



Recreation and Parks Commission Meeting Hybrid Meeting

Approved Minutes

Tuesday, August 15, 2023 – 6:00 pm

Members

David Pritchett, Chair
Karla Werninghaus, Vice-Chair
Craig Bronzan
Susan Burkhamer
Michael Ginsburg
Emily Lande

Mac Rossi
Jerry Wager
Austin Youngblood
Council Liaison: Miguel Martinez
Staff Liaison: Nathan Ulyot

A. Introductory Items

A.1 Call To Order/Roll Call

Acting Vice-Chair Werninghaus called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

Present: Werninghaus, Bronzan, Burkhamer, Ginsburg, Rossi, Wager

Absent: Pritchett, Lande, Youngblood

A.5. Council Liaison Report – Item for general announcements and informational items only. No action may be taken on this item.

This item was taken out of order for an announcement by Councilmember Martinez – Chair David Pritchett has passed away. He was an advocate of parks and recreation including “pocket parks” throughout the city. He donated his time towards the improvement of area parks, programs that served the community, and the maintenance and care of public facilities for the use by the community. His leadership and advocacy for the community will be missed.

A.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.

- Kass Kirkham and Barbara Leusing – Would like to see bocce ball courts in more parks, especially under-utilized parks such as Horseman’s Park.

- Jay Howard with Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation and Program Coordinator for Truckee Meadows Trails – Supports parks districts and the implementation of a service plan to explore what a parks district can do for the region and the possible funding sources. Gave an update on the Regional Trails Plan. Director Ulyot suggested that this item be a future agenda item to come before the RPC.
- Donna Clontz – Lead volunteer for AARP. Working on an age-friendly project collecting surveys from seniors to find out what is important to them. Seniors value open space and parks. Project focuses on matters of making Paradise Park a more friendly, safe space for seniors in the neighborhood. Goal is to re-activate the park with increased activities for seniors and youth offered at the park.
- Kris Olsen & M Herman – Written comment was received regarding the addition of pickleball courts at Center Creek Park. It would be a small cost to add pickleball court lines overlaid on the court and it would be a great addition to the park. They have portable nets so all that is needed are the lines.
- Sarah Porter – Written comment was received. Concerned about the deterioration of Damonte Ranch Park.
- Jessica Rose -- Written comment was received. Concerned about the deterioration of Damonte Ranch Park.
- Mrs. Jefri Donovan – Written comment was received. Concerned about the deterioration of Damonte Ranch Park.

A.3 Approval of the Agenda (For Possible Action) – August 15, 2023

Member Rossi moved to approve the August 15, 2023, meeting agenda. Member Ginsburg seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

A.4 Approval of the Minutes (For Possible Action) – May 16, 2023

Member Ginsburg moved to approve the May 16, 2023, meeting minutes. Member Bronzan seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

A.6 Staff Liaison Report – Item for general announcements and informational items only. No action may be taken on this item.

- Moana Topping Ceremony to be held Wednesday, August 16, 2023, at 1 p.m. Arrive early if you wish to sign the beam.
- RPC Special Meeting to be held September 12, 2023, to consider recommendation of the PROS Master Plan for adoption at a future City Council meeting. The Plan will be presented with changes from feedback from City Council, RPC and public input campaign. To get the PROS Plan on the City Council agenda for September 17, the RPC will need to recommend the Plan for adoption by September 13. Currently, there is an RPC meeting scheduled for September 19, but that will not be enough time to get it on the September 27 agenda. If it won't work, a new date will be chosen.
- Aces Baseball Game, June 23, 2023 – Thank you to everyone who attended.

