

Reno Access Advisory Committee



MEETING MINUTES Tuesday, April 27, 2021 Scheduled Time: 5:30 PM Teleconference Meeting

MEMBERS

Erik Jimenez, Chair
Mark Tadder, Vice Chair
Jill Atkinson
Tim Healion
Jack Mayes
Diana Rovetti
Allanna Warren

Council Liaison: Hillary Schieve,
Mayor

Staff Liaison: April Wolfe,
Therapeutic Recreation Specialist
Leslie Smith

1. Call to Order/Roll Call (for Possible Action)

Chair Jimenez called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. A quorum was established.

Members Present: Erik Jimenez, Mark Tadder, Jill Atkinson, Jack Mayes, Diana Rovetti, Tim Healion

Members Absent: Allanna Warren

Positions Vacant: 2

City Council Liaison: Hillary Schieve, Mayor, City of Reno

Staff Liaison: April Wolfe – Therapeutic Recreation Specialist, Leslie Smith

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

There were no public comments.

3. Approval of the Agenda (for Possible Action) – April 27, 2021

Change to agenda: Resume live meetings in June instead of July.

It was moved by board member, Tadder; seconded by board member Atkinson, to approve the April 27, 2021 RAAC meeting agenda as presented. The motion carried: members Jimenez, Tadder, Atkinson, Mayes, Rovetti assenting; 1 member absent; and 2 positions vacant.

4. Approval of the Minutes (for Possible Action) – March 23, 2021

It was moved by member Mayes; seconded by member Healion, to approve the March 23, 2021 RAAC meeting minutes as presented. The motion carried: members Jimenez, Tadder, Atkinson, Healion, Mayes, Rovetti assenting; 1 member absent; and 2 positions vacant.

* Denotes **NON** action item

5. City Council Liaison Report – Report by Mayor Hillary Schieve

Mayor Schieve was absent from the meeting.

6. Nevada Cares Campus – An informational update on the Nevada Cares Campus. Khalil Wilson, Engineering Manager

Khalil Wilson gave a presentation on this item. Khalil explained how there are homeless sheltering challenges because of a lack of sufficient capacity to shelter the homeless in the current shelters available. The Nevada Cares Campus project is being funded by the CARES Act.

The project was approved in November 2020 by the Reno and Sparks city councils and by Washoe County Commissioners. Phase one construction started in January 2021. Phase one includes a 46,000 square foot shelter with three rooms and include beds and lockers. There are ADA compliant restrooms and showers for men and women as well. The shelter will be operated 24/7 by Volunteers of America. Pedestrians will have access off East 4th Street to Threlkel St., and there are sidewalks along the building and along the south end of the property.

In the future there will be sidewalks along 4th street as well as a crosswalk with crossing lights for pedestrians. ADA parking will be available on the north side of the property.

Vice-Chair Tadder asked about lighting along 4th street, and Khalil said that there is plenty of streetlights both on the street and the front entrance of the building.

Board Member Mayes asked when people will be able to start utilizing the building. Khalil said are hoping to be open to the public by May 17th.

7. Park Playgrounds – Update on replacement playground at Idlewild Park; presentation and discussion on current playground design standards. Matt Brezina, Parks Manager, City of Reno

Matt Brezina gave a presentation on this item. Matt demonstrated how the Parks Department has incorporated more inclusive amenities to the Somerset West construction in the community playground, community garden and walking paths around the park. An example of this is a bucket seat swing with a securing hatch so that children of all abilities can have access to a swing in the playground.

They have installed 48 raised planter boxes, and 10 of them have been raised, so that they are accessible by wheelchair. The accessible ones are 36 inches high while the others are about 18 inches.

The Parks Department is almost done with the Idlewild Playground construction. They are planning on reopening the park by May 28th with an adaptive zip line and we-go-round.

Matt updated them on the futsal court at Paradise Park, which is a possible site for outdoor, adaptive sport leagues. Member Rovetti asked when the court will be constructed, and Matt said that they are hoping the courts are completed by the end of May. April asked if the gates to the

court were wide enough to accommodate sport wheelchairs. Matt did not know the answer but was told the courts were accessible.

