

# CARSON CITY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

## Minutes of the July 21, 1998 Meeting

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A regular meeting of the Carson City Parks and Recreation Commission was held on Tuesday, July 21, 1998 in the Community Center Sierra Room, 851 E. William St., Carson City, NV at 6:00 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Chairperson Robert Kennedy  
Vice Chairperson Larry Osborne  
Cheryl Adams  
Ken Elverum  
Glen Martel  
Jon Plank  
John Simms  
Chuck Wright

**STAFF:** Steve Kastens, Parks and Recreation Director  
Scott Fahrenbruch, Parks Superintendent  
Vern Krahn, Park Planner  
Fran Smith, Recording Secretary  
(PR 7/21/98 1-0000.5)

**NOTE** - Unless otherwise indicated each item was introduced by Chairperson Kennedy. Individuals speaking are identified following the heading of each item. A tape recording of these proceedings is on file in the Clerk-Recorder's office. This tape is available for review and inspection during normal business hours.

**A. CALL TO ORDER** - Chairperson Kennedy called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. A roll call was taken and a quorum was present although Commissioner Diefenbach was absent. Chairperson Kennedy noted hers was an excused absence.

**B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - Commissioner Simms moved to approve the Minutes of the March 11, March 17, April 21, May 5 special meeting with the board, and June 16, 1998. Commissioner Martel seconded the motion. Motion carried 8-0-1-0.

**C. PUBLIC COMMENT** - (1-0039.5) Commissioner Adams, tournament committee member for the High Desert Classic, said the committee wanted to make a special presentation to Mr. Kastens for his support of their club and tournament. She talked about the work he has done such as lining the fields on his own time, etc. and they wanted to publicly commend him and present him with a plaque of appreciation. Mr. Kastens expressed his thanks and said although he is Parks and Recreation Director he is also a proud father of a participant and that his seventeen year old daughter started playing when she was five. He added he believes youth sports is a good way for children to use their energies and felt parents need to step forward to help the group.

## AGENDA ITEMS

**1. REVIEW AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON SIERRA POWER COMPANY'S REQUEST FOR RIGHT-OF-WAY FOR A POWER LINE ON THE EDMONDS SPORTS COMPLEX LAND -(1-0079.5)**  
Commissioner Martel said because his employer has been retained by the applicant to help process the application he would recuse himself from the discussion. He left the meeting at this point.

(1-0091.5) Mr. Kastens said the reason this was before the Commission is that Edmonds is land the City has under a RP&P lease from BLM. He noted that SPP had written a letter to BLM requesting a right-of-way easement across the land. He added in keeping with their policy BLM contacted the lessee to find out what their feelings were on the right-of-way proposal. He said SPP had contacted him and they had met at which time he had explained his feelings on how this should be pursued. He said the City has an agreement with YSA for the operation and maintenance of the Complex who are the majority users. He added that YSA had a special meeting during which they and staff had reviewed the proposal. They had asked SPP to come back to the regular YSA meeting and this had been re-visited. He said YSA had determined there were five reasons the proposal was not acceptable and had recommended it come to this Commission. He then said the goal of SPP was to amend their

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1992 special use permit. He commented they were looking for a decision by the Commission on whether or not to grant the right-of-way easement.

(1-0191.5) Carol Dotson of Lumos and Associates, consultant for SPP - Mike Pidlypchak, Project Engineer - Pete Caron, Carson District Manager - She said the SPP representatives were at the meeting to help with their presentation and also to respond to any questions the Commission might have. She noted the request from SPP was for an amendment to their existing special use permit to allow approximately 4,800 linear feet of re-route to an existing approved use permit. They had a drawing of the proposed route and she said they would provide an outline of how they wish to approach the project which would include where the power comes from, how the internal grid system works, the sub-stations in the City, and how the power is distributed to specific areas. She said she would also provide a history of how the project had started approximately twenty years ago.

(1-0285.5) Mr. Pidlypchak visually pointed out on the drawing the four sub-stations the City currently has and the areas they serve. He explained how the needs of the City are handled by each sub-station and how much power is involved. He also talked about the location of equipment and how it serves the City. He also noted what could happen if there was an interruption in the power coming from Reno. Ms. Dotson then provided details on the stages of the project since it began which included data research, developing alternatives and an appearance before the Board of Supervisors in August 1992 where they had discussed having neighborhood meetings. She said they had also presented a route study to the Board December 3, 1992 and on December 17 of that year the Board had approved the original route with the stipulation that the structures be kept as low as possible. Mr. Pidlypchak then visually pointed out the route.