- Staff will be developing a mowing plan for the spring of 2024. The current contract is set to expire at the end of 2023. A significant cost increase is expected as the current contract began prior to the current inflation reality. There is also a desire for a better service level for the sports turf. Will ask for twice weekly mowing for any game fields allowing to fertilize and deal with a higher rate of growth during the spring and summer. Expect to see an agenda item on this in October or November. Commissioner Wager brought up the concern of the overpopulation of ground squirrels in the parks. He would like this to be addressed through the mowing plan discussion.
- There is a group interested in bringing bocce ball to Crissie Caughlin Park. Working on an MOU and a fundraising plan for the project. It will be presented to the RPC when ready. The goal is to get the parks re-activated through the development of dog parks, pickleball courts, cornhole games and bocce ball.
- Working to bring the Youth City Council back. Meet-and-greet and recruitment will occur at the end of September. If anyone has connections with youth groups, team sports or school groups, refer them to Parks and Recreation. Currently, there are four young people interested. The goal is to have a total of nine participants in the YCC. Preferences for recruitment include availability, motivated and committed to this type of program, and recognize the value in contributing to local government. Letters and information will be sent out to principals signed by Councilmember Martinez and the Mayor requesting referrals.
- An idea was proposed that instead of one park tour per year, there should be three or four tours with smaller groups visiting multiple parks in each area. North Valleys, North Reno, Central Reno and South Reno would be the designated areas. This schedule was implemented in July and worked out well. It gave the Commission an opportunity to see areas that they had not visited previously.
- Teglia's Paradise Park Activity Center extended hours. Beginning in July, Paradise Park Activity Center and Health and Wellness staff were able to extend the hours on Fridays until 5 pm. Shuffleboard has been extended to 4:30 pm on Fridays and card games have been added in the afternoon increasing the number of users by 12 people. Tuesday's hours were previously extended to 5 pm so there is no schedule change on that day.

Public Comment: Donna Clontz – Visited some of the local senior residential facilities to find out what kind of activities they offer their seniors with the idea of sharing the information with staff at city facilities. Encouraging seniors to get out and socialize with others is good for them and promotes a healthier lifestyle. The more people in the parks may also help reduce some of the problems that occur in the parks. She also suggested that the public be invited to go on the park tours.

B. Business Items

B.1 Presentation and update on water polo features at Moana Springs Community Aquatics and Fitness (For Information Only) – Justin Caron, Aquatic Design Group (10 minutes)

Recreation Manager, Danny Gleich gave an update on the construction and timeline of the Moana Springs Community Aquatics and Fitness Center project. Currently on schedule. He shared some of the facility details at this stage. Justin Caron is a Principal and CEO of Aquatic Design Group and the primary consultant for the project. Justin gave an update on some of the amenities of the project such as the size of the competition pool, the number of lanes and the diving areas; the approximate size of the multi-purpose recreation pool is 3200 square feet, with three 20-yard lap lines, areas for inflatables, water volleyball, water basketball and stand up paddle board yoga; the third pool is a geothermal heated outdoor soaking pool. Programming details and staffing requirements were presented by Danny Gleich for operation of the facility. Some of the key milestones still to come include the community center structure, MEP systems, enclosure of the structure, interior finishes, and exterior site improvements. Anticipated project completion date is the summer of 2024.

There was discussion about the projected revenue of the center and expanded use year-round.

B.2 Presentation, discussion and possible approval of Truckee Meadows Water Authority Moose Ridge Waterline Intertie Project (For Possible Action) – Heather Edmunson, Truckee Meadows Water Authority (10 minutes)

Danny Rotter of TMWA gave a presentation on the TMWA Moose Ridge Waterline Intertie Project. Shared a map showing land above Northgate and Somerset areas known as upward Las Brisas. This area is known as a constant pumping zone. There is no water tank above it to provide storage. Should the pump stop working, there would be no water storage to fall back on. This is one of a few constant pumping zones left in the Reno-Sparks area. The project scope would be to route the water to an existing storage tank. TMWA is asking for a temporary construction easement over the designated area to carry out the construction and mobilizing of the project and then the permanent access and waterline easement would be there once the project is completed. The area is city-controlled open space and that is why it comes before the RPC for approval. The ancillary benefit to the area is that there are trail access points at this location, but it is primarily an infrastructure project for water. TMWA hopes to bring the project before the City Council sometime next year.

Member Ginsburg moved to approve the Truckee Meadows Water Authority's easement through the City of Reno open space land. Member Bronzan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

B.3 Presentation and update on Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation (TMPF) (For Information Only) – Heidi Anderson, Executive director of TMPF (10 minutes)

Heidi updated the Commission on what is happening at TMPF. They offer various programs and activities to the community such as guided hikes, multiple locations for park walks and special events. New upcoming programming will include Adaptive Programming and Discover Your Hobbies. The Foundation has served approximately 5,000 community members through their community programming who have hiked or walked over 300,000 miles of trails over the last ten years. The Youth Programming is offered and available in the schools and in the parks. Fall and winter camps will be offered as a new program this year. Starting the process of planning an adventure camp for older students as well. TMPF and the Forest Foundation will be partnering to create programming for kids. Scholarships are available for youth to participate in the Youth