

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Carson City Open Space Advisory Committee
Monday, August 18, 2014 ● 6:00 PM
Community Center Sierra Room
851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada

Board Members:

Chair – Bruce Scott **Vice Chair – Howard Riedl**
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 Manager
Ann Bollinger, Natural Resources Specialist
Jennifer Mayhew, 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.

A video recording of the meeting is available on http://www.breweryarts.org/?page_id=2605.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM – A quorum was present.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

(6:04:20) – Chairperson Scott Welcomed Jennifer Mayhew, Deputy District Attorney. Ms. Mayhew introduced herself and noted that she was pleased to be here.

(6:35:37) – Mary Siders showed photographs of the damage to the Prison Hill area due to the recent storms, noting the disappearance of the trail. Ms. Siders requested replacing the drainage with “some seriously-sized pipes” to redirect the water flow. Chairperson Scott requested Ms. Siders’ photographs and requested Staff direct the issue to the Public Works Department.

1. ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES

(6:10:30) – Member Lincoln noted that she had not received the minutes in her packet; therefore, she would abstain.

(6:11:25) – MOTION: I move to accept the minutes of the Open Space Advisory Committee Monday, June 16, 2013 meeting.

RESULT:	APPROVED (6-0-1)
MOVER:	Riedl
SECONDER:	Evans
AYES:	Scott, Riedl, Evans, Fitzsimmons, Inversin, Welborn
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	Lincoln
ABSENT:	None

2. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA (6:12:01) – None.

3. MEETING ITEMS

A. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ONLY ON THE DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR CARSON CITY OPEN SPACE AND PARKS IN THE CARSON RIVER AREA, DATED JULY 2014.

(6:16:32) – After a brief recess to set up the presentation, Chairperson Scott introduced the agenda item, noting that an open house was held earlier that day from 3:00 p.m. until 5:45 p.m., in the Community Center’s Bonanza Room, to receive public comments on the draft Management Plan. He also disclosed that his firm had been involved in providing technical assistance to Staff in drafting the Master Plan, adding that this item was not scheduled for a vote; therefore, he would be participating in the discussion. Chairperson Scott also outlined the process to be followed when discussing the agenda item.

(6:17:55) – Ms. Bollinger introduced Lynn Zonge of Resource Concepts who reviewed a PowerPoint presentation of the timeline and Management Plan for Carson City Open Space and Parks in the Carson River Area which is incorporated into the record. She also noted that the Plan is available online on the Carson City website, or by contacting Ms. Bollinger through the Carson City Parks and Recreation Department. Ms. Zonge indicated that because of the document size and the extensive use of maps and photographs, the document was expensive to print and suggested either downloading it electronically or requesting it on a flash drive.

(6:24:25) – Ms. Bollinger noted that on September 2, 2014, this agenda item will be heard in the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, at 5:30 p.m. in the Sierra Room of the Community Center in order to provide the public with another opportunity to comment.

(6:24:36) – Chairperson Scott wished to recognize the “outstanding effort on behalf of Staff, including extended Staff”, and entertained Committee comments.

(6:25:48) – Member Inversin inquired about the location of the OHV staging area and was informed it was on BLM land, “to the east of the Ambrose property”. She also questioned the addition of agricultural lands at Silver Saddle Ranch if there were water issues there. Mr. Moellendorf clarified for Member Inversin that should camping be allowed on East Silver Saddle Ranch, it would be dry camping.

(6:28:06) – Member Evans spoke about the eventuality of the V&T Railroad causing a road closure on the north side; therefore, she suggested keeping the south side of river available for the public’s enjoyment.

(6:29:26) – Vice Chairperson Riedl noted the importance of the Master Plan document, as he believed it is a bridge connecting the property acquisitions and their management. He also stated that the recommended actions should also require public input.

(6:30:46) – Member Lincoln pointed out the three full-time and one part-time positions that were included in the organizational chart in the Master Plan, and expressed concern regarding budgeting for these positions.

