

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

October 18, 2006

CALL TO ORDER: 4:31 P.M.

ROLL CALL COUNCIL PRESENT:

Mayor Michael L. Montandon
Councilwoman Stephanie Smith
Councilman Shari Buck
Councilman Robert L. Eliason

EXCUSED:

Mayor Pro Tempore Robinson

STAFF PRESENT:

City Manager Gregory Rose
Assistant City Manager Sam Chambers
Assistant City Manager Maryann Ustick
City Attorney Sean McGowan
City Clerk Karen L. Storms
Economic Development Director Mike Majewski
Fire Chief Al Gillespie
Parks and Recreation Director Mike Henley
Planning and Zoning Manager Marc Jordan
Acting Public Works Director Qiong Liu
Chief Deputy City Clerk Anita Sheldon
State Legislative Affairs Officer Kimberly McDonald
Assistant to the City Manager Michelle Bailey-Hedgepeth

VERIFICATION: Karen L. Storms, CMC
City Clerk

BUSINESS:

1. PRESENTATION REGARDING A PROPOSED REGIONAL MOTORIZED RECREATION PARK AT NELLIS DUNES RECREATION AREA.

City Manager Rose advised Clark County had considered construction of a motocross complex and portions of the complex would extend into North Las Vegas. He stated Assistant County Manager Christine Robinson would explain the concept, as well as ask the City to partner with Clark County and other entities in the planning process.

Christine Robinson, Assistant County Manager for Clark County, Las Vegas, stated County staff had met with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) staff in 2005 to identify what options were legally available for local governments to acquire title or procure a lease on the Nellis Dunes for the purpose of providing a regional motorized recreation park. She stated several meetings had been held to discuss options available.

Rod Mrowka, Department of Air Quality & Environmental Management, Clark County, Las Vegas, stated the Nellis Dunes was 8,522 acres of undeveloped federal public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The Nellis Dunes was situated in the northeast area of the Las Vegas Valley and was approximately 10 miles east of downtown Las Vegas and one mile north of the Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

Mr. Mrowka stated the current BLM policy of “open space” had created numerous concerns for public safety in the area; for example, users have constructed race tracks and jumps without standard safe design features; a lack of designated trails have led to high probabilities of collisions between motorized vehicles; existing trails were not properly marked as to the level of difficulty or appropriateness for the type of vehicle; many riders operated vehicles at excessively high speeds without standard safety gear; and desert dumping resulted in hazardous and unexpected obstacles on trails.

Mr. Mrowka stated there were environmental concerns due to the unrestricted use of the area under BLM management. He stated the southwestern side of the Nellis Dunes was within the non-attainment area for PM10 (dust) and contained areas of sensitive soils which currently received no special protections, and which, in some cases, were the habitat for the Las Vegas Bearpoppy, a species of poppy designated by the State of Nevada as Critically Endangered. Desert dumping was another major concern in the Nellis Dunes.

Mr. Mrowka explained there was a need for a safe, off-road location for recreational activities to include all-terrain vehicle trails; a national outdoor racetrack; motocross and bicycle tracks; and areas for radio controlled air fields, off-road buggies/trucks, 4-wheel drive vehicles and desert racing.

Mr. Mrowka advised there were economic development opportunities for the community with the construction of a regional motorized recreation park. He stated similar existing facilities were located in California, Colorado, Arizona and Utah and had led to previously unrealized economic development. For instance, the Paiute All-Terrain Vehicle Trail in Utah was a 40-mile circuit of trails, which allowed riders to go into towns along designed routes to buy gas and groceries.

Mr. Mrowka proposed a Steering Committee be established with the City of North Las Vegas, Nellis Air Force Base, BLM and Clark County. He stated public hearing meetings would be conducted to solicit input and advice from the community.

Mayor Montandon stated a Steering Committee would be needed to discuss and determine the most compatible uses for the area. He stated job creation was an important factor in the economic development of the City.

Michael Popp, Clark County Comprehensive Planning, Las Vegas, stated a preliminary feasibility study had been conducted to report revenue and expenditure estimates for the programming, facility costs, demand estimates and timing factors.

Angie Lara, Associate Field Manager, BLM, Las Vegas, expressed her agreement to determine a compatible use for the land for all parties involved.

ACTION: PRESENTATION MADE

PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public participation.

ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 4:54 P.M.

MOTION: Mayor Montandon

SECOND: Councilman Eliason

AYES: Mayor Montandon, Council Members Smith, Buck and Eliason

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

APPROVED: December 20, 2006

Mayor Michael L. Montandon

ATTEST:

Karen L. Storms, CMC
City Clerk