



Clark County Shooting Range Advisory Committee PUBLIC MEETING

6:30pm Tuesday Nov. 15, 2011

Government Center, 500 S Grand Central Pkwy, Las Vegas, NV. 89155

MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Glenn Trowbridge-Chair, Ron Lurie-Vice chair, Roy Clark, Kevin Kelley, Linda Lane, Chuck Musser, Martin Olson, Anthony York

MEMBERS ABSENT (EXCUSED): Kevin Close, Art Dixon, Senator John Lee, and Brandy Ornelas

ATTENDANCE: 8

STAFF PRESENT: Ed Finger Assistant County Manager, Steve Carmichael Range Administrator, Iris Kikuchi Secretary and Doug Miles Recreation Cultural Specialist

NOTICE POSTED: Clark County Government Center Lobby, Clark County Web site: <http://www.clarkcountynv.gov>, Regional Justice Center, Paradise Community Center, Desert Breeze Community Center, Winchester Community Center, Clark County Shooting Range (Range Office, Shotgun Center, Rifle-Pistol Center)

I CALL TO ORDER:

- A. This meeting was called to order at 6:33pm by Chair Glenn Trowbridge
- B. Silence all cellular phones and pagers.
- C. Conformance with Nevada Open Meeting Law-**CONFIRMED**

II PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- A. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS

- A. Roll call was taken. Eight (8) board members are present. A quorum was met.

IV ORGANIZATIONAL ITEMS:

- A. The Nov 15, 2011 meeting agenda was unanimously approved as written. Motion by Tony York.
- B. The minutes of the September 20, 2011 meeting was unanimously approved as written. Motion by Tony York. Glenn Trowbridge abstained from voting. He did not attend September meeting.

V PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- A. None to report.

VI STAFF REPORTS –

- A. Steve Carmichael, Range Manager presented the Shooting Range Briefing.
 - Forklift – received on Oct 19, 2011
 - Sporting Clay Plans Approved at 100% - On Feb 22, 2012 will begin construction. Facility should be ready to shoot no later than October 2012. It is likely it may be functional by August. Corporate events are waiting for the opening.
 - October Revenues – 30% over 2010 revenues. September revenues are 20% over 2010. July/August is 60-80% over 2010 numbers.
 - Winter Special – range will reduce line fee for Rifle-Pistol by \$2 for first and last hour of operations from 7-8am and 6-7pm. Shotgun Center will reduce per round fee by \$2 during the same hours. We are trying to see if more business will be generated during these times or possibly reducing the winter



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operating hours next year. Complimentary coffee will be given to customers during the first hour of the morning. We will track the number of shooters to see what this winter special brings to the range.

- Environmental Stewardship Plan – At the last meeting I distributed a partial copy of the ESP. Names and duties have now been assigned. Within the first ten days each quarter, benches and firing lines will be washed and scrubbed, and soil pH levels checked and stabilized if necessary. This process will continue within the first 10 days of each quarter.
- National Rifle Association Conference – An excellent conference for anyone involved in running and operating a range. Suggests anyone in range operations at any level to attend. The next one will be held in San Diego. During the five days a lot of material is covered. Listened to guest speaker Ed Santos, recipient of the 2010 Indoor Range of the Year, (Post Falls, Idaho, pop. 125,000). He talked about shying away from using the word “range”. Many negative comments in press associated with the word range. Consider name change from range to “complex” which would represent something going on and growth of a facility, and represents many facets within the facility.
 - a Discussion of the name change. Do we want to change the name so quickly after Board of County Commissioners approved the change from park to “range”?
 - b Janice Ridondo, liaison for Commissioner Collins, commented that perhaps we were hastily in hopes of taking it out of Parks and Recreation. Should the name stay with “park” for financial reasons or should we add “complex” to the Shooting Range?
 - c Ed Finger, Assistant County Manager comments that there are pros and cons that we can’t make up our minds what to call the place. We can call it anything you want, will need to spend money to make changes. We recently had the signs on the I-215 freeway changed to range and some new merchandise already has the new range name as well.
 - d Ron Lurie, Vice Chair, suggests survey around the country.
 - e Steve comments that “complex” is fitting for a 5-Star facility. We are a shooting facility and range is not descriptive enough like complex. Customers don’t see what all we have.
 - f Janice comments if we have checked with Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act (SNPLMA) if this is a park in Parks and Recreation?
 - g Ed clarifies the name of the range in Arizona is called Ben Avery Shooting Range Facility.
 - h Chuck Musser comments that SNPLMA established the name and it takes money to move to the Shooting Facility. A range is pictured like an old army range.
 - i Kevin Kelley comments that it makes the range look indecisive if we change the name again. Suggests leaving for now until we grow then we can become a complex.
 - j Steve added that complex represents the range is progressing and justifies it.
 - k Linda Lane asks if we can live up to the word complex?
 - l Chuck and Janice agree that once we open the Sporting Clays, the range will be growing.
 - m Ron Lurie motions to consider name change and bring back as an action item or name change. Chuck seconds the motion and committee was favorable.
 - n Ed suggests Steve make a list of names for the committee to review at the next meeting.

