

CARSON CITY RANGE TASK FORCE
Minutes of the June 5, 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, June 5, 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

STAFF: Jennifer Budge, Parks and Recreation Department Director
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 1:16 p.m.

ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

1. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES (APRIL 3, 2019 AND MAY 1, 2019)

Chairperson Bagwell introduced the item and noted that the approval date of the April 3, 2019 meeting had been changed to reflect today’s date. She also recognized the good cause of the minutes being late.

MOTION: Member Bonkowski moved to approve the minutes of April 3, 2019. The motion was seconded by Member Blackwood. Motion Carried 9-0-0.

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MOTION: Member Bonkowski moved to approve the minutes of May 1, 2019. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Fontanez. Motion carried 9-0-0.

2. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA

Ms. Budge noted that there were no modifications to the agenda.

3. MEETING ITEMS

A. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY: PRESENTATION BY KRISTY SCOTT REGARDING CARSON RIFLE AND PISTOL RANGE OPERATIONS AND THE INTERIM RANGE OPENING PLAN.

Chairperson Bagwell introduced the item and noted that the item had been requested by Kristy Scott. She also reminded the Task Force that the item was for discussion only and no action would be taken at this meeting.

Ms. Scott introduced herself as a citizen and a business owner in Carson City. She expressed concern regarding the interim Range reopening plan, the proposed fee schedule, and “the composition of the Task Force as a whole”, which, she believed, did not have representatives from any of the firearm stores or business. She also noted the absence of firearm instructors with frangible ammunition knowledge and the presence of three members of local clubs. Ms. Scott explained that with the interim plan, a draft of which is incorporated into the record, the public will lose 30 minutes per week, and added that the calendar had been full on Sundays because instructors were not using frangible ammunition. She also believed that many instructors were bypassing the required eight-hour or two four-hour classes by holding longer (6.5 or seven-hour) classes on Saturdays and using the range for two hours on Sundays, which she believed “can put the entire program in jeopardy”.

Ms. Scott believed that “the clubs continue to get more benefits” with the new reopening hours. Regarding the fees, Chairperson Bagwell noted that the fee schedule specifics will be discussed during the next agenda item; however, during this item, the discussion would remain at a general level. Ms. Scott explained that she had trained Range Safety Officers (RSOs) for \$20 (at her cost of the books) to volunteer at the Range, which she stated the Rifle and Pistol Club refused to advertise. She also expressed frustration that the fees did not distinguish between local and out of state users, and did not agree with the discounts received by the clubs. Ms. Scott wished to address the bulk reservation process as well.

Member Blackwood explained that he had probably used 10,000 rounds of frangible ammunition and that he was a representative of the gun industry. He also noted that the clubs were made up of members of the public and cited the bureaucracy for the delays in reopening the range. Member Blackwood suggested stopping the “fighting amongst us because we are the shooting community, we have the rest of the world against us”. Ms. Scott clarified that the clubs were overrepresented and the instructors were not represented on the Task Force. Chairperson Bagwell thanked Ms. Scott for helping “do the best we can for the Range” and to find a balance between the clubs, the tournaments, and the public using the Range. She also noted that the reservations will be addressed by the Task Force as well, to come up with a “fair methodology” to use the system, and thanked Ms. Scott for the RSO training and for “being part of the solution”. Member Hillis agreed that the fee schedule must address a different rate for residents.

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Member Bonkowski clarified that the Task Force did represent the public and that the Range would have been closed based on the recommendation by the District Attorney's Office, had it not been for Chairperson Bagwell and him [as members of the Board of Supervisors], and keeping it open on a limited basis. He also stated that keeping the bays open was a priority to hold classes, and acknowledged that the clubs were providing "the bulk of the volunteer hours to operate the Range, keep it clean, and educate the public", suggesting to do everything possible to come up with solutions and work cooperatively while still having an open dialogue.

Member Tussey clarified that they had frangible ammunition and components that were being sold at cost, adding that he can't test the weapons he makes "the way it's [the Range] set up right now". Chairperson Bagwell reminded everyone that the open public times now were on Wednesdays and Thursdays, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m., adding that the park rangers needed the extra 15 minutes to close the gates at 8 p.m., adding that Sundays also provided open time without any reservations. She also indicated that the City planned to hire a new position for the range, effective July 1, 2019 and had budgeted \$250,000 for improvements while following the statutory rules. Ms. Scott explained that her business had taken "a huge hit" due to the Range closure since November. She also believed that the club members may not be experienced shooters, as they encouraged enrolling members without shooting experience, adding that being close to the Range, she had received feedback from members of the public regarding the closure of the Range. Chairperson Bagwell thanked Ms. Scott for "exercising the proper procedure to request an agenda item" and entertained public comments.

Joe Kinsley introduced himself as a Carson City resident and stated that a fire east of Dayton had been attributed to target shooters in the desert and suggested figuring out a plan for public access.

