

CARSON CITY RANGE TASK FORCE
Minutes of the August 7, 2019 Regular Meeting
Carson City Community Center Sierra Room
851 East William Street, Carson City
Page 1

A regular meeting of the Carson City Range Task Force was scheduled for 1:15 p.m. on Wednesday, August 7, 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 – Carol Howell
Member – Aaron Keller
Member – Steve Robinson
Member – Terry Tussey

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.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairperson Bagwell entertained public comments and noted for the record that the goal of this Task Force and that of the Board of Supervisors was to have the Range open as soon as possible.

Parks Operations Superintendent Dave Navarro announced that during its July 18, 2019 meeting, the Board of Supervisors had proclaimed the month of July Parks, Recreation, and Open Space month. He also noted that the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Department had taken the opportunity, at the meeting, to thank the volunteers and the donors for their support. Mr. Navarro explained that the Carson Rifle and Pistol Club had not been

CARSON CITY RANGE TASK FORCE
Minutes of the August 7, 2019 Regular Meeting
Carson City Community Center Sierra Room
851 East William Street, Carson City
Page 2

recognized at that time; therefore, he read the content of a certificate of appreciation and thanked them for their contributions: a \$3,000 donation for range safety, and \$1,000 towards Ross Gold Park.

1. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES (JUNE 5, 2019)

Chairperson Bagwell introduced the item and entertained comments or corrections and when none were forthcoming, a motion.

MOTION: Member Robinson moved to approve the minutes of June 5, 2019. The motion was seconded by Member Cooley. Motion Carried 10-0-1. Member Howell abstained as she was not present at the previous 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 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. Parks and Recreation Director Jennifer Budge Presented the Staff Report along with a market analysis of public shooting ranges and the proposed fee schedule for Carson Rifle and Pistol Range, all of which are incorporated into the record. Chairperson Bagwell entertained discussion by Task Force Members.

Member Tussey wondered whether the fees would be collected by the volunteers such as the range safety officers (RSOs) or instructors. Chairperson Bagwell noted that the forms would be handled internally and Ms. Budge clarified that ActiveNet, the software system currently in place would handle online transaction with the exception of the drop-in public use fee, which would be collected via an envelope. Member Blackwood was informed that the vehicle pass would be similar to a placard that hangs from the rear view mirror. He also was in favor of a vehicle pass instead of an individual one and did not wish to distinguish between a non-profit and a commercial entity. Member Giurlani was informed that the veterans' cards indicated their level of disability. He also indicated he wished to have further discussion on veterans, and out of state shooters. Member Hillis suggested discussing the out of state vehicle fee, adult pass pricing, the volunteers' no fee passes, the Carson Rifle and Pistol Club non-profit fees, and the minimum number of shooters. Member Howell requested clarification on the concessions and sales, and Ms. Budge clarified that some shooters did not bring ear protection or targets to the range; therefore, they tried to anticipate what their needs would be. Member Keller was also concerned about the in-county and out-of-county fees. Chairperson Bagwell entertained discussion on the items brought up by the members. Member Howell was informed that the Range improvements were funded from the Quality of Life Initiative, Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) grants, and private donations. She also noted that the Parks and

CARSON CITY RANGE TASK FORCE
Minutes of the August 7, 2019 Regular Meeting
Carson City Community Center Sierra Room
851 East William Street, Carson City
Page 3

Recreation Department did not have a Range budget line item, adding that the new range master and range coordinator positions would be funded by the City's General Fund.

Member Bonkowski suggested hearing the members' preference between out-of-state and out-of-county fees; Chairperson Bagwell entertained recommendations, clarifying that charging out-of-state fees would mean any county in Nevada would pay the same fees as the Carson City residents. Member Tussey preferred simplification and wished to have everyone pay the same fees. Member Robinson preferred the fees to remain as written "either you're in Carson City or you're not in Carson City". Member Blackwood believed that "everybody [that] lives in the State of Nevada should be able to shoot [at] the Range [for] the same price". Member Cooley preferred the fee structure as presented by Ms. Budge. Member Giurlani believed that all Nevada residents should pay the same fees. Member Hillis preferred the fees as written. Vice Chair Fontanez and Member Robinson preferred the in-state versus out-of-state fee structure. Member Bonkowski was also in favor of keeping the fees the same for all Nevada Residents and was concerned that NDOW grant funds may be "problematic" if the lower fees were restricted to Carson City only, adding that the long range plans were to have the range shared by Lyon County as a regional facility. Member Keller was in favor of distinguishing individual pass fees between in-county and out-of-county. Member Howell believed that out-of-state shooters should pay more. She also noted that the Carson City Parks and Recreation Department maintains the Range; therefore it was fair to have out-of-county residents "to pay an extra couple of dollars more" and suggested having the \$5 fee for Carson City residents, \$7 for out-of-county residents, and \$10 for out-of-state residents. Member Blackwood was concerned about enforcement since most of the fees were paid based on the honor system.

