

CARSON CITY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the December 6, 2011 Meeting

Page 1

A regular meeting of the Carson City Parks and Recreation Commission was scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 6, 2011, in the Community Center Sierra Room, 851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada.

PRESENT: Chairperson Steve Lasco
Vice Chairperson Molly Walt
Commissioner Chuck Adams
Commissioner Janice Brod
Commissioner Donna Curtis
Commissioner Sean Lehmann
Commissioner James Smolenski
Commissioner Todd Westergard
Commissioner Joanna Wilson

STAFF: Roger Moellendorf, Parks and Recreation Department Director
Tina Russom, Deputy District Attorney
Vern Krahn, Park Planner
Scott Fahrenbruch, Operations Director
Joel Dunn, Operations Manager
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 – Chairperson Lasco called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM – Roll was called; a quorum was present. Commissioners Curtis and Lehmann arrived at 5:43 p.m.

CITIZEN COMMENTS – Chairperson Lasco entertained citizen comments; however none were forthcoming.

1. ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Chairperson Lasco introduced the item. **Vice Chairperson Walt moved to approve the minutes of the October 4, 2011 meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Adams. Motion carried 6-0.**

2. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA – There were no modifications to the agenda.

3. STAFF UPDATES - DISCUSSION ONLY - NO DELIBERATION

A. UPDATE REGARDING THE LAKEVIEW PARK TRAILHEAD PROJECT. (5:32:29) –

Chairperson Lasco introduced the item. Mr. Krahn stated that a special use permit had been obtained from the Planning Commission and construction had begun. He acknowledged the Public Works Department for providing the necessary construction documents, equipment, and the rough grading of the site. He showed a PowerPoint presentation indicating the gate accesses, split-rail fencing, horse trailer parking, the turnaround area, and the equestrian access. Mr. Krahn expected the project to be completed by Christmas, barring any weather issues. He also thanked the Public Works Department for the grading and heavy equipment work, and the Nevada All State Trail Riders for their contribution of \$10,000 towards the project, adding that Question 18 funds were also used. Chairperson Lasco thanked Mr. Krahn and entertained public comments. C. K. Baily inquired about “people parking” and Mr. Krahn explained that “other use parking” would be located east and south of the trailhead, and on the public street. Tim Howard expressed concern over limiting access to the trails and not having enough room for a turnaround. Mr. Krahn clarified that 60 to 70 feet of the park was actually being used for a turnaround. Chairperson Lasco explained the process in which public input had been

CARSON CITY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the December 6, 2011 Meeting

Page 2

solicited prior to the start of the project, to ensure the best solutions were implemented. Commissioner Lehmann received confirmation that there would not be a gate for equestrian access.

B. UPDATE REGARDING THE CARSON RIVER PARK PHASE 2 CONSTRUCTION PROJECT.

(5:44:27) – Chairperson Lasco introduced the item. Mr. Krahn informed the Commission that construction contract had been awarded to Horizon Construction by the Board of Supervisors; and that the project was moving forward without issues. He outlined several improvements including the addition of ten parking spaces, and a new picnic, and ADA compliance. Mr. Krahn wished to inform everyone that the park was closed during construction, and expected a timely completion, weather permitting, with the exception of the picnic shelter area. Commissioner Lehmann inquired about the readiness of the park for a running event in mid-February. Mr. Krahn confirmed that the parking area might be available, but was not certain the shelters would be. Chairperson Lasco entertained public comments; however, none were forthcoming.

