

**OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
STAFF REPORT**

MEETING DATE: April 16, 2012

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 3C

STAFF: Juan F. Guzman, Open Space Manager



REQUEST: For possible action to approve staff to move forward with the planning for a workshop with an outside facilitator for the purpose of discussing strategies for the management of Open Space lands.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

There are multiple reasons why staff believes it would be beneficial to conduct a workshop with an outside facilitator for the general purpose of discussing strategies for the management of open space lands. The first reason arose out of the draft management plan for the Carson River lands. Our consultant, Mr. Kimbrough, has suggested to staff that it would be highly beneficial to have an discussion and exchange of general ideas among members of the committee, staff, and interested public. Such a meeting will bring all the ideas together in achieving the common goal of doing the best possible job in managing our lands with our limited resources.

More recently, on March 15, 2012, Chairman Scott and staff appeared in front of the Board of Supervisors with two items. The first one consisted of approval of the work program for 2012. The second one consisted of the review and approval of the report prepared for the Board of Supervisors regarding the activities carried out under the direction of the Open Space Advisory Committee during the year 2011. The minutes of that meeting with the Board of Supervisors are attached. Staff can classify the issues into the following three general themes.

The first issue referred to the recreation uses to be permitted within the Bently and Serpa properties and included considerations about camping, OHV use, target practice and shooting in general. In addition, hunting with rifles and shotguns versus bow and arrow should also be discussed. Most of these uses were carried on these lands historically. Most of the same uses are restricted by provision of the Carson City Municipal Code applicable to parks lands and other portions of the river corridor.

The second issue relates to long-term financing and the desire or not of the Open Space Advisory Committee to consider alternatives relative to acquisition of lands for the program if the present levels of funding are not acceptable or not sufficient to complete the purchase of acquisitions as designated in the master plan. Supervisor McKenna in specific asked us to consider long-term financing alternatives if there is more land that must be acquired per the master plan and the present levels of funding are not sufficient.

The third issue relates to the specific criteria used by the Open Space Advisory Committee and the Board of Supervisors towards the purchase of lands. More generally, this issue may also be related to the Board of Supervisors adopted goals and strategies as part of the Strategic Plan. Specifically, Supervisor Aldean suggested a criteria that will state simply the consideration of what would happen, or what would be the affect, if in fact the land under consideration is not purchased.

During the second presentation related to the activities conducted by the Open Space Program during the year of 2011, the Board reiterated again the similar concerns and specifically provided direction as to the need to vet the proposed recreation land uses and prohibitions along the Carson River more thoroughly. The Board was very complimentary about the efforts of the Open Space Advisory Committee in the past and specifically in the writing of the report.

Staff proposes that a date for the workshop be selected. In general we wish the Committee to come prepared to discuss if it should be held on a Saturday or Sunday or a week day. Also staff proposes that the outside facilitator be Mr. Mark Kimbrough, who is the person helping us with the management plan for the river areas and therefore has become very familiar with the need to switch from mostly a committee working with acquisitions into the management of lands. Potential dates include the following Saturdays: April 28, May 5, May 12, May 19 and May 26.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: I move to approve staff to move forward with the planning for a workshop with an outside facilitator for the purpose of discussing strategies for the management of Open Space lands.

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A regular meeting of the Carson City Board of Supervisors was scheduled for 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 15, 2012 in the Community Center Sierra Room, 851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada.

PRESENT: Mayor Robert Crowell
Supervisor Karen Abowd, Ward 1
Supervisor Shelly Aldean, Ward 2
Supervisor John McKenna, Ward 3
Supervisor Molly Walt, Ward 4

STAFF: Larry Werner, City Manager
Alan Glover, Clerk - Recorder
Randal Munn, Chief Deputy District Attorney
Kathleen King, Deputy Clerk / Recording Secretary

NOTE: The following excerpt is provided at the request of Open Space Program staff. A recording of these proceedings, the Board's agenda materials, and any written comments or documentation provided to the Clerk during the meeting are part of the public record. These materials are available for review, in the Clerk's Office, during regular business hours.

1 - 4. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, INVOCATION, AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
(8:31:04) - Mayor Crowell called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m. Mr. Glover called the roll; a quorum was present. First Christian Church Pastor Ken Haskins provided the invocation. At Mayor Crowell's request, Gil Yanuck led the pledge of allegiance.

19. PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT, OPEN SPACE PROGRAM
19(A) POSSIBLE ACTION TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO APPROVE THE OPEN SPACE DIVISION WORK PROGRAM OUTLINE CALLING FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE OPEN SPACE PORTIONS OF THE QUALITY OF LIFE FUND FOR ACQUISITION, RESTORATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES, DEVELOPMENT, AND MANAGEMENT OF OPEN SPACE AND RELATED PROPERTIES FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2012 (11:20:42) - Mayor Crowell introduced this item. Open Space Property Manager Juan Guzman introduced Natural Resources Specialist Ann Bollinger, Parks and Recreation Department Director Roger Moellendorf, and Open Space Advisory Committee ("OSAC") Chair Bruce Scott. Mr. Guzman provided background information on the subject item, and reviewed the agenda materials.

Mr. Guzman acknowledged that the issue of trespassing relative to River properties is being addressed. In response to a question, Ms. Bollinger advised of preliminary discussions with U.S. Forest Service representatives relative to fuels reduction using sheep. In response to a further question, Mr. Guzman reviewed the Carson City Municipal Code provisions relative to shooting firearms on or adjacent to parks and recreation properties. In addition, the CCMC specifically prohibits shooting firearms from Deer Run Road toward Prison Hill, but not specifically on Carson River land. The Parks and Recreation Department is enforcing the prohibition of shooting firearms on park and open space property in the area of the Carson River by installation of signage. Mr. Guzman described the new signage materials which can be replaced at less cost, and advised that most signs are required to be replaced once every one to three months due to vandalism. Supervisor McKenna expressed support for restricting activities within the built up area, "but

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in the traditional areas, like Carson River Canyon near the Lyon County line,” he expressed the opinion, “it might be a bit of overkill ... to say when the supervisors passed an ordinance saying ... no shooting, that automatically meant open space by the Lyon County line, out in the middle of nowhere, is now a park where people congregate and there’s no shooting. ... that’s a leap.” Supervisor McKenna expressed a preference for addressing the matter as part of a public process rather than administrative interpretation. Mr. Guzman expressed appreciation for the comments, and advised that the ongoing management plan development process will address the concerns as part of the corresponding public process. Supervisor McKenna discussed the importance of also addressing off-road vehicles, and discussion followed. Mr. Guzman acknowledged understanding of the concerns to increase public awareness.

In response to a question, Mr. Guzman provided a status on the five-year Waterfall Fire report. Discussion took place regarding the importance of connectivity between parks and recreation and open space facilities throughout the community. In response to a question, Mr. Guzman advised of preliminary discussions with Finance Department Director Nick Providenti regarding opportunities to acquire land through contract agreements and various bonding options. Supervisor McKenna suggested an additional ballot question relative to acquisition of important lands for which the Open Space Program has insufficient funding.

Following discussion regarding the Joost property transaction, Supervisor Aldean suggested revising the amount available for Open Space Program acquisitions to “accurately reflect our legal commitments.” Mr. Werner suggested reviewing the Open Space Master Plan element relative to potential remaining land acquisitions. Supervisor Aldean suggested considering the realistic possibilities of development on previously established acquisition priorities. Mr. Guzman responded to questions of clarification relative to the land transactions listed in the agenda materials.

Mayor Crowell entertained public comment. (11:58:35) With regard to the use of open space, Maurice White encouraged consideration of the “River corridor in regards to duck hunting. That’s been a pretty traditional activity along through there and ... the past has shown that that use can coincide with the current use. [He] also encouraged the Open Space Manager to preserve the motorized travel within the Serpa and Bently properties.” He advised of having been “assured by staff that this would continue and ... encouraged the open space to work very hard on that to maintain motorized travel within the Bently property specifically.” Mayor Crowell encouraged the community to be sensitive to the River environment and “don’t leave anything behind that you shouldn’t.”

