

MINUTES
Joint Meeting
Carson City Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC)
Carson City Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC)
Tuesday, December 1, 2020 ● 5:30 PM
Community Center Bob Boldrick Theater
851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada

PRC Members

Chair – Lee-Ann Kever	Vice Chair – Kurt Meyer
Commissioner – Lori Bagwell	Commissioner – Stacie Wilke-McCulloch
Commissioner – Lea Cartwright	Commissioner – Dave Whitefield
Commissioner – Janice Caldwell	

OSAC 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 and Recreation Department Director
Lyndsey Boyer, Open Space Manager
Gregg Berggren, Trail 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 of this meeting is available on www.CarsonCity.org/minutes.

1. CALL TO ORDER

(5:31:53) – PRC Chairperson Kever called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

(5:32:02) – Roll was called, and a quorum was present.

PRC Attendee Name	Status	Arrived
Chairperson Lee-Ann Kever	Present	
Vice Chairperson Kurt Meyer	Present via WebEx	
Commissioner Lori Bagwell	Present	
Commissioner Stacie Wilke-McCulloch	Present via WebEx	
Commissioner Lea Cartwright	Absent	
Commissioner Dave Whitefield	Present via WebEx	

Commissioner Janice Caldwell	Present via WebEx	
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OSAC Attendee Name	Status	Arrived
Chairperson Bruce Scott	Absent	
Vice Chairperson Alan Welch	Present	
Member Margie Evans	Present via WebEx	
Member Jeremy Hall	Present via WebEx	
Member Donna Inversin	Present via WebEx	
Member Gerald Massad	Present via WebEx	
Member JoAnne Michael	Present via WebEx	

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

(5:33:02) – PRC Chairperson Keever noted that public comments would be limited to three minutes while extended discussion could be scheduled as a future agenda item, and she entertained public comments; however, none were forthcoming.

4. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES: OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF AUGUST 17, 2020, AND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETINGS OF OCTOBER 6, 2020 AND OCTOBER 19, 2020.

(5:33:33) – PRC Chairperson Keever introduced the item, and OSAC Vice Chairperson Welch entertained comments, corrections, and/or a motion to approve the August 17, 2020 OSAC draft meeting minutes.

(5:34:07) – Member Hall pointed out that the first sentence of item #11 on page #5 should read “Member Hall inquired about the continuing discussion of naming open spaces.”

(5:34:40) – Member Inversin stated that the term “repairing area” should be corrected to “riparian area” for the third sentence of the first paragraph under item #12.

(5:35:20) – MOTION: Member Hall moved to approve the minutes of August 17, 2020 as corrected. Member Michael seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0-0.

(5:35:04) – PRC Chairperson Keever entertained comments, corrections, and/or a motion to approve the October 6, 2020 meeting minutes and the October 19, 2020 special meeting minutes.

(5:36:29) – MOTION: Commissioner Bagwell moved to approve the minutes of October 6, 2020 and October 19, 2020 as presented. Commissioner Caldwell seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0-0.

5. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY: PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION REGARDING DOG USE IN PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

(5:36:59) – PRC Chairperson Keever introduced the item. Carson City Park Rangers John Costello and Tyler Kerver presented on dog use in parks and open spaces, which is incorporated into the record along with the Staff Report.

(5:59:23) – Mr. Costello and Mr. Kerver entertained and responded to clarifying questions. Commissioner Bagwell suggested coming up with consistent rules so the same rules apply to each park. She preferred the rule that the dog would remain on a leash unless it is in the dog park fenced area where the dog could be unleashed.

(6:07:52) – In response to Chairperson Keever’s question, Mr. Costello indicated that they were looking for support from the Members and Commissioners as well as a “consistent message.” He noted that adequate signage at the park and open space entry points would need to be improved as a part of the educational process along with educational materials, as Mr. Costello and Mr. Kerver believed that education would be useful before issuing citations.

(6:10:35) – Commissioner Whitefield wished to entertain the idea of having dogs allowed at Mills Park on-leash to help with the “goose problem.” Mr. Costello informed Commissioner Whitefield that dogs have not been allowed at Mills Park partly due to the number of events that take place at Mills Park. In response to Commissioner Whitefield’s question, Mr. Costello stated that the Carson City District Attorney’s Office had advised that the revenue from the issuance of citations goes toward the City’s General Fund.

