

CARSON CITY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the May 15, 2007 Meeting

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A regular meeting of the Carson City Parks and Recreation Commission was scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 15, 2007 in the Community Center Sierra Room, 851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada.

PRESENT: Chairperson Donna Curtis
Vice Chairperson John Felesina
Leandra Jones
Tom Keeton
Pete Livermore
John McKenna
Glenn Tierney

STAFF: Roger Moellendorf, Parks and Recreation Department Director
Scott Fahrenbruch, Parks and Recreation Director of Operations
Vern Krahn, Park Planner
Joel Benton, Senior Deputy District Attorney
Kathleen King, Recording Secretary

NOTE: A recording of these proceedings, the commission's agenda materials, and any written comments or documentation provided to the recording secretary during the meeting are public record, on file in the Clerk-Recorder's Office. These materials are available for review during regular business hours.

CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM (5:32:03) - Chairperson Curtis called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. Roll was called; a quorum was present. Commissioners Bauman and Wontorski were absent. Commissioner McKenna arrived at 5:36 p.m.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS (5:32:30) - None.

1. ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES (5:32:46) - None.

2. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA (5:32:50) - Chairperson Curtis modified the agenda to address the action items prior to the non-action items.

3. STAFF UPDATES (5:34:03) - Mr. Krahn displayed signage to be installed along the Carson River Aquatic Trail at the Morgan Mill Road River Access Area. He commended Mr. Fahrenbruch on the signage designs, and advised of Mr. Fahrenbruch's intent to have the signage installed prior to Memorial Day weekend. Mr. Krahn advised that the Nevada Department of Transportation had recently installed a warning sign along the aquatic trail. He advised of having distributed to the commissioners and staff an aquatic trail map. He further advised of having provided a presentation and copies of the map to the Carson City Convention and Visitors Bureau Board, together with Nevada Commission on Tourism representatives and Consultant Lynn Zonge. The Convention and Visitors Bureau awarded \$3,677 for the purpose of printing the maps for public distribution. In response to a question, Mr. Krahn explained that the aquatic trail is situated in both Carson City and Lyon County. He reviewed the route of the aquatic trail, and advised that signage will be installed in Lyon County as well.

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Mr. Krahn provided background information on the Beneficial Designs “Know Before You Go” signage program. The next phase of the program is focused on the V&T Linear Park Trail adjacent to Governor’s Field and Fremont Elementary School, and Long Ranch Estates. Mr. Krahn anticipates the signage will be installed by mid-summer. He advised of the possibility that staff will begin working with Beneficial Designs representatives on a large, system-wide sign, similar to that which is located at Riverview Park, which provides information on the City’s trail network.

Mr. Krahn reported that the Nevada State Parks Recreation Trail grant applications have been submitted. Anne Macquarrie, of Muscle Powered, wrote one of the grant applications and Ann Bollinger wrote another for the Mexican Ditch bridge trails and the linear park connectivity project, respectively. Mr. Krahn, Ms. Macquarrie, and Ms. Bollinger recently presented the grant applications to the Recreation Trail Program Grant Committee.

Mr. Krahn announced “Bike to Work” week, and displayed the second edition of the Carson City Bicycle Route Map published by Muscle Powered. He advised that the map is available at the Parks and Recreation Department and will be made available at other City facilities in the near future. He further advised that the Bicycle Route Map will be presented to the commission for endorsement at a future meeting, and subsequently to the Board of Supervisors. Copies of the map were distributed to the commissioners and staff prior to the start of the meeting. (5:44:27) Commissioner Livermore commended Muscle Powered and City staff on the accuracy of the Bicycle Route Map. Mr. Krahn reiterated that the Bicycle Route Map will be agendized as an action item at the next commission meeting.

