

CARSON CITY OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the July 15, 2013 Meeting

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A regular meeting of the Carson City Open Space Advisory Committee was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Monday, July 15, 2013 in the Community Center Sierra Room, 851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada.

PRESENT: Chairperson Bruce Scott

Vice Chairperson Howard Riedl
Member Margie Evans
Member Laura Fitzsimmons
Member Donna Inversin
Member Tricia Lincoln
Member Toby Welborn

STAFF: Juan Guzman, Open Space Property Manager

Ann Bollinger, Natural Resources Specialist
Tina Russom, Senior Deputy District Attorney
Tamar Warren, Deputy Clerk / Recording Secretary

NOTE: A recording of these proceedings, the committee'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 (6:00:05) – Chairperson Scott called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM (6:00:25) – Roll was called and a quorum was present.

CITIZEN COMMENTS (6:01:50) – Chairperson Scott entertained public comments; however, none were forthcoming.

1. ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES (6:01:33) – Chairperson Scott introduced the item. **Vice Chairperson Riedl moved to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2013 meeting as written. The motion was seconded by Member Inversin. Motion carried 7-0.**

2. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA (6:01:00) – Chairperson Scott entertained modifications to the agenda. Mr. Guzman suggested discussing item 3C prior to item 3B.

3. MEETING ITEMS:

A. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: REGARDING THE PROPOSALS TO INCREASE PUBLIC SAFETY ON TRAILS INCLUDING THE DECOMMISSIONING OF SOCIALLY CREATED TRAILS AROUND THE WATERFALL. (6:02:34) – Chairperson Scott introduced the item. Mr. Guzman presented the agenda materials and gave background. He believed that a large rock

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had been deliberately thrown on the Waterfall site, on a “social trail” located on the north side of the creek at Kings Canyon, injuring a 17-year-old and the family dog. Mr. Guzman noted that he had arranged for the park ranger to visit the area daily, and suggested decommissioning socially-created trails. He also suggested having signs encouraging hikers to use the “official” trails. Mr. Guzman also invited Luann Tucker, the mother of the injured teen, to the podium. Ms. Tucker explained that her dog has suffered several fractures on his face, and had a feeding tube inserted after emergency surgery. She also noted that her son had suffered minor injuries, adding that his girlfriend has seen several young men in the area from where the rock had fallen. Member Fitzsimmons expressed her concern and indicated that she had seen Ms. Tucker’s other son posting signs at a location where she had seen “a trail of blood”. Chairperson Scott entertained additional comments.

Mark Kimbrough introduced himself and recommended closing said trail because it was subject to erosion due to its location on the watershed for the City’s water system. He also emphasized that vandalism could happen and therefore signs should be posted regarding trail safety. Member Lincoln received confirmation that a fence could prevent boulders; however it would be expensive and would not be aesthetically pleasing. Member Evans was informed that the location of the thrown rocks had not yet been constructed as a formal trail. Mr. Guzman stated for the record that he had been informed by the District Attorney’s Office of the ambiguity that existed as to the applicability of the Carson City Municipal Code, Section 13.02, to the Opens Space Program. He suggested submitting a recommendation the Board of Supervisors to address this ambiguity in the form of an ordinance amendment. Member Fitzsimmons indicated that the events at the Waterfall site had already violated City and State laws and expressed concern that more regulations may become counterproductive. Vice Chairperson Riedl was in favor of posted warnings on trailheads, and suggested having a set of standards for posted signs at each Open Space trailheads. Member Lincoln was informed that dogs off-leash and under voice control were permitted in Open Space areas. Member Inversin noted that she had expressed her concern to Staff over the “social trail” in question and had recommended that it be decommissioned. Chairperson Scott entertained other comments, and when none were forthcoming, a motion. **Member Fitzsimmons moved to follow Staff’s recommendations regarding the proposals to increase safety on trails, and the decommissioning of socially-created trails around the waterfall, but not to proceed with ordinance amendments at this time. The motion was seconded by Member Inversin.** Member Evans suggested pursuing the suggested signage as soon as possible to improve public safety. Chairperson Scott entertained public comments. Bill Prowse introduced himself as a Carson City resident in the Timberline area and a user of trails for the past 10 years. Mr. Prowse noted that some of the signage would be placed on private property, and inquired about the potential liability. He also expressed concern that the signs prohibiting motorized vehicles had been removed or vandalized in the past. Chairperson Scott stated that signage placement would be coordinated through the Forest Service, adding that the City would not place signs on private property. **Motion carried 7-0.**

B. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: REGARDING MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FOR THE 2013-14 BUDGET FOR THE OPEN SPACE PROGRAM. (7:53:59) – Chairperson Scott introduced the item. Mr. Guzman presented the agenda materials and entertained budget input from the Committee. He also noted that proposed changes

