

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Carson City Open Space Advisory Committee
Monday, April 27, 2015 • 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 – Alan Welch
Member – Toby Welborn	

Staff

Roger Moellendorf, Parks and Recreation Department Director
Jennifer Mayhew, Deputy District Attorney
Ann Bollinger, Open Space Administrator
Rich Wilkinson, Natural Resources Manager
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 are available for review during regular business hours.

CALL TO ORDER

(5:59:18) – Chairperson Scott called the meeting to order at 5:59 p.m.

ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

(5:59:41) – Roll was called. A quorum was present.

Attendee Name	Status	Arrived
Bruce Scott	Present	
Howard Riedl	Present	
Margie Evans	Present	
Laura Fitzsimmons	Present (Via Telephone)	
Donna Inversin	Present	
Toby Welborn	Present	
Alan Welch	Present	

PUBLIC COMMENTS

(6:00:44) – Sue Hassler requested a copy of tonight's meeting minutes when completed.

1. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES

(6:05:27) – MOTION: I move to accept the Open Space Advisory Committee meeting minutes for Monday, March 16, 2014 as amended.

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

2. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA (6:06:52) – None.**3. MEETING ITEMS****A. DISCUSSION ONLY REGARDING CHRIS BERGGREN'S EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT FOR THE PRISON HILL RECREATION AREA.**

(6:07:03) – Chairperson Scott introduced the item. Ms. Bollinger introduced Chris Berggren and gave a brief description of the project which is incorporated into the record.

(6:08:12) – Mr. Berggren showed a PowerPoint presentation, incorporated into the record, regarding the need for trail maintenance and signage in the Prison Hill area and his plans to make that happen.

(6:12:24) – Chairperson Scott received confirmation that Mr. Berggren was proposing one or two workdays. Vice Chairperson Riedl noted the importance of signage in the area and thanked Mr. Berggren for choosing the project. Member Welborn echoed Vice Chairperson Riedl's comments and offered his assistance. Ms. Bollinger acknowledged Mr. Berggren's participation in ROTC activities as well.

There were no public comments.

B. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: TO AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE ON A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR A FEDERAL LANDS ACCESS PROGRAM (FLAP) GRANT SUBMITTED BY CARSON CITY PUBLIC WORKS FOR VARIOUS IMPROVEMENTS ALONG SIERRA VISTA LANE.

(6:16:03) – Chairperson Scott introduced the item and Ms. Bollinger introduced the Staff Report and Dirk Goering, Carson City Public Works Transportation Planner, who presented the agenda materials, including a draft letter and application, incorporated into the record. Chairperson Scott noted that even though this project was under the Public Works umbrella, it had important parks and open space ramifications and therefore, this Committee would be heavily involved in every step of the project.

(6:24:18) – Vice Chairperson Riedl was informed that the local match was being provided by Regional Transportation. Member Inversin expressed concern over the maintenance of the area. Member Evans suggested describing additional issues as well [in the application] such as lack of parking and staging areas, destroyed vegetation, and erosion. Mr. Goering thanked the Committee for their comments and stated that he would modify the application to incorporate them. Vice Chairperson Riedl suggested addressing permanent drainage and erosion control. Member Inversin advised barriers to prevent access, which she believed led to the erosion.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

(6:34:15) – Mike Turner, President of the Board of Directors, Mexican Dam Property Owners Association, spoke in support of the project and distributed a copy of the letter of support, incorporated into the record, sent to Patrick Pittenger, Transportation Manager, for inclusion in the application, and to the Regional Transportation Commission. Mark Kimbrough, Carson City resident, gave background on the area and suggested having barriers that prevent dirt bikes from getting through. Greg Regan, a resident of Sierra Vista Lane, inquired about the project timeline and was informed that if the project were selected, it may begin in 2016 or 2017. Dan Greytak, who introduced himself as a resident of Pinion Hills and a “Friend of Silver Saddle”, suggested having stronger barriers than split-rail fences.

(6:39:26) – MOTION: I move to authorize the chairman’s signature on a letter of support for a Federal Lands Access Program (Flap) grant submitted By Carson City Public Works for various improvements along Sierra Vista Lane.

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

C. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: TO RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FULL-TIME PARK RANGER POSITION DEDICATED TO THE OPEN SPACE PROGRAM AND PAID WITH OPEN SPACE PROGRAM FUNDS.

(6:40:11) – Chairperson Scott introduced the item. Ms. Bollinger presented the agenda materials which are incorporated into the record.

(6:43:52) – Member Inversin received confirmation that the Park Ranger position would be full time, all year round, and able to issue citations. Chairperson Scott noted that he had included the added position in his report to the Board of Supervisors as an upcoming budget item, and highlighted the non-enforcement type duties as well. Member Welch was informed that the regulations and ordinances are being pursued in parallel to the hiring of the Park Ranger. Member Evans inquired about the hiring timeframe and Ms. Bollinger explained that it could happen within six months. Vice Chairperson Riedl noted his approval of the position, adding that the duties described in the Staff Report were more applicable to a Park Ranger’s position rather than a Sheriff’s Deputy’s. Ms. Bollinger clarified for Member Evans that the Open Space Program now paid a percentage of the current Ranger’s salary. Member Fitzsimmons confirmed her support to this position; however, she noted a disconnect between Staff and the Committee regarding the ordinances.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

(6:51:20) – Mr. Kimbrough expressed “heartburn” over having a Sheriff’s Deputy instead of a Park Ranger, and gave examples of how passive and dispersed recreation sites required education more than law enforcement. He also recommended appropriate park design to help with enforcement.