C. UPDATE REGARDING THE ARLINGTON SQUARE ICE SKATING RINK. (5:51:32) –

Chairperson Lasco introduced the item. Mr. Dunn distributed a year-to-date (YTD) ice rink revenue report which is incorporated into the record. He explained the physical changes made to the rink which made it more convenient for skaters and for birthday parties. He also noted several other improvements such as paint to make the rink aesthetically pleasing from Carson Street, and the purchase of a skate sharpener. Mr. Dunn compared the current YTD revenue to last year's and noted \$3,255.80 increase in the first week of operation. He expected to have greater participation during the school holidays and with the increased operating hours. Commissioner Smolenski called the ice "fabulous" and suggested charging to sharpen skates for those who bring their own. Commissioner Curtis commented that she was at the rink on Friday night and hoped all the skaters would return. Mr. Dunn agreed that having the figure skaters present during the first hour of the grand opening created the atmosphere "everybody was looking for". Chairperson Lasco applauded the efforts of Mr. Dunn and his team and believed every year the process would get smoother. Chairperson Lasco entertained public comments; however, none were forthcoming.

D. UPDATE REGARDING THE FUJI PARK DOG PARK. (5:59:56) – Chairperson Lasco introduced

the item. Mr. Fahrenbruch gave background and showed photos, stating that the fenced area was "just under two acres", covered with a decomposed granite surface. He added that a water truck would be used for dust control as the park did not have an irrigation system. Mr. Fahrenbruch stated that the park comprised of two sections, one for large dogs and another for small dogs. He also noted that 12 large trees, using drip irrigation, were planted and four benches were installed, in addition to a bear-proof trash can and several mutt mitt stations. Mr. Fahrenbruch explained that they would solicit feedback from the users regarding the granular surface covering the park, and they would work closely with the Parks for Paws organization. New rules were also posted in Fuji Park, according to Mr. Fahrenbruch, which required using a leash outside the dog park area. He explained that the feedback to date had been balanced, and commented that the users of the dog park have done "a very good job of cleaning up after themselves". In response to Chairperson Lasco's question, Mr. Fahrenbruch listed surface options such as a three-eights chip granular material, adding that the Parks for Paws organization had expressed interest in a grass surface, which would create on-going maintenance and irrigation costs. Commissioner Adams suggested looking into the surface material used at Goni Canyon Trail, which has held up for four years. Commissioner Curtis suggested hearing from the Parks for Paws members in the audience. Ilona Strull, Chairperson of parks for Paws, introduced herself and longtime member Doug Frank. Ms. Strull explained that the park users were very happy to have a safe and enclosed environment. She called the ground surface their "biggest argument" which was dusty and required park users to bathe their dogs after each visit. She expected the surface to be more compacted and asked for harder packed decomposed granite. Mr. Frank circulated several surface samples and Ms. Strull suggested testing them in small areas of the park. She also noted that by having a dog park for socialization of dogs, they had not expected to replace the other off-leash areas in Carson City, which provided necessary exercise for many dogs. Ms. Strull explained that they had requested another area in the John D. Winters Centennial Park from the Parks and Recreation Department, expecting that it would take several years to accomplish, therefore wishing not to "move so quickly to closing down the areas" where people exercised their dogs. Ms. Russom recommended making the surface samples available to the public as well. Mr. Frank reiterated that the feedback had been very positive regarding the fenced areas and that the only drawback had been the ground cover. Commissioner Brod received confirmation that

CARSON CITY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the December 6, 2011 Meeting

Page 3

the park was free of charge for users. Mr. Howard advised having different types of “natural, not man-made”, ground cover as “a natural pesticide to keep their coats clean”. He also received confirmation from Mr. Fahrenbruch that service gates were available for maintenance work. Discussion ensued over the use of granular surfaces. Chairperson Lasco summarized that this was the City’s first dog park and a work-in-progress, and advised that all future discussions would be during Commission meetings, allowing the public to weigh in with their opinions.

