



Recreation and Parks Commission

DRAFT MINUTES

Tuesday ~ February 18, 2020 ~ 6:00 p.m.

McKinley Arts & Culture Center, Board Room
925 Riverside Drive, Reno NV 89503

MEMBERS

Michael Ginsburg, Chair
Susan Burkhamer, Vice Chair
Deborah Enos
Emily Lande
Peggy Nelson-Aguilar
Thomas Petersen
David Pritchett
Mac Rossi
Erik Scalise

1. Call to Order/Roll Call –

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Michael Ginsburg, Deborah Enos, Peggy Nelson-Aguilar, Thomas Peterson, David Pritchett, Mac Rossi, Eric Scalise

MEMBERS ABSENT: Susan Burkhamer, Emily Lande

POSITIONS VACANT: None

COUNCIL LIAISON: Council Member Bonnie Weber

STAFF ALSO PRESENT: Jaime Schroeder, Director, Parks and Recreation (“Parks and Rec”)
Jeff Mann, Parks Manager, Parks and Recreation
Dan Massey, Recreation Manager, Parks and Recreation
Leslie Smith, Administrative Secretary, Parks and Recreation

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 Agenda for February 18, 2020 Recreation and Parks Commission (“RPC”) meeting (For Possible Action)

It was moved by Commissioner Pritchett; seconded by Commissioner Rossi to approve the Agenda for the February 18, 2020 Recreation and Parks Commission meeting. The motion carried: Commissioners Ginsburg, Enos, Nelson-Aguilar, Petersen, Pritchett, Rossi and Scalise assenting; Commissioners Burkhamer and Lande absent.

4. Approval of Minutes for January 28, 2020, Recreation and Parks Commission meeting (For Possible Action)

It was moved by Commissioner Pritchett; seconded by Commissioner Scalise to approve the Minutes for the January 28, 2020 Recreation and Parks Commission meeting. The motion

carried: Commissioners Ginsburg, Nelson-Aguilar, Petersen, Pritchett, Rossi and Scalise assenting; Commission Enos abstained; Commissioners Burkhamer and Lande absent.

5. Business Items:

a. Discussion and possible action on the Idlewild Park Playground design concepts (For Possible Action) – Jeff Mann, Parks Manager, Parks and Recreation.

Parks Manager Mann gave a presentation on the Idlewild Park playground project and the funding sources used to replace the old playground. One design concept has an aviation theme and the other has a tree house theme. Both designs cost about the same and both are ADA compliant. Each design includes a wheel chair access merry-go-round, slide, zip line feature, and climbing feature. There will be a plaque located at the site to provide information about the chosen playground theme and its features. The Commission discussed the design concept and proposed features of each playground theme.

It was moved by Commissioner Pritchett; seconded by Commissioner Enos to give direction to staff to move forward with the tree house theme design concept playground at Idlewild Park. Further discussion followed. The motion carried: Commissioners Ginsburg, Enos, Petersen, Pritchett and Scalise assenting; Commissioners Nelson-Aguilar and Rossi dissent; Commissioners Burkhamer and Lande absent.

b. Presentation, discussion and potential direction on General Fund budget, impacts due to Minimum Wage increase and changes to future fee schedules (For Possible Action) – Jaime Schroeder, Director, Parks and Recreation.

Director Schroeder presented information to the RPC on the General Fund budget for the current fiscal year and FY20/21. The legislature has passed, effective July 1, 2020, a minimum wage increase of \$.75 per hour for each of the next five years until the minimum wage reaches \$12.00 per hour. Currently, the minimum wage is \$8.25 per hour. Future meetings will be scheduled to discuss how this will impact the City as a whole and specifically the Parks and Recreation Department. The initial increase will take effect 7/1/2020. It will affect FY20/21, FY21/22, FY22/23, FY23/24, and FY24/25. The Parks and Recreation budget summary for FY19/20 provided an historical reference to department expenses related to program operations, salaries and wages, employee benefits, services and supplies and capital outlay. Funding sources were primarily from the General Fund. For FY20/21, the budget will be similar to the current fiscal year. There are no cuts identified at this time. However, any additional requests may or may not be approved. This will depend on the future fiscal outlook as reported by the Finance Department. Parks and Rec will continue to put forth budget requests so that it is noted what the needs of the department are and to plan and forecast for the future. We have asked for additional unfilled positions to be requested. Some open positions have low or no payouts.

