

CARSON CITY RANGE TASK FORCE
Minutes of the April 3, 2019 Regular Meeting
Carson City Community Center Sierra Room
851 East William Street, Carson City
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A regular meeting of the Carson City Range Task Force was scheduled for 1:15 p.m. on Wednesday, April 3, 2019 in the Community Center Sierra Room.

PRESENT: Chairperson – Lori Bagwell
Vice Chair – Nick Fontanez
Member – Bob Blackwood
Member – Brad Bonkowski
Member – Rick Cooley
Member – Sean Giurlani
Member – David Hillis
Member – Steve Robinson
Member – Terry Tussey
Member – Steve Schuette

STAFF: Jennifer Budge, Parks and Recreation Department Director
David Navarro, Parks Operations Superintendent
Benjamin Johnson, Deputy District Attorney
Tamar Warren, Deputy Clerk

NOTE: A recording of these proceedings, the Range Task Force’s agenda materials, and any written comments or documentation provided to the Clerk during the meeting are part of the public record. These materials are available for review, in the Recording Secretaries Division of the Carson City Clerk’s Office, during regular business hours. For minutes and audio recordings of this Board’s meetings, please visit www.carson.org/minutes.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Bagwell called the meeting to order at 1:17 p.m.

ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Roll was called and a quorum was present. Members Howell and Keller were absent.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairperson Bagwell entertained public comments; however, none were forthcoming.

1. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES (FEBRUARY 14, 2019 AND MARCH 6, 2019).

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Chairperson Bagwell introduced the item and noted a correction in the header of the February 14, 2019 minutes. She also indicated that there was “good cause” for the minutes of the February 14, 2019 meeting to be approved beyond the 45-day period required by the Open Meeting Law, and entertained a motion.

MOTION: Member Bonkowski moved to approve the February 14, 2019 meeting minutes as corrected. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Fontanez. Motion carried 10-0-0.

MOTION: Member Bonkowski moved to approve the March 6, 2019 meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Fontanez. Motion carried 10-0-0.

2. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no modifications to the agenda.

3. MEETING ITEMS

A. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO MAKE A RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGARDING THE DRAFT COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN CARSON CITY AND CARSON RIFLE AND PISTOL CLUB.

Chairperson Bagwell introduced the item. Ms. Budge referenced a draft agreement, incorporated into the record, and noted that the item was not discussed in the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting which had to be cancelled due to lack of quorum. Ms. Budge indicated that she had received questions regarding what constituted “breach of contract” and also regarding Range Safety Officers (RSOs) and their certifications. She stated that they needed National Rifle Association (NRA) certification and that the Club had been providing the required on-site training. Member Bonkowski inquired about a provisionary requirement by the City that requires a 10-day cancellation notice for the insurance and Mr. Johnson clarified that the language had been included in the agreement; however, for clarification purposes an addition could be made to state that “if the insurance does lapse at any time during the agreement, then that would be cause for breach and subsequent termination”.

Carson Rifle and Pistol Club President Chris Carver called the draft “an interim step to get us to where we want to be” and asked for reciprocity from the City, calling the Club’s request “pretty minimal”. He also wished to understand “the next steps should the agreement get accepted”. Chairperson Bagwell clarified that the motion made and recorded in the previous meeting minutes was to supporting one Sunday per month and asked how many hours were requested for that day. Discussion ensued regarding the previous month’s motion and the Chair expressed concern that the public would get confused if the hours were not communicated correctly to them. Member Hillis noted that the Club members were also members of the public, “we have just as much right now outside of the club to go out and shoot. So, all we’re asking for is organized time to hold a specific match.” He also stressed that no other volunteer organizations had stepped up as RSOs to keep the range open, and requested reciprocity or a form of “pay to play”. Vice Chair Fontanez thanked the club for what they had done and explained that many were told they had to be club members to volunteer as RSOs. He also stated that the terms were too short. Mr. Carver explained that the latter was a City decision. Discussion ensued regarding the range’s

