

CARSON CITY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the April 5, 2011 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, April 5, 2011, in the Community Center Sierra Room, 851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada.

PRESENT: Vice Chairperson Molly Walt
Commissioner Chuck Adams
Commissioner Janice Brod
Commissioner Donna Curtis
Commissioner Sean Lehmann
Commissioner Todd Westergard.

STAFF: Roger Moellendorf, Parks and Recreation Department Director
Tina Russom, Deputy District Attorney
Vern Krahn, Park Planner
Tillery Williams, Volunteer Coordinator
Tamar Warren, 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 part of the public record. These materials are available for review, in the Clerk's Office, during regular business hours.

CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM (5:31:04) – Vice Chairperson Walt called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. Roll was called; a quorum was present. Chairperson Lasco and Commissioner Smolenski were absent. Commissioner Lehmann arrived at 5:33 p.m.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS (5:31:44) – None.

1. ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES (5:31:55) – Commissioner Westergard moved to approve the minutes of the March 1, 2011 minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Adams. Motion carried 5-0.

2. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA (5:32:20) – Mr. Moellendorf requested removing item 3B from the agenda.

3. STAFF UPDATES - DISCUSSION ONLY - NO DELIBERATION

A. EARTH DAY CLEANUP EVENT. (5:33:10) – Vice Chairperson Walt introduced the item. Mr. Moellendorf introduced Tillery Williams, the Department's Volunteer Coordinator. Mr. Williams distributed a flyer, incorporated into the record, outlining the three staging areas for the Earth Day Community Cleanup Event. He stated that the event would take place on Saturday, April 23, 2011, between 8:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. He also stated that they had reached out to businesses in the area for contributions or donations towards refreshments and T-shirts. Mr. Moellendorf invited everyone to come and help. In response to a question by Commissioner Westergard, Mr. Williams stated that they deliberately indicated the end time as 12 p.m. in case some volunteers wanted to stay longer. Commissioner Curtis thanked Mr. Williams for a "good start" to the Earth Day celebrations. Vice Chairperson Walt stated that she could not attend due to a soccer tournament.

B. ARLINGTON SQUARE ICE SKATING RINK. – Removed from the agenda per Mr. Moellendorf's request.

C. NEVADA RECREATION AND PARKS SOCIETY ELMER H. ANDERSON AWARDS. (5:40:18) – Vice Chairperson Walt introduced the item. Mr. Krahn gave background on two awards received by the Parks and Recreation Department, incorporated into the record. He announced that the Elmer H. Anderson Park Excellence Awards were received for the Morgan Mill Road River Access and for the Baily Fishing Pond projects. He added that the Baily Fishing Pond project had been submitted under the Special Features Park category, and the Morgan Mill Road River

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Access had been submitted under the Trails and Natural Areas category. Mr. Krahn also thanked the Commission and the Board of Supervisors for their support. Several Commissioners thanked Mr. Krahn and the Department, praising them for their dedication. Commissioner Curtis inquired about the Project of the Year winner, the Bark Park, and the City of Henderson Youth Enrichment and Fitness program, both in Henderson, Nevada. Mr. Krahn responded that he would put Commissioner Curtis directly in contact with the city of Henderson.

D. “NO SMOKING” SIGNS FOR PLAYGROUNDS. (5:47:36) – Vice Chairperson Walt introduced the item. Mr. Moellendorf explained that this item had been a long-time goal of the Commission, and reminded the Commission that it was agreed to have voluntary compliance against smoking in parks where children played in playgrounds. He announced that 22 signs with the phrase “young lungs working” were posted, bearing the name Carson City Parks and Recreation Department. He thanked Chairperson Lasco for the design and creation, and stated that compliance would be on a voluntary basis. Commissioner Curtis mentioned that the Carson Area Wellness Coalition was very pleased with this action. She believed that the City’s tobacco program was planning an event and that was why the signs were timed for posting at certain locations.

