

CARSON CITY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

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A meeting of the Carson City Parks and Recreation Commission was scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 5, 2005 in the Community Center Sierra Room, 851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada.

PRESENT: Chairperson Tom Keeton
Vice Chairperson Donna DePauw
Donna Curtis
John Felesina
Charlene Herst
Michael Hoffman
Pete Livermore
John McKenna
Tom Patton

STAFF: Roger Moellendorf, Parks and Recreation Department Director
Scott Fahrenbruch, Parks and Recreation Department Director of Operations
Juan Guzman, Open Space Manager
Vern Krahm, Park Planner
Barbara Singer, Recreation Superintendent
Joel Dunn, Recreation Supervisor
Lee Plemel, Principal Planner
Jeff Winston, Consultant
Kathleen King, Recording Secretary

NOTE: A tape recording of these proceedings is on file in the Clerk-Recorder's Office, and is available for review during regular business hours.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL (1-0008) - Chairperson Keeton called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. Roll was called; a quorum was present. Commissioner Livermore arrived at 6:28 p.m. At Chairperson Keeton's request, Dan Greytak, Paul Pugsley, and Randy Pahl of the Carson River Advisory Committee ("CRAC"), Howard Riedl and Laura Bird of the Open Space Advisory Committee ("OSAC"), and Jean Bondiett and Carol Roberts of the Shade Tree Council ("STC"), introduced themselves for the record.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS (1-0028) - Paul Kelley, President of Promise Land Development, advised of having recently moved with his family to Carson City from Las Vegas.

1. ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES - December 7, 2004 (1-0057) - Commissioner Curtis moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Herst seconded the motion. Motion carried 8-0.

2. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (1-0064) - Vice Chairperson DePauw requested Chairperson Keeton to address item 3-A following item 3-C.

3. AGENDA ITEMS:

3-A. ACTION REGARDING THE ELECTION OF COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON FOR 2005 (2-0222) - [Chairperson Keeton reconvened the meeting at 9:15 p.m.] Chairperson Keeton called for nominations for chairperson. In response to a question, Chairperson Keeton

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and Vice Chairperson DePauw advised of their interest in serving as chair. **Commissioner Felesina nominated Chairperson Keeton to continue as chair of the Commission. Commissioner Hoffman seconded the nomination.** Commissioner McKenna expressed the opinion that the School District liaison should not serve as chair. Commissioner Curtis commended Chairperson Keeton on “a fantastic job as chair.” She expressed the opinion that the position of chair should rotate annually because the Commission is a “public board.” She suggested there may be others who would like to serve as chair and would possibly not have the opportunity if the position is not rotated annually. **Commissioner Curtis nominated Donna DePauw as chair. Commissioner Herst seconded the nomination.** Chairperson Keeton called for additional nominations.

Commissioner Livermore expressed the opinion that rotating chairpersons don’t always serve the public’s interests as well as they should. He expressed the further opinion that continuity and the learning curve of the chairperson is something to always consider. Vice Chairperson DePauw commended Chairperson Keeton on a job well done. She advised that this is her last year, and she will not seek reappointment to the Commission. She discussed her employment responsibilities, and advised she would be happy to serve as chair. **Commissioner Livermore moved to close nominations. Chairperson Keeton called for a show of hands of all those in favor of re-electing the current chair, and of all those in favor of electing Vice Chairperson DePauw as chair. Chairperson Keeton was re-elected by a vote of 5-3-0-1.**

Chairperson Keeton called for nominations for vice chair. **Commissioner Patton nominated Vice Chairperson DePauw to continue as vice chair. Chairperson Keeton seconded the nomination.** In response to a question, no other Commissioners indicated an interest in serving as vice chair. **Commissioner Livermore moved to close nominations, and Chairperson Keeton called for a vote. Vice Chairperson DePauw was re-elected by unanimous vote of the Commission.**

3-B. WORKSHOP WITH JEFF WINSTON AND ASSOCIATES REGARDING THE PARKS, RECREATION, AND TRAILS MASTER PLAN (1-0070) - Mr. Moellendorf introduced Jeff Winston, of Winston & Associates, and provided background information on his involvement in development of the Parks, Recreation, and Trails Master Plan.