(6:31:38) – Member Fitzsimmons considered the document very important and was pleased with its accessibility to the public.

(6:31:57) – Member Welborn expressed concern over the agricultural lands and water use and suggested using drought-tolerant and efficient irrigation methods. He also inquired about levels of ingestion at the Carson River mercury site, especially when breathing motor vehicle dust

PUBLIC COMMENTS

(6:36:55) – Lisa Huffman, representing the Carson City Sherriff’s Department Mounted Search and Rescue, inquired about the reduced arena size at Silver Saddle Ranch. She wished for the arena to remain the same size for training purposes and gave a recommendation on a workaround. Ms. Huffman also noted that firearms with “blanks” are used for the training as well, in addition to fireworks training, albeit with trained personnel. She explained that the horses are necessary to reach areas that motorized vehicles can’t, and are also used for crowd control and public relations.

(6:40:17) – Maurice White distributed a handout to Staff “to follow along” and discussed several concerns regarding the Management Plan. He pointed out specific areas in the Plan that he found inconsistent, and Ms. Bollinger gave explanations for each inconsistency. Mr. White inquired about the total number of acres to be managed both by Parks and Open Space and Chairperson Scott suggested Staff “look into it” and reconcile the differences, and Mr. Moellendorf indicated that sometimes the numbers are rounded off. He also received an explanation of the term “dark skies” as well. Discussion ensued regarding the term “shared street facility” and Patrick Pittenger, Carson City Transportation Manager, stated that it defined streets that accommodated cars and bicycles, simultaneously.

(6:58:14) – Teri Green Preston clarified her opinion piece in *Carson Now*, noting that many Open Space acquisitions had different rules from Silver Saddle Ranch. She was opposed to closing the access to the east side of the Carson River, due to an additional acquisition at Silver Saddle Ranch. Ms. Green Preston also expressed concern over closing the access to the Ambrose Cottonwood Gallery by placing boulders and gates, and the removal of OHV staging area. She requested a staging area on the “upper side of Ambrose” and encouraged the public to follow the Open Space activities and read the OSAC meeting minutes. Discussion ensued regarding the Golden Eagle area accessibility needs, the shooting range, and other beach activities along the Carson River. Mr.

Moellendorf read the river access recommendations from the Management Plan and obtained input from Ms. Green Preston, who suggested utilizing the proposed additional staff to “police” the areas. She also recommended transparency from the V&T in the form of open meetings.

(7:22:32) – Steve Hartman reminded everyone that the Open Space became a reality due to a bond issue, which was an act of the people. He also believed that some of the funds were set aside for management of the acquired properties; therefore he suggested not utilizing all the funds for management. Mr. Hartman noted that the plans in this community are inter-related in the form of ordinances, easements, regulations, agreements, etc. that need to be taken into account and can not be managed by volunteers.

(7:29:07) – Mike Turner stated that he appreciated the Management Plan, adding that “it addresses a lot of things”. He also noted the erosion created by the vehicles at Silver Saddle Ranch and the silt near Lloyd’s Bridge. Mr. Turner wished to see the subconservancy funds used to clean out the silt and handle the debris caused by the recent rainfall. He stressed the importance of organized parking and containment to remedy the litter thrown into the water. Ms. Bollinger offered to look into the subconservancy funds.

(7:34:05) – Aaron Litz liked the balanced out use in the Plan. He also suggested that the Prison Hill trails be marked and maintained for OHV use, and was concerned that future restrictions that might be imposed by V&T. Mr. Litz also noted that OHV users do carry water and should not be restricted due to fire criteria.

(7:38:21) – Member Welborn acknowledged the development of social trails and advised everyone to stay on the designated ones.

(7:38:49) – Member Inversin invited the OHV community to get organized and to work with Open Space to dispel the perception that the Carson River Canyon has been taken over by the OHV community.