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use of two days versus one day by the Club. Member Bonkowski reminded everyone that with the good weather, there will be an increase in participation. Ms. Budge suggested considering nights because the landfill was not open at night. Member Hillis was in favor of having access two Sundays per week. Chairperson Bagwell was informed that “RSOs can be trained by anyone that meets the NRA Certification. Member Tussey noted that commercial classes should have the ability to shoot during the week because weekends were crowded. Chairperson Bagwell explained that frangible ammunition was allowed for that very reason. Member Bonkowski was in favor of two Sundays per month which entailed four hours of shooting as long as the majority of the Range was available to the public. Member Blackwood stated that they did not need RSOs when the landfill was not in operation; however, Chair Bagwell suggested saving the hours of operation discussion for the upcoming agenda item 3-C.

Mr. Carver wished to have the Club be part of a shooter education program “but if we’re just going to walk away and nobody’s at risk, why are we doing this at all?” Chairperson Bagwell explained that the objective was range safety when it became open all week long. Ms. Budge stressed the importance of shooter education at all times. She also acknowledged that they needed the Club’s help for six months; hence, the agreement. Member Giurlani believed NDOW would provide the training. The Committee discussed the remainder of the draft agreement and made minor changes such as typographical error corrections. Chair Bagwell entertained public comments, and when none were forthcoming, a motion.

MOTION: Member Hillis moved to recommend to the Board of Supervisors approval of the draft Cooperative Agreement between Carson City and Carson Rifle and Pistol Club “with the amendments discussed this afternoon”. The motion was seconded by Member Cooley. Motion carried 8-2-0, with Vice Chair Fontanez and Member Giurlani opposing the motion.

B. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING DIRECTIONS TO STAFF AND/OR RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGARDING CARSON CITY RIFLE RANGE BUDGET, GRANTS, AND FUTURE PROJECTS.

Chairperson Bagwell introduced the item. Ms. Budge presented the Staff Report, incorporated into the record. Member Bonkowski suggested prioritizing the bays for completion within a month. She also reviewed the grant funding and the Capital Improvement budget as outlined in the Staff Report and incorporated into the record. Member Bonkowski suggested prioritizing the items that can be finished the fastest. Chairperson Bagwell was informed that the completion would be based on the grant funding; however, she wished to see the range open as soon as possible. Ms. Budge offered to email the schedule to the Task Force members as soon as possible and Chairperson Bagwell noted for the record that the Parks and Recreation Department was working very hard to accommodate this project given all the projects they are working on. Member Robinson was informed that the three or four month timeframe was for engineering and design and projects must go to bid within a certain cost. Member Bonkowski wished to look into funding some projects through Q18 funds with the stipulation that the City would get reimbursed by the grant funds. Chairperson Bagwell received clarification that Member Tussey had offered to donate \$10,000 towards the range improvements and invited him to work with her on fundraising.

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Ms. Budge offered to work on the sponsorship opportunities with a few Task Force members. Discussion ensued regarding the \$250,000 Capital Improvement funds budgeted for the FY 2010 budget. Chairperson Bagwell entertained public comments.

John Barrier introduced himself and recapped his understanding of the funding and Ms. Budge confirmed that the agenda packets included the information on the NDOW grant for \$38,000 and the \$250,000 Capital Improvement funds requested for FY 2020 and reviewed the budgeting process and timeline, adding that the Lumos and Associates deliverable was a full construction plan.

MOTION: Member Hillis moved to recommend to the Board of Supervisors approval of \$250,000 expenditure for the Capital Improvement Project as part of the FY 2020 budget, regarding the Carson Rifle and Pistol Range. The motion was seconded by Vive Chair Fontanez. Motion carried 10-0-0.

C. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING DIRECTIONS TO STAFF ABOUT EXPANDING CARSON RIFLE AND PISTOL RANGE HOURS.

Chairperson Bagwell introduced the item. Ms. Budge reviewed the Staff Report, incorporated into the record, that proposed expanding the range hours to evenings after the close of the landfill, based on the availability of the Park Ranger Staff. Member Tussey was informed the expanded hours would be for public use. Mr. Navarro explained that he had spoken with the Park Rangers and they had suggested mid-week hours as they were busy with weekend activities. He believed that they would ensure opening and closing the gate and provide some direction to the public. Chairperson Bagwell suggested increasing the hours as daylight hours get longer. Member Hillis suggested opening the range Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays if possible. There were no public comments. Chairperson Bagwell entertained a motion.