(6:14:05) – PRC Chairperson Keever suggested entering into an agreement with the local pet stores so the pet stores could offset the cost of the Mutt Mitts in exchange for advertisement. Mr. Costello confirmed that the Carson City Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Department had actively been pursuing such an agreement, and Carson City Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Volunteer Coordinator Mackenzie Gargano had been working on an agreement with one of the local grooming businesses. He added that the department has been trying to decide if a stand-alone sign under the Mutt Mitt station on the pole or if a sticker on the individual Mutt Mitts would be the best advertising method.

(6:16:14) – Member Inversin suggested that PRC and OSAC develop cohesive regulations to present during the next joint meeting.

(6:16:58) – PRC Vice Chairperson Meyer pointed out that there may be people who do not wish to visit a park that allows dogs due to fear or allergies, and changing parks that were not designated as dog parks to allow dogs may put pressure on people to not use those parks. Mr. Costello and Mr. Kerver commented that they do not typically get complaints about people bringing their dogs to parks that are not designated as dog parks, though they also noted that what PRC Vice Chairperson Meyer mentioned may also be a concern for park users such as those that frequent Mills Park or Carriage Square Park.

(6:21:16) – Commissioner Bagwell commented that she has gotten frequent complaints about animals in parks accosting children, and parents do not feel like they can take their younger children to the park as a result of the park being “filled with dogs.” She added that “we are just going to have to recognize that the park needs to be safe for everyone.” Mr. Costello agreed that there have been incident reports with situations where there is conflict between park users and dogs.

(6:23:07) – In response to Commissioner Whitefield’s question, Ms. Budge explained that the designations for pet-friendly parks and for parks where dogs are prohibited were decided on through an action by the Carson City Parks and Recreation Director with several public meetings. She mentioned that Staff has been trying to update and change signs for parks as they have the budget available, and she believed that having consistent rules would

be very helpful. She suggested continued conversation on the matter of making or changing regulations for dogs in parks, and there could be more focused discussion at the next OSAC and PRC meetings before coming back to a joint meeting with the next steps. Ms. Budge also proposed developing a public survey to gather people's feedback. She wished to identify future designated off-leash areas within the City, as she believed that there needed to be more of these areas, and to speak to OSAC about trailheads due to many of the complaints she has received about conflicts concerning dogs.

(6:28:17) – Member Hall agreed with Commissioner Bagwell's suggestion of having consist rules for dogs in parks, and he suggested making the map of the Carson City pet-friendly parks available to the public. He believed that the YouTube videos that Mr. Costello and Mr. Kerver have made in which they discuss issues that they have had at the Kings Canyon Trailhead parking area were effective in conveying their message and proposed doing something similar regarding this matter. Mr. Kerver agreed with Member Hall's comment.

(6:30:21) – Mr. Costello commented that the education brochure is being distributed with any dog-related contact that he or Mr. Kerver have.

6. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY: PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION REGARDING E-BICYCLE AND E-SCOOTER WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS.

(6:31:24) – PRC Chairperson Keever introduced the item. Mr. Berggren introduced Carson City Public Works Department Transportation Manager Lucia Maloney, and they both presented on the E-bicycles and E-scooters, which is incorporated into the record along with the Staff Report.

(6:49:39) – PRC Chairperson Keever entertained questions and comments, and Mr. Berggren and Ms. Maloney responded to clarifying questions. OSAC Vice Chairperson Welch commented that he had ridden a bicycle around in Edmonton in Alberta, Canada, where it is mandatory to have a bell on one's bicycle to alert others to avoid collisions. He wished that the use of bells for bicycles could be implemented as an educational tactic or regulation. Mr. Berggren stated that signage has been used to educate people to make one's presence known when approaching someone from behind on the same trail.

(6:52:11) – Member Evans wished to see a bicycling education program expanded to the schools due to having seen many children riding with their parents on streets and not following the rules of the road. Mr. Berggren agreed with Member Evans' comment.

(6:54:42) – Mr. Berggren informed Commissioner Bagwell that, per Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 434B.760, Class 1 and Class 2 E-bicycles are allowed where traditional bicycles are allowed. In response to Commissioner Bagwell's inquiry, Mr. Berggren stated that Staff has implemented signage on trails, and the Carson City Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Department was working on a video that would host representatives from various user groups to discuss their concerns and desires regarding trail etiquette. He added that Staff may use social media messaging and brochures to educate members of the public about sharing the trails with others. Mr. Berggren also mentioned that Staff has access to a variety of messages to use on trail signage and educational materials from being a part of the Lake Tahoe Pathway Partnership.

(7:01:48) – Ms. Maloney informed Commissioner Bagwell that, after having spoken to the Carson City Sheriff's Office, the provision under NRS 484B.785 regarding speed limits would be applicable if someone on a bicycle or E-bicycle were at fault for colliding with someone.

