

**Parks and Recreation Commission  
Staff Report**

**Meeting Date:** May 7, 2013

**Agenda Item Number:** 4A

**Applicant:** Roger Moellendorf

**Request:** **For possible action:** Regarding the feasibility of hosting the Nevada State Fair or County Fair at the Carson City Fairgrounds and Fuji Park.

**General Discussion:**

This topic was first discussed during the February 5, 2013, Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting. The minutes from the February 5 meeting are attached as Exhibit A. This idea is being promoted primarily by retired judge Robey Willis. Mr. Willis wasn't able to attend the meeting, so discussion was limited. The topic was re-scheduled for the April meeting which was cancelled due to a lack of quorum. It has been re-scheduled for this meeting in order to allow Mr. Willis and other supporters a forum to discuss the topic with the Commission.

Staff's opinion is that the Carson City Fairgrounds is too small in terms of exhibit space, parking, and property for carnivals that are typically associated with a state fair. Barn and corral space is probably inadequate as well. The Carson City Fairgrounds is more suitable for smaller events such as rodeos, horse shows, small livestock events, concerts, small exhibits and possibly a small county fair. In addition, it is not clear the State Fairgrounds organization that puts on the state fair is still in existence. If the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Board of Supervisors want to consider hosting a state fair or county fair there should be some exploration of what organization should be tasked for this type of event. Perhaps discussion should be entered into with the Carson City Convention and Visitor's Bureau as a starting point. An exploratory committee may need to be formed to investigate this idea more thoroughly.

**Recommended Action:** I move that the Parks and Recreation Commission recommend to the Board of Supervisors that an exploratory committee should be appointed to investigate the feasibility of hosting a state fair or county fair type of event at the Carson City Fairgrounds and Fuji Park, and that the Carson City Conference and Visitor's Bureau be included in this effort.

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Transportation Manager, to give an update. Mr. Pittenger referred to a PowerPoint presentation, incorporated into the record, noting that this was a “water line project” and therefore was paid for by the Utilities Department. He added that the City Manager had received favorable comments from the users of the path and stated that he was looking forward to future connections to this path. Mr. Krahn expressed his appreciation to the Public Works Department for building the trail. Commissioner Cacioppo inquired about a maintenance budget, and was informed that “we’ll deal with it as we get there”. Chairperson Lehmann entertained citizen comments. Mr. Baily called the project a “marvelous improvement”.

**C. UPDATE REGARDING THE COMPLETION OF BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS ON ROOP STREET BETWEEN WINNIE LANE AND NORTHRIDGE DRIVE. (5:48:55)** – Chairperson Lehmann introduced the item. Mr. Pittenger gave background on the project and noted that he had submitted this enhancement grant four years ago, and had received an additional grant for \$100,000 from the Railroad Museum, thus completing the project with 95 percent in federal funds. He presented photographs of the completed project via a PowerPoint presentation, which is incorporated into the record. Mr. Krahn noted the cooperation between the Public Works Department and the Parks and Recreation Department, calling it a “true missing link” to the Unified Master Plan and thanked Mr. Pittenger for contributing to the connectivity and safety of those using it. Chairperson Lehmann called it a “good project” and entertained citizen comments; however, none were forthcoming.

**D. UPDATE REGARDING THE MULTI-USE ATHLETIC CENTER PROJECT. (5:55:47)** – Chairperson Lehmann introduced the item. Mr. Moellendorf noted that the Public Works Department had been working on Request for Proposals (RFPs) for a Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) project, to be used as the delivery system to develop and build the project. Mr. Moellendorf also showed the several elevations being considered, and noted that the project would be available for contractors at the end of February, once a construction manager was selected. He also shared the responsibilities of a construction manager with the Commission. Mr. Moellendorf indicated that he and Joel Dunn, Operations Manager, a School Board representative, and several representatives of the Boys and Girls Club had visited Caldwell, Idaho, at the invitation of Steve Neighbors from the Hop and Mae Adams Foundation. Mr. Moellendorf believed that the trip had provided a great learning experience to hear about projects that would have any applicability to Carson City. He also suggested that Chairperson Lehmann attend a future meeting. At the request of Chairperson Lehmann, Mr. Krahn detailed the project location and possible future expansions on the map shown on screen. Discussion ensued regarding construction budgets. Chairperson Lehmann was pleased to see that progress was being made. He also entertained citizen comments; however, none were forthcoming.

**E. UPDATE ON STAFF’S PROGRESS TO LOCATE A SITE FOR A DISC GOLF COURSE. (6:14:34)** – Chairperson Lehmann introduced the item. Mr. Moellendorf gave background on the proposal which had previously been made by Greg Swift regarding a disc golf course in Carson City. He also noted that John D Winters Centennial Park had originally been proposed; however, he suggested considering Carson River Park as an alternative location, which provided 35 undeveloped acres. He noted that hosting a small tournament with portable disc golf equipment might provide an idea of how well the location would work. Mr. Swift indicated that he was not aware of the planned tournament and believed other sites may be more suitable. However, he stated that his main objective was to have a disc golf site in Carson City to host tournaments. He suggested the area near the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) site as more suitable. Mr. Moellendorf explained that the USGS site was Open Space property, designated for passive recreation only. Discussion ensued regarding other potential sites and their drawbacks. Mr. Krahn explained the selection and public input process. Chairperson Lehmann entertained citizen comments. Kyle Swift noted that the disc golf site in Dayton was still playable during the “really high river” two years ago.