(7:40:08) – Ms. Green Preston noted that the OHV community is family-oriented and would be “good neighbors”.

(7:41:06) – Chairperson Scott thanked the attendees for their input in this meeting and for attending the open house earlier that day.

B. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: TO RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FILLING THE SOON TO BE VACANT POSITION OF THE OPEN SPACE ADMINISTRATOR.

(7:41:34) – Mr. Moellendorf presented the Staff Report and a proposed job description for the position of Open Space Administrator, both of which are incorporated into the record.

(7:46:46) – Vice Chairperson Riedl believed that the position should be hands-on, full-time and resource-oriented. He also inquired about the future hire’s work plans and the management of capital improvements plans, and Mr. Moellendorf confirmed that it was part of the required skill set.

(7:48:53) – Member Inversin acknowledged the effort that had gone into acquiring the Open Space properties, and noted that it would be a disservice to the community to expect that they would be taken care of voluntarily.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

(7:50:05) – Mr. White indicated that it was important to partner with volunteer organizations such as Muscle Powered and Friends of Silver Saddle Ranch to achieve these goals; however, he encouraged the Committee to work with the OHV community as well

(7:50:47) – Mark Kimbrough expressed opposition to the position being staffed by a volunteer and gave examples of project that were successful because they were staffed, but still received support from non-profit organizations. He also cited collaboration, the passion to work during off-hours, and the ability to get along with people and organizations, giving examples of the types of incidents Mr. Guzman deals with.

(7:58:26) – Supervisor John McKenna advised looking into “what do you want this job to look like?”. He wanted the Committee to think about the options of whether a City employee or a volunteer group should be in charge of Open Space.

(8:00:05) – Nancy Santos, President of Friends of Silver Saddle Ranch, spoke in favor of filling the position vacated by Mr. Guzman.

(8:01:40) – Member Evans noted that Mr. Guzman’s replacement would have to possess a different skill set, emphasizing that the position would not be less important, just different.

(8:02:38) – Chairperson Scott called Open Space “a wonderful asset, really supported by the community”, and called for “more intense management” and wished to recommend to the Board of Supervisors to fill the position of Open Space Administrator as presented by Mr. Moellendorf.

(8:04:38) – Robyn Orloff thanked the Committee for its work and thanked Mr. Moellendorf for his efforts and believed it would not be possible for him to take on more responsibilities. She also noted that the next person would need to build on what Mr. Guzman had started.

(8:06:08) – Kristy Bekiares, a Churchill County resident and a “fellow recreation professional”, explained that she had recently spent time with Mr. Guzman and had observed his collaboration efforts. She believed this was a vital position and must be filled.

(8:08:30) – Vice Chairperson Riedl received confirmation that should the City decide to turn the position to a voluntary position, a request for qualifications and proposal would have to be initiated to look for a person or an organization. He was also informed by Mr. Moellendorf that a non-profit organization could be contracted to manage Open Space for a fee.

(8:10:28) – Supervisor McKenna gave the examples of the City contracting the Humane Society of Nevada to run the local animal shelter, and the hiring of Mr. Kimbrough as Executive Director of the Tahoe Rim Trail Association. He questioned whether government needed to be involved “where Open Space is going” or should the citizens be involved.

(8:11:41) – Member Fitzsimmons agreed that this Committee should define the position; however, she believed there could be room for conflict should a volunteer group manage Open Space. She gave the example of the Greenhouse at Carson High School that has a clear mission statement and a dedicated group of volunteers, yet was managed by a full-time employee. Member Fitzsimmons also stressed the importance of staffing this position with a professional to continue the Open Space undertaking.

(8:14:43) – Ms. Santos stressed that a volunteer organization with its own mission statement might not encompass the needs of the Staff position.

(8:15:41) – MOTION: I move to recommend to the Board of Supervisors filling the soon to be vacant position of the Open Space Administrator and consider the comments we heard today from the public and from the Open Space Advisory Committee.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

(8:16:01) – None.

