

CARSON CITY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the September 2, 1997 Meeting

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A regular meeting of the Carson City Parks and Recreation Commission was held on Tuesday, September 2, 1997 in the Community Center Sierra Room, 851 East William St., Carson City, NV at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Chairperson Ken Elverum
Vice Chairperson Robert Kennedy
Larry Osborne
Jon Plank
Susan Scholley

John Simms
Charles Wright

STAFF: Steve Kastens, Parks and Recreation Director
Scott Fahrenbruch, Parks Superintendent
Vern Krahn, Parks Planner
Katherine McLaughlin, Recording Secretary
(PR 9/2/97 1-0000.5)

NOTE - Unless otherwise indicated each item was introduced by Chairperson Elverum. 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 Elverum called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. A roll call was taken and a quorum was present although Commissioners Chapman and DeMar were absent and Commissioner Plank had not yet arrived.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Commissioner Kennedy moved to approve the Minutes of July 22, 1997 meeting. Commissioner Osborne seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0. Commissioner Osborne moved to approve the Minutes of the August 19, 1997 meeting. Commissioner Wright seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Plank arrived at this point.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT - None.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. REVIEW AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE INSTALLATION OF A FENCE AROUND THE POND AT ROSS GOLD PARK - (1-0123.5) Bill Sears, grandfather of the child who had fallen into the pond, said he had looked into this and had come up with a suggestion of installing a cyclone fence and that it would cost \$6,500 to \$7,000. He said in the event the City cannot install the fence he was at the meeting to ask for some standards and safeguards for the duck pond to insure life, safety and health for children and adults who visit the park. He added that he had spoken to other parents who told of similar incidents and that he had also seen some close calls of this nature. He was asking for a three foot cyclone fence around the pond approximately three feet from the water's edge with both sides of the grid being screened off. He also asked that signs be posted around the pond, pavilion, playground, restrooms and entry areas asking people to keep a close eye on children. He then asked that the foul green water in the pond be replaced with clean water.

(1-0173.5) Tonya Sharpstein, a relative of the child who nearly drowned, echoed the sentiments of Mr. Sears. She made suggestions on how the fence could be made more attractive. She also commented that if a fence is not installed perhaps the water level could be lowered and the rocks removed from the edge. She then made a suggestion about lowering the mounds in the pond to eliminate the temptation to children on climbing them. Wyman Sears, also a relative, felt a fence would be the best idea and gave his reasons.

(1-0261.5) Claudia Matthews reiterated the position she had taken at a previous meeting which was being in

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opposition of the fence. She did not feel a fence would be a deterrent because children like to climb them. She suggested perhaps fencing the playground area where the children are more restricted and require less parental observation. She did not feel lowering the level of the water would help either and cited examples of drownings in shallower water. Chairperson Elverum stated since the previous meeting phone calls and letters had been received and all but one opposed the fence.

(1-0315.5) Commissioner Osborne also reported he had received calls on the issue and none were in favor of the fence. He said the water appeared to be stagnant and asked if that is something that can be corrected. Mr. Kastens said Mr. Fahrenbruch had a plan to remedy this in the fall. However, he did not believe it was unhealthy at this point. Commissioner Osborne then added he was not convinced a fence was the answer to the situation. Commissioner Kennedy echoed the statement that he had spoken to the public and had not received any comments in favor of a fence. He then asked if there is anything on the Recreation Division reservation form that talks about a safety factor relative to the pond and, if not, could it be included. He also suggested posting signs to alert the public to any safety problems. Mr. Kastens said currently there are four signs, one each in the north, south, east and west, that are situated at the edge of the pond and say no wading or swimming is allowed. Commissioner DeMar said anyone with small children using the pavilion needs to take particular care because the pond is only about 50 feet away. Commissioner Simms expressed a concern if there was a fence and a toddler got over it could an adult, perhaps a grandparent, get over it. He agreed with the signs but expressed a concern with the bridge and felt it should be looked at. Commissioner Plank felt the mounds could possibly be a problem in that they could obstruct the view of children by their parents. He added his feeling about not wanting a fence and referred to the comment by Commissioner Simms about an adult possibly not being able to scale the fence if a child had a problem. He then asked Mr. Lipparelli what the City's liability is in a case like this. Mr. Lipparelli said some preliminary research had been done to see if it is the City's duty to fence a body of water and the majority of cases reviewed indicated there is none and provided details. Chairperson Elverum expressed his agreement with Commissioner Simms on the possibility of an adult not being able to scale a fence to help a child.

