CARSON CITY RANGE TASK FORCE
Minutes of the May 1, 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, May 1, 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 – Carol Howell
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 1:16 p.m.

ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

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

Chairperson Bagwell noted that the April 3, 2019 minutes had been sent as late material; therefore they would be approved at the next meeting.

2. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA

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

3. MEETING ITEMS

A. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE SIGN PLAN FOR THE CARSON CITY RIFLE RANGE.

Chairperson Bagwell introduced the item. Member Howell referenced the agenda materials, beginning with Exhibit A, followed by signage examples which conformed with the [City's Park Signage] Master Plan. Chairperson Bagwell thanked Member Howell and Staff for following the Parks Signage [Master Plan] guidelines. She also entertained public comments and when none were forthcoming, a motion.

MOTION: Member Howell moved to approve the proposed signage which corresponds with the City's Signage Master Plan as submitted. The motion was seconded by Member Giurlani.

Member Bonkowski suggested discussing the sponsorship opportunities [agenda item 3-B] as well, as part of the signage approval. He clarified that the signs bearing sponsorships can be more expensive; however, he suggested going "with something less expensive around the perimeter". Mr. Navarro explained that the signs requested as part of the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) grant would be made of Carsonite (plastic composite) which would warn people that they were entering a shooting area. He noted that those signs were not intended to carry sponsorship information and that the proposed "interior/informational" signs would be for all to see at the range.

Motion carried 10-0-0.

B. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO STAFF AND/OR THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGARDING THE DRAFT PROPOSED RANGE OPENING INTERIM PLAN, RANGE FEE SCHEDULE, AND RANGE SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES.

Chairperson Bagwell introduced the item. Ms. Budge gave background and noted that the agenda materials in PDF format had not captured all the redlined edits by Staff and the District Attorney's Office, adding that she would project the redlined pages while Member Blackwood presented his proposal.

Member Blackwood presented his draft proposal, incorporated into the record, and responded to clarifying questions. He also added several assumptions [not in the draft]:

1. Club members and commercial entities are responsible shooters.
2. Inexperienced/irresponsible shooters cause errant rounds and should be supervised by a Range Safety Officer (RSO). He also suggested several consequences to this assumption.

Member Blackwood proposed having the range closed on Mondays for maintenance or engineering research. Chairperson Bagwell suggested discussing each item on the draft plan separately, and as follows:

Range closure on Mondays – Member Howell was not in favor of it as she believed it wouldn't take all day to do Maintenance. Member Blackwood clarified that a one-day closure would be for consistency during the interim plan. In response to a question by Member Schuette, Mr. Navarro noted that "it is nice to have" a dedicated day for range closure to do maintenance such as spraying for weeds. Member Robinson inquired about the interim timeline and Ms. Budge noted that the first set of plans will be discussed during her report.

Open on Sundays from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. – No objections, but with an RSO on the premises, provided by the Carson Rifle and Pistol Club.

Range to be open Wednesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. – to the public and with RSOs provided by the City. There were no objections.

Frangible ammunition will be required Mondays through Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., when the Carson City Landfill is operational. Landfill is closed Sundays, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Days. Use during these times will require a signed acknowledgement from all participants about this requirement. – Chairperson Bagwell clarified that no frangible ammunition would be required during the holidays as the landfill will be closed. Member Howell explained that her club will not use frangible ammunition because they will cause guns to jam and "it's not worth it". Member Blackwood noted the availability issues of frangible ammunition as well. In response to a question by Member Schuette, Member Cooley stated that no complaints had been received regarding "projectiles in unsafe areas" since the range closure and the RSO presence on shooting dates. Member Bonkowski noted that recreational shooters who would use specific ammunition with specific weights could not use frangible ammunition. Deputy District Attorney Ben Johnson recommended keeping the frangible ammunition requirement for liability and risk reasons. Chairperson Bagwell stated that there were two options: not having the range open Monday through Saturday, 8:00 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. until the reconstruction has been completed, or use frangible ammunition. She also believed that a third option could be to open the range on the days that the landfill is closed, and no frangible ammunition will be required. Member Blackwood believed that the clubs should not be required to use frangible ammunition. Member Howell expressed concern that any member of the public participating with the clubs may not have had any safety courses which she believed would be a liability. Discussion ensued and Vice Chair Fontanez questioned why an RSO would not be present on weekdays.

