

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Carson City Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC)
Monday, February 24, 2020 ● 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
Lyndsey Boyer, Senior Natural Resource Specialist
Gregg Berggren, Trails Coordinator
Mihaela Neagos, Deputy District Attorney
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

(5:31:24) – Chairperson Scott called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

(5:31:50) – 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	Absent	
Gerald Massad	Absent	
JoAnne Michael	Present	

PUBLIC COMMENTS

(5:33:21) – Chairperson Scott entertained public comments. Robyn Orloff introduced herself and inquired about the maps and photos of and the subsection on the Prison Hill off-highway vehicle (OHV) areas and discussion on erosion control, sediment capture treatment, and clarification of mapping that were discussed during the last meeting for agendaizing. She was concerned about the damage on Prison Hill due to unauthorized OHV use on unconfirmed riding areas and suggested an action item on the matter. Ms. Budge noted that there would be discussion regarding Prison Hill on Item 4-B.

1. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES (December 16, 2019)

(5:36:29) – Chairperson Scott introduced the item and entertained comments, corrections, and/or a motion. Member Hall noted that the motion on Item 3-C was made by Member Inversin. Member Evans pointed out that the last name of a member of the public was misspelled. Member Michael noted a correction to a portion of the second sentence of the second paragraph on page number three.

(5:38:27) – MOTION: Member Evans moved to approve the December 16, 2019 meeting minutes with the noted corrections.

RESULT:	APPROVED (5-0-0)
MOVER:	Evans
SECONDER:	Welch
AYES:	Scott, Welch, Hall, Michael, Evans
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None
ABSENT:	Inversin, Massad

2. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA

(5:39:56) – Ms. Budge noted that there were no modifications to the Agenda.

3. MEETING ITEMS

A. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO ELECT A CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR OF THE OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE 2020 CALENDAR YEAR.

(5:39:06) – Chairperson Scott introduced the item and entertained discussion. Member Hall and Member Evans were content with the current OSAC Chair and Vice Chair.

(5:40:04) – MOTION: Member Michael moved to nominate Bruce Scott for Chair and Alan Welch for Vice Chair of the Open Space Advisory Committee for the 2020 calendar year. Chairperson Scott entertained Member and public comments and, when none were forthcoming, called for a vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED (5-0-0)
MOVER:	Michael
SECONDER:	Evans
AYES:	Scott, Welch, Hall, Michael, Evans
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None
ABSENT:	Inversin, Massad

B. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY: PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ONLY REGARDING HOMESTEAD HOLIDAYS.

(5:40:52) – Chairperson Scott introduced the item. Carson City Recreation Superintendent Dan Earp introduced himself and presented a PowerPoint Slideshow presentation, which is incorporated into the record.

(5:57:52) – Craig Swope introduced himself as a Friends of Silver Saddle Ranch Board member and believed that Mr. Earp's presentation was accurate. He noted the financial aspects of the event as well as the Conservation Easement in decision making.

(6:01:11) – Chairperson Scott proposed an interpretation of the Conservation Easement from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) as well as a meeting that would include Friends of Silver Saddle Ranch, OSAC Members and Staff, and Carson City Parks and Recreation critical staff for clarification for future events.

(6:04:10) – Member Evans was concerned about the wildlife during December due to the possible impact on nocturnal animals that the event posed as well as potential lawsuits and loss of the property by not using it within BLM's restrictions.

(6:05:23) – In response to Member Hall's question, Mr. Swope stated that the consensus regarding concerns during the event included the large quantity of lights and owl nesting challenges caused by disruption from the event.

(6:07:18) – Ms. Budge welcomed a meeting with BLM due to the noted interpretation issues.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

(6:09:05) – Chairperson Scott entertained public comments. Ms. Orloff echoed concerns about clarifying the Conservation Easement, how it fits into all of the properties, and possibly upgrading it.

(6:15:17) – Mr. Swope stated that information regarding Friends of the Silver Saddle Ranch would be available at the Red House by late spring.

(6:16:40) – Member Hall suggested charging a small nominal fee for adults to reduce such large capacities witnessed at the event. He did not believe the lights detracted from the integrity of the historic resource compared to what Virginia City does for their events around the holidays and proposed using less lights or historically accurate holiday lighting. He pointed out that there were other options to resolve the parking issue, and he liked the idea of taking a number for the wagon rides. Member Hall also proposed a different route for the wagon rides

(6:20:16) – Member Michael suggested expanding the time of the event to accommodate larger crowds and using the Fifth Street Trailhead parking area for additional parking. She also requested an alternative lighting source to those that were run on generators during the event.

(6:22:06) – Member Evans proposed Carson Valley Park as an additional means of parking.

C. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING A RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE BYLAWS.