(1-0445.5) Ms. Dotson said negotiations then began with the Indian people in November 1993 but had been postponed pending a merge SPP had with Washington Water Company. She added in April 1997 negotiations with the Washoe Tribe Stewart Colony began again and continued for several months. She then said in November 1997 the negotiations broke down at which time SPP realized time was running out and they needed to look at an amendment to the special use permit to re-route a section approved in the permit.

(1-0515.5) Ms. Dotson then said there would be fifteen poles used overall two of which would be angle poles and the rest would be tangent poles. Mr. Pidlypchak then said the height of the poles would be 64-1/2 feet from the ground to the top of the pole and the insulators would extend out approximately five feet. He added that the poles would be approximately four feet inside the fence line. He said the actual wire at the ends of the insulators would be approximately ten feet inside the fence line and two feet away from the edge of the painted lines of the field. Ms. Dotson said the poles would be close to the height of the lighting poles that currently exist. She also said they would be located in a forty foot easement on the western edge of the Complex and approximately twelve feet inside the existing line and the wire would be non-obtrusive. She commented that they had studied the adjacent land use and how compatible they could be and that was why the western perimeter was selected. She then talked about the location of the bypass and said they did not want to impede any of those plans. She commented they also met with YSA to make their presentation on the planning.

(1-0601.5) Mr. Pidlypchak said YSA had asked SPP to look at three alternatives and bring them back for their consideration. He pointed out the three routes and the location of the lighting. He then talked about the cost figures they had provided and said they are for comparison purposes. Pictures were provided which had the poles superimposed and Ms. Dotson explained the angle of where each was located. At this point she said YSA had expressed some concerns one of which was the future expansion of the Complex. She explained in their planning SPP tried to stay on the western perimeter so that they would not interfere with the expansion. She added that YSA also had a concern with disruption of tournaments if something happened with the poles and said SPP felt the majority of maintenance could be handled by not driving on the field and having the least impact as possible on the Complex. At this point she said BLM had been approached about Prison Hill as an alternate route but the BLM land use plan does not allow this type of application.

(1-0931.5) Commissioner Elverum and Chairperson Kennedy asked what had happened on the negotiations with the Washoe Tribe. Mr. Pidlypchak said when the State purchased the Stewart Indian Complex buildings they also gained title to the land adjacent to the east. He added that SPP had talked to the State to see if that was a feasible

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route but shortly after the December 1997 Board meeting where the route was amended SPP heard from the Washoe Tribe informing them that the land did not belong to the State but rather was land held in trust for them by the Federal government. He said SPP had then started negotiations to get a right-of-way across those lands. He added about the time of the merger with Washington Water a decision had been made that the project was not needed. However, when the merger was not completed the project went back into the budget and gained funding to proceed. He said SPP had again approached the Washoe Tribe and again started the negotiations for the right-of-way across their property. He then explained what each group wanted and SPP subsequently determined they needed to consider an alternate way of getting around the Washoe land. This had resulted in their decision to try and go across a portion of the Edmonds Complex. At this point Commissioner Osborne said for the record his wife works for Lumos. He did not believe it would cause a conflict with his discussion on the project. He asked if any of the money SPP would be saving by using the Edmonds Complex route would be available to either the Parks and Recreation Department or YSA to help mitigate some of the concerns. Mr. Pidlypchak said they have a foundation set up that handles that sort of request.

(1-1229.5) Pete Livermore, President of YSA, provided a description of the programs they have and the number of participants. He then said the proposal had come to him in the form of the memo from Mr. Krahm which was included in the packet. He added that YSA had met and then notified Mr. Kastens of their findings. He said YSA had never looked at a route on a cost basis but rather how it could function within the Complex. He had pictures of Edmonds similar to those SPP had presented and visually pointed out where SPP had not shown the location of some poles in their presentation. He explained the distance of the requested easement and said some poles would be placed within in the playing fields. He also talked about the YSA needs for expansion. He referred to the Master Plan for the Complex that was recently approved for use in the future by Carson City's children. He asked the Commission not to restrict YSA use of the Complex by approving the project. He then said that SPP had not suggested any type of payment for the fields, whether monetary or replacement of space.

(1-1791.5) Fred Schmidt, Consumer Advocate for the State and a person who is involved with soccer activities, said he had received calls in his office relating to problems some citizens had with the placement of the line at the Complex. He noted his office had been promised documentation from SPP but it had not been received. He cited a similar project where Reno did not want a line adjacent to a future park location. He provided details and said it ultimately resulted in SPP purchasing property from homeowners who objected to a line near their property and are now developing a line in the area which is along Highway 395 isolated from the park site. He then said he has helped line the fields at the Complex and if the project was approved the line would hang over them.

