

DRAFT MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Carson City Open Space Advisory Committee
Monday, December 16, 2019 ● 5:30 PM
Community Center Sierra Room
851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada

Committee Members

Chair – Bruce Scott	Vice Chair – Alan Welch
Member – Margie Evans	Member – Jeremy Hall
Member – Donna Inversin	Member – Gerald Massad
Member – JoAnne Michael	

Staff

Jennifer Budge, Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Director
Ann Bollinger, Open Space Administrator
Lyndsey Boyer, Senior Natural Resource Specialist
Gregg Berggren, Trails Coordinator
Mihaela Neagos, Deputy District Attorney
Tamar Warren, Deputy Clerk
Minutes by: Danielle Howard, Public Meetings Clerk

NOTE: A recording of these proceedings, the board’s agenda materials, and any written comments or documentation provided to the recording secretary during the meeting are public record. These materials are on file in the Clerk-Recorder’s Office, and are available for review during regular business hours.

An audio recording and approved minutes of this meeting is available on www.CarsonCity.org/minutes.

CALL TO ORDER

(5:30:32) – Chairperson Scott called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

(5:30:52) – Roll was called, and a quorum was present.

Attendee Name	Status	Arrived
Bruce Scott	Present	
Alan Welch	Present	
Margie Evans	Present	
Jeremy Hall	Present	
Donna Inversin	Present	
Gerald Massad	Present	
JoAnne Michael	Present	

PUBLIC COMMENTS

(5:31:23) – Chairperson Scott entertained public comments. Ms. Budge introduced Ms. Neagos and Ms. Howard to the Committee.

1. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES (October 21, 2019)

(7:48:30) – Chairperson Scott introduced the item and entertained comments, corrections, and/or a motion.

(7:49:08) – MOTION: Member Hall moved to approve the October 21, 2019 meeting minutes.

RESULT:	APPROVED (6-0-1)
MOVER:	Hall
SECONDER:	Welch
AYES:	Scott, Welch, Hall, Inversin, Massad, Michael, Evans
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None
ABSENT:	None

2. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA

(5:33:14) – Ms. Bollinger brought the October 21, 2019 meeting minutes as late material to the Committee’s attention, and Ms. Neagos informed the Committee that the meeting minutes, under Open Meeting Law (OML), must be approved within 45 days of the previous meeting or the following meeting unless there is good cause. Chairperson Scott tabled Item #1 to revisit later in the meeting to give members a chance to review the meeting minutes.

3. MEETING ITEMS

A. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY: 90% DESIGN PLANS FOR TRAIL CONSTRUCTION ON THE CARSON RIVER TRAIL SYSTEM PHASE II PROJECT. PRELIMINARY PLANS PART I, PRELIMINARY PLANS PART II, PRELIMINARY PLANS PART III, PRELIMINARY PLANS PART IV.

(5:35:26) – Chairperson Scott introduced the item. Ms. Bollinger briefly gave background and presented the Staff Report along with design documents, which are all incorporated into the record. She acknowledged Mr. Berggren, Public Works Senior Project Manager Rob Fellows, and Ms. Boyer for their roles in the project. She also noted that while the area is a flood plain, the impacts will be minimized.

(5:39:45) – Ms. Bollinger introduced Lumos and Associates engineer and Project Manager Chas Macquarie, who has been working with Staff on the design of the trails. He explained the segments indicated in the design documents and responded to clarifying questions from the Committee.

(5:47:35) – In response to Member Inversin’s observation about the lack of studies regarding the effect on the wildlife along the river, Ms. Boyer, who had worked with the consultants to complete the avian surveys on the

river, stated that the survey completed at Buzzy's Ranch indicated that there are birds using both segments, but the birds that are using Buzzy's Ranch are not birds that are overly sensitive to human disturbance, and many are used to humans. She mentioned that the consultant recommended having dogs allowed only on leash and/or full closure of the trail during nesting season to help mitigate conflicts between wildlife and the users. She also stated that Staff was able to gather a baseline to find out who was using the area and how sensitive those particular species might be, and that they planned on doing subsequent surveys each spring to stay updated on changes.

(5:51:40) – In response to Member Evans's question regarding Segment B, Mr. Macquarie explained that the trail runs along the length of the river, so it is not across the direction the water would be coming from for the most part. He pointed out that typically outside the river channel, velocity is considerably less than in the river channel and immediately outside it, and he described the armoring on the downhill side of the river to greatly reduce gullying and noted that it should help protect the integrity of the trail.