(1-0605.5) Frank Chase described systems used in foreign countries, hotels and municipal ponds to alleviate the problem. This also included a way to clean the water. Commissioner Kennedy moved that the Commission accept the recommendation of staff that the Commission recommend to the Board of Supervisors that the fence not be installed at the pond at Ross Gold Park. Commissioner Simms seconded the motion. Ms. Sharpstein felt the mounds are too high and suggested they be lowered and that the side railings on the bridge be raised so that small children cannot lean over them. She also suggested the height of the signs be lowered for easier reading. Motion carried 7-0. Chairperson Elverum then suggested that Mr. Fahrenbruch look into raising the height of the railings and lowering of the mounds and come back to the Commission at the next meeting.

2. REVIEW AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON INSTALLATION OF SEATING AND SHADE AT THE SKATEBOARD FACILITY IN MILLS PARK - (1-0723.5) Virginia Orcutt - This had been brought to the Commission in the form of public comment by Ms. Orcutt at the previous meeting. Mr. Kastens said the Shade Tree Council had identified the skateboard facility as a site for their fall tree care seminar and as part of that they are going to plant trees around the facility. He also said Mr. Fahrenbruch had committed to putting some picnic tables there. He added if the Commission wanted the benches Virginia Orcutt had indicated a willingness to work with staff on getting some funding. He then stated that staff would like to determine the schedule of installation to coincide with the tree planting season but that it should be by May 1998. (1-763.5) Ms. Orcutt noted that the parents who watch the skateboarders have no place to sit except on a piece of concrete. She added she had observed them approaching the site from Highway 50 and felt the benches could be located near the highway. She also stated the benches should be made of steel so that they could not be damaged by vandals or otherwise. She said she would like a cost estimate for three or four benches because she had agreed to raise some of the money. Mr. Kastens did not have a figure but said he would find out for her. Commissioner Kennedy agreed with Ms. Orcutt on the need for benches and that there should be consideration in terms of cost and location. Ms. Orcutt said the schedule of May 1998 is too long and Mr. Kastens felt there should be a plan with regard to the time of planting trees and location of the benches. Ms. Orcutt also emphasized the need for parents to be at the skateboard park to somewhat oversee the activities. (1-0839.5) Commissioner Osborne cited the fact that a cost figure for the benches was not yet available and that the usage during inclement weather is not known and suggested that staff and Ms. Orcutt work together to come up with something. Commissioner Plank suggested perhaps the benches could be placed by receding them in the berm around the facility. Commissioner Kennedy suggested temporarily

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placing existing benches at the facility so that the best location could be determined. Mr. Fahrenbruch said no benches are currently available but that the cost including installation should be approximately \$200 each. He also noted that when the Shade Tree Council has its seminar on October 28 they will be planting trees around the skateboard park and that he hoped to have a plan in place to correlate the irrigation system and the placement of the benches. Commissioner Scholley supported the idea of getting the benches as soon as possible. She also agreed with the position of Ms. Orcutt regarding the supervision by parents. Chairperson Elverum supported staff's recommendation regarding the bench project. Commissioner Scholley then asked for an update, perhaps at the December meeting. Chairperson Elverum also liked the idea and said it would give the Shade Tree Council an opportunity to plant the trees and work with staff on the irrigation. At this point Ms. Orcutt said the Mayor had indicated a desire to name the skateboard park after her but she felt it should be given a name associated with the skateboarders. Mr. Kastens then explained there had been some newspaper publicity but there had been the the response he had anticipated. No formal action was taken.

Chairperson Elverum declared a recess at 7:05 p.m. When he reconvened the meeting at 7:10 p.m. a quorum was present.

