

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Carson City Open Space Advisory Committee
Monday, April 21, 2014 ● 6:00 PM
Community Center Sierra Room, 851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada

Board Members:

Chair – Bruce Scott **Vice Chair – Howard Reidl**
Member – Margie Evans **Member – Laura Fitzsimmons**
Member – Donna Inversin **Member – Tricia Lincoln**
Member – Toby Welborn

Staff:

Roger Moellendorf, Parks and Recreation Department Director
Juan Guzman, Open Space Property Manager
Ann Bollinger, Natural Resources Specialist
Joseph Ward, Senior Deputy District Attorney
Tamar Warren, Deputy Clerk / Recording Secretary

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

The time stamps reflect time codes on AccessCarsoncity.org video, http://www.breweryarts.org/?page_id=2605.

CALL TO ORDER (6:01:26) – The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM (6:01:39) – A quorum was present.

Attendee Name	Status	Arrived
Bruce Scott	Present	
Howard Reidl	Absent	
Margie Evans	Present	
Laura Fitzsimmons	Present	
Donna Inversin	Present	
Tricia Lincoln	Present	
Toby Welborn	Present	

PUBLIC COMMENTS (6:02:02) – None.

1. ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES

(6:04:04) – **MOTION: To approve the minutes of the January 27, 2013 meeting as corrected.**

RESULT:	APPROVED (6-0-0)
MOVER:	Evans
SECONDER:	Inversin
AYES:	Scott, Evans, Fitzsimmons, Inversin, Lincoln, Welborn
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None
ABSENT:	Reidl

(6:04:52) – MOTION: To approve the minutes of the February 24, 2013 meeting as written.

RESULT:	APPROVED (6-0-0)
MOVER:	Lincoln
SECONDER:	Evans
AYES:	Scott, Evans, Fitzsimmons, Inversin, Lincoln, Welborn
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None
ABSENT:	Reidl

2. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA – None.

3. MEETING ITEMS

A. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: TO RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS A LETTER BE SENT TO THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT CONVEYING CONCERNS RELATED TO MANAGEMENT AND STEWARDSHIP OF THE PRISON HILL RECREATION AREA AND SILVER SADDLE RANCH.

(6:06:20) – Mr. Guzman gave background and presented the agenda materials, noting that the item had been placed on the agenda at the request of Robyn Orloff.

(6:12:18) – Member Evans suggested including the concerns regarding “North Prison Hill” in the recommended letter.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

(6:14:43) – Ms. Orloff expressed concern over the boundaries between OHV and non-OHV areas on Prison Hill, including the lack of signs. She wished to see the fence repaired, the stakes replaced, and signage to iterate prohibiting OHV and firearm use. Ms. Orloff also inquired about the “policing” of the area as related to litter, graffiti, and sign removal.

(6:19:58) – Chairperson Scott explained the transfer of ownership process from BLM to Carson City.

(6:20:57) – Nancy Santos, representing Friends of Silver Saddle Ranch, explained the confusion associated with the land transfer and the responsibility of the expenses.

(6:21:23) – Terry Preston suggested not using spray paint in Open Space areas, even if it is being used to designate race lines. She also stated that the north end of Prison Hill was being used by OHVs, and wished to have BLM consider designating staging areas.

(6:25:20) – Ms. Santos stated that firearms had been used at Silver Saddle Ranch as well.

(6:26:11) – Member Inversin was concerned about the north end of Prison Hill being used by OHVs.

(6:27:22) – Mr. Guzman noted that the access point on Deer Run Road had been changed by Public Works and not BLM. He also clarified that the Sherriff’s Office had agreements with BLM to enforce the law.

(6:32:55) – Carson City Sherriff Ken Furlong indicated that a renewable cooperative agreement was present between his office and BLM and noted the difficulty of accessing the areas by officers, adding that they had purchased several motorcycles for easier access. He also stated that the OHV presence would increase in the summer months. Sherriff Furlong noted the absence of signs identifying the prohibited areas to OHV riders. He stated that the inmate crews had removed graffiti from accessible areas; however, he explained that they would not be able to reach certain areas for fear of injuries.