4. AGENDA ITEMS

A. DISCUSSION WITH POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING A REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION’S CURRENT GOALS. (5:52:20) – Vice chairperson Walt introduced the item. Mr. Moellendorf explained that the Commission had expressed a desire to address its current goals and to set new goals for the new calendar year. He referred to Exhibit A in the agenda packet, incorporated into the record, as the goals set on March 27, 2010. Vice Chairperson Walt invited each Commissioner who took a lead in a specific goal to address that particular item.

Goal #1, Trails. Commissioner Brod stated that they were still working hard on getting the trails built. She explained that the Ash Canyon to Kings Canyon Trail had just received funding from Question 18 dollars. She thanked Chairperson Lasco and Commissioner Lehmann for the support letters they had written. She also stated that they had met with the Carson City Convention and Visitors’ Bureau (CCCVB) to discuss marketing and web presence. Vice Chairperson Walt mentioned that the CCCVB had conducted a strategic marketing plan workshop the previous week, and that this trail had been discussed as a destination.

Goal #2, Field Maintenance and Upkeep. Commissioner Curtis explained that Commissioner Lasco had worked on an internship program and a volunteer coordinator, a position now held by Mr. Williams. She also stated that they were working on the “adopt a park” program, not just to clean up but to raise awareness of the parks. Mr. Moellendorf agreed that this should be an on-going activity and not just in the test areas near Northridge Drive. He also stated that they are considering some incentive programs for the volunteers.

Goal #3, Fundraising Efforts Including Increased Involvement with the Betterment for Parks Foundation. Commissioner Lehmann reported that he wanted to raise the awareness of the Foundation, through which donations could be received for Carson City Parks and Recreation. He stated that to create awareness, a link had been established from the City’s web site to the foundation’s page. He also mentioned that signs were going to be placed in certain parks. Commissioner Lehman also suggested adding wording such as “made possible by a donation to the Foundation for the Betterment of Parks”. Vice Chairperson Walt suggested printing the foundation information on the Earth Day T-shirts. Mr. Moellendorf endorsed of the idea.

Goal #4, Promoting a Healthy Life and Starter Programs. Commissioner Adams stated that he had researched different parks and recreation committees, but had been unable to find starter programs. He had also discovered that there were several beginning programs, such as tennis and golf, in Carson City. He suggested promoting “what we do have”, since Carson had a wide selection of programs.

Goal #5, Recommend a Direction for Using Question 18 Quality of Life Funds. Commissioner Curtis stated that she, along with Commissioners Adams and Westergard, had discussed this in previous agenda items. She stated that the

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Multiuse Athletic Complex (MAC) had been the first priority for the utilization of these funds. She added that if any funds were left over, they should be prioritized as there were several areas, such as Centennial Park, that were in need of renovation. Mr. Moellendorf indicated that once they finalized the MAC costs, the Department would make recommendations on how to spend the remainder of the funds. He also suggested that this goal be taken on by the entire Commission.

Vice Chairperson Walt called for public comments. None were forthcoming.

B. DISCUSSION WITH POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING SETTING PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION GOALS FOR 2011. (6:16:10) – Vice Chairperson Walt introduced the item and expressed uncertainty on the budget situation. She stated that prior to setting the agenda, Chairperson Lasco, herself and Mr. Moellendorf had discussed whether to postpone this agenda item until the budget was set. However, they had decided to have the discussion. Mr. Moellendorf was uncertain about the upcoming budget, but hoped for increased sales tax revenues. He cautioned against inheriting any additional maintenance responsibilities. He suggested having the goals discussion with the caveat that they be reasonable and attainable.

Vice Chairperson Walt solicited input on any goals that should not be pursued. Commissioner Lehmann suggested that he continue to promote the Foundation outlined in Goal #3, however, he suggested not taking it as a goal for this fiscal year.