E. UPDATE REGARDING THE MULTI-PURPOSE ATHLETIC CENTER PROJECT. (6:26:13) –

Chairperson Lasco introduced the item. Mr. Moellendorf explained that Staff had met with Brent Tippets, a partner at VCBO Architecture, to finalize the Multi-purpose Athletic Center (MAC) concept. He also noted that Mr. Krahn and Jeff Sharp, City Engineer, had attended the Athletic Business Conference in Florida, to review materials and their applications, and to tour similar facilities. Mr. Moellendorf showed two drawings of the facility, incorporated into the record, and presented the functionalities of each area. In response to Commissioner Westergard’s questions, Mr. Moellendorf confirmed that there would not be showers in the locker area. He also iterated that a garage-type door would be installed in the loading area, and responded to Chairperson Lasco by stating that there would not be any fitness equipment on the first floor. Commissioner Lehmann suggested avoiding the use of concrete on the running track surface. Asked about the roofing material, Mr. Moellendorf noted that many avenues were being explored at this point, and he believed that the energy consumption would be minimal due to the availability of many skylights. Mr. Moellendorf also noted that the 60 percent plan review would take place in mid-January, hoped that the 100 percent review would take place in March or April, and hoped for the Board of Supervisors approval of the bids in late spring or early summer. He added that they were looking at a 12-month completion time frame. Chairperson Lasco noted he was thrilled to see wood floors on the basketball courts. Mr. Baily expected the HVAC system to use a lot of power, and noted he was “worried about chillers” using most of the power. Mr. Howard suggested using the excess gym equipment from the newly-vacated prison. Chairperson Lasco thanked Mr. Moellendorf for the update.

4. MEETING ITEMS

A. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE A PERMANENT LOCATION FOR THE 9/11 WORLD

TRADE CENTER MEMORIAL. (6:56:19) – Chairperson Lasco introduced the item. Mr. Moellendorf gave background, incorporated into the record via a Staff Report, and highlighted Jim Shirk’s efforts in acquiring the monument. He specified that the memorial was currently placed in a temporary location due to scheduling issues. Mr. Shirk thanked the Department of Parks and Recreation for all their support and care provided to the memorial, and reviewed photos of four different site options, incorporated into the record. He also presented the preferred site for recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for approval. In response to a question, Mr. Shirk explained that Vandalism was an issue, but not specific to a single location. He also stated that his obligation was to “grant the community the right to participate” in the design process. Mr. Shirk also assured the Commission that the incurred costs would be derived from contributions and not from City funds. In response to Vice Chairperson Walt’s question, Mr. Moellendorf explained that there were no cost estimates yet, and believed that “the site would dictate the design of the memorial”. Mr. Shirk added that the design would also require an approval from the Planning Commission. Commissioner Wilson asked about the Committee’s reason for choosing the “front of the Community Center as its primary focus”, and Mr. Shirk explained that it was the site all Committee members, consisting of Mayor Crowell, Supervisor Aldean, the Fire Chief and the Sheriff, had agreed upon. Commissioner Wilson also noted that she preferred a different location in Mills Park. In response to a question by Commissioner Brod, Mr. Moellendorf explained that the memorial would have to be located on City property. Commissioner Lehmann wondered if the memorial could be located in another park, and suggested Treadway Park as another option. Chairperson Lasco thanked Mr. Shirk for sharing the memorial with the City and for finding “an appropriate and dignified home for it”, adding that the current location was appropriate, as the memorial required more solitude than the traffic noise provided by William Street. In response to a question by Commissioner Curtis, Mr. Shirk explained that the location would determine the type of final design and execution. Chairperson Lasco entertained public comments. Mr. Howard qualified his comments by noting his 27.5 years of experience in the military and stating that “I am the most patriotic person probably in this room”. He added that he did not believe it was the City’s responsibility to decide the appropriate memorial site, and believed that it should be located on State grounds and the cost should be incurred by the State. He also believed total rejection of the memorial should also have been an option. Vice

CARSON CITY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the December 6, 2011 Meeting

Page 4

Chairperson Walt noted that this project had taken years to complete, and that the item was heard before the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Cultural Commission, and the Board of Supervisors, with public comments. Mr. Howard suggested the memorial become the “cornerstone of the new building” with a “start and rejuvenation” message. Mr. Baily congratulated and thanked Mr. Shirk for his efforts. He called the memorial “stunning, peaceful, and reflective”, noting that it would not take away from the other memorials in the park. Mr. Shirk clarified that the memorial residing on City property was not a law, but a condition. **Vice Chairperson Walt moved to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that Site 2, along the Seely Loop in Mills Park, should be selected as the permanent location for the 9/11 World Trade Center Memorial. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Smolenski. Motion carried 8-1.** Mr. Shirk thanked the Commission for their time.

B. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ONLY ON A PRELIMINARY DESIGN REPORT FOR THE NON-MOTORIZED USER BRIDGE CROSSING AT VALLEY VIEW DRIVE. (7:46:50) – Chairperson Lasco introduced the item. Mr. Krahn introduced Mike Bennett, the Project Manager and with Lumos and Associates, Inc., and Daniel Doenges, Senior Transportation Planner. Mr. Krahn presented a Staff Report, incorporated into the record, and gave background information. Mr. Bennett gave an executive summary of the project and the considered options, both incorporated into the record, noting that his firm was working closely with the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT). Mr. Bennett also reviewed the project timeline which included six months for engineering design, six months of planning, agency review and permits, and nine months for construction. He noted that Federal, State, and City funds could be sought for funding. Mr. Krahn clarified that the location was chosen because of access to Prison Hill and because it was consistent with the Unified Pathways Master Plan (UPMP). He also added that they had notified NDOT of the public input via a letter, and were awaiting an official response. Commissioner Lehman was concerned about funding. Commissioner Brod noted that she could be “behind this” if funding was secured. Chairperson Lasco entertained public comments. In response to Mr. Howard’s question about the structure, Mr. Bennett explained that “there would be abutments on either end with a center pier”. Discussion ensued over grant funding. Mr. Howard believed that this project was better thought out than other similar ones. Chairperson Lasco thanked the presenters for their time.

5. MEMBERS’ ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION. (8:14:29) – Chairperson Lasco introduced the item.

A. REPORT FROM SCHOOL BOARD LIAISON (8:14:45) – Commissioner Wilson reported on the solar panels at Carson High School, and reminded Mr. Moellendorf that should the MAC be outfitted with solar panels, energy could be sold back to NV Energy. She also believed that there would be no change in school schedules as of now. Vice Chairperson Walt requested that Commissioner Wilson look into a bike lane on Fifth Street, near Eagle Valley Middle School.

(8:17:57) – Commissioner Lehmann introduced the plaque that designated Carson City as a “Runner-Friendly Community” and noted that decals were available for Runner-Friendly businesses. Commissioner Curtis announced that she was on a subcommittee called Partnerships, which was part of a strategic objectives committee, looking into recreation and healthy children. She explained that they were in the midst of defining goals and objectives. Commissioner Curtis also requested information on the Commissioners with expiring terms and the Board of Supervisors’ appointments. Mr. Moellendorf believed the appointments would take place in January, and he promised to look into that and agendize meetings appropriately. Commissioner Smolenski noted that he would not apply for reappointment in 2012, but believed his time on the Commission was a great experience. He also thanked Mr. Moellendorf and his staff for their “good work”. Chairperson Lasco announced that he would reapply, and called his experience on the Commission “a privilege”.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (8:24:30) – Commissioner Westergard requested information regarding “a recreation element proposed for the Downtown Project”.

CARSON CITY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the December 6, 2011 Meeting

Page 5

7. CITIZEN COMMENTS (8:25:03) – Chairperson Lasco entertained citizen comments. Mr. Howard offered his input on selling solar power to NV Energy.

8. ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT (8:26:31) – **Commissioner Smolenski moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Adams. The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.**

The Minutes of the December 6, 2011 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting are so approved this 21st day of February, 2012.

STEVE LASCO, Chair