

OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: October 17, 2016

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 3C

STAFF: Ann Bollinger, Open Space Administrator

REQUEST: **For Possible Action:** Discussion and possible action to authorize staff to begin a trails inventory on the south end of the Prison Hill Recreation Area and recommend staff to include time on the next annual work plan and funding in the next annual budget towards evaluating the potential of motorized events on the south end of the Prison Hill Recreation Area.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

In September, staff heard from several folks in the community who were hoping to host a rock-crawling event in October on the south end of the Prison Hill Recreation Area. Staff was unprepared for the request because the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) had not permitted motorized events. Per the terms of the BLM-Carson City Conservation Easement, motorized events are allowed in the area.

One of the primary contacts for this particular event is Eddie Oh. Mr. Oh is also the founder of the WAYALIFE, an internet forum for Jeep enthusiasts across the nation. Attached, please find an email from Mr. Oh providing ideas for potential events in our area. Mr. Oh and others have been invited to share their comments in-person with the Committee.

In a meeting with Mr. Oh, the Carson City Visitors Bureau, and others, staff provided information on the history of the property, event and management challenges, staff work load, and annual budget. Due to the conservation easement, commitments to protect the environment, and obligation to provide safe recreation opportunities, staff expressed the need to conduct an evaluation of the property including a trail inventory and natural resources assessment. With the close proximity to the adjacent neighbors, dust and noise from events should also be considered. Similar to other venues, a capacity study will help determine appropriate levels of use and the number of participants and vehicles for each event and user group (i.e. jeeps, ATVs, dirt bikes).

In an effort to begin the process, staff is recommending the start of a trails inventory and evaluation during this fiscal year. While quotes have not yet been pursued, staff believes the cost will be low enough to fit within the current budget for professional services. It is anticipated that staff will request funding in the next fiscal year to complete a full report.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: I move to authorize staff to begin a trails inventory on the south end of the Prison Hill Recreation Area and recommend staff to include time on the next annual work plan and funding in the next annual budget towards evaluating the potential of motorized events on the south end of the Prison Hill Recreation Area.

Ann Bollinger

From: Eddie <eddie@wayalife.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 05, 2016 9:11 AM
To: Ann Bollinger
Subject: RE: Carson City Open Space Advisory Committee

Hi Ann,

I appreciate you contacting me about your upcoming advisory committee and for giving me an opportunity to share some information as to what we're hoping to do in the future.

First and foremost, I think it needs to be clear that at least for my purposes, any event that may take place would be FREE of charge to all attendees. It has never been my purpose to profit from any event like this and my only hope is to help the Carson City Visitors Bureau bring in well needed tourism dollars to the city.

Ideally, the plan would be to just use Carson City as a home base and where small groups of attendees would be led by local club volunteers to various off-road trails in the surrounding area. Of course, we would acquire the permits needed for any trails that are on BLM land and if Open Space can make it possible, we would love to have some kind of main event utilizing an agreed upon pre-determined route on existing trails and in the Open Riding Area of the Prison Hill Motorized Access Area. Club volunteers would provide trail clean up before and after the event and if it is allowed, we will even provide the necessary amount of portable toilets to accommodate the amount of people attending the event. While we will not have any commercial vending at Prison Hill, we would like to explore the possibility of having displays present at the main staging area and assuming they can pull the required health permits, a catering truck or two as well.

Per our last meeting, it was my understanding that a lot of the problems surrounding the use of Prison Hill is in regards to your obligations to the BLM and the fact that there's never been any groundwork established to make an event like this possible. As I had mentioned, I do have friends who work for the BLM and if it would help, I might be able to get one of them to do some of the leg work needed assuming Open Space is willing to follow the BLM frame work. It might be possible for me to have a BLM version of the special recreation permit (SRP) put together for you to use.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Otherwise, I will look forward to seeing you on the 17th.

Regards,
Eddie Oh