(6:23:19) – Chairperson Scott introduced the item. Ms. Budge presented the Staff Report and draft Carson City Open Space Advisory Committee Bylaws, both of which are incorporated into the record.

(6:26:21) – Chairperson Scott entertained Member comments, questions, and revisions, and Members provided feedback to Ms. Budge for revisions to the draft.

(6:30:16) – Concerning the “Meetings” section of the draft, Member Hall pointed out that meeting cancelations should be agreed on by the OSAC and the Carson City Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) Directors and Chairs. Based on his observation of subsection “d” of the “Conduct of the Meetings” section, Ms. Budge revised the subsection to say:

“Committee Meetings shall not take place without a representative of the Parks and Recreation and Open Space Department present.”

(6:44:32) – **MOTION: Member Hall moved to recommend suspending the proposed motion of recommending to the Board of Supervisors the Open Space Advisory Committee Bylaws until the next meeting [on May 18, 2020].**

RESULT:	APPROVED (5-0-0)
MOVER:	Hall
SECONDER:	Michael
AYES:	Scott, Welch, Hall, Michael, Evans
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None
ABSENT:	Inversin, Massad

D. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT FOR THE HORSE CREEK RANCH CONSERVATION EASEMENT FOR 2019.

(6:45:43) – Chairperson Scott introduced the item. Ms. Boyer briefed the Committee on the Annual Monitoring Report, which is incorporated into the record along with the Staff Report, and responded to clarifying questions.

(6:51:04) – Chairperson Scott requested addressing the headcuts mentioned in the report.

(6:53:13) – Member Evans inquired about the number of cattle that Mr. Fagen runs in a year on the property, and Ms. Boyer ensured that she would follow up with Mr. Fagen on the matter and to include the livestock numbers each year for future reports.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

(6:54:14) – Chairperson Scott entertained public comments. Ms. Orloff thanked Ms. Boyer for the report and wished for Ms. Boyer to work on the Conservation Easement evaluation of Prison Hill. Chairperson Scott entertained further public comments and, when none were forthcoming, a motion.

(6:55:35) – MOTION: Member Evans moved to approve the annual monitoring report for the Horse Creek Ranch Conservation Easement for 2019. Chairperson Scott entertained discussion and, when none was forthcoming, called for a vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED (5-0-0)
MOVER:	Evans
SECONDER:	Welch
AYES:	Scott, Welch, Hall, Michael, Evans
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None
ABSENT:	Inversin, Massad

E. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING A RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ON THE FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 OPEN SPACE BUDGET.

(6:56:44) – Chairperson Scott introduced the item. Ms. Budge presented the Staff Report and the Proposed Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget, both of which are incorporated into the record, and responded to clarifying questions as well as entertained discussion with the Commission.

(7:07:45) – Member Hall wished to view some data to demonstrate what the need was for open space to justify the two-thirds ask with how much time each Park Ranger had been spending at the parks versus open space. Ms. Budge affirmed that she could provide that data for the Committee from reports.

(7:13:18) – Ms. Boyer commented that becoming fully staffed with Park Rangers has been a major help specifically to open space in terms of maintenance tasks.

(7:27:18) – Member Evans inquired about the Silver Saddle Ranch design and use plan, and Ms. Budge stated that, even though it was a project Staff wanted to do, they were not sure if they had the resources to get it done yet.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

(7:29:53) – Chairperson Scott entertained public comments. Ms. Orloff thanked Staff and commended the Park Rangers and quality of their work.

(7:31:08) – Chairperson Scott entertained comments from the Members. Member Hall believed that it would be important to call out the goal of moving the Senior Park Ranger to a 50/50 in the future. Chairperson Scott entertained a motion.

(7:33:08) – MOTION: Member Hall moved to recommend to the Board of Supervisors the budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 with the understanding that the Senior Park Ranger position will be considered for a 50/50 percent split between Open Space and Parks [and Recreation] in the future.

RESULT:	APPROVED (5-0-0)
MOVER:	Evans
SECONDER:	Michael
AYES:	Scott, Welch, Hall, Michael, Evans
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None
ABSENT:	Inversin, Massad

F. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING A RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ON THE DRAFT FEES AND CHARGES POLICY AND DRAFT DEPARTMENT FEE SCHEDULE.

(7:33:57) – Chairperson Scott introduced the item. Ms. Budge presented the Staff Report, the draft Fees and Charges Policy, and the draft Department Fee Schedule, all of which are incorporated into the record, and she and Ms. Boyer responded to clarifying questions.

(7:40:22) – Chairperson Scott entertained Member comments and questions. Member Evans noted an error in the spelling of “historic” on the second page of the Staff Report. In response to Member Evans’s question, Ms. Boyer informed her that the Red House was being proposed for events such as those when a partnering group is involved.