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would be submitted to the Finance Department after being approved by the Director of the Parks and Recreation Department and the City Manager. Mr. Guzman clarified that for the 2013-2014 Fiscal Year, Open Space emphasis would be placed on management versus acquisitions. Discussion ensued regarding funds budgeted for trails and for matching funds for State grants. Mr. Guzman explained that the funds to acquire the Potter property would be derived from savings as a result of changes in the fire prevention and other funds. Member Fitzsimmons suggested having the budget in one cohesive document for better referencing, and Chairperson Scott suggested receiving budget information ahead of time for a more thorough review. Member Evans requested more detailed categories in the Open Space line items. Mr. Guzman clarified that his department would prepare a much detailed and understandable report. Chairperson Scott entertained public comments, and when none were forthcoming, a motion. **Member Inversin moved to recommend to the Board of Supervisors the 2013-2014 Open Space Budget as submitted and reflected in Exhibit B Budget Recap, Fiscal Year 2013-2014. The motion was seconded by Member Welborn.** Ms. Bollinger clarified that in a previous budget, a special line item had been designated for Open Space trails because it was a one-time donation. **Motion Carried 6-0.**

C. DISCUSSION ONLY REGARDING THE INCREASE OF MOTORIZED USE WITHIN NON-MOTORIZED AREAS OF THE VICEE CANYON AND THE V&T TRAIL BETWEEN COMBS CANYON ROAD AND ASH CANYON ROAD. (6:46:59) – Chairperson Scott introduced the item. Mr. Guzman presented the agenda materials and highlighted the various owners of the subject lands, adding that motorized vehicles crossed multiple areas of ownership. Member Lincoln received confirmation that in the future off-highway vehicles (OHVs) would be required to be licensed, in addition to the current registration requirements. Mr. Guzman noted his concern regarding the OHV activity on the paved section of the V&T Trail and into the Kings to Ash Canyon trail. Vice Chairperson Riedl suggested being proactive in the form of public meetings, signage, and public education. Member Fitzsimmons noted that signage discussion has been on-going and suggested agendizing the item frequently in order to make it a higher priority. Member Inversin stated that the definition of a designated trail was the first step, prior to the creation of signs, adding that a citizens' committee has been formed to address this issue. Member Welborn indicated that several signs had already been placed in the vicinity of Western Nevada College. Discussion ensued regarding signage. Member Inversin received confirmation that follow-up would occur should an incident be reported. Chairperson Scott entertained public comments.

Jeff Potter, Trail Coordinator for Muscle Powered, noted that signage at access points was necessary in addition to the kiosks at trailheads, and noted conflicts between hikers and motorized vehicle owners. He also gave two examples, one of a motorcycle that had disrupted a trail in progress, and another of an oil change that had taken place on a trail. Member Inversin suggested having a sign explaining the trail work in progress and listing the partners involved. Chairperson Scott thanked Mr. Potter and all the Muscle Powered volunteers and entertained additional public comments. Mark Turner of the Silver Oak Development Company introduced himself as an owner of property bordering Open Space. He offered to include "basic rules of the road" and alternative options for OHV riders in their homeowners' association newsletter. Phil Stotz introduced himself as a longtime Carson City resident and noted that he had experienced confrontation when he had reminded OHV riders that they were not

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permitted in the area. Mr. Prowse suggested placing signs on public right-of-ways, adding that he had collected “a lot of trash” left over by OHV riders over the year. He also advised against confronting offenders some of whom might be armed.

Member Lincoln left the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Mark Kimbrough praised the citizens’ committee and discussed the importance of the maps at trailheads. He also noted that the partnership between BLM and Open Space would aid in “moving into the planning part”. Mr. Kimbrough recommended the installation of barriers in heavily trespassed areas to stop OHVs. Discussion ensued regarding the responsibilities of the citizens’ committee and the enforcement of rules. Member Evans noted that regulations would not be effective without enforcement. Mr. Guzman suggested a public hearing without the involvement of a government body. Member Fitzsimmons received confirmation that the City Manager had tasked several staff members to “look into” an ordinance involving dogs in public areas.

D. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY AND POSSIBLE DATES FOR THE COMMITTEE TO HOLD ONE OR MORE FIELD TRIPS TO OPEN SPACE PROPERTIES. (8:09:26) – Chairperson Scott introduced the item. Mr. Guzman suggested a field trip for the Committee and recommended seeing all the Open Space properties in two separate trips. He presented several available dates, incorporated into the record, and received confirmation that many members preferred to take the trips on Saturdays. It was agreed to have Staff poll the members and recommend the dates based on their availability.

Member Fitzsimmons left the meeting at 8:13 p.m.