The largest challenge Parks and Rec is facing is the mandatory Minimum wage increase implemented July 1, 2020. For each position that is paid the minimum wage, there are 7 pay scale categories for the position. Since the starting pay scale will be increased by \$.75, each pay scale is

being increased \$.75. Otherwise, the beginning pay scale will eventually surpass the higher pay scale. So to prevent this, it is recommended that each pay scale be increased \$.75 per hour as well. This wage increase will affect temporary staff wages as well as Senior Recreation Leader and Recreation Leader wages. As provided by the Finance Department, it is calculated that the minimum wage increase for temporary staff wages is expected to increase by 8%. That translates to about \$180,000 per year in increased expenses for salaries and wages. Fiscal responsibility to be accountable stewards of tax payers' funds is a primary goal. A plan must be put into place so that the deficit is not pushed out each year and results in a \$2,700,000 deficit for Parks and Recreation. Parks and Rec fees are established using different methods. Determine the direct and indirect cost of the programs; have a cost recovery goal; determine if expenses for new programs can be absorbed within existing budget; and review programs to determine if one should be replaced by a more successful program. A graduated cost recovery plan was outlined and discussed. This would increase fees each year to help cover the cost of the mandatory minimum wage increase instead of realizing a \$2.7m deficit at the end of the five-year wage increase implementation. Scholarships are available for those who qualify. If this potential deficit is not addressed, there is the potential that programs would have to be cut. Graduated fee structure is a better approach to pay for the mandatory minimum wage increase as opposed to facing a \$2.7m deficit in FY23/24. Additional options to the graduated cost recovery plan include increase fee assistance/scholarship line item cap from \$500; increase the senior discount age from 50 to 55 or 60; reduce the General Fund Contingency; reduce General Fund Reserves. There was discussion on the various programs that have fees attached to them. Implementing resident/non-resident fees was suggested. Two types of scholarships are available. One is specific to the before and after school programs which is funded by Children's Cabinet. The other is a scholarship program supported by the City of Reno for all ages.

The budget has to be adopted by 3/27/2020.

Public Comment – Donna Clontz presented information regarding senior issues. The rate of suicide among seniors and the lack of socialization is of great concern. The seniors that are most at risk are those who are isolated. Possible support for programs would be to connect with senior insurance programs that would pay the city for recreation programs that keep seniors healthy.

The Commission discussed the points to be made prior to making the motion as follows:

- Consensus to consider changing the age range;***
- Consider the impact to families using the Youth programs; impact by fee increases.***
- Pickleball fee increases, move activity from seniors to Recreation Centers or adult sport athletics;***
- Publicize scholarship fee assistance programs more;***
- Educate public why fee increases are being discussed;***
- Resident/non-resident fee structure;***
- Tier age increase each year;***
- Educate and increase scholarship cap;***
- Find out if senior age is codified with the city;***

It was moved by Commissioner Pritchett; seconded by Commissioner Petersen to support staff direction on the General Fund budget, impacts due to Minimum Wage increase and changes to future fee schedules which include the graduated cost recovery approach to cover the cost of the mandatory minimum wage increases but also to look at the following for consideration:

- ***Consider the age change increase;***
- ***Consider the impact on working families;***
- ***Consider Pickleball increases to include moving to a different program area or their own pass;***
- ***Publicize scholarship fee assistance program and increase the cap from \$500 to an appropriate level once the fees schedule is determined;***
- ***Look up the definition of a senior to find out if it is codified;***
- ***Resident/non-resident fee structure;***
- ***Educate why this is necessary;***
- ***We Are All In This Together.***

The motion carried: Commissioners Ginsburg, Enos, Nelson-Aguilar, Petersen, Pritchett, Rossi and Scalise assenting; Commissioners Burkhamer and Lande absent.

Commissioner Scalise left the meeting at 7:40 pm.