Michael Mench introduced himself as a Carson City resident for almost 50 years and stated that he had voted for Question 18. Mr. Mench inquired why the Range was closed, adding that he had always been safe there, and did not understand why the RSOs must be present for the public to use the Range.

William Bryant introduced himself as a Carson City resident for almost 37 years, a former member of the United States Army for 24 years, and a disabled combat veteran. Mr. Bryant noted that he was a CCW instructor for 9.5 years and was an RSO with the Carson Rifle and Pistol Club. He believed that safety was paramount, adding that just on the past Sunday he had collected close to 200 shotgun shell cases from one bay and noted that as club members they provide targets to 80 percent of the shooters who do not bring their targets, and they educate the public. Chairperson Bagwell thanked Mr. Bryant for his service. Member Blackwood inquired about the "caliber of shooters" at the Range and was informed that the shooter population has increased with some with no shooting experience, who were being educated by RSOs. Mr. Bryant also explained that many RSOs have been using body cameras to avoid issues.

Cary McKnight introduced himself as a 30-year Carson City resident and a frequenter of the Range. He also believed that the Task Force meetings should be held in the evenings for the public to attend and expressed frustration that no action was taken to date which, he believed, would result in people having to shoot in other areas. He called the Task Force "dysfunctional" and "overregulating" because he believed gun owners were responsible shooters, and commended the Rifle and Pistol Club for adding the blue lines at the Range.

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Nick Marcucci introduced himself and stated that he preferred to teach his daughter to shoot at a bay, calling it a great place to learn. However, he believed that Sundays and evenings were not conducive to teaching his children and Douglas County was too far to drive. He also preferred to have the Task Force meetings after 5 p.m. and inquired about the fees and stated that he would prefer not to pay. Mr. Marcucci also suggested adding the meeting dates to the Parks and Recreation Facebook page. Mr. Johnson reminded all members of the public that all City meetings are posted on the Carson.org website calendar page.

Larry Osborne introduced himself as a 35-year resident of Carson City and a lifelong shooter who hoped that this plan was an interim one and wished to see the Range open to all and at all times. He also believed that he could take advantage of Ms. Scott's RSO training if that gives him better access to the Range, adding that many experienced shooters helped novices. Mr. Osborne was also not opposed to paying fees; however, he believed that residents should pay less. Chairperson Bagwell thanked Mr. Osborne for recognizing that this arrangement was an interim plan and spoke about meeting everyone's needs, including those of the employees at the landfill.

B. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING A RECOMMENDATION TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AND/OR THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGARDING THE PROPOSED CARSON RIFLE AND PISTOL RANGE FEE SCHEDULE.

Chairperson Bagwell introduced the item. Ms. Budge gave background and presented the agenda materials, incorporated into the record, which included a market analysis of nearby range fees and a proposed fee schedule. She also gave an update on public feedback including non-resident users of the Range, especially regarding the requirement of having a Carson City business license. Ms. Budge noted that most respondents also felt that each individual shooter should pay instead of charging a per-vehicle fee. Chairperson Bagwell wished to discuss each line item individually.

Member Robinson was informed that Carson City was somewhere in between what Douglas and Washoe Counties had to offer, but not close to Clark County's offerings, which also charged higher fees. He was in favor of keeping the per vehicle fee. Member Giurlani noted that prior discussions had resulted in proposing \$5 for Nevada residents and \$10 for out-of-state visitors per vehicle. Member Hillis preferred a per-shooter fee for liability purposes and Mr. Cooley confirmed that the landfill charged different fees for in-county and out-of-county residents. Member Bonkowski questioned how the lines would be drawn, citing the example of Member Tussey who lived in Carson City and owned a business in Lyon County and suggested keeping it as simple as possible.

Member Bonkowski noted that he would leave at 2:30 p.m. to attend another meeting.

Member Hillis suggested considering a family membership as well. Ms. Budge clarified that veterans who are more than 50 percent disabled will receive free admission, similar to other City services such as the pool. Discussion ensued regarding methods of address verification and tracking volunteer hours (40+). Chairperson Bagwell recapped the procedural issues and wished to keep them similar to current City procedures:

- Per vehicle fee and one-time or annual pass rates.
- In-county versus out of county fees.

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- Disabled veteran exemptions.
- Volunteer exemptions (not immediately).

Member Hillis left at 2:45 p.m.

Discussion ensued regarding charging instructors and Ms. Budge likened it to the pool policy where an individual has a swim pass; however, he/she has to pay the instructors to take an aquatics class, who in turns pays to reserve the pool. Member Blackwood suggested not complicating the fee structure by charging a percentage of the CCW class fee. Ms. Budge explained that the City advertises the classes offered at their facilities. She also noted that the City offers different rates for non-profit versus commercial entities. Discussion ensued regarding group reservations and Ms. Budge clarified that group reservations were based on the number of shooters. She also cited the difference between a business owner using the range for recreational purposes versus a business owner who conducts business at the Range, noting that the latter must have a Carson City business license. Chairperson Bagwell entertained public comments.