E. DISCUSSION ONLY REGARDING ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS IN THE CARSON RIVER AREA – ANDERSEN/LLOYD’S DIVERSION, DUCKS UNLIMITED, CARSON RIVER WORK DAY, AND NRCS GRANT FOR SILVER SADDLE RANCH IRRIGATION AND PASTURE. (8:13:20) – Chairperson Scott introduced the item. Mr. Guzman presented the agenda materials, incorporated into the record, and updated the Committee on the following activities: the removal of the rock structure at Andersen/Lloyd’s Diversion; the second-round approval of the Ducks Unlimited grant; the Carson River Workday planned for September 21, 2013 with the Kiwanis Club; and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) grant for Silver Saddle Ranch Irrigation and Pasture. Ms. Bollinger noted that the improvements to the irrigation would be considered priority over the fencing. She also stated that there would be minor cost-sharing from the Open Space Program to replace select fencing. Member Welborn clarified that the Carson River Workday activity would focus on tree-wrapping, due to the beaver issue. Chairperson Scott entertained public comments; however, none were forthcoming.

F. DISCUSSION ONLY REGARDING TRAIL PROJECTS – ASH CANYON TO KINGS CANYON, CARSON RIVER TRAIL FROM MORGAN MILL ROAD RIVER ACCESS AREA, V&T NORTH OF COMBS CANYON ROAD TO THE HOSPITAL, WATERFALL, AND CLEAR CREEK TRAILHEAD. (8:18:30) – Chairperson Scott introduced the

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item. Mr. Guzman presented the agenda materials and announced that Muscle Powered had resumed construction of the Ash Canyon to Kings Canyon Trail, adding that the grant they had received had been more than they had requested. He also noted that 71 volunteers had logged 710 hours of work in June alone. Mr. Guzman stated that Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays were “workdays”, instructing potential volunteers to contact him or Member Welborn. He also presented status updates, incorporated into the record, on the Carson River Trail from Morgan Mill Road River Access Area; the V&T north of Combs Canyon Road to the Carson Tahoe Hospital; the Waterfall Trail; and the Clear Creek Trailhead. Vice Chairperson Riedl was informed that the Clear Creek Trailhead was the result of the Carson Valley Trails Association’s efforts to construct a perimeter trail around Carson Valley. Mr. Guzman also clarified that the trailhead was one of the requirements of the golf course development; however, opposition was expressed by the residents. Discussion ensued regarding spending Carson City resources on the obligation by the developer and Douglas County. Chairperson Scott entertained public comments; however, none were forthcoming.

G. DISCUSSION ONLY REGARDING OTHER PROJECTS – BLM RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN, FEDERAL LANDS BILL, FUELS REDUCTION, NDEP GRANT FOR ASH CANYON ROAD, U.S. FOREST SERVICE GRAPHITE MINE EXPLORATION PERMIT, VOLUNTEERS, AND WEEDS. (8:29:29) – Chairperson Scott introduced the item. Mr. Guzman presented background and the agenda materials, which are incorporated into the record. He noted that Staff had attended a BLM Cooperating agency meeting on June 13, 2013, and explained that as a result of the Federal Lands Bill, BLM plans to complete the transfer of Lands in three months. Mr. Guzman anticipated that the remaining funds would facilitate the closure of escrow on the Potter property. He also updated the Committee on the NDEP grant for Ash Canyon Road; a U.S. Forest Service notification of a graphite mine exploration in Voltaire Canyon; the City’s new volunteer procedures and a summary of volunteer hours in June. Ms. Bollinger explained that the fuel reduction project was underway, but due to the drought, only one band of sheep was being used. She also clarified that the fenced areas were the “study measures” to compare the grazed and un-grazed areas. Ms. Bollinger noted that the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grant funding for weed control had ended; therefore, the cost for weed control by the Open Space Program had risen to \$7,000. She also gave an update on the mayweed chamomile, a State-listed noxious weed, and its influence on the seed growers in the Pacific Northwest. Chairperson Scott entertained public comments; however, none were forthcoming.

H. DISCUSSION ONLY REGARDING ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS ASSOCIATED WITH “JULY IS PARKS & RECREATION MONTH.” (8:42:44) – Chairperson Scott introduced the item. Ms. Bollinger introduced the agenda materials and referred to a proclamation by Mayor Crowell announcing Carson City’s participation in “July is Parks and Recreation Month”. She also referred to a calendar, incorporated into the record, outlining related activities organized by the Department of Parks and Recreation. Chairperson Scott entertained public comments; however, none were forthcoming.

4. NON-ACTION ITEMS:

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A. REPORTS ONLY - NO ACTION OR DISCUSSION AMONG MEMBERS OR WITH STAFF WILL TAKE PLACE ON THESE ITEMS.

STATUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM STAFF (8:45:44) – Mr. Guzman reported that Mayor Crowell had requested that he, along with Planning Director Lee Plemel, present to him information regarding federally-owned lands that could be better utilized by the State. He also brought to the Committee's attention several FYI items included in the agenda packets and incorporated into the record.

MEMBERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION (8:47:50) – There were no announcements from members.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

6. CITIZEN COMMENTS (8:48:39) - Chairperson Scott entertained public comments; however, none were forthcoming.

7. ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT (8:49:06) – Vice Chairperson Riedl moved to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

The Minutes of the July 15, 2013 Carson City Open Space Advisory Committee meeting are so approved this 19th day of August, 2013.

BRUCE SCOTT, Chair