Chairperson Bagwell inquired whether frangible ammunition should be required for commercial entities during the week. Ms. Budge clarified that the frangible option was temporary, until the range reconstruction. Member Howell noted that an instructor had informed the Task Force that her students had spent a lot of time clearing gun jams when using frangible ammunition. Ms. Budge reminded the members that frangible ammunition would not be required during the proposed evening hours, after the landfill closes. Member Giurlani suggested having the range open on Monday evenings as well; however, Ms. Budge cited staffing constraints and wished to ensure consistency. She also clarified for Ms. Howell that the Wednesday and Thursday 5:30-8:00 p.m. hours were effective after May 1, 2019. Mr. Navarro explained that the final shooting should be at 7:45 p.m. for park rangers to close up. Ms. Budge clarified that evening reservations may be accommodated without frangible ammunition as long as the landfill is closed. Member Bonkowski believed that the stray bullet that had hit a house in Lyon County could have been the result of someone shooting in the area because the Carson City Range was closed. He was in favor of keeping the range open for clubs and commercial entities, requiring to self-report stray bullets, and

to rely on Public Works employee reports as well. Discussion ensued regarding enforcement and Mr. Blackwood referenced his addenda to the plan where he had suggested that when an organization fails to follow the rules, they will not be allowed to use the range any longer. Member Bonkowski suggested prohibiting organizations that do not self-report from using the range if Public Works employees discover their errant rounds, adding that if two clubs are using the range at the same time and it is not possible to find out which one is responsible for the bullet, then "at that point we're shutting the range back down again and we're going to institute the frangible ammunition requirement". Member Blackwood noted that the given the City's plethora of issues, the range was not a priority; however, Member Bonkowski iterated the fact that it was a priority given the presence of 40 percent of the Board of Supervisors on the Task Force.

Chairperson Bagwell summarized the discussion by noting that the frangible ammunition requirement by clubs and commercial entities would be removed and self-reporting or Public Works reports will be relied upon. Ms. Budge suggested modifying the waiver created by the District Attorney's Office regarding reporting and new member education. Discussion ensued regarding individual waivers.

Carson Rifle and Pistol Club President Chris Carver believed that individual waivers were difficult to collect from the members. It was agreed that clubs could make authorized exceptions/restrictions based on the safety concerns. Vice Chair Fontanez suggested not allowing commercial entity use on the days the range is open to the public. Chairperson Bagwell believed that current reservations by the commercial entities should be grandfathered. Ms. Budge informed Member Robinson that the commercial entities had booked reservations until the end of 2019 on Sundays.

Discussion ensued regarding fees. Ms. Budge noted that a fee schedule must be adopted for the entire facility and clarified that the Board of Supervisors was the only entity that would authorize the fees. She also cited examples on how the City works with independent contractors that use the City facilities. Member Howell inquired about out of County commercial entities and Chairperson Bagwell explained that a Carson City business license would be required. She also requested that the District Attorney's Office look into a different revenue-sharing model for out of town entities. Chairperson Bagwell suggested separating the law enforcement category from the commercial entity one, and require them to have their own RSO.

Discussion ensued regarding user fees and the consensus was to charge by the vehicle not per shooter. Ms. Budge cited examples of Washoe and Douglas County fees and noted that they did not have separate fees for out of town participants. Club shoots were also discussed and Ms. Budge offered to look into other entities and return with a proposal, including exemptions for disabled veterans. Mr. Carver suggested opening the range to clubs and commercial entities on Mondays as well since no parks RSO will be needed. He also suggested tying the liability waivers to individuals and not cars. There were no additional comments and Chairperson Bagwell entertained a motion.

MOTION: Member Bonkowski moved to recommend to Staff and/or Board of Supervisors approval of the Proposed Range Opening Interim Plan draft, incorporating the changes read into the record, and additionally recommending that Staff bring back to this Task Force a proposed fee schedule which will then be sent to the Board of Supervisors for approval. The motion was seconded by Member Blackwood.

In response to a question by Member Cooley, Member Bonkowski clarified that Ms. Budge had "the emergency powers authority to restrict the range if there is a report of errant gunfire, or unsafe actions". He also added that the Task Force's recommendations would go to the Board of Supervisors for final decision. Ms. Budge received direction to "clean up" the draft which would be reviewed by the Chair prior to sending it to the Board of Supervisors for approval to avoid delays. It was suggested to have the item agendized for the May 16, 2019 Board of Supervisors meeting.

Chairperson Bagwell called for the vote. Motion carried 10-0-0.

Chairperson Bagwell referenced the proposed sponsorship agreement, incorporated into the record, and updated the Task Force on her meeting with Member Giurlani. Per the prior signage discussion, the Chair agreed that the perimeter signs were not appropriate for sponsorships; however the interior signs could be sponsored. Ms. Budge cautioned that grant-funded signs may be prohibited from being sponsored. Member Blackwood believed that the proposed rates were "over exuberant"; however, he suggested trying them out for feedback then adjusting them as needed.

MOTION: Member Howell moved to accept the sponsorship plan as presented. The motion was seconded [inaudible].

Ms. Budge stated that because the Parks and Recreation Department has an approved legal document for sponsorships already, approval by the Board of Supervisors is not required for implementation.

Chairperson Bagwell called for the vote. Motion carried 10-0-0.

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, ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HOURS AT THE RANGE, BUDGET PROCESS AND APPROVALS, RANGE DESIGN STATUS, AND LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES.

