

LATE MATERIAL

MEETING DATE 4-19-18

ITEM # 23B

To: Mayor Crowell and the Carson City Board of Supervisors

From: Juan F Guzman, Retired Open Space Administrator

Re: Board Meeting on April 19, 2018, Agenda Item 23B, For Possible Action to Consolidate the Open space Advisory Committee and the Parks and Recreation Commission

Members of the Board:

I urge the Board not to consolidate the Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC) and the Parks and Recreation Commission (P&RC). From day one the Quality of Life Initiative provided a healthy and careful articulation of the funding and the mission separation behind Parks and Open Space, better served thru separate advisory groups.

Approval of the proposed action will advance the loss of institutional memory and dilute the historic purpose, of the OSAC. As stated in the first paragraph of the report prepared for this item by your staff, "OSAC has made a lasting impact on Carson City and its future generations". After the voters approved the Quality of Life Initiative in 1996, and in order to assure implementation, a group of interested citizens functioned as a precursor to the OSAC to help the Board and staff with an extensive citizen participation public process that included amendments, to the City Charter, and adoption of City Codes. With the adoption of the Carson City Municipal Code Chapter 13.16 the OSAC was formulated to advise the Board on matters related to the 40% funding for Open Space. It was under the leadership of OSAC that the vision to protect the views of the surrounding landscapes that provide Carson City with its unique character, provide access from town into the public lands and to take advantage of these lands environmental benefits such as flood protection, aquifer water recharge, management of fuels and wild lands fire interface, became part of the fabric of Carson City. Open Space main purposes are to protect the natural character of the lands surrounding our town, while providing for passive recreation opportunities.

The P&RC assumed the responsibility to advise the Board on matters pertaining to the 60% funding for Parks. One of the main concepts behind the initiative was to lessen the Parks dependence on the General Fund. The initiative specifically called for Parks projects to be completed that were a priority of the Parks and Recreation Plan. The P&RC advises the Board on the important tasks of caring for our Parks, Community Centers, Athletic Complexes and Recreation Programs.

There is not a doubt on my mind that maintaining a Commission whose main purpose is to advise the Board in the use of Open Space funding, without diluting its mission with the important tasks of caring for our Parks and facilities provides our residents and visitors with a better level of service than one Commission with combined tasks and responsibilities. The P&RC and OSAC provide a platform for meaningful public participation where details and concerns of our citizens may be discussed with less time constraints. In my experience having these two groups has served our citizens well and resulted in better-planned projects prior to Board consideration. Do not shortchange our residents' opportunity to meaningfully participate in the matters of Parks, or Open Space by combining the functions of the PR&C and OSAC in the name of efficiency.

Thank you, for the opportunity to submit these comments.

Rachael Porcari

To: Robyn Orloff
Subject: RE: 23B BOS Agenda Item

From: Robyn Orloff

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Please admit my email to record, that I am against the consolidation of the Open Space Advisory Committee and the Parks and Recreation Commission, into one formal advisory board to be renamed as the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Commission.

I am a resident and tax payer of Carson City (since 2006), and moved here from Lake Tahoe because of the opportunities offered by the Open Space all around Carson City — for running, mountain biking, solitude and appreciation of our Great Basin environment. Because of the hard work and passion of the Open Space Advisory Committee members, and Carson City Parks and Rec staff, these lands and opportunities have been promoted/expanded/enhanced (and continue to be!). They are a great asset to our community — for residents, as well as a draw for visitors. I attend as many of the Open Space Advisory Meetings as I can, and each time am awed by the amount of time and effort each Committee and Staff Member devotes to the issues of Open Space — that are specific to these lands.

Our Parks as well, have been well advocated for and improved, per the work of their own Committee and staff.

But, in my opinion, the two areas — Open Space vs Parks — have different concerns and goals, and uses — and as such, should be addressed separately in their own meetings with their own Advisory Committees.

Thank you for listening to my opinion!
Respectfully,
Robyn Orloff