VII COMMITTEE DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- A. Chuck Musser comments on the newly installed 25-yard target frame holders on the public 100yd rifle range.
 - Steve distributed a memo from Lauren of Kramer One who was the architect of the range, whereas he notes that there was no original plan for these target frame holders and that this is an administrative

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issue, which the range must manage. There is often a long waiting period on the handgun side of the range, therefore the 25-yd target frame holders were installed to relieve pressure off the handgun pistol range and help with overflow of customers. Staff has come tonight to talk about it. Spent bullets are not going over the back of the property due to the new target frame holders.

- Chuck is concerned about the ricochet bullets. Did we create a difficult situation or dangerous? There is an eyebrow at the 200-yd range to keep bullets from bouncing off the ground to catch the bullets. Chuck is concerned that Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is in charge of the law enforcement and will close the range if they hear of bullets flying off our range and into the Fish and Wildlife areas behind our range.
- Tony York comments that with the 25-yd target frames on the 100yd range, bullets will travel 75 yards to impact the backstop. Rounds may not make it and will impact the ground. It's a safety issue with bullets ricocheting off property, will hit the ground and clear the backstop.
- Steve comments that from the backstop at the 100yd range, it is 300-400 yards to our property boundary. Spoke to Dennis Pierce, who built the target frames, and he is able to make 7ft frames, lifting the bottom higher if necessary. The presence of staff working with customers shooting rifles at 25yd can insure that bullets will impact the backstop, It's a customer service issue balanced with liability. However, we cannot guarantee ricochets will not occur at any distance.
- Glenn Trowbridge invites the audience to make comments.
- Robert Swan, part-time Range Master at the Shooting Range suggests the name of Shooting Complex at Sheep Mountain. Since he started in January, he has seen the pistol range become extremely popular. More than 50% of the customers are at the pistol range shooting 25-yd, 50-yd and rifles at 75-yd and 100yd. We're not throwing lead out of the range, with so much competition from other ranges in the valley, and more to come at Mirage Casino. Customers love the range and we have no problems.
- Joe Bodrog, part-time Range Safety Officer, started working for the range since it opened comments that he has measured the deflection of ammo. Pistol and rifle benches differ in sizes and the standard operating procedures decipher that pistols are not allowed on the rifle ranges and we don't have customers shooting rifles next to pistols. He is a surveyor and from 2% cross the berm towards the firing line with a 6ft vertical rise, worst case scenario, 5 1/2ft calculated average height of frames, with a 10 1/2 degree angle, rounds will hit the ground whether on the rifle or pistol ranges. With the angle going up 11 1/2ft intersect berm at 6-7ft or higher is a 25-yd deflection. The backstop is doing its job. It's a mathematical solution the bullets will not leave the range. The pistol side yes, it has since day one.
- Bill Schwarz, owner of Safety First and Registered User Group suggests to consult with National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) and the National Rifle Association (NRA) that have range design organizational committees that you can contact to find out the distance to stay within guidelines. It is a safety precaution. Steve added that NRA doesn't address this issue.
- Tony York questioned if these 25-yd targets are installed already. Chuck questions what is the issue if they are already done?
- Steve comments that at the 100-yd range, the 25-yd target frames are installed. Kramer One designed the 100yd range without them, but added that it is an administrative issue. If it were an unmanaged range then it would be a problem. Rifle shooting could be limited to from the benches only if necessary.
- Chuck adds that the problem is with the rifle range allowing 50 calibers to shoot on the 100-yd range. Kramer One didn't agree to build it at the time of design. Bullets will go to the US Fish and Wildlife

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side of the fence. The trail doesn't want bullets back there. If you look at the 200-yd range, there is an eyebrow to catch the bullets.