Chairperson Bagwell proposed and received consensus to recommend in-state (\$5) and out-of-state (\$10) fees which she believed would be easier to distinguish based on a vehicle's license plate. Discussion ensued regarding individual passes and disabled veterans' discounts and Chairperson Bagwell suggested keeping the discounts consistent with the City's current policy. Vice Chair Fontanez was in agreement. It was also agreed to recommend charging out-of-state shooting clubs a higher fee. A \$5 in-state and \$10 out-of-state fee for one-time shooting was agreed upon as well. Similarly, it was proposed to charge \$75 for in-state and \$150 for out-of-state annual passes. Member Tussey received confirmation that the collected fees would be used for the maintenance of the Range. Members Hillis, Blackwood, Robinson, and Bonkowski preferred \$50 and \$100 respectively, and Member Bonkowski noted that if the annual pass is too expensive, shooters may continue to shoot in the desert and cause wildfires. Member Howell suggested that out-of-state shooters pay \$150 per year. A consensus was reached to recommend charging in-state shooters: \$50 per adult, \$25 per youth, and \$75 per family. Out-of-state shooters would then pay \$100 per adult, \$50 youth per youth, and \$150 per family. It was agreed that any veteran with a 50 percent or greater disability would use the Range for free. Discussion ensued regarding Range volunteers who donate eight or more hours per month to receive an annual pass after 40 hours. Member Hillis recommended receiving an annual pass after 16 hours of volunteering as an RSO. Ms. Budge described the volunteer program for the City and noted that all volunteers must sign waivers and the Department tracks their hours. Member Hillis explained that the volunteer RSOs incur the expense of undergoing specialized training. It was agreed to consider 8 hours per month and 16 hours total to be eligible for the free annual pass as a volunteer RSO. In discussing commercial businesses using the facility, Member Blackwood recommended changing the 10 student minimum requirement to 5, since they already pay to have a City business license. Member Bonkowski suggested having a flat fee for the commercial entities, because they take up an entire bay when they are shooting. Member Hillis

CARSON CITY RANGE TASK FORCE
Minutes of the August 7, 2019 Regular Meeting
Carson City Community Center Sierra Room
851 East William Street, Carson City
Page 4

recommended \$50 per bay reservation for in-state businesses and \$100 for out-of-state ones, with no more than 50 percent reservations. Member Bonkowski clarified that if the reservations are for both covered and uncovered areas, then two reservations must be made. It was also agreed that reservation fees should be made non-refundable 15 days prior to the event, unless cancelled by the City.

Member Howell was opposed to having concessions such as targets or target stands available to the public. Member Fontanez clarified that the suggestion was made because many Range users were not bringing proper equipment with them. Member Giurlani suggested having sponsored targets and ear protection. Member Robinson was informed that the targets and ear protection were handed out as safety measures. Member Bonkowski recommended adding language that should no businesses sponsor the targets and the ear protection, then the City would provide them. Member Hillis recommended having non-profit clubs pay 50% of the fees paid by the business entities. Chairperson Bagwell entertained a motion.

MOTION: Member Howell moved to recommend the proposed fee schedule to the Parks and Recreation Department and to the Board of Supervisors as discussed. Member Blackwood seconded the motion. Motion Carried 11-0-0.

4. STAFF UPDATES - DISCUSSION ONLY

A. DIRECTOR'S REPORT: UPDATE ON DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE CARSON RIFLE AND PISTOL RANGE INCLUDING UPDATES ON RANGE DESIGN STATUS, SHOOTING BAY CONSTRUCTION QUOTES, AND FUTURE GRANT FUNDING.

Ms. Budge presented the Director's Report and highlighted the expanded Range hours effective August 13, 2019: Tuesday through Friday evenings, 5:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. with the range clearing to begin at 7:45 p.m. and Sundays from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. Ms. Budge also announced that the engineering and design on the shooting bays was completed and quotes had been received for the next steps; however, the lowest quote was for \$143,000, and a \$38,000 grant was received from NDOW for signage and improvements to the shooting bays. She thanked Member Keller for facilitating the NDOW grant and noted wished to work with him on possibly modifying the grant to a larger amount. Mr. Keller noted that some grants may be amended for a longer time. He also explained that past grants had been for one or two years only; however, with the new recreational shooting amendment, grants could be up to five years and believed that volunteer hours could be used as a match. He stated that multiple grants may be lumped under one umbrella as well. Ms. Budge announced that the Range Coordinator position was advertised on the City's website, adding that a dedicated email address, ccrange.org, had been created for Range-related items, and to answer and house all the questions. She also noted that an official web page was dedicated to the Range on the parks and Recreation site on the carson.org website.

5. MEMBERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

A. REPORT FROM MEMBER GIURLANI REGARDING OPERATIONS.

Mr. Giurlani did not have any additional reports.

CARSON CITY RANGE TASK FORCE
Minutes of the August 7, 2019 Regular Meeting
Carson City Community Center Sierra Room
851 East William Street, Carson City
Page 5

C. REPORT FROM MEMBER BAGWELL REGARDING FUNDING.

Chairperson Bagwell noted that the funding portion had been previously discussed, and thanked Member Giurlani for his assistance.

D. REPORT FROM MEMBER BLACKWOOD REGARDING LONG TERM ISSUES.

Member Blackwood relayed feedback from Range users who were believed modern gun ranges in the future should provide restrooms and a park or playground for families with children. He also reported that he had visited possible future locations for a range and had found a few with road and power access that were located off Highway 95, North of Highway 50.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – DISCUSSION ONLY

Chairperson Bagwell introduced the item and Member Hillis wished to discuss Carson Rifle and Pistol Club's efforts to improve target stands. He noted that the Club wished to offer the new targets to the City should they wish to incorporate them in the design.

Chairperson Bagwell announced that future meetings will be scheduled by the Chair as needed. Ms. Budge clarified for Member Howell that the Parks and Recreation Commission will discuss the fee schedule in its August 20, 2019 meeting and the Board of Supervisors will hear the item during its September 5, 2019 meeting. Member Tussey was informed that fee collection and other implementation dates will be discussed during the Board of Supervisors meeting and the outcome will be posted on the Parks and Recreation website.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairperson Bagwell entertained public comments. Monica Jaye introduced herself as a talk show host on 99.1 FM. Ms. Jaye explained that recently an unofficial transcript of her show was provided to the members of the Task Force without her consent. She also requested a copy to determine its accuracy and invited everyone to call into her show and express their concerns. Ms. Jaye noted that the current information on the City's website was incorrect as it showed the Range as open, and thanked the Task Force for lowering the proposed out-of-county proposed fees, adding that items listed on the website as "determined by the Director" should not be acceptable. Ms. Jaye was also opposed to the City providing hearing or eye protection to the public and suggested providing an educational pamphlet instead.

Kristy Scott introduced herself as a Carson City resident and expressed frustration regarding the Range closure and the financial losses incurred by her business. She was also opposed to booking the Range for four hours for classes and believed that the eye and ear protection provided by the City will be "killing my business", noting that no one on the Task Force was a business owner in Carson City or was an instructor. Ms. Scott objected to setting a fee schedule prior to opening the Range and believed most shooters would not return to the Range. She also noted that she would follow up on the "transcript with my name all over it" referred to earlier by Ms. Jaye.

CARSON CITY RANGE TASK FORCE
Minutes of the August 7, 2019 Regular Meeting
Carson City Community Center Sierra Room
851 East William Street, Carson City
Page 6

Nathan Marcucci introduced himself as a citizen at large and expressed concern that the Carson Rifle and Pistol Club deleted public comments on their Facebook page and believed that the open shoot held by the club on Saturday should have included all members of the public, calling it “a little unfair”.

Ron Bardarson introduced himself and explained that both covered and uncovered bays were needed to accommodate physical abilities and hardships. He also recommended lower fees for those who have completed a year of classroom and practical shooting lessons. Mr. Bardarson stated that he was a member of the Carson Rifle and Pistol Club and observed that the number of volunteers “is shrinking every year”. He was also not in favor of the changes planned for the long range areas and requested cleaner restrooms.

David Morton introduced himself as a Carson City resident and noted that as a California resident in the past, the range he frequented was funded by the Friends of the NRA. He also expressed frustration regarding the Range hours. Chairperson Bagwell thanked Mr. Morton and Ms. Budge clarified that an NRA Foundation grant had been received.

8. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Bagwell adjourned the meeting at 3:21 p.m.

The Minutes of the August 7, 2019 Carson City Range Task Force meeting are respectfully submitted on this 27th day of August, 2019.

AUBREY ROWLATT, Clerk – Recorder

By: _____
Tamar Warren, Deputy Clerk