3. REVIEW AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON 1997 RESIDENTIAL TAX APPLICATION

PRESENTATIONS - (1-1030.5) Commissioner Simms said he would be sitting as president of the Carson City Little League during the discussion on RCT applications. Mr. Kastens explained that the Commissioner would be hearing the presentations from the applicants and would ask questions of them but no action would be taken at this meeting. However, if the Commissioners have questions between now and the October 7 meeting for making allocations they can contact him. He also mentioned the letters sent to each applicant detailing the requirements they would have to follow in order to be considered for funding.

(1-1053.5) He explained that each application had been reviewed and the requirements outlined. He then cited the application from Kurt Meyer requesting funding for a water slide as an example. He explained the process an applicant has to go through when a project is more than \$10,000 and has to go out for bid.

(1-1137.5) High Sierra Radio Control Club - Bob Brogan, President, had provided a drawing of the proposed construction at the model airplane field. He visually pointed out each part of the project and explained the use. Discussion ensued on the permits that are required for each segment. Included in the discussion were the club's estimated costs and those of the project review team which were basically different. Mr. Kastens said he would research this and get a more exact figure by the October 7 meeting.

(1-1483.5) Governors Field Playground Equipment - Pete Livermore, President of YSA, said YSA had three applications for funding and this request would speak to the need at Governors Field. He explained that it services Little League baseball, Babe Ruth baseball, Pop Warner football and some soccer practice. He noted that Question #18 funding was voted for the T-ball field complex and the grassing and turf areas of the fields. He added when the T-ball fields were opened in 1996 it was gratifying to see the number of young people participating and the number of parents and grandparents who were involved. He noted that YSA feels strongly about the Master Plan for the fields and expressed their belief that funding for playground equipment should be included which could be utilized during T-ball time and the continuance of Little League. He felt that RCT funding plus Question #18 monies and funding raised by Little League could be used for a restroom and snack bar. Mr. Simms said for the past several years Little League has put in a lot of time and money into the T-ball program but has yet to raise rates and do not plan to. He felt the Commission could take this into consideration. He described existing facilities such as sani-huts and a hut they use as a snack bar and said their request was to improve those facilities. Chairperson Elverum described his experience with his own children and supported the request.

(1-1675.5) Edmonds Sports Complex - Irrigation/Turf/Trees - Pete Livermore - Greg Davis, Regional Commissioner for AYSO - Cheryl Adams, Assistant Regional Commissioner for AYSO - Mr. Livermore said this was for AYSO soccer and that they were willing to put up \$20,000 of the total \$80,340. He noted that the soccer enrollment is expanding and is becoming a year-round sport. He also said three tournaments are scheduled and that the existing turf areas cannot accommodate that many participants. He also mentioned a year-round program Bobby Sox would like to have but they need a playing area. Commissioner Osborne asked how many people would use the facilities and Mr. Livermore talked about the number of teams and how many players on each team

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which he estimated to be 350 - 400 participants plus parents and siblings. Commissioner Scholley supported the request and provided her reasons.

(1-1761.5) Mr. Davis talked about the increase in enrollment and explained why AYSO would like to see the improvements. He also commented on the need for parents and other family members to have somewhere to sit in the shade and also use the snack bar. (1-1815.5) Ms. Adams said during the season they have eleven fields going at one time plus a second set of games on six fields after the first games are completed. She also talked about the parents and other children who are typically at the games. She reiterated what Mr. Livermore said about AYSO helping with the funding to get the program going. Commissioner Plank said their willingness to help with the funding speaks well of the program.

(1-1891.5) Edmonds Sports Complex - Playground Equipment - Mr. Livermore referred to a drawing showing the area where the picnic tables, benches, and playground equipment would be located. He also noted that Edmonds is used from February to the middle of November. He also talked about how AYSO had contributed \$18,000 for field preparation a few years ago. Commissioner Wright asked how this would tie in with Question #18 funding for Edmonds and Mr. Livermore said that would be for the enhancement of the north six fields. He explained how the sports programs at Edmonds would be expanding in the next few years and that Question #18 would help finance that growth. He then said within a year he plans to bring a Master Plan of Edmonds to the Commission and Commissioner Kennedy felt it would be a valuable tool because it would show a proposed concept for the future.