- c. Update, discussion and possible direction on Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful (“KTMB”) Great Community Clean-up to be held May 2, 2020, or possible separate project date for RPC (For Possible Action) – Jaime Schroeder, Director, Parks and Recreation.**

There was discussion by the Commission regarding the KTMB Great Community Clean-up. The May 2nd date was not good for some of the Commissioners. There were suggestions by staff of projects that could use additional help from volunteers that day:

- Oxbow Park – pollinator garden clean-up
- Virginia Lake – general clean-up, spread bark mulch, tree plantings
- Idlewild Park – general clean-up the sensory garden

If the Commission is interested in volunteering on a different day prior to May 2nd, general clean-up can be done at Virginia Lake. Council Member Weber suggested doing a project in the North Valleys possibly working with the Neighborhood Advisory Board (NAB), Job Corps and KTMB. After discussion, it was decided by the Commission to table this item until the next meeting.

It was moved by Commissioner Petersen; seconded by Commissioner Nelson-Aguilar to table this item until next RPC meeting.

The motion carried: Commissioners Ginsburg, Enos, Nelson-Aguilar, Petersen, Pritchett, Rossi and Scalise assenting; Commissioners Burkhamer and Lande absent.

6. Council Liaison Report – Council Member Bonnie Weber (arrived at 6:30 p.m.) – No action may be taken on announcements. Limited to items that do not appear elsewhere on the agenda.

Council Member Weber is working to get help from the community to improve all fields and access to them in the North Valleys. Homeless camp behind Walmart has been cleaned up. Code Enforcement contacted the owner of the property, who then brought in a property management company. They gave notice to occupants, cleaned it up and charged the costs back to the property owner. The camp then moved to county property and the county has been notified.

7. Staff Liaison Report/Updates – Updates will be given about general Department operations including, but not limited to, Recreation Manager update; Moana Springs Park and Aquatics Center; Rosewood Recreation Preserve, Corporate Challenge.

- Pam Bedard, Horticulturist with Parks and Recreation passed away from cancer. Her memorial services will be March 13, 2020, at the California Building. If interested, a GoFundMe account has been set up for her daughter.

- The Recreation Manager hiring process is proceeding. The number of candidates has been narrowed down. A panel will be interviewing the final candidates next week.

- Moana Springs Park and Aquatics Center is moving forward. The Pennington Foundation made the pledge agreement for the Public Safety Center. At the same time, they made the pledge agreement for Moana Pool. Council approved a \$15,000,000 bond to help the Public Safety Center get built. There may be a possibility that with some of the offset from the fundraising of that project, Council may consider using the existing bond to help fund the Moana Pool project as well. Still being discussed, nothing is final. A handout was shared from Sierra Nevada Community Aquatics in support of Moana Pool construction.

- Rosewood Recreation Preserve is tentatively scheduled to go to Council on March 25, 2020. The agreement is still being negotiated. There is no new news at this time. It is still the same general concept. The finite details are being worked out. The City is looking to bring both the Rosewood Recreation Sports Complex agreement and the Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation agreement to Council in the same meeting.

- Corporate Challenge press release will be sent out tomorrow. Any business can participate. It will be returning on a smaller level than in the past. Businesses compete against each other in ten different sports. It will possibly be held over 3 months with one event each week instead of 2 weeks. The press release will be sent out to previous corporate participants and the community.

8. Commissioner/Liaison Reports & Announcements – No action may be taken on announcements. Limited to items that do not appear elsewhere on the agenda.

Commissioner Pritchett – Arts and Culture Commission (“ACC”) is on the slow track to discussing which city office may pay for maintenance of public art in public parks. There is information in the ACC minutes from the last meeting.

9. **Identify Agenda Items for Future Meetings** – Reno Parks Master Plan update; Nevada Land Trust update; Yori Park update; ReLeaf Reno update; Moana Springs Park and Aquatics Center.

Items for the March RPC meeting agenda: Update from Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation on the status of their project; presentation by the Nevada Land Trust.

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.

None.

11. **Adjournment (For possible action)**

It was moved by Commissioner Rossi; seconded by Commissioner Petersen to adjourn the RPC meeting at 8:00 p.m. The motion carried: Commissioners Ginsburg, Enos, Nelson-Aguilar, Petersen, Pritchett and Rossi assenting; Commissioners Scalise (left at 7:40 pm), Burkhamer and Lande absent.