Mr. Krahn reported that the Schulz Ranch developers are in the final stages of obtaining building permits for street infrastructure and for the park. He anticipates that construction will begin in the near future. In response to a question, he explained the dual purpose of the detention basin to also serve as a park facility. Consideration has been given to “some sort of water tolerant, native-type turf” for the detention basin. The Schulz Ranch neighborhood park is more traditional in design. Mr. Krahn acknowledged the detention basin will not have a specific use. A small picnic shelter and a path, which will connect to the City sidewalk system within the development, are part of the detention basin design. In response to a further question, Mr. Krahn advised there were originally two detention basin facilities in the design. The one proposed for adjacent to Clear Creek will not be developed right away.

(5:45:27) With regard to the Ronald D. Wilson Memorial Park, Mr. Krahn advised that the water line is installed. The building department has cleared the building permit for the project, and Mr. Krahn expressed the hope it will be submitted to the bid process within the next week. Chairperson Curtis thanked Mr. Krahn for his report.

Mr. Moellendorf reported that the landscape maintenance district ordinance will be agendized for the May 17th Board of Supervisors meeting with a staff recommendation for rejection. He explained that between the first reading and the scheduled second reading of the ordinance, there have been concerns expressed by Lennar Development Corporation attorneys. Following meetings with the Lennar Development Corporation attorneys, revisions will be made to the ordinance that are substantial enough to require resubmission of the ordinance to the public process and a subsequent first reading before the Board of Supervisors. In response to a question, Mr. Moellendorf provided background information on the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act, and explained the purpose for the item agendized as part of the May 17th Board of Supervisors meeting.

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4. NON-ACTION ITEMS:

4-A. DISCUSSION ONLY REGARDING DOG POLICIES IN PARKS (6:38:50) - Chairperson Curtis introduced this item. Mr. Fahrenbruch provided an overview of the agenda materials. He defined “dog friendly facilities” as those which allow dogs pursuant to posted restrictions. An “ideal dog park” would be entirely fenced or a fenced portion of a park large enough to accommodate people and their pets while leaving sufficient room for other park users to enjoy the park facility. Mr. Fahrenbruch advised that all dog friendly parks and trails in Carson City have mutt mitt stations, with lined trash cans nearby, to provide for users to clean up after their pets. Non-compliant users are subject to a citation, and Mr. Fahrenbruch referred to Title 13, included in the agenda materials as Exhibit C. Mr. Fahrenbruch advised that certain restrictions specific to each site are posted at designated dog friendly facilities. He reviewed the restrictions specific to the following dog friendly facilities: Fuji Park, Mayor’s Park, Riverview Park Wetlands and Trails, the V&T Trail, the open space trails at Long Ranch Estates, the Empire Ranch Trail, and the Mexican Ditch Trail system. He reviewed various BLM properties used heavily by pet owners in the community, including Prison Hill and its trails, and the trails at Silver Saddle Ranch. He noted there are no posted dog restrictions at these BLM facilities. He advised that dogs are allowed at Carson River Park with no restrictions. He further advised that consideration has been given to designating new dog friendly parks. He noted that Fuji Park is heavily used and that the parks and recreation master plan element indicates a community desire for more dog friendly facilities. Geography, location, and the previously-mentioned criteria will be considered as part of the process. Long Ranch Park, Sonoma Park, Blackwells Pond Park, Steinheimer Park, Carriage Square Park, and Ronald D. Wilson Memorial Park are currently being considered for designation as dog-friendly facilities.

Mr. Fahrenbruch discussed the option of constructing a dog park, which he described as a facility specific for dogs and their owners; there are no other uses in the park. A typical, urban dog park has separate sections for small, medium, and large breed dogs. There are strict regulations, including that dogs have to be vaccinated and under their owner’s control at all times. Dog parks have associated capital costs, including concrete associated with shade structures and patios, and high fencing. Dog parks typically do not have turf which helps to reduce capital costs, although irrigation is often installed to keep the dust down and to maintain the park’s quality. Dog parks are considered social opportunities in that they are a destination unto themselves. Mr. Fahrenbruch advised of having reviewed a public opinion survey, earlier in the day, indicating that 53 percent of the respondents own dogs but only 4 percent exercise their dogs in City parks. The citizens surveyed indicated a desire for more dog friendly parks in Carson City. Mr. Fahrenbruch advised that the parks and recreation master plan element indicates 34 percent of the state’s population take their dogs for walks on an average of 61 days per year. He reviewed additional survey information regarding dog friendly facilities. He discussed dog policy enforcement issues, and consideration given to dog policies for special events. In response to a question, he estimated that a conservative-sized dog park would cost \$100,000 to construct. Mr. Moellendorf classified such a facility as a significant capital project.