(1-2025.5) Mills Park - Trees/Drip System - Donna Kuester, Chairperson of the Carson City Shade Tree Council - She said there had been a study of hazardous trees at the park which resulted in the removal of 75 large cottonwoods. She added she had come to request funding for tree replacement which would include large trees and a professional person to plant them. She added the reason for wanting a professional to do this was because they could guarantee them. She added that the Council had previously been granted half of the funding and she was here seeking the other half. Mr. Fahrenbruch said the replacement would probably be 25-26 trees at approximately \$350 each and that they would be 3" caliper minimum. He also noted they would be a mixture of different species.

(1-2131.5) Ross Gold Park - Shade Trees - Ms. Kuester stated that the public had requested larger shade trees for the park and that was the reason for this request. She said these would be the same caliper as those mentioned previously. She explained that the Shade Tree Council could oversee the project but would not participate in the planting because of the need for a guarantee by the supplier. Mr. Fahrenbruch said there would be approximately the same number of trees as at Mills Park. Commissioner Osborne asked about possible grant funding by NDF and Ms. Kuester said they usually do their funding in February and that the Shade Tree Council starts the process in November by asking for matching funds and added they usually get something.

(1-2239.5) Edmonds Sports Complex - Lighting BMX Track - Jack Michaels - He had attended a previous meeting to discuss the lighting at the track for night practice and racing. He stated he had been in contact with a Sierra Pacific person who had indicated they would try to help by getting the poles and installing them. The poles would be donated and the request was for \$30,000 which was for permits and maintenance of the poles and also for landscaping. He noted they get 75 - 100 riders on the weekend and more from out of the area when there are special events. Mr. Kastens stated that the Planning Commission had already approved the special use permit. Mr. Livermore added that YSA would handle the payments of the light bill.

(1-2375.5) Edmonds Sports Complex - Snack Building/Storage Area - Commissioner Scholley said she would like information on the building and its use. Mr. Michael said they would just sell soda and candy, etc. but there would be no cooking. Mr. Kastens clarified that the building had been funded four years ago and that the materials for it had been at the track since then. He added that the BMX organization had been trying to get funding for a foundation and the slab but had not been able to and that was the reason for the request. Mr. Kastens also noted it is 24' x 24'. Mr. Livermore said the building had originally been purchased for storage of equipment which included the timing clock and starting gate. Mr. Michaels also said they have had two wooden benches for seven years and would like them replaced by steel benches because they are rickety.

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(1-2579.5) Carson Aquatic Facility - Water Slide - Mr. Kastens explained this had been considered during the budget process but had not been funded. Commissioner Osborne asked about attendance. Mr. Kastens said it is up but fluctuates and provided details. Commissioner Scholley asked if this would be included in the pool enclosure. Mr. Kastens said the slide is being incorporated into that plan. He also explained that the slide would be located so that it would not encumber any swim meets or similar activities.

(1-2669.5) Carson Aquatic Facility - Weight Room Treadmill - Mr. Kastens said this had also been discussed during the budget process and that Mr. Meyer had submitted letters from users expressing their wish for it.

(1-2681.5) Community Center - Paved Parking Lot - Mr. Kastens said this had previously been discussed. He explained this would include the northwest parking lot and old pool complex and would provide for overflow parking during events at the Community Center and Mills Park. It would allow for 82 parking spaces and would be lit. He added it could also be used as a play area during the times when there is no need for overflow parking. Commissioner Plank had a question about tying it in to the parking lot in the southwest area of the building. Mr. Kastens said that could be done especially if there is a play area. He added there could also be some mounding and vegetation to detain any balls from rolling onto Roop Street. He also said the plan was to eliminate some of the parking in the southwest and create an entrance and exit for the overflow parking lot. Commissioner Osborne asked if this was funded would it be possible to use it while waiting for the lighting to be installed. Mr. Kastens did not feel this could happen because of lighting requirements, especially at public lots.