(1-2263.5) Commissioner Osborne asked if there is adequate power for the City. Mr. Pidlypchak said there is currently no problem but the sources are limited and if there is an outage there is no backup to handle it. Jo Salisbury told of a tragic episode where her son had climbed a tree in an area where power lines were running through the trees. She added a light wind blew a line which arched and hit him resulting in his death a few days later. She said the power company had made a commitment to the development that it was to have been underground but did not do it. She did not believe the cost to SPP to put this line underground was too much value to put on human lives. Robin Williamson said the Board of Supervisors had amended the route SPP had proposed in 1992 because they felt SPP should use existing power line corridors and felt there is a precedent in requesting that from them at this point.

Chairperson Kennedy declared a recess at 8:17 p.m. When he reconvened the meeting at 8:29 p.m. a quorum was present.

(1-2451.5) Commissioner Osborne talked about the statement by Mr. Livermore that SPP had not offered compensation either in money or space. He said he would like to hear the response by SPP. Mr. Pidlypchak said the right-of-way would allow them to put the poles along the route they want and would basically be there to alleviate the building of certain things within the zone required by the National Electric Safety Code to keep items away from the power line. He added that the trees would have to stay outside of that area. He then said the right-of-way would not restrict the park or any property owner from utilizing land use for items that would not endanger anybody.

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(1-2541.5) Mr. Pidlypchak then said this is not straight compensation as it would be if they were dealing with the private sector where they would have the land appraised and then offer a fee which generally ranges from 20 to 25 percent for the easement. However, because this is BLM land it falls under a different permit process from them. He added that BLM determines what the land is worth and give SPP a permit to operate for a certain number of years and they establish a fee for it. He said it was his understanding the fee goes to BLM not the leaseholder. At this point Commissioner Osborne said he would like to see YSA and SPP discuss some of the options again and come forward with something that could be supported by the users and the power company. Mr. Pidlypchak said they could and added that just because they had chosen a route they felt was the best for them it might not necessarily be the best for the community.

(1-2851.5) Commissioner Simms felt it was the power company who had broken off the negotiations with the Washoe Tribe. He did not feel there was anything else that could be discussed. He said as a Commissioner it was his responsibility to ask the power company to find other alternatives and not put it on the park. He said it was also his responsibility to protect the users and others who participate in the recreational activities presented there. Commissioner Plank said he had been a guest at the YSA meeting where the presentation had been made. He felt the issue was really something that should have been resolved with the Washoe Tribe twenty years ago. He did not want the City to have to solve the problem between the power company and the tribe.

(1-3005.5) Commissioner Elverum agreed with the position taken by Commissioner Simms as did Commissioner Adams who felt YSA had made their position clear. She explained as a soccer parent and somebody who is on the AYSO board she felt having the pole in the middle of the field it would change what they do and the participants would be impacted. Mr. Pidlypchak said they could locate the poles to make sure they would not pose a danger.

(1-3301.5) Chairperson Kennedy reiterated that the Commission was at the meeting to make a decision as to whether the request for right-of-way should be approved or not and did not believe bringing power to the City was relevant over and above what had already been explained.

(1-3339.5) Pete Caron, SPP Manager for Carson City, felt it was important to the City to be able to support the existing customers and those in the future. He then visually pointed out the areas currently involved in handling the load, including the industrial area, and provided details on how the process works. Commissioner Plank said when he had attended the YSA meeting there had been no mention of the industrial area and that he was beginning to question some of the reasons for the request. Commissioner Elverum talked about the growth in Douglas County and said more of the demand would be south rather than north. He felt it was unacceptable that a park in Carson City would help solve problems in Douglas County. Phil Williamson said he is involved with the Capital Soccer Club and YSA. He felt that putting a pole next to a soccer field causes a safety problem. He commented when the fields are widened to accomodate the growth in the program the poles would be close to the sidelines and cited examples of problems that could develop. He expressed his belief that the poles would be incompatible with the park and that they should be underground or an alternative other than those presented be sought.

(1-3739.5) Commissioner Elverum moved that the Commission deny the request for a right-of-way by Sierra Pacific Power Company through Edmonds Park and basically go along with staff's recommendation and put the Commission on the record as saying that Sierra Pacific needs to find another place. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion. Commissioner Osborne said was obvious the users do not want this nor do they want to work out an alternative nor do they see any other options. He added as a Commissioner he would have to respect the position taken by the users. Commissioner Elverum felt if SPP wishes to put the line underground the users would not oppose it. Commissioner Simms did not believe this is something that YSA should have to deal with and agreed with the motion made by Commissioner Elverum. Motion carried 7-0-1-1. (Commissioner Martel abstained.)