Matt gave them future update to park upgrades. Matt said that there are multiple playgrounds scheduled for upgrades in the next five years that include playground component replacements, playground safety surface replacements, and restroom ADA remodels.

The Parks department gets a \$400k Park Fund annually, as well as, Residential Construction Tax, the Community Development & Block Grant, and other federal, state and local grants to fund parks. They put about \$65,000 a year into restroom improvements to make sure they are ADA compliant.

8. Staff Liaison Report – A review and discussion to staff regarding RAAC programs.

1. Resuming in-person meetings in June
2. Membership Update

This is member Jill Atkinson's last meeting so there will be 3 vacancies that will need to be filled by recommendations to city council.

3. Jaime Schroeder gave an update to the board about a press release that went out to the public to complete a survey, so that the City of Reno can expand the recreation facilities plan that was adapted back in 2008 by the City Council. Jaime explained to the board how funding is still an ongoing issue and that a lot of the improvements needed back then still exist now. They are planning on calling the plan the PROS service plan. Jaime explained to the board that the Parks Department always has ADA on the forefront of their minds when building new facilities.

Jaime explained how the fees for services to the community have had to increase because of the minimum wage increase, but they are keeping the fee increases as minimal as possible so services are still affordable, and they have a Wellness Pass option for those who qualify on scholarship to give more vulnerable populations easier access to amenities in the community.

9. Membership Recommendation (for Possible Action) - A review, discussion and potential recommendation to the Reno City Council of potential candidates, Barry Belvins, Julius Lorentzen, Dwight Nelson, Kathy Price-Toby and Forrest Shepherd to fill up to three vacant positions on the Reno Access Advisory Committee.

Forrest Shepherd has experience as a firefighter. Forrest was injured on the job and had to medically retire. The last two years, Forrest has been a part of the City of Reno and High Five Foundation's Military to the Mountains program. Forrest is interested in learning more about the adaptive community and trying to be a catalyst to change in the right direction.

Kathy Price-Toby is a former RAAC member. Kathy was born with Spina Bifida, and has lived in Reno for 22 years. Kathy is interested in ensuring that all Reno facilities and programs are accessible to everyone. Kathy has seen many of the changes that the community and that RAAC has been able to accomplish to make Reno a more adaptive city.

It was moved by member Mayes; seconded by Vice-Chair Tadder to recommend Forrest Shepherd and Kathy Price-Toby to the Reno City Council for approval to fill two of the three vacancies on RAAC. The motion carried: members Jimenez, Tadder, Atkinson, Mayes, Healion and Rovetti assenting; 1 member absent; and 2 positions vacant.

10. Special Intergovernmental Meeting Related to Accessible Housing Access Issues During Fiscal Year 20/21 (For Possible Action) – A review, discussion and potential direction to staff regarding a meeting date, draft agenda, and potential invite list for a special meeting of the Access Advisory Committee on accessible housing. Erik Jimenez, RAAC Chair

The committee decided that July would be a better month to try to hold the meeting, so that the new members would be able to participate.

Chair Jimenez asked the committee to come back with a list of agenda items, questions, people they want to participate, etc. for the May meeting, so that they have a plan for the meeting, so they can send the invites to all the possible participants sooner rather than later.

It was moved by member Mayes; seconded by Vice-Chair Tadder to hold the Special Intergovernmental Meeting to Accessible Housing Access Issues on July 27, 2021, and attain the item on the agenda for the next meeting. The motion carried: members Jimenez, Tadder, Atkinson, Mayes, Healion and Rovetti assenting; 1 member absent; and 2 positions vacant.

11. Future Agenda Items – Discussion of Items for future agendas.

1. ADA Transition Plan
2. Intergovernmental Special Meeting
3. Moana Pool
4. Parks Survey

12. Public Comment – *This item is for either public comment on any action item or for any general public comment and is limited to no more than three (3) minutes for each commentator.*

Jill Atkinson gave a public comment.

13. Adjournment (for possible action)

It was moved by Vice-Chair Mayes; seconded by member Healion to adjourn the RAAC meeting at 6:56 p.m. The motion carried: members Jimenez, Tadder, Atkinson, Mayes, Healion and Rovetti assenting; 1 member absent; and 2 positions vacant.