Commissioner Curtis suggested Goal #2 read “continue an internship program” instead of “recommend an internship program”. In response to a question, Mr. Moellendorf stated that the internship position would be an on-going one. It was also suggested to continue having Chairperson Lasco, and Commissioners Curtis and Smolenski, as owners of the goal.

Commissioner Westergard suggested rewording Goal #5 to read: “prioritize use of question 18 funds that are available”. Commissioner Brod suggested removing former Commissioner Livermore’s name from Goal #5.

Commissioner Curtis mentioned that a new initiative called “Let’s Move”, started by the First Lady, would promote a healthy lifestyle. She stated that several organizations in Carson City would work together, and she hoped that the Parks and Recreation Commission would be a part of this collective collaboration. She suggested that Goal #4 read “promote healthy life programs by collaborating with various city organizations”, and include “Let’s Move” in it.

Commissioner Lehmann suggested working on a new goal to make Carson City a “runner-friendly community”. He wanted to work with City Staff to showcase the trail system and have it nationally recognized. Vice Chairperson Walt suggested working with CCCVB. Commissioner Westergard recommended combining this goal with Goal #1. Discussion ensued, and it was agreed this should be an additional goal which should read: “Complete and submit the application to become a runner-friendly community.” Mr. Moellendorf offered to help Commissioner Lehmann. Commissioner Curtis asked for a Unified Pathways Master Plan review. Mr. Moellendorf suggested they discuss it at a future date.

Commissioner Brod proposed getting involved in a possible Nevada Day trail mountain bike race, and have a goal to promote special recreational events, in collaboration with the CCCVB. Discussion ensued regarding promoting a healthy lifestyle as being a goal for the local community versus trails for attracting national attention to Carson City. Commissioner Lehmann suggested promoting existing trails in addition to the construction of new trails.

Mr. Moellendorf recommended distributing the discussed and updated goals at the next meeting for a final review. Commissioner Curtis suggested that the agenda item reflect an action to recommend to the Board of Supervisors the approval of these goals. Vice Chairperson Walt advocated sharing them with the CCCVB as well, as they considered the Parks and Recreation department a key component to making Carson City a destination.

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5. MEMBERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION – Vice Chairperson Walt inquired about the School Board Liaison. Mr. Moellendorf stated he would check with the School Board and report back. Commissioner Curtis announced that on May 7th an event called Bark, Whine and Dine would take place as a benefit for Parks for Paws, taking place at the Fuji Park Exhibit Hall, from 6:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. She added that the funds raised would be used to fence Fuji Park. Commissioner Curtis also announced that on May 26th, Empire School and the Parks and Recreation Staff would be having an information fair, along with school's barbecue family night. Commissioner Lehmann stated that in order to be a runner-friendly community, runners would have access to local tracks, therefore, he invited runners or walkers interested in using the high school track to attend a meeting on Friday, April 8th, where a policy would be set for using the track. Commissioner Adams requested updates on the MAC. Vice Chairperson Walt stated that the MAC would be on the July 5th agenda and wondered if that date could be moved up. Mr. Moellendorf said he would do an update prior to that date. Vice Chairperson Walt thanked the Parks and Recreation staff for helping three soccer organizations put together their goals for the spring soccer season.

A. REPORT FROM SCHOOL BOARD LIAISON – None.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS. – Mr. Moellendorf reminded the Commission that a special meeting was scheduled for April 19, 2011, to discuss the improvement plans by the Carson City School District, for Empire Elementary School. He stated that the item would be on the Board of Supervisors meeting agenda that Thursday. He also noted that they were recommending approval of the general concept by the Board of Supervisors, on the condition that this Commission also issues a recommendation. According to Mr. Moellendorf, the May 3rd meeting would be too late, as the item would be discussed at the April 27th Planning Commission meeting. Commissioner Walt expressed concern that a quorum may not be reached due to Spring Break.

7. ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT – Commissioner Westergard moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Curtis. The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

The Minutes of the April 5, 2011 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting are so approved this 3rd day of May, 2011.

STEVE LASCO, Chair