(6:38:44) – Leon Thomas, Field Manager for the Carson District BLM Sierra Front Field Office, stated that someone was staying at the house at Silver Saddle Ranch and promised to restore it to its former state if furnished by some “before” photos. He also noted that the Prison Hill fence damage was being assessed and would be repaired by the BLM fire crews. Mr. Thomas expressed approval of the proposed letter and wished to use it as a checklist.

(6:42:40) – Sherriff Furlong believes that firearm discharge was not forbidden in the Prison Hill area; however, he encouraged area residents to contact his office if incidents take place near homes.

(6:45:49) – Member Fitzsimmons inquired about the communications logistics between BLM and Staff, and Mr. Guzman explained that they met regularly, every three-or-four months; however, they were in constant touch when a problem arose.

(6:49:32) Mr. Thomas noted that they were working on several programs such as public service announcements and “adopt a space” by local organizations to alleviate some of the trash. Member Lincoln noted that she belonged to the Goni Canyon Preservation League and that they had already adopted that area. Chairperson Scott suggested Mr. Thomas work closely with Staff to solicit Eagle Scout projects and other volunteer activities for clean ups as well. Sherriff Furlong iterated the importance of voluntary compliance.

(6:54:20) – Member Lincoln suggested the inclusion of a list of specific items to be addressed in the letter. Mr. Moellendorf was in agreement and wished to incorporate the Committee’s suggestions. Member Welborn suggested monitoring information consistency on the BLM website to reduce confusion.

(6:57:40) – Discussion ensued regarding the north area of Prison Hill and the prohibition of motorized use there.

(7:00:29) – **MOTION: I move to recommend to the Board of Supervisors a letter be sent to the Bureau of Land Management conveying concerns related to the management and stewardship of the Prison Hill Recreation Area and Silver Saddle Ranch.**

RESULT:	APPROVED (6-0-0)
MOVER:	Inversin
SECONDER:	Welborn
AYES:	Scott, Evans, Fitzsimmons, Inversin, Lincoln, Welborn
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None
ABSENT:	Reidl

B. DISCUSSION ONLY REGARDING AMENDMENTS TO CARSON CITY MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 13.06 IN ORDER TO INCORPORATE CERTAIN PROVISIONS AND

REGULATIONS APPLICABLE TO THE OPEN SPACE PROGRAM AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

(7:02:48) – Mr. Guzman presented the agenda materials which are incorporated into the record.

(7:09:07) – Member Fitzsimmons expressed frustration over several items that had been included in the ordinance that were not necessary, such as the exclusion of dogs. She also believed that action was previously taken by the Committee, but the item was re-agendized for no action. Mr. Guzman clarified that a Committee consensus was necessary to move forward. Discussion ensued regarding parks versus open space regulations and voluntary enforcement.

(7:20:30) – Member Inversin noted that there was no mention of firearms in the proposed amendments.

(7:23:25) – Chairperson Scott suggested giving specific direction to the District Attorney’s Office via Members Fitzsimmons and Inversin, and to have them return with an actionable revision, under the Open Space portion of the Municipal Code. Member Evans recommended looking into the “passive recreation” definition for that purpose. Ms. Bollinger wished prohibitive conduct considerations for flora, fauna, and soils. Emergency situation handling was also discussed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

(7:29:56) – Ms. Orloff received clarification that regulations regarding dogs in Open Space would be different from dogs in City parks.

C. DISCUSSION ONLY REGARDING ACTIVITIES, PROJECTS, AND GRANTS LOCATED WITHIN THE CARSON RIVER CORRIDOR.

(7:31:51) – Ms. Bollinger and Mr. Guzman reviewed the agenda materials that are incorporated into the record.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – None.