(7:02:57) – Member Massad was in favor of banning shared scooters, as he was concerned that people would leave the scooters around the area and cause a hazard for people walking. He believed that the speed limit on trails was a great idea because it would work as a suggestion for people to slow down.

(7:10:01) – Commissioner Wilke-McCulloch commented that there is a Bicycle Week held at the Carson City schools, and the physical education (P.E.) teachers conduct bicycle education for the students. She mentioned that the schools work with Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) and the Safe Routes to School initiative for bicycle education.

(7:12:10) – In response to Commissioner Whitefield's question, Ms. Maloney confirmed that Segway electric scooters are covered by NRS under a different classification than E-bicycles and E-scooters. She pointed out that a "great discussion point" was whether an ordinance or regulatory framework was needed for other transportation devices, such as hoverboards, or if education and targeted outreach would suffice.

(7:14:43) – Ms. Maloney stated that NDOT oversees the Nevada Safe Routes to School program and offered to aid through the program's funds for children who need to use a bicycle for any reason. She requested for Commissioner Wilke-McCulloch to reach out if an opportunity comes up for the program to help with bicycle education or anything bicycle-related in the community.

7. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2021.

(7:16:24) – PRC Chairperson Keever introduced the item. Ms. Boyer presented the proposed 2021 OSAC meeting schedule, which is incorporated into the record, and entertained questions; however, none were forthcoming.

(7:17:45) – MOTION: Member Hall moved to approve the Open Space Advisory Committee meeting schedule for calendar year 2021 as presented. Member Evans seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0-0.

8. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2021.

(7:18:37) – PRC Chairperson Keever introduced the item. Ms. Budge presented the proposed 2021 PRC meeting schedule, which is incorporated into the record, and entertained questions; however, none were forthcoming

(7:19:07) – MOTION: Commissioner Caldwell moved to approve the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting schedule for calendar year 2021 as presented. PRC Vice Chairperson Meyer seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0-0.

9. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY: DIRECTOR'S REPORT – UPDATE REGARDING DEPARTMENT PROJECTS, PROGRAMS AND GRANTS; RECRUITMENT FOR VACANT POSITIONS; AND BOARD OF SUPERVISOR'S ACTION ITEMS.

(7:19:33) – PRC Chairperson Keever introduced the item. Ms. Budge presented her report, which included the following:

- Ms. Boyer had been working with the Carson City Human Resources Department to update the Natural Resource Specialist position before posting and advertising the position.
- The Carson City Parks and Recreation Department had two vacant Park Maintenance Worker full-time positions, and interviews were done for the positions during the previous week.
- Staff had not received support from the Nevada Department of Corrections for inmates to assist at this time due to the COVID-19 outbreak.
- Recruitment would begin for the Senior Park Ranger position on Friday, December 4, 2020.
- Paul Joseph was hired as the new Range Coordinator and would be starting within the next few weeks.
- Staff would be going to the City's Internal Finance Committee to get approval to fill the vacant Recreation Coordinator position.

10. MEMBERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

(7:21:40) – PRC Chairperson Kever introduced the item and entertained announcements and requests for information. Member Inversin announced that she had submitted packets with the Historic Virginia and Truckee Trail's new logo and official maps. She explained that she would be presenting the map of Carson City to the Carson City Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) in January 2021 and requesting acceptance of the map as the designated route through Carson City, and she will meet with the Carson City Redevelopment Authority Citizens Committee (RACC) in February 2021 to request funds to provide signs to display throughout the City. Member Hall commended the Great Basin Institute and Muscle Powered for the maps.

(7:24:49) – Commissioner Bagwell confirmed that this would be her last meeting with the PRC, and PRC Chairperson Kever thanked her for all of her hard work, expertise, and input as well as congratulated Commissioner Bagwell for having been elected for the office of Carson City Mayor.

11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – DISCUSSION ONLY

(7:26:01) – PRC Chairperson Kever entertained suggestions for future agenda items. Ms. Budge stated that she and Ms. Boyer would include future items regarding dog use in parks and open spaces for continued discussion, and she noted that the Kings Canyon Trailhead would be included as a future agenda item. PRC Chairperson Kever added that it may be beneficial to educate members of the public on why it is important to clean up after their dog on trails.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT

(7:27:45) – PRC Chairperson Kever entertained public comments; however, none were forthcoming. **Please see the attached public comments from Nathan Harrison, Christine and Jeff T., Beth Scott, and Dan Greytak labeled as "Exhibit A," "Exhibit B," "Exhibit C," and "Exhibit D" respectively.**

13. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: TO ADJOURN

(7:28:01) – OSAC Chairperson Scott adjourned the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

The Minutes of the December 1, 2020 Carson City Parks and Recreation Commission and the Carson City Open Space Advisory Committee joint meeting are so approved this 2nd day of February, 2021.