(7:05:47) – MOTION: I move to recommend to the Board of Supervisors the establishment of a full-time Park Ranger position dedicated to the Open Space Program and paid with Open Space Program funds.

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

D. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: TO AUTHORIZE THE OPEN SPACE ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER INTO DISCUSSIONS AND DETERMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF A LAND TRANSACTION FOR THE OLD WOODS RANCH LLC, APNS 007-051-79 AND 007-051-12, AND ADJACENT PARCELS OWNED BY SCHULZ INVESTMENTS, APNS 007-051-09 AND 007-051-70, ALL LOCATED ALONG THE NORTH SIDE OF U.S. HIGHWAY 50.

(7:06:30) – Chairperson Scott introduced the item. Ms. Bollinger requested the removal of APN 007-051-09 from the discussion as it was not under consideration at this time. She also noted that APN 007-51-70 would be divided by the family, 55 acres of which would be a part of the Woods Ranch transaction, while the remainder would be sold separately. Ms. Bollinger then presented the Staff Report, incorporated into the record.

(7:14:19) – Vice Chairperson Riedl explained that although the lack of funding sources to purchase open space existed, this would be “up front work to create the possibility of having other grants or opportunities” should that opportunity arise. Chairperson Scott invited Schulz family representatives to comment.

(7:16:40) – Charlie Gifford introduced himself and Helen Scott, his cousin, as members of the Schulz family and explained that he had been working with the Carson City Fire Department to address a mistletoe problem as a result of overgrown trees and shrubs. Mr. Gifford expressed interest in a conservation easement and a future grant to deal with the “timber problem”.

(7:20:48) – In response to an inquiry by Member Evans, Ms. Bollinger explained that the role of Nevada Land Trust would be to evaluate the property, identify grant funding sources, and apply for grants. She also noted that the conservation easement would be very similar to the one negotiated with Michael Fagen.

There were no public comments.

(7:22:02) – MOTION: I move to authorize the Open Space Administrator to enter into discussions and determine the feasibility of a land transaction for the Old Woods Ranch LLC, APNs 007-051-79 and 007-051-12, and adjacent parcels owned by Schulz Investments, APN 007-051-70, all located along the north side of U.S. Highway 50.

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

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

(7:23:09) – Chairperson Scott introduced the item. Ms. Bollinger presented the agenda materials which are incorporated into the record.

There were no member or public comments.

4. STAFF UPDATES – DISCUSSION ONLY

A. UPDATE ON THE LAND CONVEYANCE FROM BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

(7:27:38) – Ms. Bollinger announced that the lands will be conveyed within a month or 1.5 months. She noted that the BLM was working on a “to do” list such as placing boulders on the north end of Prison Hill. Member Inversin was informed that appropriate signage had been up for a few weeks. She also updated the Committee on the Eagle Valley Trails Committee meeting with State Lands a week ago, noting that they were aware of the OHV activity creating an erosion problem in that area.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

(7:33:13) – Robyn Orloff inquired about mitigation in the area and was informed that the logical step would be evaluating and recommending the best routes to keep open to the public.

B. UPDATE ON THE PROPERTY EXCHANGE WITH MR. W. MICHAEL FAGEN.

(7:33:59) – Ms. Bollinger explained that a parcel near Eagle Valley Middle School, purchased by the Parks Department, had been identified and the exchange had been approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission. Ms. Bollinger indicated that the next step was to conduct a public hearing with the neighbors, followed by a Board of Supervisors vote, if approved.

C. UPDATE ON THE QUILL RANCH PROJECT WITH CARSON HIGH SCHOOL BIOLOGY CLASS.

(7:35:48) – Ms. Bollinger updated the Committee on this grant project funded by the Western Nevada Community Foundation through the Dream Tag funding. She noted that the Carson High School students had participated in hands on identification of plants, weeds, and wildlife.

MEMBERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION.

(7:27:30) – Member Welch requested further clarification on the Carson City Master Plan updates and was informed by Mr. Moellendorf and Chairperson Scott that a five-year update was aggressive and that update reviews would take place in future Open Space Advisory Committee meetings, after the completion of the BLM property acquisition. Member Fitzsimmons suggested making the timeline known to the Board of Supervisors, and to notify them of the update delays because of the BLM property acquisition timeline. Chairperson Scott agreed that it was important to formally notify the Board of Supervisors.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

(7:43:58) – None.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

(7:44:18) – Member Evans suggested agendizing the Management Plan in the future. Mr. Moellendorf noted that with the hiring of the Senior Natural Resources Specialist, Ms. Bollinger would be able to focus on the Management Plan.

(7:46:36) – Robyn Orloff thanked Ms. Bollinger and Mr. Wilkinson for promptly responding to her inquiries. She also thanked the Open Space Advisory Committee for supporting the Park Ranger position and offered to help with citizen cleanup efforts. Ms. Orloff complimented Erica Gallegos for the mural she had painted at Fulstone Park.

(7:49:34) – Member Inversin noted that regular monthly “trash-mobs” will take place under a new program manager.

7. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT

(7:21:55) – **MOTION:** Vice Chairperson Riedl moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

The Minutes of the April 27, 2015 Carson City Open Space Advisory Committee meeting are so approved this, 15th day of June, 2015.

BRUCE SCOTT, Chair