In response to a question, Mr. Fahrenbruch advised that the Carson City Municipal Code allows dogs in parks pursuant to posted restrictions. Parks which do not allow pets are posted accordingly. In response to a further question, Mr. Fahrenbruch advised that careful consideration will be given to final design of the Schulz Ranch park facilities and whether or not the detention basins can be designated as dog friendly. Commissioner Livermore suggested giving careful consideration to the locations of existing parks which may be re-designated as dog friendly. He expressed the opinion that special event vendors with dogs should simply be required to park their RVs somewhere other than at City park facilities.

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Chairperson Curtis advised that the parks and recreation master plan element doesn't really discuss dog parks. She discussed the survey information pertinent to dog parks and dog friendly facilities included as part of the master plan element. She expressed the opinion that consideration should be given to a dog park. She discussed the possibility that some of the capital costs associated with construction of a dog park could be offset by private donations. She discussed her involvement in development of a dog park in another state. She explained the purpose for agendaizing the item to determine the interest of the commissioners and the citizens. She expressed appreciation for staff's consideration of designating additional dog friendly facilities. She expressed the opinion there is also a need for a dog park facility. She called for commissioner comments.

Mr. Moellendorf acknowledged that Ronald D. Wilson Memorial Park will be designated as dog friendly. In response to a question of clarification, he advised that the park will be "open dog friendly." Vice Chairperson Felesina suggested working with area residents to determine the desire for dog friendly facilities as new parks are constructed. He further suggested providing signage at parks where dogs are prohibited advising of park facilities at which dogs are allowed. Mr. Moellendorf thanked Chairperson Curtis for agendaizing this item. In reference to Vice Chairperson Felesina's suggestion, he advised of having met with residents of the Silver Oak development with regard to designating the park as dog friendly. The residents indicated a desire to prohibit dogs in the park. Mr. Moellendorf suggested the question essential to discussion of this matter is whether the existing policies and provisions satisfy the needs of pet owners in the community. If not, how can the need be satisfied? Mr. Moellendorf discussed various possibilities, and cautioned the commissioners with regard to the number of other parks and recreation projects which have yet to be completed. He expressed the opinion that, unless other funding alternatives become available, the pending projects should be completed prior to starting any others.

Commissioner McKenna discussed the importance of considering the "philosophy of the park." He noted that Riverview Park comprises wildlife habitat and is "rustic, pioneering, basic" in nature. He expressed the preference for the park to remain this way. He further noted that Riverview Park comprises flood plain and is not designed to be "a grass park." He advised there are domestic and wild horses, as well as rattlesnakes and coyotes in the area. He suggested that problems which have arisen at Riverview Park will be experienced with additional development of the Silver Saddle Ranch. He further suggested additional signage should include language advising that park facility users do so at their own risk. He expressed the opinion that "we ought to stop trying to become accountable for people, to meet all of their needs by creating regulation and law enforcement." Mr. Moellendorf expressed understanding for Commissioner McKenna's comments in that "nobody likes to go to a park that is over-regulated or has too many signs." He noted that the City is obligated to provide a safe environment for all park facility users as well as for the wildlife and fauna. He agreed that natural-type parks are not always ideal dog parks. He described an ideal dog park. Commissioner McKenna pointed out that the nature of the park should describe the level of use and enforcement. He expressed the opinion that safe use of the park should be the user's responsibility and not that of the Parks Department. Mr. Benton cautioned the commissioners with regard to the specifics of the agendaized item. Mr. Fahrenbruch advised that the philosophy outlined by Commissioner McKenna is that of the Parks and Recreation Department. The responsibility for pets in City park facilities is that of the owner.