**4. MEETING ITEMS**

**A. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: REGARDING AN IDEA TO HOST THE STATE FAIR IN CARSON CITY. (6:42:43)** – Chairperson Lehmann introduced the item and noted that Commission Curtis had requested this item to be agendaized. Mr. Moellendorf explained that in a letter to the editor in the Nevada Appeal, incorporated into the record, Judge Robey Willis had suggested that Carson City host the State Fair. He added that in a Nevada Appeal poll, an overwhelming 71 percent of respondents had indicated that they were favorable to moving the State Fair to Carson City. Mr. Moellendorf noted that the current fairgrounds site was small and did not provide adequate parking. Commissioner

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Keever stated that she could not find online information regarding why the State Fair was held in Reno in the past. Mr. Moellendorf suggested having a County Fair at first. Commissioner McKenna advised receiving input from the Carson City Convention and Visitors' Bureau (CCCVB). Commissioner Long suggested starting with a County Fair. Chairperson Lehmann entertained citizen comments. Mr. Baily suggested looking into the two fairs held in Yerington.

**B. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: TO DELAY THE JOHN D WINTERS CENTENNIAL PARK SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN PROCESS AND INSTEAD ENCOURAGE STAFF TO SEEK FUNDS TO IMPROVE EXISTING FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE PARK.** (6:51:42) – Chairperson Lehmann introduced the item. Mr. Krahn gave background and presented a Staff Report, incorporated into the record, noting that a healthy discussion had occurred during the previous meeting. He indicated that this venue was responsible for generating over 57 percent of the economic sports tourism revenue, and that question 18 funds were used to maintain the facility, adding that the latest budget cuts had caused losing some of the operational and maintenance budget. Mr. Krahn indicated that Staff had been working on several grants to help with maintenance and improvement projects, and expressed concern over developing a Master Plan at this point. He also recommended delaying the Master Plan development for the time being. Mr. Moellendorf clarified that the funding available for improvements was also the funding available for developing a Master Plan, and suggested using the funds as matches for grants. Chairperson Lehmann received clarification on the improvements required to modernize the facility in order to compete with other communities vying for the tournament opportunities. Commissioner Keever stated that she had explored the park grounds and suggested moving the trail information from the Open Space web site to the park's web page. She also suggested making the golf course restaurant more accessible to nearby businesses and receptions to avoid lost revenue, noting that out of 14 advertising spaces on the sign board, only two were sold. Mr. Moellendorf indicated that the golf course and restaurant operations were contracted to a third party, and agreed that the shooting range may be a distraction to golfers. Chairperson Lehmann suggested that seeking funds should apply to all Parks and Recreation projects and not just to Centennial Park and Mr. Krahn confirmed that they were doing just that. Discussion ensued regarding tournament activities. Mr. Moellendorf confirmed that parks was one of their most prominent competitors for tournaments. **Commissioner Cacioppo moved to delay the John D. Winters Centennial Park development process and instead encourage Staff to seek funds to improve existing facilities and infrastructure in the park. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Long. Motion carried 7-0.**

**C. DISCUSSION ONLY REGARDING THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS "POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR BOARDS, COMMITTEES, AND COMMISSIONS."** (7:07:53) – Chairperson Lehmann introduced the item. Mr. Moellendorf presented a Staff Report, incorporated into the record that highlighted sections that affected this Commission. Commissioner Long did not see a conflict with City employees serving on boards and commissions, noting that Vice Chairperson Brod had been an asset to this Commission. He also emphasized the lack of volunteers wanting to serve. Mr. Moellendorf noted that these policies had already been approved. Discussion ensued regarding communication records. Ms. Russom offered to find out whether text messages would be treated in the same manner as emails. Chairperson Lehmann received confirmation that Staff would generate the Commission's mission statement, and submit it to the Commission for approval. Discussion also ensued regarding term limits. Vice Chairperson Brod noted that she would "go along with what's decided"; however she disagreed that her presence on the Commission would pose a conflict. Commissioner McKenna offered to bring this concern to the attention of the Board of Supervisors. Commissioner Cacioppo received confirmation that Open Meeting Law training opportunities would be provided. Chairperson Lehmann entertained citizen comments. Mr. Baily noted that people experienced in City or State government such as Vice Chairperson Brod are uniquely qualified to serve on commissions. He stated that institutional knowledge was important. In response to a question by Commissioner McKenna, Mr. Baily suggested that any City employee, who did not serve on a commission with integrity and was disruptive, should be removed from a Commission. Mr. Krahn suggested appointing city employees to commissions not related to their employment. Mr. Baily thanked the Commission "for hearing me out" and praised it for its good work.