RESULT:	APPROVED (7-0-0)
MOVER:	Riedl
SECONDER:	Lincoln
AYES:	Scott, Riedl, Evans, Fitzsimmons, Inversin, Lincoln, Welborn
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None
ABSENT:	None

C. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: TO RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS THE EXPENDITURE OF ADDITIONAL FUNDS APPROXIMATING \$16,530 FROM THE OPEN SPACE LAND ACQUISITION ACCOUNT TOWARDS THE PURCHASE OF A STRIP OF LAND 20 FEET WIDE AND 1,421 FEET LONG FROM THE ARRAIZ FAMILY 1993 TRUST FOR THE EXTENSION OF THE FREEWAY MULTI-USE PATH FROM HIGHWAY 50 SOUTH TOWARDS 5TH STREET.

(8:17:33) – Member Fitzsimmons disclosed that she had represented the Arraiz family in an unrelated issue, and that she would abstain from voting on the item.

(8:17:55) – Mr. Guzman gave background and presented the Staff Report which is incorporated into the record. He also confirmed for Chairperson Scott that this piece of land was one of the necessary ones to complete the trail from the Boys and Girls Club to Fifth Street.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

(8:20:24) – Patrick Pittenger, Carson City Transportation Manager, noted that they had received the official grant award already.

(8:21:38) – Vice Chairperson Riedl was informed that the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funds had been budgeted for. He also received confirmation that the additional amount required would not delay the project.

(8:22:57) – MOTION: I move to recommend to the Board of Supervisors the expenditure of additional funds approximating \$16,530 from the Open Space land acquisition account towards the purchase of a strip of land 20 feet wide and 1,421 feet long from the Arraiz Family 1993 Trust for the extension of the Freeway Multi-Use Path from the Highway 50 South towards Fifth Street.

RESULT:	APPROVED (6-0-1)
MOVER:	Inversin
SECONDER:	Welborn
AYES:	Scott, Riedl, Evans, Inversin, Lincoln, Welborn
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	Fitzsimmons
ABSENT:	None

4. NON-ACTION ITEMS

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

STATUS REPORT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM STAFF.

(8:24:14) – Mr. Guzman explained that he had been notified by V&T trail project consultant Mark Kimbrough that the V&T is about to issue an encroachment permit for constructing a loop for a trail extension.

(8:24:55) – Mr. Guzman also explained that the Ash Canyon trail bridges are on order and that coordination with the Nevada National Guard is underway to fly them to the area.

(8:25:43) – Mr. Guzman explained that the 319(h) grant funds were used for rock-lining a ditch, which was successful. He also informed the Committee that the owner of Horse Creek Ranch had notified Open Space that he intended to sell the land. Mr. Guzman noted that they had first right of refusal and had 45 days to make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors, adding that because the land is protected, the new owners were “subject to the requirements of the easement”. He suggested having a short meeting to issue a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for the first right of refusal.

(8:27:22) – Mr. Guzman thanked the Committee for providing him the opportunity to be the Open Space Manager for the past 14 years.

MEMBERS’ ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION.

(8:28:19) – Member Lincoln noted that she would be out of the country from September 9, 2014 until October 7, 2014 and will be unable to attend the Horse Creek Ranch special meeting.

(8:29:13) – Member Welborn announced that the Carson River Cleanup might take place on National Public Lands Day, September 27, 2014. He agreed to inform this Committee once the date is confirmed.

(8:30:04) – Chairperson Scott thanked Mr. Guzman for his service and regretted that he could not attend his retirement party.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS (8:30:55) – None.

7. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT

(8:31:15) – **NOTION: Member Welborn moved to adjourn.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

The Minutes of the August 18, 2014 Carson City Open Space Advisory Committee meeting are so approved this 15th day of September, 2014.

BRUCE SCOTT, Chair