Exhibit A

Greg,

Beth and I were talking about the upcoming Muscle Powered Board meeting in which the topic is ebikes. I know that there has not been a call for public input and this letter is unsolicited, but I would like to offer up some of my comments regarding the issue. As a long time mountain biker, I started riding with my parents in the late 1980's, a trail advocate, trail builder and a coach for the local youth mountain bike club, Senators Cycling, I feel that I have some perspective on the issue. With all of that said I will be the first to admit that while I am an advocate for mountain bikes, and bicycles in general, I am not an advocate for ebikes. While I see ebikes as a part of the industry and know that there will be increase usage, I believe they should be considered another user group instead of lumped in with traditional bikes and specifically mountain bikes.

I understand the desire of the industry to push ebikes. It makes sense for manufactures and bike shops to sell them as they are one of the fastest growing segments of the market. From a tourism standpoint, it also makes sense for local municipalities to want them included as a user group and allowed on trails. I also understand the adaptive nature of ebikes and can see the benefit of opening access opportunities for specific users with disabilities and/or limitations due to age. There are, however, some issues that should be addressed prior to opening all facilities to ebikes. Below I'll list a few of my concerns.

My first concern is that of education or the lack there of and in this case both ebikes and traditional mountain bikes can be included. In the last year there has been a huge increase in people using the outdoors, many of those users are new to mountain bikes and/or ebikes. Unfortunately, the industry, and in this I will include manufactures, the media, bike shops, trail advocacy groups and other riders, do very little to educate new users on how to recreate responsibly. I see evidence of it every time I'm out on the trails, people not yielding right of way, riding off trail, cutting switchbacks, and digging rogue lines and features on existing trails. It is not just young riders who are doing it, I've witnessed plenty of older riders on ebikes riding uphill, off trail on trails like Jackrabbit to "get out of the way." This issue needs to be addressed and all riders should be educated on how to be responsible trail users.

My next concern is that of user conflicts. If hikers or equestrians were asked when they experience most conflicts with mountain bikes, I would wager that the majority would response that the conflicts occur when the bikes are going downhill and moving fast. The speed with which an ebike can travel on climbs is substantially faster than a traditional mountain bike. Ebikes, regardless of being Class 1, 2, 3 have a maximum assisted speed of at least 20 mph, with Class 3 governed at 28 mph. Again, using Jackrabbit as an example, the fastest mountain bikes with very fit riders can top out while climbing at around 10 mph. On an assisted ebike the speed could be double that. This increase in speed, coupled with riders who have little regard or understanding for traditional trail etiquette could result in more user conflicts.

Another issue that could create problems is that of enforcement and regulation. How many trail users or Rangers can recognize the difference between a Class 1, 2, or 3 ebike at first glance? If or when trails are opened to access by ebikes is there anything preventing a rider from riding their Class 3 ebike on trails where only Class 1 ebikes are permitted? In Boise, a city with an IMBA gold trail network, ebikes are not allowed on most trails and are only permitted on certain trails for users who have a mobility disability.

In summary, while I am not a proponent of ebikes I understand that they are here to stay and will become more common, so it makes sense to proactively discuss how they should be addressed. Among the issues needing clarification with regard to ebikes, are educating the users and retailers as to where and how they can be ridden, doing everything possible to reduce trail conflicts with other users, and ensuring an adequate means by which any regulations that are put into place can be enforced.

Sincerely,

Nathan Harrison

Exhibit B

Tamar Warren

From: Chris T. [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, December 5, 2020 4:18 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: Public Comment on Dogs/Bikes and Open Space

This message originated outside of Carson City's email system. Use caution if this message contains attachments, links, or requests for information.

Hello:

We are writing to express public comment on proposed changes to Carson City Open Space use with dogs and Ebikes.

As lifelong residents of Carson City and daily Ebike riders or hikers that utilize Carson City Open Space parks with our dogs, we are concerned about possible changes to the active outdoor lifestyle that my husband and I enjoy and treasure in our city. Especially now with all of the COVID restrictions, our outdoor activity is so very important to us each day and we love all of the Open Spaces and trails in Carson City...it is one of the main reasons we love this city so much and choose stay in this area after our planned retirements.