(5:54:03) – Mr. Berggren informed Member Evans that the Empire Ranch Trail likely did not have the same design compared to the Carson River Trail System design plan, and he believed that it was closer to the river than the new design. Mr. Macquarie noted that the return flows come off the pastures to the river, which is when the trail is more likely to be damaged, hence the downhill protection.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

(5:56:07) – Chairperson Scott entertained public comments. Tom Donaldson introduced himself as a Nevada native and long-time Carson City resident on Carson River Road and stated that, while he believed the trail overall was a wonderful idea, he was concerned about the portion of Segment A from the intersection of 5th Street and Carson River Road down to the proposed first road crossing across Carson River Road because he believed that there is no reason to continue the Prison Hill Trail down to Silver Saddle Ranch. He called it a redundant trail due to there being another trail on the "east side" of the properties. He described the segment as a waste of money, time, and expenses and proposed a crossing on Carson River Road with the advance warning signs comparable to those at the crossing into Silver Saddle Ranch from the end of Mexican Ditch Trail and the new trail Segment B, as a traffic survey completed by the City had calculated that there were approximately 1,000 vehicles that travel across Carson River Road in front of Mr. Donaldson's house daily with high speeds. He recommended a bridge across the top of Segment B similar to those on the Mexican Ditch Trail. As the newly-elected President of the Friends of Silver Saddle Ranch, he requested a little more information before the Friends of Silver Saddle Ranch could fully support the trail proposal.

(6:03:47) – David Dineen introduced himself as a resident and a member of the Friends of Silver Saddle Ranch. He confirmed Mr. Donaldson's concerns regarding the speed of vehicles. He suggested putting flashing lights further up the hill on the east side of the bridge, as he was concerned that by the time drivers get down and see the flashing lights, they're already going too fast to react around a blind corner. He described himself as an "equine person" who loves to use those trails and requested that the trails continue to be as multiple-use. As someone who enjoys using a cart with his horses, Mr. Dineen also requested that the Committee consider the poles in the bridges, as they negate the use of carts on some of the trails.

(6:06:49) – Lucy (inaudible last name) introduced herself as a frequent hiker and bicyclist of Silver Saddle Ranch and Prison Hill and requested that dogs be required to be kept on leash to prevent being chased by dogs when biking.

(6:08:23) – Addressing public questions and those heard during the OSAC Open House, Ms. Bollinger stated that equestrian, pedestrian, and bicycle use would be allowed on the trails while motorized use would be prohibited. She noted the safety issue coming on the Mexican Ditch Trail to Carson River Road traveling south and assured that “we’re looking at the alternatives in that area and crossing further above with great visibility in both distances.”

(6:11:30) – Mr. Macquarie explained that, in regards to the big ditch at the north end of Buzzy’s Ranch just between Buzzy’s Ranch and Riverview Park, a suggested bridge would cost a lot, and the culvert already in place is an adequately sized, cost-saving measure. He also pointed out that the flashing signs themselves are at the crossing at Carson River Park, but there are also advance warning signs typically 200 to 250 feet on either side of the crossing itself. He explained that the standard is not to make the advance warning signs flashing per the typical American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) setup.

(6:14:17) – In response to Member’s Evan’s question, Chairperson Scott explained that the Committee was looking at a 90 percent design that would have three or four phases to a project. He also noted that the scope of work can be adjusted to match the budget upon receipt of the bids.

(6:15:15) – Member Hall stated that as an avid mountain biker, he likes to have choices in trails. He compared crossing Carson River Road to crossing the highway for Big Meadows Trail along State Route 88, as people do not honor the speed limit, and he suggested minimizing speeding with a continuous trail for all the way down to Silver Saddle Ranch. Mr. Donaldson reiterated that the additional trail would be redundant and a waste of money, as the Mexican Ditch Trail could withstand the multi-use purposes. He stated that it would make more financial sense to eliminate the lower portion of Segment A, make a safer crossing, and use the leftover money for a bridge. He also proposed a vehicle barrier for the south end of Mexican Ditch Trail to prevent motorized vehicle use. Ms. Bollinger stated that Staff could look into that.

(6:21:10) – In response to Member Hall’s question, Mr. Berggren explained that the current design was the culmination of planning going back to 1996. He addressed the comment regarding redundancy by stating that there was vision to have a user-friendly trail to go around Prison Hill. He also mentioned that having that segment would eliminate having everybody cross in the middle of Carson River Road, which he believed would make it safer.

B. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY: PUBLIC SURVEY AND PLANNING EFFORTS FOR THE PRISON HILL RECREATION AREA.

(6:23:11) – Chairperson Scott introduced the item. Mr. Berggren presented the Staff Report, which is incorporated into the record along with pictures and public survey results, and responded to clarifying questions.