**D. MEMBERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION.** (7:41:15) – Chairperson Lehmann introduced the item and announced that on the upcoming Saturday at 9 a.m. a trail run event would be held at Carson River Park for a 5K and a 10K run. Commissioner Brod noted that she had been contacted by Expedition Man, and she handed out brochures about the triathlon event.

FYI

# State fair in Carson is a capital idea, judge says

By John Barrette  
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3-24-13

A Nevada State Fair belongs in the state's capital, says Carson City Senior Judge Robey Willis, who will push for the idea next month.

Willis, who retired from the bench in 2011, will take his case first to city/county government's Parks and Recreation Commission at 5:30 p.m. April 2, when it meets in the Sierra Room of the Carson City Community Center. The commission has the matter on its agenda. Willis broached the idea in a Nevada Appeal letter to the editor in January, and he expanded on the concept Friday.

"This is the capital city; the fair belongs here," he said. "Reno dropped the ball."

The plan, if the community can get such a fair off and running, would start small at Fuji Park at the city's south edge and expand if it grows.

"It died in Reno," Willis said, noting he contacted the Chamber of Commerce there and was told the fair hadn't been held for a couple of years. He said he believes rural Nevadans would rather come to a smaller city such as Carson City anyway, rather than an urban environment such as Reno-Sparks.

"It's not something half-baked that could be done this year," he said, saying it would require work on any legal requirements and spreading the word. If there is state fair debt from the Reno days, he said, that

would require a clean cut so it didn't follow the fair here.

Willis urged anyone interested to show up for the commission's meeting to voice their views: "Come one, come all."

He said he has been told that during the late 1930s, District Judge Clark Guild helped bring Nevada Day parade festivities to Carson City from Reno, which had lost interest, so the same could be done now with the state fair if there is community support.

"I have faith in our community," he said in the January letter, in which he also noted the idea didn't originate with him. Since, he said, he has received much encouragement about the idea from various people across the city.

**FYI**

# Commission tables state fair discussion

By John Barrette  
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4-3-13

The State Fair in Carson City crew showed up Tuesday for the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, but a commission quorum didn't.

No commission session could officially be held with only four commissioners present, so Parks and Recreation Department Director Roger Moellendorf invited the small crowd of advocates back for the May 7 meeting and said the matter again would be on the agenda. It might, however, be a slightly different agenda item.

Senior Judge Robey Willis of Carson City, who first proposed the state fair be in the capital, said as the commission meeting was called off that it might best be launched as a county fair. He asked Moellendorf to put it on the agenda as an action item, not just something for discussion.

"I'd sure like it to be a Carson City Fair,

equivalent to a county fair," he said. Among those on hand to support a fair in Carson City was Linda Ritter, interim director of the Convention & Visitors Bureau.

"We'll be back," she said. As she was leaving, she said it might be someone else from the bureau because she is the interim head of the unit. But she was certain someone would be there to support such an event because it could attract people to the city.

Also on hand to voice support, and vowing to return in a month, were members of the Story family in Carson City: Bill and Sheila, as well as their children, Mikayla and Parker. Mikayla is the president of the Capitol FFA at Carson High School.

They said it wouldn't matter to them if it were a state fair or a county fair, only that it would attract people from throughout the state to come to the capital city and see nearby tourist areas each year.

Willis, as he awaited determination on whether a five-member quorum could be mustered, took note that some people at a recent public luncheon held by the Chamber of Commerce had suggested a tri-county fair in Carson City. That luncheon was the first in a series of Dialogue 2013 events the chamber plans.

Janice Brod, commission vice chairman, thanked folks for showing their support as she told them no meeting could be held. That's when Ritter called out from the crowd that people would be back.

Moellendorf said only once since he has been in Carson City has the commission faced such a problem. He said that previous time, the commission began the meeting with a quorum but had to quit when someone left. He said this time at least one member was sick; others missing from the nine-member body apparently were out of town.

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## Nevada State Fair cancelled after 136 years

by Associated Press

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RENO — The Nevada State Fair is folding up its tent, ending a run of 136 consecutive years this summer due to an insurmountable budget deficit, fair officials announced Wednesday.

The fair's board of directors met Tuesday night and concluded they have no choice but to cancel the 2011 fair that has been scheduled for August at the Reno Livestock Events Center, Executive Director Rich Crombie said.

It means Nevada will join Michigan as the only states in the nation without a state fair.

"It is unfortunate and very sad that a longtime Nevada event that served as a showcase for western culture, heritage and lifestyle has ended," said Chris Chrystal, spokeswoman for the Nevada Commission on Tourism.

Ulysses S. Grant was president when Nevada held its first state fair in 1874.

Crombie said a series of last-ditch fundraising events brought in only about \$20,000 of the \$280,000 needed to cover past debts resulting in part from slumping attendance in recent years.

"We want to express our most sincere and humble gratitude to the many volunteers and supporters of the Nevada State Fair who stood by her over the past several years, and especially in the last several weeks," the board said in a statement Wednesday.

Crombie said contributions will be refunded to anyone who asks but that fundraising will continue in hope of resuming the fair in 2012.

"It is our intention to not file for bankruptcy, but to continue efforts to raise money to satisfy the fair's debts which could perhaps put us in a position to revive the fair at some later date in the future," he said.

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