(1-2835.5) Fuji Park - New Bleachers - Mr. Fahrenbruch said the Super Outlaw Karts had submitted this request because the existing bleachers are old and not in good condition. He added they had come from the high school and that they were to have been junked. Commissioner Plank suggested perhaps this funding could be saved if the Barone or State Fair projects go forward. Mr. Kastens said he did not want to hold the Outlaw Kart people hostage until a decision is made on either one of those projects.

(1-3239.5) Hidden Meadows School Access Site - Land - Mr. Kastens said this was just a recommendation and that he wanted to give the Commission an opportunity to know about it. He said the City is purchasing a parcel in the Hidden Meadows subdivision and that it was appraised at \$60,000. He added the City would be paying that back to the developer through RCT credits. However, because the lots are slow in selling, it could take several years for the developer to attain that figure in RCT funding. He added it had been decided to get the Commission's feeling about paying the developer off in one year. He emphasized that the developer had not asked for this to be included in the requests but rather in fairness he felt perhaps this could be handled in this way.

(1-3298.5) Mark Way - Consulting Fees - Mr. Kastens noted that several months ago a group of volunteer residents had come forward with a conceptual plan for a design of the Mark Way Park. He added he would now like to get some funding to hire a consultant to do an actual plan which would include actual specs and other needs. Commissioner Plank asked why a consultant is needed because there is now a Park Planner on board. Mr. Kastens explained that the new Park Planner already has a schedule of projects and adding this could take even longer.

(1-3351.5) Mills Park - Handicap Platform - Mr. Kastens said this request was from the Carson City Railroad Association and although it had been discussed during the budget process it had not been funded. Commissioner Osborne asked if this is a requirement being imposed or something that the Association wants. Mr. Kastens felt it could probably be imposed.

(1-3415.5) Various Parks Sites - Picnic Benches and Tables - Mr. Fahrenbruch said this was an item CIP had not funded and was basically a recycled request. He commented that once a park is built there are requests for benches and tables from the public and cited the Skateboard Park request as an example. Commissioner Kennedy felt the Commission should give serious consideration to this request because it is not a large request and is for something normally found in parks. Commissioner Osborne asked if these could be included in a replacement program such as that which exists for mowers, etc. Mr. Kastens said they can be once they are acquired.

(1-3545.5) At this point Commissioner Scholley expressed a concern over some of the requests coming from groups serving a small number of people, especially when there are no matching funds. She also expressed a concern that some of the requests were not documented in terms of the funding level and cited the bleachers and

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parking as examples because they are big ticket items. Chairperson Elverum then asked the Commissioners to study the requests carefully so that they can be prioritized for the October meeting. He also asked how much RCT funding is available Mr. Kastens said it is \$225,000 and that it is actual money on hand. He also suggested that the Commission spend all of it because it would not impact anything else.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

1. Future Agenda Items from Commission Members - None.

2. Comments from Commission Members - Chairperson Elverum asked Mr. Kastens for an update on naming of parks. Mr. Kastens said four suggestions had been made. He added he had asked for a newspaper article in the hope it would generate more suggestions. Commissioner Osborne felt that the public could be invited to a meeting to submit their input.

3. Status Reports from Commission Members - None.

4. Comments and Status Reports from Staff - Mr. Kastens introduced Vern Krahn the new Park Planner who he said already had a schedule of projects. Mr. Kastens then noted that the next meeting would be the workshop on September 16 and that the facilitator would be Noreen Leary.

He also reminded the Commissioners that the park tour would be September 14 and that the group was to meet at the Community Center east parking lot at 9:00 a.m. Commissioner Kennedy expressed the hope that a newspaper reporter would join the group and write an article and perhaps provide photos.

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

There being no further business Chairperson Elverum entertained a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Scholley moved to adjourn. Commissioner Wright seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0. Chairperson Elverum adjourned the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

The Minutes of the September 2, 1997 meeting of the Carson City Parks and Recreation Commission

ARE SO APPROVED 11/18, 1997

/s/

Ken Elverum, Chairperson