(7:42:00) – In response to Member Hall’s question, Ms. Budge stated that the Carson City Rifle and Pistol Range had many proposed fees including drop-in day use of \$5 for Nevada residents and \$10 for California residents, annual passes for individuals and families, terminates and big events for exclusive use of the facility, sponsorship fees, non-profit groups. Member Hall commented that \$200 for trail events was reasonable. Regarding the Prison Hill Recreation Area, he believed that \$250 seemed low and that events should be restricted to dry weather due to the greater impacts correlated with winter weather. Member Michael echoed Member Hall’s comments regarding the costs.

(7:45:33) – Chairperson Scott proposed applying some of the OHV fees into resource maintenance activities on the OHV side.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

(7:48:28) – Chairperson Scott entertained public comments. Ron Moe introduced himself as a user of Prison Hill and believed that the extra costs for trail maintenance made sense.

(7:55:18) – Ms. Orloff wished for consideration in regards to organized OHV group events and the impact such events may have on the trails and mentioned that a recent event brought out what she believed to be more density than the area could handle.

(7:56:05) – Ron Branch introduced himself as a resident at Golden Eagle and proposed \$5 for event parking.

(8:02:08) – Ms. Budge reiterated some proposed changes to the fees. Chairperson Scott entertained further public comment and discussion and, when none were forthcoming, a motion.

(8:02:23) – MOTION: Member Evans moved to recommend to the Board of Supervisors approval of the Fees and Charges Policy and the Department Fee Schedule with the additional charge for the trail events.

RESULT:	APPROVED (5-0-0)
MOVER:	Evans
SECONDER:	Hall
AYES:	Scott, Welch, Hall, Michael, Evans
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None
ABSENT:	Inversin, Massad

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.

(8:02:53) – Chairperson Scott introduced the item. Ms. Budge presented her report, which is incorporated into the record, and responded to clarifying questions. Chairperson Scott entertained public comments; however, none were forthcoming.

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

(8:11:32) – Chairperson Scott introduced the item. Mr. Berggren presented the Staff Report, which is incorporated into the record, and responded to clarifying questions. Chairperson Scott entertained public comments; however, none were forthcoming.

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

(8:25:48) – None.

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

(8:25:48) – Chairperson Scott introduced the item. Mr. Berggren presented the Staff Report, which is incorporated into the record.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

(8:31:59) – Mr. Branch wished to see Golden Eagle Lane maintained due to the increased public use of the area, and he did not believe it was fair for the residents of Golden Eagle to maintain it. Mr. Berggren agreed that there should be a resolution with Golden Eagle Lane. Member Hall suggested that Mr. Branch take a picture at the end

of his driveway looking up and down Golden Eagle Lane over the course of a few years every six months or every year to show how much Golden Eagle Lane has been impacted over that span of time.

(8:39:40) – Mr. Moe commented on the increased usage of trails and the advertisement of trails, including those not designated for OHV usage, to OHV users as well as highlighted the erosion and vegetation loss in such areas. He was concerned about the expense of maintenance of the trails and to try and keep the OHV users on trails designated for OHV usage. Chairperson Scott informed Mr. Moe that the Committee did not have authority over the Master Plan and that he was speaking to the wrong group in terms of the planning or how the plan is implemented. He also stated that part of the Conservation Easement was the requirement to maintain an OHV area.

(9:06:09) – Mr. Branch stated that he was a part of the initial working group, and he mentioned that the group did not have much say in what would be happening. He was concerned that vegetation taken out would make Prison Hill worse by promoting more erosion.

(9:07:26) – Ms. Orloff commented about how concerns such as open area erosion did not show up on the Agenda for discussion after having discussed agendaizing such matters in the previous OSAC meeting. She stated that it could be possible to have an OHV area that is adapting to the natural resource. Chairperson Scott did not believe that the Committee was at a position at this point to have an action item on some sort of enforcement issue when the plan is taking shape and has not yet been implemented. Member Hall noted that another Park Ranger was going to be funded, and he believed that once the plan is implemented and the tools are available to manage the plan effectively that the situation will improve.

5. MEMBERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION.

(9:31:29) – Chairperson Scott introduced the item. Member Evans requested Staff to look into what the disbanded Carson River Advisory Committee's mandate was and if there is anything that needed to be done for adjustment to ensure that the requirements are reflected.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – DISCUSSION ONLY.

(9:33:28) – Chairperson Scott introduced the item. Ms. Budge noted the request for a Park Ranger report about the open space activities and time allocation.

(9:35:02) – Member Hall requested information about the naming of Open Space properties.

8. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT

(9:37:10) – MOTION: Chairperson Scott adjourned the meeting at 9:37 p.m.

The Minutes of the February 24, 2020 Carson City Open Space Advisory Committee meeting are so approved this 18th day of May, 2020.