

**CITY OF NORTH LAS VEGAS
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

March 7, 2007

CALL TO ORDER: 4:32 P.M.

ROLL CALL

COUNCIL PRESENT

Mayor Michael L. Montandon
Mayor Pro Tempore William E. Robinson
Councilwoman Stephanie S. Smith
Councilwoman Shari Buck
Councilman Robert L. Eliason

STAFF PRESENT

City Manager Gregory Rose
Assistant City Manager Sam Chambers
Assistant City Manager Maryann Ustick
City Attorney Carie Torrence
City Clerk Karen Storms
Communications Director Brenda Fischer
Parks and Recreation Director Mike Henley
Public Works Director Majed Al-Ghafry
Chief Deputy City Clerk Anita Sheldon

VERIFICATION: Karen L. Storms, CMC
City Clerk

BUSINESS:

1. DISCUSSION AND/OR DIRECTION REGARDING CRAIG RANCH REGIONAL PARK - ALTERNATIVE FOUR.

City Manager Gregory Rose explained this item was presented to Council at a previous Special Meeting and Staff was requested to bring forward a fourth alternative.

Parks and Recreation Director Mike Henley explained he had brought forward Alternative Four and requested direction. The direction received from Council was Alternative Two with four multi-use fields which created Alternative Four. It was suggested Staff look into four lighted baseball/softball fields for organized sports, four lighted multi-use fields for

soccer, football and lacrosse, indoor/outdoor aquatics facility, with shared dressing and concession areas supporting the aquatics, an informal amphitheatre with great lawn concept and no fixed seating, nature trails with paths, dog park, one large and several small play areas, variety of picnic shelters, space for possible future skate park and future basketball and tennis areas. The Parks Department recognized there was a high need in the community for athletic fields and looked at the Capital Improvement Plan and park agreement for Park Highlands and found there was a shortage of soccer and baseball/softball fields. Concept two contained a multi-use lawn area. An area that was ranked high was the outdoor amphitheatre area that was located directly north of the multi-use lighted lawn area. The maintenance area would be located across the channel on the 2.49 acres of property recently acquired which would open additional space. Concept Four showed an enlarged area of lighted multi-use fields, with four fields added that would be lit for league and tournament play. Because it had intensified the use of the park, it pushed the amphitheatre to the east. The development of the maintenance facility would be in the northwest corner. Alternative Four, added two programmable multi-use fields, provided more overflow parking and improved the circulation in and around the amphitheatre in the park for special events use. The loss of trees impacted the site, with removal of an additional 260 trees for a total of 910 trees. It would increase the construction costs since athletic field design and construction could be costly. Operations and maintenance costs would increase because standard of care was more intense. Visual impact of adjoining development would be increased, with the property on southeast forty acres due to loss of trees. Moving the amphitheatre to the east would have a potential of creating an adverse relationship between the noise and adjoining residential development. It would intensify development in the central core of the park. Director Henley explained there was a forestry plan and the percentage reflected estimated the loss of existing tree canopy but it was the intention to reforest the site.

Mayor Pro Tempore Robinson felt it was defeating the purpose if you took trees out and put new ones in.

Director Henley explained it was requested to review the passive versus active comparison and looked at Alternative Two versus Alternative Four. Under Alternative Two, 30% of the acreage was estimated passive use versus 41% active use. Alternative Four, intensified use of the site. It did not equal 100% because parking, beautification landscaping and water elements were factored in.

A study was done by Moore, Iacofano & Goltsman for Alternative Four that showed a projected loss of existing tree canopy to accommodate the development. A study was not completed for Alternative Two.

Councilwoman Smith was concerned about the significant loss of trees since preservation was to be kept for what could not be replicated. She explained Alternative One was favored by the public with room for fields to be added and she was opposed to this alternative.

Councilwoman Smith excused herself from the meeting.

Councilwoman Buck requested the diagram on Alternative Two to see the amount of trees that would be removed and requested the difference between Alternative Two and Four as far as acreage of passive versus active use.

Councilwoman Buck was concerned about the number of trees being removed and the location of the parking. She also felt that Alternative Four was intense and favored Alternative Two.

Director Henley explained it was the least obtrusive of the three concepts and looked at concept three which had the same elements included.

Councilwoman Buck requested Director Henley compare Alternative Two and Four with the passive and active acreage.

Director Henley explained the issue with the sport fields was there was a deficit that could not be caught up with due to the amount of growth in the area. Five fields a year should be added and strategically large tracts of lands should be obtained.

Councilwoman Buck explained that if fields would be placed in other future parks, she could accept not making the use of this park intense.

Director Henley explained this calculation included the complex at McCool Regional Park and factored in the field space in the park agreement with Park Highlands, and three soccer fields at Tropical Parkway and Bruce Street.

Director Henley explained the School District was a big potential resource to negotiate utilization of school sites. He explained they were looking at utilization of sites at Cram and Swainston, but they were insufficient for use with tournament play. Park Highlands would have a 40 acre site with all fields as a sports complex. He also spoke about possible renovation of Cheyenne Sports Complex.

Director Henley explained the passive use versus active use acreage on Alternative Two which was 40 acres of passive use and 54 acres use of active. Alternative Four would have 31.8 acres of passive use and 61 acres of passive use.

Bob Borgersen, 7617 Island Rail Drive, North Las Vegas, said you could never replace the mature trees, there was no benefit to the removal and people wanted it kept a nature park.

ACTION: DISCUSSION HELD; STAFF DIRECTED TO PLACE ON REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA FOR APPROVAL.

PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public participation.

ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 4:56 P.M.

MOTION: Mayor Pro Tempore Robinson

SECOND: Councilman Eliason

AYES: Mayor Montandon, Mayor Pro Tempore Robinson, Council Members Buck and Eliason

NAYS: None

EXCUSED: Councilwoman Smith

ABSTAIN: None

APPROVED: May 2, 2007

Mayor Michael L. Montandon

ATTEST:

Karen L. Storms, CMC
City Clerk