Kristy Scott reintroduced herself and explained that when she participates in a gun show in Reno, she is required to purchase a daily business license and pays sales tax in Washoe County. She also believed that as a Carson City business owner who pays sales tax, she should “get the benefit of being able to use that Range to conduct my business”. Ms. Scott noted that she would rather pay the per-shooter fee per class; however, she preferred not to. Chairperson Bagwell reminded everyone that all businesses pay to use the City properties such as swim lessons, drivers’ education, dance classes, etc.

Randall Brooks introduced himself as the owner of Carson Guns and explained that he has many out-of-state customers and cited the example of an upcoming instructor class for 10 students, five of which will take trips from Idaho, Utah, and Alaska. Mr. Brooks explained that the students will stay in Carson City for at least four days, paying room tax, purchasing food, and contributing to the City’s revenue; therefore, he believed that he should not incur additional fees and suggested “not overcomplicating” the fee structure. He suggested modeling the fee structure after the one in Winnemucca which is free of charge, and stated that the Chabot shooting facility has been closed for two years.

Chris Carver of the Carson Rifle and Pistol Club introduced himself and noted that the main issue was the closure of the range, adding that “assessing cars doesn’t solve the problem of shooter behavior”. He preferred discussing what would make the Range safe and usable to the public, especially Tuesday through Saturday when the landfill is open. Mr. Carver wished to see the Rifle and Pistol Club continue to partner with the City; however, not for free. He expressed concern that the metrics of who is using the range and how, had not been requested, noting that over 80 percent of the shooters in May had not brought any targets and that over 50 percent of those were not Carson City residents. Chairperson Bagwell clarified that the City will hire a staff member exclusively for the Range reporting to the Parks and Recreation Department and who will be on-site.

Mary Snyder introduced herself as a new member of the Carson Rifle and Pistol Club who lives in Dayton and is an NRA RSO. Ms. Snyder was not opposed to fees; however, she was “highly offended” to hear that volunteers would not receive benefits. She also inquired whether the new Park Ranger would be at the Range seven days per

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week or whether the Rifle and Pistol Club would still provide RSOs, and cited several incidents where shooters were not following the rules.

Mr. Brooks inquired about the volunteer hours and calculated that 40 hours per year would amount to \$1.87 per hour based on the cost of certification and the on-going maintenance fees. He recommended 16 hours of volunteering per year.

Ms. Scott suggested surveying residents to see if closing the landfill for an extra day would be possible. Chairperson Bagwell explained that “we looked at it at one point, but were unable to close the landfill for an additional time because we won’t be able to get enough of the trucks through” to accommodate the scheduled trash pickups.

Member Robinson clarified that the intent of the Task Force was not to dismiss the volunteers, but that complexity was the issue now. He believed that “volunteers have to play a part in this eventually”.

Member Giurlani left at 3:20 p.m.

Chairperson Bagwell inquired whether in-county and out-of-county fees should be separated. Vice Chair Fontanez suggested moving to postpone the discussion since they were close to losing quorum. Chairperson Bagwell wished to reach a general consensus in order to have Staff return with a version that reflects the discussion. Discussion ensued regarding the waivers and Ms. Budge noted that individual waivers would only be required for group reservations. Member Blackwood was not in favor of having the two different rates.

Chairperson Bagwell announced a five minute recess at 3:23 p.m. to determine whether a quorum was still present. Due to the presence of six members only, Chairperson Bagwell reconvened the meeting at 3:30 and noted that the Task Force will move to the Staff Updates section of the agenda and that no further action would be taken.

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 RANGE DESIGN STATUS AND LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES.

Chairperson Bagwell introduced the item and Member Blackwood reported that he had a preliminary design to determine how much land would be needed, which he believed to be 2 miles by 3 miles.

5. MEMBERS’ ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

A. REPORT FROM MEMBER GIURLANI REGARDING OPERATIONS.

C. REPORT FROM MEMBER BAGWELL REGARDING FUNDING.

D. REPORT FROM MEMBER BLACKWOOD REGARDING LONG TERM ISSUES.

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6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – DISCUSSION ONLY

Chairperson Bagwell indicated that the fee schedule will be agendized for the next meeting. Vice Chair Fontanez suggested “seeing who’s at the shooting range and why they’re there”.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Carver thanked Vice Chair Fontanez for his future agenda item suggestion and offered to meet with members and Staff to provide information. He also noted that the Range attendance has increased and recommended signage regarding the use of target stands. Chairperson Bagwell suggested that Mr. Carver copy the Chair when emailing Staff. He also requested help in operating the Range, on behalf of the Club, as the burden on the RSOs was increasing.

8. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Bagwell adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m.

The Minutes of the June 5, 2019 Carson City Range Task Force meeting are so approved this 7th day of August, 2019.

LORI BAGWELL, Chair