Commissioner Keeton expressed a preference for keeping the existing regulations at Long Ranch Park. He noted the developed park facility, and advised there is "plenty of room for the dog owners to be elsewhere" in the area. He expressed the opinion that the current regulations at Long Ranch are "perfect

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for everybody.” Chairperson Curtis suggested allowing dogs on leashes for all the trails at Long Ranch and prohibiting dogs around the play area. Mr. Benton cautioned that the commissioners’ discussion was moving into deliberation.

In response to a comment, Mr. Fahrenbruch advised that the intent of the agenda item was to provide an overview of existing policies, and to receive input and ideas. Staff will return to the commission with proposed policies based on said input. In response to a comment, Mr. Fahrenbruch advised that Parks Department staff would have to work with Animal Control staff with regard to ensuring proper pet vaccinations and licensing. He clarified, however, that the Parks Department will not take on the responsibility of policing pets and pet owners. Chairperson Curtis thanked Mr. Fahrenbruch for his presentation and the commissioners for their comments.

5. ACTION ITEMS:

5-A. ACTION TO RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS THE NAMING OF SILVER OAK PARK (5:49:42) - Chairperson Curtis introduced this item. Mr. Moellendorf reviewed the staff report and the attached exhibits. In response to a question, Mr. Benton advised that the commission would not be limited to the names submitted by the public. Mr. Moellendorf read into the record the list of nominations and corresponding narratives, as outlined in the staff report. Chairperson Curtis provided direction with regard to public comment, and opened this item. In response to a question, Mr. Moellendorf provided additional explanation as to the origin of Exhibit B, which list he read into the record. Vice Chairperson Felesina noted a correction to the spelling of Bill Dunfield’s name.

(5:58:19) Leo Mankins expressed support for the John Bracken Mankins Park nomination. He provided historic information on John Bracken Mankins’ ownership of 865 acres in Eagle Valley, and an overview of the legal description of the property. He displayed an article by State Library and Archives Division Administrator Guy Rocha, and provided historic information on John Bracken Mankins’ property and his descendants’ continuous residence in the area. Mr. Mankins related anecdotal information regarding public interest in John Bracken Mankins and his ownership of the Eagle Station property. He reiterated support for the nomination. Commissioner Livermore referred Mr. Mankins to historic information on Eagle Station contained in a book entitled *Early Carson City*. Discussion followed, and Mr. Mankins displayed an article about an ancestor who lived to be 111 years old.

(6:07:29) Annette Mankins provided historic information on Mankins family involvement and contributions to the community. She expressed support for the John Bracken Mankins Park nomination, and pointed out the members of the Mankins family who were present in the audience.

(6:09:48) Dave Saarem, of 2188 Alfred Way, advised of having been a Carson City resident since 1971. He provided background information on his personal involvement with the Mankins family. He advised that Leo and Annette Mankins and Nell Mankins and Dave Smith have owned and operated successful businesses in Carson City for many years. He discussed donations of time, money, expertise and equipment by the Mankins family over the years for the betterment of Carson City. He commended the family on their values, integrity, and dedication, and challenged the commissioners to come up with a more honorable name for the park.

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(6:12:27) LeAnn Mankins Saarem advised of having been born in Carson City and raised on El Rancho Drive adjacent to the Silver Oak development. She discussed her family's dedication to the community, and advised it would be an honor to have the park named for John Bracken Mankins.

(6:13:26) Susan Ballew expressed support for the William "Bill" Dolan Park nomination. She advised that her father would have been very honored to know of the nomination. She provided historic information on Mr. Dolan's residence in Carson City and contributions to the community. She advised that Mr. Dolan "touched the lives of people in the present and knew everyone in town. And he brought history to life ... through his column." She expressed appreciation for the nomination and requested the commission's consideration.

(6:15:45) Michael Pollard expressed support for the Donald Lee Campbell Park nomination. He provided background information on Mr. Campbell's residence in Carson City and his service to the community. He requested the commission's consideration of the nomination.