(6:44:46) – Chairperson Scott entertained Member questions. In response to Member Hall’s question regarding why Alternative #2 is cheaper, Mr. Berggren explained that Alternative #1 would require fixing the road, which

is currently in poor condition. He stated that the less expensive option was to convert the road into a trail and put the trailhead further down, although there were disagreements to that option.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

(6:48:12) – Chairperson Scott entertained public comments. Ron Mo introduced himself as a Carson City resident and commented on the deep erosion on Prison Hill. He was concerned about further erosion due to the off-highway vehicles (OHVs) that access the trails. Chairperson Scott explained that part of the conservation plan is an OHV area, and the Committee has a management role and was trying to find a balance. He stated that while the project was still in progress, he was pleased with the established partnerships and the obtained grants.

(6:54:38) – Robyn Orloff introduced herself as a Carson City resident and referred to the Prison Hill conservation easement between the City and the United States Bureau of Land Management (BLM), which she pointed out allows for an OHV area and asked how the conservation easement applies to and impacts the land as well as how it determines land development. She quoted Marc Hildesheim of the OHV Conservation Counsel who had stated in the October 15, 2018 OSAC meeting that “this area’s been highly impacted. It’s a desert area ... We’re here to fix it. We see it’s damaged. We want to make trails that are sustainable.” Ms. Bollinger explained that establishment of the conservation easement was a requirement of the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009 to protect the conservation values of Prison Hill, Silver Saddle Ranch, and the Ambrose Carson River Natural Area, and the City has the responsibility to protect these lands, since they are BLM lands that were transferred to the City. She stated that the conservation easement does say that the City may construct trails and trailheads and believed that the process was within the intent of the conservation easement. Chairperson Scott recommended that Ms. Orloff refer to Staff for further discussion on the matter. Ms. Orloff inquired about whether or not the City was being overseen annually by BLM to adhere to the conservation easement and suggested a separate meeting on the matter, as she believed OHV areas are not sustainable. Ms. Neagos confirmed that BLM has been doing their annual monitoring. Discussion took place regarding the conservation easement. Ms. Budge acknowledged Ms. Orloff’s time and passion regarding the project site and invited her to send specific legal questions to Staff to be passed on to the Carson City District Attorney’s Office.

(7:11:37) – In response to a question, Mr. Berggren stated that a second stage was not being added yet right near the intersection of South Edmonds Drive and Snyder Avenue and assured her that boundary designation such as signage, wire fencing, and heavy metal fencing would be used depending on the location to keep the OHV users in the OHV area.

(7:15:26) – Dave Bento introduced himself as a City resident and was confirmed by Mr. Berggren that there was no plan yet for a detention basin, but the City had put in some check dams and some rock-lined ditches to try to address some of the drainage, and work would continue to be done “up the hill.” He mentioned that he hoped to use the next round of grant funding to continue to address more of the issues and get some of the water to spread out into the areas where it could be absorbed and get it out of the channels. In response, Ms. Bollinger also informed Mr. Bento that the complete west side and some of the east side of Golden Eagle Lane is under State control and outside the project area. Mr. Berggren stated that there have been a lot of incursions into residential areas on the east side of the OHV area and noted that the City was in the process of designating the boundary with fencing plans and essentially taking out some OHV areas due to its steep and erosive nature.

(7:25:37) – Pete Doenges introduced himself as a Carson City resident as well as a Muscle Powered Board Member, Crew Lead, Hike Lead, and Trail Coordinator and was in favor of Alternative #1 if it keeps access closer to the hill, as the Koontz trailhead provides for taking tools up to various Prison Hill maintenance sites. He also believed it was a more visually pleasing transition than the natural terrain to use the existing trailhead from what Alternative #2 showed. Mr. Berggren acknowledged Muscle Powered volunteer Paul Sinnott for realigning the north loop and the work that Muscle Powered has done for Prison Hill over the years.

(7:28:13) – Dan Tyma introduced himself as a City resident, and in response to his inquiry, Ms. Bollinger informed him that the location of the wetland mitigation is on the “south side” of Silver Saddle Ranch. Mr. Tyma also noted an enforcement issue with the OHV section.

C. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: THE OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2020.

(7:30:56) – Chairperson Scott introduced the item. Ms. Bollinger referred the Members to the agenda materials containing the scheduled meetings for calendar year 2020. Chairperson Scott entertained public comments; however, none were forthcoming.

(7:32:29) – MOTION: Member Inversin moved to approve the OSAC meeting schedule for calendar year 2020.

RESULT:	APPROVED (7-0-0)
MOVER:	Hall
SECONDER:	Welch
AYES:	Scott, Welch, Hall, Inversin, Massad, Michael, Evans
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None
ABSENT:	None

4. STAFF UPDATES - DISCUSSION ONLY

A. DIRECTOR’S REPORT: UPDATE REGARDING DEPARTMENTAL PROJECTS, PROGRAMS AND GRANTS; RECRUITMENT FOR VACANT POSITIONS; AND BOARD OF SUPERVISOR’S ACTION ITEMS.