MOTION: Member Giurlani moved to direct staff to expand the Carson Rifle and Pistol Range hours as soon as possible. The motion was seconded by Member Tussey. Motion carried 10-0-0.

Ms. Budge clarified that a press release will be done and a copy will be sent to the members.

4. STAFF UPDATES - DISCUSSION ONLY

A. DIRECTOR'S REPORT: NON SUBSTANTIVE UPDATE ON DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE CARSON RIFLE AND PISTOL RANGE INCLUDING UPDATES ON BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT/LYON COUNTY DISCUSSIONS REGARDING ALTERNATE RANGE LOCATIONS AND LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES.

Ms. Budge noted that a meeting with BLM had been scheduled to review at other options for a possible new location for the range.

5. MEMBERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

A. REPORT FROM MEMBER HOWELL REGARDING SIGNAGE.

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Member Howell was absent; therefore, no report was presented.

B. REPORT FROM MEMBER GIURLANI REGARDING OPERATIONS.

Member Giurlani reported that he had researched payment methods such as kiosks. He also reviewed annual memberships and non-resident fees. He has been approached by a member of the public who had suggested an annual fee of \$50 for Carson City and Nevada residents, and daily fees of \$5 for Carson City residents, \$7 for Nevada residents and \$10 for other users. Discussion ensued on whether this process could slow down the opening of the range. Member Bonkowski suggested a card or a placard instead of a car sticker. Discussion ensued and Member Bagwell suggested agendaizing this item for action in the next meeting. Ms. Budge cited the example of Douglas County charging \$50 for an annual membership and using the collected funds for site improvements. Ms. Budge also noted that the solar gates have caused problems in the past and preferred a state park-like system for collecting fees in envelopes.

C. REPORT FROM MEMBER BAGWELL REGARDING FUNDING.

Chairperson Bagwell noted the \$250,000 CIP funds and the \$46,000 for Lumos and Associates as contributions from the City. Discussion ensued regarding the cost of the fee collection of item.

D. REPORT FROM MEMBER BLACKWOOD REGARDING LONG TERM ISSUES.

Member Blackwood recommended the new range to be at least two miles wide and three miles long, based on primary analysis. He also reported on the Carson Rifle and Pistol Club meeting he had attended stating that RSOs were volunteering on open days; therefore, they could not shoot, adding that they are not enforcers but educators. They also had suggested shooting any day of the week because they would follow the safety rules. Additionally, he proposed the following: Opening the range on Sundays with or without RSOs, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Opening the range on Tuesdays – Saturdays to all clubs with insurance and RSOs with the condition that walk-ins are accepted only if they follow the club rules. Also commercial entities with a business license and an annual use permits purchased for \$100 and law enforcement officers can access the range Tuesdays – Saturdays. All users must have an annual use permit. All collected fees must be used for range improvements. The City must have a range reconstruction schedule to be followed by the users. He believed that RSOs should continue education for a short time to educate. It was recommended that Nevada residents have a different fee from non-residents.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – DISCUSSION ONLY

- a. Fee Schedules
- b. Member Blackwood's proposal

A. SCHEDULING A POSSIBLE FIELD TRIP TO CARSON RIFLE AND PISTOL RANGE.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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Rob Boehmer introduced himself as a member of the Carson City Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife and Chairman of Operation Game Thief. Mr. Boehmer noted that he had received many phone calls and emails and believed the Task Force was “headed in the right direction”. He also stated that he had heard RSOs were assuming more authority than the public expected, but he believed that the RSOs “lessen the chance of liability for the City”. Mr. Boehmer suggested understanding the NDOW grant qualifications if fees are charged and thanked the members for serving the community.

8. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Bagwell adjourned the meeting at 3:27 p.m.

The Minutes of the April 3, 2019 Carson City Range Task Force meeting are so approved this 1st day of May, 2019.

LORI BAGWELL, Chair