(3:24:45) – Ms. Budge gave a legislative update and noted that HR 1222, the Target Practice and Marksmanship Training Support Act, has passed both in the House and in the Senate, and is awaiting the President's signature. She also noted that previous grants through the Pittman-Robertson (P-R) Act, which passed in 1937 [and is now known as Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration, ensures revenues generated from these excise taxes are apportioned to state wildlife agencies for their conservation efforts, hunter education programs, and operation of archery and shooting ranges]. Ms. Budge believed that HR1222 would reduce the match from 25 percent to 10 percent; however, she was uncertain whether itwould apply to the most recent grants or to future grants. She also noted that they were actively working with the sponsors of AB84 (Reauthorization of the Parks, Trails and Open Space State Bond Funds) which currently is in [the Ways and Means] Committee, and waiting for an amendment.

Ms. Budge also explained that she, along with Carson City Real Property Manager Stephanie Hicks, had met with representatives from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and thanked them for being very supportive in helping Staff find an alternate location for the Range and that they are open to relocation near Centennial Park. She stressed that while the land will be free the environmental clearances and related costs must be handled by the City. Ms. Budge explained that she, along with Mr. Navarro, had met with the design team and suggested assigning one or two Task Force members and a member of the Carson Rifle and Pistol Club to help review design plans the feedback of which is required by Friday, May 3, 2019. Member Blackwood inquired whether the Range was being redesigned and Ms. Budge clarified that "it's essentially a grading plan to meet minimum standards identified by the NRA". She also informed the Task Force that the final design should be completed in June. Member Blackwood offered to review the plans and Ms. Budge stated that she would ask Mr. Carver to do the same. Chairperson Bagwell was informed that three competitive quotes may be received after the 60 percent design review. Member Bonkowski was informed that Staff would request three quotes; however, they would entertain the responsive ones. Ms. Budge noted the support received from the Board of Supervisors and the commitment of $250,000 after July 1, 2019 which was intended to be used for future grant matches. She also explained that the Board of Supervisors had identified funding for a full-time, benefited Range employee.

5. MEMBERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

A. REPORT FROM MEMBER GIURLANI REGARDING OPERATIONS.

Member Giurlani referenced the flyers in the packets regarding the "iron ranger" products. It was agreed to place one at the gate and one at the range. Ms. Budge believed they could serve as additional sponsorship opportunities.

C. REPORT FROM MEMBER BAGWELL REGARDING FUNDING.

Chairperson Bagwell reiterated the support received from the Board of Supervisors regarding funding and staffing. She also noted that the Board had paid the Lumos and Associates fees for the design work. Member Blackwood believed that instead of obtaining the $10,000 donation offer from Member Tussey (to be used for matching funds from NDOT for the Range construction), he would prefer a custom made weapon by Member Tussey and additional items from local gun stores to prepare a raffle package and sell tickets as a fundraiser which involves the shooting community's participation. Chairperson Bagwell advised working through the "Parks Foundation" and designating the funds for "a specific intent", and suggested further discussion at the next meeting. She also believed that the awarding of the prize could take place at the Range's upcoming ribbon cutting ceremony.

Member Howell inquired about the full-time employee and Ms. Budge explained that the person would be employed by the City and would become an NRA Range Safety Officer; however, she believed that a formal job description would still need to be developed. Member Bonkowski clarified that the position was identified and made part of the current budget, even though a final job description had not been formulated, to ensure that it became part of the current budget and in order not to wait another year to make it part of next year's budget. Member Howell inquired about having the new employee monitor other ways of accessing the range, and Member Bonkowski noted that the details will be forthcoming as part of the job description.

D. REPORT FROM MEMBER BLACKWOOD REGARDING LONG TERM ISSUES.

Member Blackwood read a written statement regarding the long term Range plan and suggested securing the land and completing the design in three years.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – DISCUSSION ONLY

- Fee schedule discussion.
- Relocation timing discussion.

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

Vice Chair Fontanez explained that he had visited the Range and had spoken with the RSO and the President of the Rifle and Pistol Club. He suggested that everyone visit the range and "take a look at the actual operations and what's going on out there day-to-day". Member Blackwood also encouraged visits to the Range and looking at safety issues, especially when cars are driving up there.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Carver thanked Mr. Fontanez and a few other members who visited the range. He also explained that 40-60 percent of patrons do not have target stands, adding that the Club helps them use discarded targets. Mr. Carver suggested that the Board of Supervisors or Staff submit a request for proposal (RFP) to a local gun store "to provide target stand material at the Range, when the Range is open to the public" to help increase compliance.

Member Bonkowski received clarification from Mr. Carver that he wished to have vendor(s) sell "the safety equipment you need to comply with City rules". Member Howell was informed that "the overwhelming majority" of the recreational shooters does not bring targets.

8. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Bagwell adjourned the meeting at 3:56 p.m.

The Minutes of the May 1, 2019 Carson City Range Task Force meeting are so approved this 5th day of June, 2019.

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LORI BAGWELL, Chair