

MEETING MINUTES OF THE DOUGLAS COUNTY
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

Meeting minutes of the Douglas County Parks & Recreation Commission held on January 3, 2017 at the Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority Building, 169 Highway 50, Stateline, NV 89449.

I Opening: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lang at 6:15 PM.

The Pledge of Alliance was led by Chairman Lang.

Members Present: Debra Lang, Kelly Gardner, Gary Dove, Meghan Kelly

Members Absent: Cherise Smith, Celeste Pierini, Thomas Moore

County Board of Commissioners Present: None

Staff Members Present: Scott Morgan, Brian Fitzgerald, Travis Lee, Traci Dill, Ryan Stanton, Liz Baumgartner

II. Approval of the agenda for January 3, 2017.

Commissioner Dove made a motion to approve the agenda for January 3, 2017.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kelly.

The votes were:

Ayes: Lang, Gardner, Dove, Kelly

Nays: None

Absent: Smith, Pierini, Moore

III. Approval of previous meeting minutes of December 6, 2016.

Commissioner Dove made a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes of December 6, 2016.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gardner.

The votes were:

The votes were:

Ayes: Lang, Gardner, Dove, Kelly

Nays: None

Absent: Smith, Pierini, Moore

IV. Public Comment

No public comment was received.

V. Administrative Agenda

- a) Discussion and Possible Action: Public comment for the US Forest Service parking and maintenance improvement to the North Kingsbury Trailhead at the end of Andria Drive in Stateline, NV.

Director Morgan introduced Michael Gabor and Jacob Quinn from the US Forest Service to discuss the parking and maintenance project at this location which has been awarded approximately \$350,000 in funding. The US Forest Service representative gave a brief history and the need for these enhancements at this location. The Forest Service considers this a very important trailhead since it serves the Rim Trail, the Stinger Trail and the Kingsbury to Spooner-Genoa Peak Off Road Trail.

It is rare to have so many users that encompass a year round community at one trailhead. The current asphalt is in a state of disrepair. Storm water improvements and BMP's can be made as enhancements to this trailhead. It is relevant to the second part of this agenda to coordinate a restroom installation before the asphalt goes in so that the infrastructure can be installed prior to the placement of asphalt.

Chairman Lang asked if there were any questions from the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Hearing none she opened it up for Public Comment

Vaughn Reams questioned if the parcel to the east was sold to the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and was that parcel supposed to stay undeveloped. He said that the Chalet Village Homeowners had terms on development. He also said that the history of the parcel is important to him and should stay open as undeveloped property.

Vaughn Reams commented that there were complicated legalities before the USFS bought the parcel and that there had been issues since 1981.

Mike Gabor from USFS said that USFS will keep parking within the corridor and will not develop in Phase 1. USFS is looking at capacity and clean up. Phase 2 is regard to the bathroom situation.

Vaughn Reams asked what was purchased from Burton Santini.

John Edelen said this parcel has been his playground and showed a photo of a wilderness view that would be developed with the bathroom. He also said he would hate to see this development become a nuisance.

John Percival stated that he wants clarification on Phase 1 with no additional parking being developed. He asked how much additional parking will there be.

Mike Gabor from USFS clarified that there would be no additional parking.

John Percival said that he does not want an increased traffic burden.

Parks & Recreation Commissioner Meghan Kelly asked what the remedy for safer traffic is.

John Percival suggested berms and swales to slow traffic.

John Farley asked if the trailhead will attract more people and have there been a traffic study and the cost on the effect on wear and tear.

Clay Grubb commented that if the trailhead is made nicer, it is actually the trail that attracts people. He said to make the trailhead safer, fix the potholes. He also said improving the trailhead is not the factor.

Kathy Percival is a 32 year resident and noticed an increase in dirt bikes. She asked if \$350,000 goes into this project, will there be increased police due to the increased people. She commented that kids use Brautovich Park and people speed. Also she said that this is a fire danger area and residents could be trapped. Kathy then asked what the timeframe is.

Jacob Quinn from USFS explained the Phases and talked about the spark arrestor rules in regards to fire. He commented that speeding is not just by people who use the trailhead and is not sure what the USFS can do about this.

Kathy Percival asked if there is a policy on traffic.

Jacob Quinn replied that it's understood that the trailhead use is at the end of the neighborhood but it is public land and the public has a right to get to it. He also stated that the USFS does not advertise the opportunities of the trailheads.

Jacob Quinn stated that the USFS has rangers to do patrols in regards to supervision and policy.

Mike Gabor said there is a separate funding for rangers.

Mike Gabor commented that dirt bikes are not legal on the streets and that Douglas County Sheriffs (DCSO), not USFS, is responsible for seeing if a dirt bike is street legal or not.

Mike Gabor stated that the USFS has an agreement with Kingsbury General Improvement District (KGID) in regards to road maintenance.

Clay Grubb says that horse trailers are used on the trailhead.

Vaughn Reams asked is parking not permitted, will there be extra access and legal parking.

Jacob Quinn stated that outside use in growing and it is not a good idea to increase parking. He also said that USFS is trying to create multiple accesses instead of one big access.

Parks & Recreation Director Scott Morgan said that DCSO will not cite with a complaint for parking on the side of the road.

Mike Rogers said he bought his property in 2011 and said his concerns are on trash improvements, fixing the parking and speeding. He asked about ideas to slow down speeders.

At this time Chairman Lang closed public comment and asked if there was any discussion from the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Commissioner Kelly said she supported the improvement and said that it was long overdue. Commissioner Kelly asked if BMP's would be in place at the conclusion of this project.