Every day we take our friendly dogs to a different Open Space in or near Carson City and hike or ride our Ebikes with them as do many other residents who we have come to know personally and we even know their dogs by name! Our Ebikes are no different than our old mountain bikes, we do not ride any faster...we just are able to get up some of the steep trails better on them as we have aged.

Hundreds of Carson City residents enjoy these same activities and it is part of our treasured daily routine. One of the aspects of Carson City and Nevada that we most enjoy is an absence of overbearing rules and restrictions. We love the 'live and let live' atmosphere and enjoy all of the other residents and their pets as they enjoy these open spaces with their bikes/hikes and dogs. We appreciate so much that our dogs can run with our bikes off-leash in many of the Open Space parks. We do not use the structured city parks, just the Open Space trails and parks with the trails.

Please keep Carson City a dog and bike friendly environment for it's residents. This is so important to so many of us to enjoy with the great Nevada freedom we so treasure and appreciate. We did vote for our new mayor and are trusting that our current high quality of life will be maintained and not ruined with new regulations and restrictions beyond the minimum necessary.

Thank you for your time,

Christine and Jeff T.
Lifetime Carson City Residents

Exhibit C

Tamar Warren

From: beth scott <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2020 2:51 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: December 1, 2020 OSAC & PRC meeting comment

This message originated outside of Carson City's email system. Use caution if this message contains attachments, links, or requests for information.

Please accept my public comment for the December 1, 2020 Meeting of the Open Space Advisory Committee and Parks and Recreation Commission.

My husband and I have two dogs that we travel with extensively. With the exception of designated dog parks, we have found that dogs are required to be on leashes in parks and on trails in nearly every situation and location. We do not find this requirement to be unreasonable. If we wish our dogs to have more freedom of movement, we find a municipal dog park for them.

Here in Carson City, I have found the widespread occurrence of off-leash dogs to be very troublesome. As a consequence, I seldom use the parks and trails.

Dogs can be threatening to our own dogs. Our terriers have been assaulted by loose, uncontrolled dogs. My horses have been "run up on" by loose dogs whose owners have no control. These situations are not just dangerous to my animals but to me also. Personally, I dislike being licked, muddied, and prodded by the wet noses of strange dogs when all I want is a brisk, peaceful walk.

I am very concerned about the impact of loose dogs along the Carson River Corridor. Large dogs disturb habitat and nesting birds as they leap and charge through the vegetation and plunge into the river.

Loose dogs are seldom cleaned up after. Ride a horse through Riverview Park or the Silver Saddle Ranch and you will have a perspective to see how much dog feces there is among the vegetation just off the trails. Both of these large recreation areas have become de facto dog parks.

The free running dog situation precludes use by people allergic or frightened of dogs because few dogs are actually under the control of their owners when they are off-leash. People with timid dogs cannot use these parks. Equestrian use is dangerous where dogs can rush up on a horse. Dogs should not be the dominant users of places meant for people.

Dog parks are great places to take dogs for their exercise and socializing. Let's keep our parks and trails for people and their special animals that are decisively under their control. And please, let's protect the Carson River Corridor.

Thank you for considering this topic and accepting public input.
Beth Scott

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Beth Scott
351 S. Deer Run Road
Carson City, NV 89701
775.720.0229

Exhibit D

Tamar Warren

From: Dan Greytak [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 26, 2020 12:33 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: OSAC/PRC Dec 1, 2020 Meeting Comments

This message originated outside of Carson City's email system. Use caution if this message contains attachments, links, or requests for information.

Comments from Dan Greytak on Item # 5 Re: Dogs on trails

As a former member of the Carson River Advisory Council representing wildlife issues, I suggest that all dogs should be on leash if allowed on the trails adjacent to the Carson River. With increasing access through new trails and a growing popularity of use, we are putting significantly more pressure on wildlife habitat. Free running dogs cause an obvious degradation of the habitat that supports the natural river corridor and its inhabitants.

I suggest leashing all dogs on the river trails and would like to see a prohibition on dogs entirely on the new Buzzy's Ranch river trail (though not likely a popular opinion). Seasonal (nesting) closure of trails is also an option.

I understand that enforcement of leash laws is a challenge. Voluntary compliance is ideal. I think that some specific conservation areas should be set aside with access limited, to provide space for wildlife to be wild.

I'm pleased that the Boards are preparing to give the Carson City Parks and Recreation Department guidance. One of the major reasons the people of Carson City created the Quality of Life initiative was to preserve and protect open spaces with an opportunity to observe wildlife in its natural setting.