**2. REVIEW AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON RELOCATION OF JAIL PARK - (2-0053.5)** Mr. Krahn had provided copies of the final report on the relocation study. He said there had been neighborhood meetings and as a result staff felt an adequate replacement cannot be found. He explained that the neighborhood would not be deprived of recreational facilities because of the proximity of Mills Park and Governors Field. He added it was the recommendation of staff that no other study or effort be made to replace the park. He then said the State had

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offered the use of their facility at Second and Roop as a temporary park until such time as they develop the property. Mr. Krahn also said there had not been any demands for a replacement on the part of the residents in the neighborhood. Commissioner Osborne moved that the Commission follow staff's recommendation and seek no further action in trying to find a replacement site for Jail Park. Commissioner Wright seconded the motion. Commissioner Osborne amended his motion to include the use of the facility at Second and Roop. Commissioner Wright accepted the amended motion. Motion carried 8-0-1-0.

**3. STATUS REPORT ON ENCROACHMENT ON CITY LAND ON U.S. HIGHWAY 50 EAST - (2-0227.5)** Mr. Kastens said most of the items had been removed although some remain. He added that there are still some improvements which remain on the property and the problem needs to be resolved. He will provide an update at a later meeting. No formal action was taken.

**4. REVIEW AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON CHANGE IN THE WAY THE DEPARTMENT HANDLES THE SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS FOR SPECIAL EVENTS AT PARKS AND RECREATION - (2-0227.5)** Mr. Kastens said in the past the policy was when it was determined there was a need for security they advised the renter to get a security company to provide their service. However, he explained over the years there have been problems which included no security having been acquired by the renter prior to the event, the security company having been given incorrect times, the inability to provide the type of security staff felt was necessary, etc. He said staff had decided they should take control of the security arrangements so that they would know who would be at an event, when, and how many. He had provided copies of a letter from Great Western Security which detailed their services. He said staff was comfortable with the information in the letter although he had a concern that they reserve the right to deny services for events they feel are undesirable. He felt that indicates how serious things can get and that his department needs to do something, particularly because of the position the security company had taken. He said staff feels a change is necessary so that everyone, users and staff, can be protected. He emphasized his desire to discuss this in an open meeting so that an opportunity for input was provided to the Commission and the public. He noted in the staff report staff had recommended that the Commission support the change in policy to allow staff to make the security arrangements rather than having the renter to do it. Chairperson Kennedy asked what the current policy is. Mr. Kastens said the only policy is that security is required under certain situations but does not necessarily say how. He clarified it is a policy that was approved when overall policies and procedures were set up. He explained that several years ago staff had put together an entire package of policies and procedures for Parks and Recreation fees and facilities.

(2-0339.5) Commissioner Osborne said he did not recall this subject being brought to the Commission previously because there was a problem. Mr. Kastens explained that in the past three years they have had approximately thirty events where security was needed. He added in ninety percent of them there was a problem of some sort relating to security and provided details. Osborne said he would like to see Parks and Recreation go ahead and fulfill what they currently have as their authority that if, in fact, security is not provided he can prevent the event. He explained his feeling that staff is now telling the renters they have to use the services staff tells them to use and tell them what it would cost. He did not believe staff was leaving the users any options to either deal with somebody local, somebody they have had previous dealings with, or somebody they can find who is less expensive. Mr. Kastens said it is difficult to tell people who have rented the facility and perhaps hired a band that they could not hold their event because the security people did not show up. He also said the security people need at least a weeks notice so they can have their people available. Commissioner Osborne did not like the idea of the City telling the users what they must use at their cost. Mr. Kastens said he could do an RFP asking for proposals and then compare responses. Commissioner Wright said it was his preference to get more notice to the public on agenda items. He felt some of the users need to be given the opportunity to come and provide their input before the Commission approves something like this. Commissioner Osborne asked for a copy of the policy relating to security and Mr. Kastens said he would put it on a future agenda. No formal action was taken.

**GENERAL DISCUSSION**

- 1. Future Agenda Items from Commission Members** - Previously discussed,
- 2. Comments from Commission Members** - None.

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**3. Status Reports from Commission Members - None.**

**4. Comments and Status Reports from Staff -** (2-0551.5) Mr. Krahn talked about the naming of the Ronald Wilson Memorial Park and said 600 notices had been sent to the neighbors near the locale. He added they had gotten very good responses from them and also invited the Commission to attend when the festivities are held. He said a plan that has community input would be on the agenda for the next meeting.

(2-0591.5) Mr. Krahn also commented that the public response to the mural program has been very positive.

**5. Status Report on Question #18, Residential Construction Tax and Capital Improvement - None.**

There being no further business Commissioner Wright moved to adjourn. Commissioner Osborne seconded the motion. Motion carried 8-0-1-0. Chairperson Kennedy adjourned the meeting at 10:01 p.m.

The Minutes of the July 21, 1998 meeting of the Carson City Parks and Recreation Commission

ARE SO APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_, 1998

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Robert Kennedy, Chairperson