(7:33:00) – Chairperson Scott introduced the item. Ms. Budge announced that the Parks Project Manager (formerly the Senior Park Planner), the Park Ranger, and the Park Maintenance Worker positions were open to applicants until December 26, 2019. There were no public comments.

B. ACTIVITIES, PROJECTS, AND GRANTS LOCATED ON OPEN SPACE PROPERTIES WITHIN THE CARSON RIVER AREA.

(7:33:56) – Chairperson Scott introduced the item. Ms. Boyer presented the Staff Report, which is incorporated into the record. Member Evans explained that the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) had completed its role in regards to the Silver Saddle Ranch Stewardship Plan referenced in the Staff Report. Chairperson Scott entertained Member and public comments; however, none were forthcoming.

C. ACTIVITIES, PROJECTS, AND GRANTS THROUGHOUT OTHER AREAS MANAGED BY THE OPEN SPACE DIVISION.

(7:36:02) – Chairperson Scott introduced the item. Ms. Boyer presented the Staff Report, which is incorporated into the record, and responded to clarifying questions. In regards to the Kings Canyon Road and Trailhead referenced in the Staff Report, Mr. Berggren noted that there had not been discussion regarding adding parking “higher on the road,” and that the new United States Forest Service District Ranger had suggested not allowing trailers to go beyond the paved portion where the new parking lot would be put in because there would not be turnaround for trailers up above. He also mentioned that the completion of the Lincoln Bypass would allow for access to the trailhead further down. There were no public comments.

D. ACTIVITIES RELATED TO TRAIL PROJECTS MANAGED BY THE OPEN SPACE DIVISION.

(7:39:45) – Chairperson Scott introduced the item. Mr. Berggren presented the Staff Report, which is incorporated into the record.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

(7:42:13) – Chairperson Scott entertained public comments. Ms. Orloff thanked the OSAC Members and Staff for their work on City projects and stated that she believed “there is definitely a place for [OHVs] and in our community.”

5. MEMBERS’ ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION.

(7:43:19) – Chairperson Scott introduced the item. Member Inversin announced that the Historic Virginia Truckee Trail had received another year’s grant from the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, Conservation Assistance program for 2020, and Mr. Berggren stated that there have been discussions with Carson City Public Works on the next Federal Lands Access Plan (FLAP) grant application to potentially use toward Ash Canyon and Ormsby Boulevard.

(7:45:42) – In response to Member Hall’s question, Mr. Berggren stated that the Lincoln Bypass was a part of the “original [grant] ask,” but there would be a meeting with Muscle Powered to potentially start a volunteer construction. He also noted that the goal for next year would be to complete the Lincoln Bypass and seek a grant for Capitol to Tahoe Trail.

(7:47:19) – In response to Member Michael’s inquiry, Ms. Budge stated that the Homestead Holidays event was well-attended, and she noted that she had received positive comments from attendees. Member Michael requested feedback from someone from Friends of Silver Saddle Ranch on the event.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – DISCUSSION ONLY.

(7:49:36) – Chairperson Scott noted the possibility of considering the Lincoln Trail participation as a potential Agenda item.

(7:49:59) – Member Hall included review of a report on “the summary of Homestead Holidays” as a future Agenda item.

(7:50:13) – Member Evans requested public comments from the open house meeting regarding the 90 percent design plans for trail construction on the Carson River Trail System as a potential Agenda item.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

(7:52:05) – Chairperson Scott entertained public comments. In response to Ms. Orloff’s question regarding the Prison Hill OHV area, Mr. Berggren explained that the 2019 design was still being completed, and pursuant to getting SHPO approval, he wished to start construction in 2020. Chairperson Scott recommended a progress report regarding the back-up design plan, and Mr. Berggren pointed out that Staff was relying on the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC) for the design layout, and he assured that they had spoken with both OHV users and non-OHV users and made design changes based on comments from all user groups. He also promised to provide an update as a future agenda item. Ms. Orloff inquired about who approves the final design, and Mr. Berggren stated that it was one design that had been revised based on public comment. Ms. Budge proposed adding the matter to the next Agenda, and she stated that Staff could follow up with Ms. Orloff on alternatives. Member Hall suggested maps or photos of the free ride areas as well as a subsection focusing on free ride areas. He also requested a discussion on the methods or treatments used for erosion control or sediment capture treatment as well as more clarification or mapping on what is being proposed.

(7:58:30) – Kathy Sylvia introduced herself as a Friends of Silver Saddle Ranch Board Member and thanked the OSAC Members and Staff on behalf of the Friends of Silver Saddle Ranch and offered assistance when needed.

8. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT

(8:00:15) – MOTION: Chairperson Scott adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

The Minutes of the December 16, 2019 Carson City Open Space Advisory Committee meeting are so approved this 24th day of February, 2020.