- Doug Miles, Recreation Cultural Specialist at the Shooting Range clarifies that we do not allow 50 calibers shooting on the 100-yd range.
- Lee Lutrell, Range Safety Officer at the Shooting Range started from when the range opened comments that the mountain is our backstop. It stops everything behind the range. Chuck adds that is not our property. It is the US Fish and Wildlife property.
- Thomas Cost, volunteer Host at the Shooting Range comments that if bullets go past our backstop it is a reasonable assumption that bullets can go out there. When someone is back there, we stop all shooting to clear him or her off the back of the range. We need to address that there is an assumption that bullets can go back there.
- Chair Glenn Trowbridge wraps up by thanking the staff and volunteers for coming to the meeting with their comments. They are the face of the Shooting Range and most importantly are in contact with the customers. Thank you for your good work! Public Comments are now closed.
- Committee member Roy Clark asked if the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is threatening to close the park? Chuck clarifies that BLM patrols the area behind the range.
- Steve clarifies that yes, on the handgun range the bullets often ricochet over the backstop, but we have not observed that on the 100-yd or 200-yd ranges. Roy adds that we should not jeopardize our neighbors and give more ammo to the bureaucrats. Let's do what we can to be good neighbors. Steve adds that the public Rifle-Pistol range area is a compromise. Target frames are not against the backstop as with most ranges.
- Glenn suggests doing our due diligence, like a golf course would do about golf balls. If a golf ball smashes a window or hits a child, can they take it to court because of the design deficiencies or is there a liability in the design? Accept the report with the technical background or would it be appropriate to bring in someone outside to confirm what we have? If it is designed properly with safety precautions, recognizing authority and the level of insurance to approve the report gives us ammo verses a lawsuit.
- Chuck comments that someone is cutting the fence into our property and taking out the posts. We don't know why they are doing that? Even though BLM has warning signs.
- Steve notes that is a good point, and we have to make sure we do everything we can to insure that bullets impact the backstop. We have to make sure we are not liable. It may be necessary to get an opinion from NSSF to evaluate the range.
- Chuck suggests starting the range grading process on the tourism ranges to take the pressure of the pistol ranges.
- Janice agrees that we need to enforce and address the issue and show them what we are doing to correct the issue. Prefers to let it be known. Glenn adds we need to be more diplomatic.

B. User Group Reservation/Cancellation Policy and Range Fees

- Steve comments that we are not ready to make a decision on this. With input from the committee of Martin Olson, Ron Lurie, Chuck Musser and himself, we are not ready to take action on this item. We need to protect the User Groups as well as ourselves. It is a partnership with these groups that use our facility. We have over 85 active groups and we are trying to avoid needless tying up of range and class times. We need to go over the procedures again and bring this item back next month.

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- Chair Glenn comments that when renting a library room, the reservation policy is harsh compared to ours. Committee needs to give information to Steve and a possible consideration in 30 days. Suggests when making reservations, fees must be paid within 24 hours or no reservation. Late fee is pro-rated.
- Steve adds that he doesn't want to lose any User Groups.
- Tony York agrees that we need a sub-committee and come to a happy medium where we need to be. His concern is that we are two more months without change, so how many more cancellations did we have during this time?

VIII ACTION ITEMS

- A. None to report.

IX CORRESPONDENCE:

- A. None to report.

X PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- A. James Borchers, State Firearms Rangemaster for the State of Nevada Corrections Facility, states that in regards to shooting activities it is considered human and factual that people don't know how to operate firearms. We have to have more staff at the range. The skill factors don't identify if customers are experienced. We need 30ft berms to catch the stray bullets unless we are watching on top of them, we need to take steps to ensure each person operates their weapon on the range with safety or our procedures are null and void.
- B. John Cahill Clark County Public Administrator Henderson NV comments that he attended a trap/skeet shooting event this past weekend at the Shotgun Center with Union Sportsmen Alliance who is a nation wide conservation group with over a quarter million members. It was a great event and mentioned that Commissioner Sisolak attended and watched the shoot. He had a favorable impression of the facility and commented on how great of a facility the range is. Las Vegas is a great place to hold annual National events. Bigger union states make great events. Greg Esposito from the Planning Commission was their guest speaker.
- C. Lee Lutrell, Range safety Officer at the Shooting Range adds that we would like to get out of the Parks & Recreation Dept.
- D. Steve added that he spoke with Commissioner Sisolak and he sees the range in a different light. It was a great day for the Shotgun Center as there were 18 fields of activity for Sisolak to view on his visit.
- E. Bill Schwarz comments that change to User Group rules doesn't do any good without dates or ranges those groups cannot book. Last weekend during his 4-day course, out of the 3 rooms, 2 other user groups gave a short notice of cancellation. It restricts good user groups and is a gross mistake to raise fees when other ranges are being built and in turn groups will book with them.
- F. Vice chair Ron Lurie comments of the radio spot he heard on KXNT radio show. He asks if it has increased our business?
- G. Steve responds that we used the NSSF grant money to buy radio ads along with sending mailers out to the homes, and brought postcard coupons out to our retail business network stores. There is a combination of things going on with marketing. We have been busy so it must be working.
- H. Steve added that the restaurant has a new menu with lower prices and appreciates the range business. On the same note Steve mentioned to the committee that Kevin's Kitchen would like to cook for the committee at the Jan 2012 meeting. The committee is in agreement to hold the January meeting at the Shooting Range Shotgun Center.

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XI. NEXT MEETING DATE

A. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday Dec 20, 2011 at 6:30pm at the Government Center ODC Training Room 3.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A. Meeting was adjourned at 8:42pm.

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