D. DISCUSSION ONLY REGARDING ACTIVITIES, PROJECTS, AND GRANTS THROUGHOUT OTHER AREAS OF THE OPEN SPACE PROGRAM.

(7:39:56) – Ms. Bollinger and Mr. Guzman reviewed the agenda materials, incorporated into the record. Chairperson Scott gave an update on the V&T easement North of Combs Canyon Road.

(7:50:21) – Member Inversin suggested having signage to keep hikers on maintained trails.

(7:51:24) – Ms. Bollinger gave an update on the fuels reduction project with sheep, noting that it had started on April 17, 2014. She noted that the dry conditions would result in a shorter duration this year.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – None.

E. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: TO AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN’S SIGNATURE AND TO RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FOR THE MAYOR’S SIGNATURE ON A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR A NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION DESERT TERMINAL LAKES GRANT SUBMITTED BY THE NEVADA LAND TRUST FOR THE

ACQUISITION OF THE BENNA-MARSHALL 45-ACRE PARCEL LOCATED AT THE TOP OF ASH CANYON ROAD.

(7:54:43) – Mr. Guzman presented the agenda materials which are incorporated into the record.

(7:55:21) – Member Inversin inquired about the expense involved in the cleanup of the property.

(7:56:50) – Member Evans noted she would send edits to the letter directly to Staff.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – None.

(7:57:50) – **MOTION: I move to authorize the Chairman’s signature and to recommend to the Board of Supervisors for the Mayor’s signature on a letter of support for a National fish and Wildlife Foundation Desert Terminal Lakes grant submitted by the Nevada Land Trust for the acquisition of the Benna-Marshall 45-acre parcel located at the top of Ash Canyon Road.**

RESULT:	APPROVED (6-0-0)
MOVER:	Lincoln
SECONDER:	Welborn
AYES:	Scott, Evans, Fitzsimmons, Inversin, Lincoln, Welborn
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None
ABSENT:	Reidl

F. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: TO RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS APPROVAL OF THE FY 2014-2015 BUDGET FOR THE OPEN SPACE PROGRAM.

(7:58:49) – Mr. Guzman presented the budget summary which is incorporated into the record.

(8:01:19) – Member Lincoln was informed that the reduction in fire suppression funds was the result of a grant from the Nevada Division of Forestry and shared expenses between Public Works, Open Space, and utilities.

PUBLIC COMMENT: - None.

(8:02:42) – **MOTION: I move to recommend to the Board of Supervisors approval of the FY 2014-2015 budget for the Open Space Program.**

(8:03:20) – In response to a question, Mr. Guzman stated that a new hire was possible under this budget; however, it would be a part-time and temporary position. Mr. Moellendorf indicated that both the new position and the purchase of a new truck would require the approval of the Internal Finance Committee prior to being approved by the Board of Supervisors. He anticipated hiring a new employee next spring.

RESULT:	APPROVED (6-0-0)
MOVER:	Inversin
SECONDER:	Welborn
AYES:	Scott, Evans, Fitzsimmons, Inversin, Lincoln, Welborn
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None
ABSENT:	Reidl

4. NON-ACTION ITEMS

A. REPORTS ONLY:

STATUS REPORT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM STAFF (8:06:05) – Mr. Guzman reminded the Committee that on May 8, 2014, at 10:30 a.m., a TAP grant presentation would take place by RTC Staff, adding that the appraisal was a contribution by Open Space. Member Inversin indicated she would be attending the presentation. Mr. Guzman noted that the Ash Canyon bridge purchase had been confirmed. Mr. Moellendorf invited the Committee to the Carson City Arbor Day Event on the upcoming Saturday, adding that Mr. Guzman was one of the two recipients of the George Washington Ferris Award.

MEMBERS’ ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION – None.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – None.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None.

7. ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT (8:10:28) – **Member Lincoln moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Member Inversin.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

The Minutes of the April 21, 2014 Carson City Open Space Advisory Committee meeting are so approved this 16th day of June, 2014.

BRUCE SCOTT, Chair