

CARSON CITY SHADE TREE COUNCIL

Minutes of the April 7, 2010 Meeting

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A regular meeting of the Carson City Shade Tree Council was scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 7, 2010 in the Community Center Sierra Room, 851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada.

PRESENT: Chairperson Lee-Ann Keever
Vice Chairperson Gianna Shirk
Member Carole Brewer
Member Kyle Horvath
Member Jens Peermann
Member Roy Trenoweth

STAFF: Roger Moellendorf, Parks and Recreation Director
Jano Barnhurst, Recording Secretary

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

CALL TO ORDER ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM (5:29:45) - Chairperson Keever called the meeting to Order at 5:29 p.m. Roll was called and a quorum was present. Member Ozawa was absent and excused. Vice Chairperson Shirk arrived at 5:32 p.m.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS (5:30:20) - None.

1. ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES (5:30:30) - Member Brewer moved to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2010 meeting as read. Member Trenoweth seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0-1.

2. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA

3. AGENDA ITEMS:

3-A. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE ABSENCE OF ANY COUNCIL MEMBER FROM THIS MEETING

3-B. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET AND THE BUDGET SHORTFALL FACING CARSON CITY (5:31:14) - Chairperson Keever introduced the item. Mr. Moellendorf reported that budget cuts won't directly affect the STC, but a ten percent cut to the Parks and Recreation Department (PRD) will amount to a \$640,000 budget reduction. He noted that the PRD budget is the third largest in the City. He explained the net result of the cuts equates to seven positions in the PRD although some will move into vacant positions. He noted that the impact to individuals losing their jobs is very personal and expressed empathy for them. He explained the possibility of tougher times next year stating that more cuts will affect their services and ability to support advisory

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committees. He discussed the possibility of cutting back on the frequency of meetings or combining committees. In response to a question, he acknowledged that the STC would continue as it is, but the next fiscal year may require additional budget reductions. He emphasized that they are not abolishing any advisory committees or combining functions but are simply asking the “what if” questions. In response to another question, he replied that although there is control on expenditures, there isn’t much control of revenues. Member Horvath suggested restructuring and encouraging new industry to the area. Mr. Moellendorf commented that the Office of Business Development (OBD) is looking into all possibilities of attracting new business to Carson City. Vice Chairperson Shirk encouraged the STC to volunteer for clerical work which could help the City’s budget. In response to a comment, Chairperson Keever noted that each committee has its own mission statement and strengths. Mr. Moellendorf reiterated the “what if” situations and expressed appreciation for volunteering. He explained the possibility of implementing an Adopt-a-Park program in the future. In response to a question, he replied that their meetings are open to the public noting that meeting room set-ups may be pared down. Member Brewer suggested using a smaller room for their meetings. In response to another question, Mr. Moellendorf explained the difficulty of moving recording equipment adding that the Sierra Room provides a higher level of public exposure.

3-C. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE COUNCIL’S WEB PAGE ON THE CARSON CITY WEB SITE (6:18:54) - Chairperson Keever introduced the item noting the absence of Mr. Wilkinson. Member Peermann offered to contact him directly to assist in making the presentation to the STC. Chairperson Keever noted that she invited him via e-mail. Mr. Moellendorf noted that he is diligent and making significant changes to the City’s web site. In response to a comment, he offered to arrange a meeting. Chairperson Keever entertained a motion. **Vice Chairperson Shirk moved to authorize Member Peermann to meet with Mr. Wilkinson, Mr. Moellendorf and Chairperson Keever and report back at the next meeting. Member Peermann seconded the motion.** Discussion ensued regarding web site contents. Member Horvath suggested visiting the www.sactree.org web site which does similar work as the STC. **Motion carried 6-0.**

3-D. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE 2010 ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION (5:47:54) - Chairperson Keever introduced the item and advised that Arbor Day will be held at their selected site. She added that Molly Sinnott has purchased a tree for planting and a deputy to the Governor will assist with awards. She advised that Greenhouse Garden Center, Healthy Trees and Carson City School District will receive awards for assisting the National Guard with moving trees. She suggested that the STC pay for three of the awards and entertained a motion. In response to a question, she replied that the plaques are \$40-50 each. **Member Horvath moved to allocate no more than \$300 to go towards awards for the Arbor Day celebration for the three other recipients that need them.** In response to a question, Chairperson Keever advised that Mike Tancheck gifts the cost of one plaque. **Member Brewer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0-1.** Member Peermann was absent for the vote.

Chairperson Keever advised that a picnic table will be available for the event. She advised that the State Forester is ordering the proclamation from the Governor’s Office and Mr. Moellendorf will contact the Mayor’s office for a City proclamation. Vice Chairperson Shirk added that Smokey the Bear will attend.

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She advised that she will create an online invitation and Chairperson Keever has prepared an invitation for distribution at the end of the week.

