have staff pursue the combined recreation concept as the preferred alternative. The motion carried: Commissioners Arrascada, Daniel, Harsh, Stille, Taylor, Van Noy and Scalise assenting; and two vacant positions.

6. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT – Council Member Oscar Delgado – No action may be taken on announcements. Limited to items that do not appear elsewhere on the agenda.

Council Member Delgado thanked the Recreation and Parks Commission for their hard work and reported that he keeps in touch with Director Conway and Chair Daniel. The City Council approved the FY14/15 budget and the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department had all their requested monies funded. He asked the Recreation and Parks Commission to make a list of “must haves” and “nice to haves” for budgeting FY15/16. Council Member Delgado was supportive of the Commission’s plan to tour various City parks and advocated the need for additional dog parks.

7. STAFF LIAISON REPORT / UPDATES – Updates will be given about general Department operations including, but not limited to, FY14/15 Budget Process, Update on Southeast Connector Roadway Project.

Director Conway reported the budget process is complete for FY14/15. The Parks and Recreation Department is actively hiring part-time employees for the summer months.

Nothing new to report on the Southeast Connector; still awaiting approval from the EPA so the Army Corp of Engineers and RTC can move forward. No time frame is available for a decision. Information can be found on the RTC website.

The Adopt-A-Pool event at Idlewild Park was very successful. There were 140 volunteers that donated 130 hours of hard work. The pool will open June 6th. Director Conway shared photos of the event and all that was accomplished by the volunteers. The pool and grounds look great.

The Northwest pool is closing next week for renovations and should reopen in October 2014. The community has waited a long time for this and it is exciting.

A formal Proclamation will be made on June 25th at the City Council meeting declaring July as *Parks and Recreation Month*. All Commissioners are invited to attend.

Annual park tour is scheduled for the July 1st RPC meeting. A van will be provided to drive the Commission to each site.

The majority of the Commission has chosen August 22nd to attend the Aces Ballgame.

Director Conway recognized Jen Budge, Park Planner for Washoe County, as a valuable resource to the core group working on the Sierra Vista Park project and extended her appreciation to Jen for her contributions and knowledge on restoration and park planning.

8. COMMISSIONER / LIAISON REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – *No action may be taken on announcements. Limited to items that do not appear elsewhere on the agenda.*

Commissioner Stille attended the Reno Arts and Culture Commission (RACC) meeting on June 2. Discussion took place about Art Spot, a new 501(c)(3) non-profit organization which will feature art around the town. RACC is working with a class at UNR to develop a logo for RACC. He also updated the Commission on the upcoming Artown event. The Art Blast event poster was distributed to the Commission (Attachment 2).

Chair Daniel shared with the Commission that the Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation (TMPF) will be starting its second year of *Discover Your Parks Weekly Evening Walks*. The walks will take place every Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m. between June and August. For additional information, go to the TMPF website.

9. IDENTIFY AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS – Update on Sky Tavern; Park Maintenance Plan Updates (Quarterly); Update on Moana Springs Aquatic Center Project; Collaboration with UNR’s Athletic Director; Annual Park Tour.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT – This is for general public comment limited to items that do not appear on the agenda and is limited to no more than three (3) minutes for each commentator.

Bradley Allured – Reiterated the need for more dog parks. He thanked the Commission for hearing the public comments in the past on this issue.

Chair Daniel read comment card from Greg Koerner asking Commission to consider solar power installations at Sierra Vista Park start-up.

11. ADJOURNMENT (For Possible Action)

It was moved by Commissioner Stille; seconded by Commissioner Van Noy; to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. The motion carried: Commissioners Daniel, Harsh, Taylor, Stille, Van Noy, Arrascada and Scalise assenting; and two vacant positions.