

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

November 1, 2006

CALL TO ORDER: 5:01 P.M.

ROLL CALL

COUNCIL PRESENT:

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

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
Communications Director Brenda Johnson
Parks and Recreation Director Mike Henley
Planning and Zoning Director Jory Stewart
Acting Public Works Director Qiong Liu
Chief Deputy City Clerk Anita Sheldon
Assistant to the City Manager Michelle Bailey-Hedgepeth

VERIFICATION: Karen L. Storms, CMC
City Clerk

BUSINESS:

1. PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION AND/OR DIRECTION ON CRAIG RANCH REGIONAL PARK.

Parks and Recreation Director Mike Henley stated representatives from the City's design consultant, MIG Inc., would present three master plan concepts for the development of Craig Ranch Regional Park. He stated the goal would be development of a draft preferred alternative plan, subject to public review and refinement. A final plan and supportive documentation would be presented to the Council by March of 2007.

Susan Goltsman, MIG Inc., 800 Hearst Avenue, Berkeley, CA, stated the first plan concept for the development of Craig Ranch Regional Park emphasized the natural environment; the second plan concept emphasized a balance between sports and the natural environment; and the third plan concept emphasized team sports.

Rebecca Colbert, MIG Inc., 800 Hearst Avenue, Berkeley, CA, stated the October 17th Community Workshop and Craig Ranch website had been advertized with a newsletter mailed in mid-September to each household in the City. She stated BalloonaPalooza had been held on September 23rd & 24th at the project site and had given MIG consultants a great opportunity to gain public feedback.

Ms. Colbert explained the website provided background information about the project and an interactive survey where respondents voted on their preferences for uses of the park. She stated about 50% of the respondents had entered personal comments at the end of the survey.

Ms. Colbert stated 569 respondents to the website survey had provided feedback and the results showed 57% were in favor of Concept One; 33% were in favor of Concept Two; and 10% were in favor of Concept Three. She explained since each concept had different elements, MIG would probably have a Concept Four as well.

Ms. Colbert explained image boards had been used at the Community Workshop and BalloonaPalooza which had helped inform people of the options for the park's development and allowed them to provide feedback. The image boards included different elements to choose from within the main areas of amphitheaters, indoor aquatics activities, outdoor aquatics activities, field sports, court sports and shade structures.

Ms. Colbert stated the feedback helped MIG learn that people were more interested in an amphitheater with a grassy area where they could bring a blanket, than an amphitheater with a fixed seating stage. She stated MIG also learned people were interested in a lazy river and an outdoor beach.

She explained the survey and image boards indicated many people wanted team sports fields and more people wanted a traditional rustic park with trees than a contemporary park. However, many other people had not wanted the park to be a venue for sports.

Ms. Colbert stated several respondents expressed concern that living adjacent to a park would affect their security; produce increased noise levels; and negatively influence the value of their homes.

Ms. Goltsman stated, based on information gathered from the respondents, MIG requested a Concept Four that would include a skateboard park, a dog park, maintenance area, amphitheater, play areas, indoor aquatic center, outdoor swimming beach, picnic areas, central plaza, gardens with water features, ballfields, and courts for tennis, basketball and volleyball.

Ms. Goltsman further explained the picnic facilities would range from small to large; the buildings and the beach would be designed to feature natural elements; the amphitheater design would be informal; and the walking trails would include fitness areas in a natural and comfortable environment.

Ms. Goltsman stated the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (Board) had disagreed about the need for a skateboard park; however, the skateboard park had been envisioned to be in a corner of the park, which allowed flexibility in the decision to build it or not. She further stated the Board had agreed to ballfields, volleyball as part of the beach and six tennis courts. The Board had been undecided about building basketball courts.

Ms. Goltsman requested approval to proceed with a Draft Preferred Alternative Plan.

Mayor Montandon asked Ms. Goltsman to explain the reasoning behind Concept Four. Ms. Goltsman stated the survey had indicated many people wanted some sports, although since the overwhelming consensus favored a park with a natural feel, Concept Four had been developed to combine the two concepts. Mayor Montandon stated phone calls and mail from citizens to his office were requests for more fields to play soccer and baseball.

Director Henley stated a recent inventory disclosed only two soccer fields were needed to comply with the City's Master Plan standard. He stated more ballfields were needed and three to four more could be built on the site; however, the park system identified other strategies for the facilitation of those uses, such as the utilization of school playgrounds. Director Henley further stated the majority of users of the City's parks were people who just wanted to enjoy them without being engaged in organized activities.

Councilwoman Smith expressed a preference for the natural beauty of the park and was in favor of building sports complexes elsewhere.

Councilman Buck expressed concern for public safety in a park of 132 acres without programmed areas. She stated the security and police protection for that much acreage would be a problem because people would be able to wander about in the dark among the trees. Ms. Goltsman explained programmed areas would be quite extensive in each

of the concepts and pathways wide enough for police cars to drive on would be designed.

Councilman Buck felt Option Three would be the best utilization of the acreage because the City needed more sports complexes.

Mayor Pro Tempore Robinson asked Director Henley to explain the condition of the trees on the park site. Director Henley responded many trees had been damaged by golf balls, and there were many trees similar in type and age which would require an active forestry program for their maintenance.

Mayor Pro Tempore Robinson favored Concept Three because it would be the most beneficial for young families with children who would use the park often.

Director Henley stated although the need for ballfields could not be disputed, he wanted to point out all children do not play programmed sports. He also explained once a fence and gate had been put up for a ballfield, unlike a soccer field, the message to people was to stay off.

Mayor Montandon stated he agreed with the Board's recommendation.

Councilwoman Smith recommended moving forward with Concept Four, to be reviewed by Council.

PUBLIC FORUM

Jim Olive, 3328 Park Town Street, North Las Vegas, member of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, explained to Council the Board recommendation was Concept Two with modifications.

Mike Mullis, 3433 Silver Bridle Place, North Las Vegas, member of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, expressed the need for more sport fields.

Thomas Langford, 1205 Stoneypeak Avenue, North Las Vegas, expressed the need for a more structured park.

Troy Brown, 6808 High Bluff Way, Las Vegas, represented USA Track and Field and asked Council to consider areas for track and field activities.

ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:50 P.M.

MOTION: Councilwoman Stephanie Smith

SECOND: Councilman Robert Eliason

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

APPROVED: JANUARY 3, 2007

Mayor Michael L. Montandon

ATTEST:

Karen L. Storms, CMC
City Clerk