3-E. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE SHADE TREE COUNCIL'S PARTICIPATION IN AN ART TREE PROJECT (5:53:01) - Chairperson Keever introduced the item. Member Horvath gave background information and suggested forming a sub-committee as approved at their last meeting. Discussion ensued regarding which members should serve on the sub-committee. In response to a comment, Chairperson Keever suggested that the sub-committee formulate the questions and answers to present to the STC. **Member Horvath moved that the Board approve a two person sub-committee of myself and Gianna with the possibility of Terry Ozawa joining with her approval to address the questions and answers that might arise from doing a project that has been proposed regarding quantitative tree planting and the art tree.** In response to a question, Mr. Moellendorf advised that a sub-committee is subject to open meeting law requirements. He advised that he would make the appropriate meeting arrangements and ensure that it's properly noticed. In response to a question, Member Horvath suggested meeting in the next few weeks in order to make a presentation at their June meeting. **Member Brewer seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.**

3-F. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING A COUNCIL-ENDORSED TREE INITIATIVE ENCOURAGING NEW AND INCREASED TREE PLANTING IN CARSON CITY (5:53:01) - Combined with item 3-E.

3-G. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE COUNCIL'S INVOLVEMENT ON THE PROPOSED LANDSCAPING FOR THE CARSON CITY FREEWAY (5:59:14) - Chairperson Keever introduced the item. Vice Chairperson Shirk gave background information and discussed Tom Henderson's ideas. She described his vision as covering the project in trees and plants appropriate to the area which could be part of the STC's initiative to plant more trees. She expressed support for the project. In response to a question, she advised that the project encompasses Highway 50 to Fairview Drive. She suggested getting involved in the early planning as their knowledge of trees could have a huge impact on the community. She noted that she, Mr. Henderson and Member Ozawa met with businesses to encourage their involvement and the response was "awesome." In response to a question, Chairperson Keever advised that the project is being funded by the federal government. Member Brewer opined that planting indigenous trees and plants should be the main goal. In response to a question, Mr. Moellendorf replied that the STC can be included in developing the plans. He clarified that the plans don't include the first phase of the freeway. Member Brewer opined that neither she or the STC should endorse anything without seeing the plans. Mr. Moellendorf suggested inviting designers to an STC meeting to involve them in the design process. Vice Chairperson Shirk advised of an original set of plans involving greenery which may be changed to more artwork. In response to a question, Mr. Moellendorf replied that the State makes the final determination of the landscape noting that the plans are still highly conceptual. In response to another question, he replied that the plans have changed over time cutting back on vegetation and focusing more on hardscapes and art features. In response to a further question, he suggested that action could be requesting staff to include the STC in the planning process for the second phase of the project. **Vice Chairperson Shirk moved that the Carson City Shade Tree Council agree to ask the**

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Carson City staff to include us on all their pre-planning processes of the landscape process for the Highway 50 to Fairview Drive phase of the freeway. Member Horvath seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

3-H. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

BY THE COUNCIL (6:13:03) - Chairperson Keever introduced the item. In response to a question, Vice Chairperson Shirk suggested focusing on grant writing, donations and other methods to support the STC. Chairperson Keever suggested adopting a tree. Member Horvath suggested purchasing and selling saplings. Member Peermann suggested exploring community outreach programs offered by larger companies. Vice Chairperson Shirk noted that corporate companies are a struggle and time consuming. Chairperson Keever offered to compile a list of the larger companies for the next meeting. Member Horvath explained that a level of organization is required. "They don't want to give money out to just anyone that walks in and asks for it..." Member Peermann responded that they want to be seen as good corporate citizens and suggested that "whatever we present to them has to be sexy." In response to a question, Vice Chairperson Shirk suggested each member come to the next meeting having solicited a donation. In response to a comment, Member Horvath advised that funding is available for these types of grants across the country.

4. NON-ACTION ITEMS:

STATUS REPORTS AND COMMENTS FROM STAFF (6:23:30) - Mr. Moellendorf noted that Carson City has been awarded the Tree City USA award for the 16th consecutive year. He noted Ms. Barnhurst's last City meeting, thanked her for her hard work, and wished her good luck in her future endeavors.

MEMBERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION (6:25:43) - Chairperson Keever noted that Leslie Allen, a presenter at the Fall Tree Care seminar has moved out of state so will not be available for 2010. Member Peermann announced that he and Member Ozawa will be exhibiting artwork at the Back Street Gallery in Comma Coffee. He invited everyone to attend the artists' reception on May 5th, at 5:00.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (6:24:54) - Member Peermann suggested focusing on educating property owners on tree care. Chairperson Keever suggested removal of trees along the Roop Street expansion.

FINALIZATION OF THE 2009 FALL TREE CARE SEMINAR

PLANNING FOR ARBOR DAY 2010

6. ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT (6:27:53) - Chairperson Keever entertained a motion to adjourn. Vice Chairperson Shirk moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:27 p.m. Member Horvath seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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The Minutes of the April 7, 2010 Carson City Shade Tree Council meeting are so approved this 2nd day of June, 2010.

LEE-ANN KEEVER, Chair