Chairperson Curtis called for additional public comment and, when none was forthcoming, called for commissioner comments. Commissioner Tierney provided background information on Donald Lee Campbell's military service. He advised that the nomination, on behalf of the Navy League of the United States, Carson City Council #347, represented the endorsement of 150 members. He further advised that Mr. Campbell lived in the Silver Oak development and had looked forward to playing tennis at the park. He advised that Mrs. Campbell recently donated \$10,000 to the Navy League for the Carson High School NJROTC Program.

Commissioner Livermore provided background information on Resolution 1988-R-59, and read various policies into the record. He commented on several of the nominations included in the agenda materials. He noted parks to be developed in the near future and encouraged the nominators to resubmit their nominations if not chosen. Chairperson Curtis suggested considering renaming Long Ranch Park. Commissioner Keeton provided additional background information on Donald Lee Campbell and his service to the community. He expressed support for a nomination which would represent Carson City residents "who came from the outside and are immigrants to Carson City." Commissioner McKenna discussed the School Board's naming process. He commented on the importance of historical significance to a community, and expressed support for the John Bracken Mankins Park nomination. He referred to the JohnD Winters Centennial Park as an example. He acknowledged that both Donald Lee Campbell and William "Bill" Dolan deserve recognition. He noted "there are always going to be more people that deserve recognition than there are facilities to name." He suggested considering historic criteria over popularity, and requested to make the motion at the appropriate time. Chairperson Curtis suggested "John B. Mankins Park" rather than John Bracken Mankins Park. Vice Chairperson Felesina discussed the various nominations, and agreed with the importance of commemorating history. Chairperson Curtis entertained a motion. **Commissioner McKenna moved to name the park termed Silver Oak Park the John B. Mankins Park. Commissioner Livermore seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-1.** Chairperson Curtis thanked the citizens for their attendance and participation. Commissioner Livermore advised that the commission's action constituted a recommendation to be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors.

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5-B. ACTION TO RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS THE NAMING OF BABE RUTH BASEBALL FIELD 6 AT GOVERNOR'S FIELD "DOMINIC OXOBY FIELD"

(6:31:10) - Chairperson Curtis introduced this item, and Commissioner Livermore reviewed the agenda report. In response to a question, Vice Chairperson Felesina advised of having played for Dominic Oxoby for three years and coached with him for one year. Commissioner Livermore provided historic information on Dominic Oxoby's community service, and requested the commission's consideration of the request. Chairperson Curtis opened this item to public comment.

(6:34:33) Steve Oxoby discussed his father's contributions to the community. He commended his mother for her efforts which allowed his father to be so involved in community activities. He advised that the nomination represents "quite an honor for the family." He related anecdotal information on his father's involvement in the Babe Ruth Baseball program. He thanked the Youth Sports Association for the honor, and expressed support for the recommendation.

Vice Chairperson Felesina discussed his memories of Mr. Oxoby's involvement in baseball activities. He advised that Mr. Oxoby did "more than just coaching." Chairperson Curtis entertained a motion. **Commissioner Livermore moved to recommend to the Board of Supervisors naming the Babe Ruth Baseball Field 6, at Governor's Field, the Dominic Oxoby Field. Vice Chairperson Felesina seconded the motion.** Commissioner Livermore acknowledged that Oxoby Loop is also named for Dominic Oxoby, and provided background information with regard to the same. Chairperson Curtis called for a vote on the pending motion. **Motion carried 7-0.** Chairperson Curtis thanked the Oxobys for their attendance.

6. COMMISSIONERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

(7:29:30) - None.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (7:29:39) - Chairperson Curtis advised she would likely be absent from the June 19th commission meeting.

8. ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT (7:30:13) - Commissioner McKenna moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Commissioner Keeton seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

The Minutes of the May 15, 2007 Carson City Parks and Recreation Commission meeting are so approved this 19th day of June, 2007.

DONNA J. CURTIS, Chair