The representatives from the Forest Service responded that full BMP's in compliance with the TRPA Community Plan would be implemented.

Chairman Lang asked if there was any action needed on this.

Director Morgan said that you could take no action or vote to support this.

No action was taken.

b) Discussion and Possible Action: Support for the Douglas County Parks & Recreation Department application for 2017 Recreation Trails Grant for restroom and sanitation improvements to the North Kingsbury Trailhead at the end of Andria Drive in Stateline NV in partnership with the US Forest Service, Kingsbury General Improvement District and the Tahoe Rim Trail.

Director Morgan reviewed that this was a partnership application with the various players involved in this property and that sanitation facilities

are greatly needed in this location. With this grant there is a great opportunity to coordinate and reduce costs of installation while providing these important sanitation improvements.

It is a very simple question, do we want to provide sanitation facilities for those who frequent this trailhead or do we want them to defecate in a concentrated area along this trailhead.

Director Morgan went on to further state that there would be an operating cost if this grant is received and implemented and would require Douglas County park staff to perform daily maintenance in the summer and less frequent in the fall and winter. However since Brautovich Park is nearby, it would be primarily a soft cost to the County with an estimated \$9000 of additional hard cost impact to the department's operation budget.

At this time Chairman Lang opened it up for public comment.

John Edelen suggested that people do their business on the way out.

Morgan Fessler with the Tahoe Rim Trail said that more people are using the trail, the Rim Trail is important to the economy, it makes positive home values, and the Rim Trail Association is behind this project and are in favor of the bathroom.

Chairman Lang asked what the economic value is.

Morgan Fessler replied that a 4 night stay is a huge economic driver.

Kathy Percival says that the trailhead will see an increase in use. She asked about the bathroom at Brautovich Park, supports the bathroom at the end of the road, commented that hiking and dirt bikes don't go hand in hand. She also said that a different trail is needed for dirt bikes and she has concerns with illegal camping.

Clay Grubb expressed concern with illegal camping with fires, commented on the trash in the parking lot and is concerned with human waste. He also says improvements will do the area a favor. His other concerns are the water issue, traffic speeds, money needed for a trailhead kiosk and a dirt trail for horses.

Vaughn Reams says any improvement will add to nuisances. He questioned if Kingsbury General Improvement District (KGID) really has a sewer line.

Scott Morgan replied that sewer is available.

John Edelen asked if the restroom was ADA.

Scott Morgan responded that the restroom will be ADA compliant

At this time Chairman Lang closed public comment and brought it back to the Parks & Recreation Commission for discussion.

Chairman Lang started by favoring her support for these types of enhancements that not only benefit our local community but would also provide a welcoming environment for our visitors.

Commissioner Gardner asked if there could be restrooms installed in Brautovich Park with the intended use for the visitors to use that facility.

Director Morgan responded that the restroom facilities need to be more convenient to the area where people are frequenting.

Commissioner Dove stated his support for the facility implementation.

Commissioner Kelly wanted to insure that the neighborhood concerns would be taken into consideration and that the restroom be out of the view of anyone whose homes overlook this facility.

At this time Commissioner Gardner made a motion to support the Douglas County Parks & Recreation Department's application for the 2017 Recreation Trails Grant for restroom and sanitation improvements to the North Kingsbury Trailhead.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kelly.

The votes were:

Ayes: Lang, Gardner, Dove, Kelly

Nays: None

Absent: Smith, Pierini, Moore

- c) Discussion and Possible Action: Review of the 2017 2018 Douglas County Community Services/Parks & Recreation Capital Improvement Program.

Director Morgan reviewed the changes from the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting that were made to the document and re-emphasized the priorities discussed by the Parks & Recreation Commission including the number 1 priority: Replacement of the Aspen Park playground equipment, 2 Installation of pavers on the Lampe Park pathways, 3 Re-metering of the ballfields at Aspen Park and Stodick Park, 4 Upgrading sewer and water infrastructure at Topaz Lake Park, 5 Cleanup of Willow Bend Park, 6 Develop a plan for an off leash dog park at Herbig Park, 7 Make improvements to the North Kingsbury Trailhead.

After a brief discussion Commissioner Dove recommended that the development of an off leash dog park at Herbig Park be specifically included in the section of park improvements within the Capital Plan as well as a mention of the North Kingsbury Trailhead to be consistent.

Hearing no additional comments, Commissioner Dove made a motion to approve the 2017 2018 CIP.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gardner.

The votes were:

Ayes: Lang, Gardner, Dove, Kelly

Nays: None

Absent: Smith, Pierini, Moore

VI Public Comment

Director Morgan wanted to introduce Adam Lewandowski who has recently been appointed to the Parks & Recreation Commission and will be replacing Cherise Smith of the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Director Morgan wanted to publicly thank Cherise for her commitment and contributions to the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Director Morgan also wanted to thank Chairman Lang for her support and leadership on the Parks & Recreation Commission since she has chosen not to renew her term.

Director Morgan announced that Brenda Robertson had replaced Debra Lang, as of today, making this be Debra Lang's last meeting. At this time the Parks & Recreation Commission thanked Debra Lang for her contributions and commitment.

Park Supervisor Stanton announced all snow removal activities of the Parks Department.

Community Services Manager Lee discussed grant activities with the Senior Center as well as DART transportation.

Commissioner Dove wished to point out the inadequacies of the Fairgrounds heating system and if something could be planned to replace or upgrade at the Fairgrounds for winter time activities.

Hearing no other public comment, public comment was closed.

VII Adjournment

Chairman Lang adjourned the meeting at 7:48 PM.