Mayor Crowell entertained additional public comment; however, none was forthcoming. With regard to motorized use on the Bently and Serpa properties, Mr. Guzman advised that the V&T will occupy most of the current route with track. He clarified there will be access up to the abutment of the bridge; into portions of the Serpa property from the north, from the shooting range facility; and into the Bently property from the east. “When we purchased those two properties, the Board emphasized ... that staff should negotiate ... continued legal use of the existing access until the time that the V&T is ready to build and that is part of the agreements that we negotiated and executed.” Supervisor McKenna suggested a “good future philosophy to sit down and discuss the uses of all the properties, especially the Carson River properties, and get community input and desire on this thing because ... some off-roading, some motorized access in that area is going to be restricted and perhaps there are other places that need to be opened up. But, as we start to do the management of the open space properties, ... we need to look at everything and get on the same plane.” Supervisor McKenna discussed the importance of considering the off-road users, and ensuring they are “self-policing and are aware of the fire dangers ... so that we don’t incur a massive law

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enforcement and fire suppression cost in the future. ... now that we're a land manager of open lands, we need to start thinking about those ... and get some procedures in place."

Mayor Crowell entertained additional Board member comments and, when none were forthcoming, a motion to **accept the Open Space Advisory Committee work program, consistent with the comments on the record regarding its implementation. Supervisor Abowd so moved. Supervisor McKenna seconded the motion.** Mayor Crowell entertained discussion and, when none was forthcoming, called for a vote on the pending motion. **Motion carried 5-0.**

19(B) POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT FOR 2011 (12:03:25) - Mayor Crowell introduced this item, and thanked OSAC Chair Bruce Scott for "being a real trooper and a real citizen of our community." (12:03:42) Mr. Scott introduced himself for the record, and advised that Vice Chair Tricia Lincoln was unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Scott advised that he and former Chair Dan Jacquet, who recently resigned from the committee, were charter members of the committee, together with former Chair Steve Hartman and Member Michael Fischer, who are both noted in the 2011 activity report.

In reference to the activity report included in the agenda materials, Mr. Scott expressed appreciation for the comments on the record "to give me a flavor to bring back to the Open Space Committee." He advised that the OSAC sees itself in transition. He provided background information on development of the Open Space Master Plan element and the priorities originally established for the Open Space Program. He noted the number of acquisitions, some of which have been initiated by the committee and some of which have "been reactive." He expressed the opinion that the OSAC "feels it's time to not completely stop acquiring but to be very, very selective and not to be particularly aggressive because we don't have any money. ... We have to look at management. We have to look at resources and ... a major part of that is public awareness and public education. We clearly have to raise the level of awareness, not only on restrictive kinds of things which is where they tend to congregate sometimes; it's building pride in our open space, helping people who use the trails be ... low profile, low pressure enforcers for those people that leave trash or don't clean up." Mr. Scott noted the benefits to the Open Space Program of grants and other sources of funding "which are drying up," and discussed the importance of partnerships. He commended the Open Space Program volunteers, and advised "they have allowed us to make the program really move forward this year. We have got to get to the point where we're a little more formally set up so that they can plug in. Eagle Scout projects, other beneficial projects have been great, but [he sees] us moving into more of a 'how do we manage and what do we need to do to keep these wonderful resources that we've now acquired in good stewardship?'" Mr. Scott also noted the importance of considering the economic development benefits of the Open Space Program.

Mayor Crowell thanked Mr. Scott for the OSAC's vision to "put us on the right track for generations to come." He commended the dedication of all the past and present OSAC members. He advised of having recently met with a representative of an international technology firm interested in locating in Carson City, to whom the open space elements of the community were very appealing. Supervisor McKenna commended the OSAC's efforts, and agreed that the Open Space Program is in transition. He requested the OSAC to consider needs relative to future management of open space properties "to preserve the open space legacy, but also efficiency." A brief discussion followed. In response to a previous question, Mr. Scott advised that many of the open space acquisitions have severe restrictions relative to development. He expressed the personal opinion that the committee needs to be "judicious about lands that we'd love to

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have but, really, if we don't own them, they're not going to change much anyway because they're impossible to get to or hard to reach. On the other hand, ... we need to take some properties where there is development potential and try to work with those folks to create something that benefits open space and doesn't preclude development but ... helps channel it or make it better in terms of ... open space [and] the potential for development itself." Mr. Scott referred to the 77 acres along the V&T just north of Combs Canyon Road, as an example. Supervisor Aldean commended the report included in the agenda materials.

Mr. Scott thanked the Board members for their kind words, and advised he would convey them to the other OSAC members. He expressed appreciation for the Board's past and continued support. Mayor Crowell entertained public comment and, when none was forthcoming, a motion. **Supervisor Aldean moved to approve the Open Space Advisory Committee annual activity report for 2011. Supervisor Abowd seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**