Mr. Winston distributed several handouts, and discussed the neighborhood and focus group meetings recently held as part of the master planning process. He referred to the Discussion Issue Sheet and to the “Facts at a Glance” sheets at pages 19 and 20 of the agenda materials. Mr. Winston advised that the consultants’ overall impression is that Parks and Recreation Department staff “has been doing a yeoman’s job of providing both facilities and activities for a population of 55,000.” In the context of the master plan, Mr. Winston advised of an understanding that the City will grow from its current population of ±55,000 to a population of 80,000 to 85,000. He noted that population growth will put additional pressure on all parks and recreation facilities. He described the “level of service” concept associated with parks and recreation, which is defined as the number of facilities per 1,000 population. He explained that level of service is used to measure whether a community is staying level in the ratio of parks to population. He requested input on current levels of service.

Mr. Winston discussed his general observation that the community is multi-using the gymnasiums, the play fields, the aquatic facility, the theater facility, the meeting rooms, etc.; that facilities are booked fairly heavily year-round. He commended Parks and Recreation Department staff on a “remarkable job” of “extracting every ounce of benefit out of the facilities.” He expressed the opinion that the City has nearly peaked in its ability to maximize facilities. As the population increases by 50%, the community will find that it “has hit a brick wall.” Mr. Winston explained that the community center and the aquatic facility

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cannot handle much more utilization. The sports fields are programmed heavily and turf is taking a beating. Mr. Winston commended Parks staff on the care and maintenance of the sports fields, but expressed the opinion that heavier use will result in the existing sports fields having “a tough time recuperating.” He advised that the consultants’ initial reaction is there’s not a lot of “cushion left in the system to absorb additional growth.”

Mr. Winston discussed economic development related to parks and recreation, such as sponsoring tournaments. He expressed the opinion that the City is providing a significant service to the school district, and discussed the joint use agreements in place. He noted that the Western Nevada Community College benefits substantially from use of the Community Center Theater. He discussed the opportunity to expand joint use of City and school district facilities, while recognizing the challenges facing the school district such as the recent decrease in student population, and the need to refurbish and upgrade existing facilities. Mr. Winston advised that the consultants’ overall impression is the City has amazing resources, terrific opportunities, lots of activities, and great facilities.

Mr. Winston requested input from the Commissioners and Committee members regarding the consultants’ perception. In response to a question, he advised that the age demographic of the population is being considered within the context of the comprehensive master plan and will be factored into the Parks, Recreation, and Trails Master Plan. He explained that the comprehensive master plan is on an 18-month time frame. He anticipates that the Hispanic population with young families, as well as the older demographic, will continue to grow.

Commissioner Curtis suggested discussing whether to centralize parks and recreation facilities or to continue developing neighborhood parks and recreation facilities. Chairperson Keeton suggested keeping in mind the difference between passive and active park and recreation facilities. Commissioner Hoffman referred to the “Snapshot of Carson City” and the comment that neighborhood parks seem to be a trend. He advised of having attended four of the focus group meetings, and suggested that it “may be a little too early” to refer to neighborhood parks as a trend. Mr. Winston advised that the survey will provide a definitive response to the question.

In response to a question, Mr. Winston noted that no one can definitively project growth. He suggested that the inadequacy of parks and recreation facilities will begin to show up in the form of waiting lists, inability to accommodate events, etc. He advised that inadequacy is relative to population growth. Obvious current problems are accommodating Hispanic sports. In response to a question, Ms. Singer provided statistical information on the increase in participation in the Summer Camp and Winter Break programs at the Recreation Department. She acknowledged that the theater is virtually used to capacity. Commissioner McKenna advised that while the School District is a major user of parks and recreation facilities, it is also a major provider. He discussed the importance of getting the most use from every building rather than allowing them to sit empty. He suggested other ways to solve the problem of inadequate facilities without constructing new, expensive buildings.

Commissioner Patton related comments from constituents such as “this is not a real bike-friendly town.” He inquired as to the status of the freeway bypass, including a walking / biking trail. He advised of additional comments from equestrians with regard to access and that the bypass “is a real issue.” The equestrians have expressed concern with regard to being able to access Prison Hill and the River area once the freeway bypass is complete. Commissioner Patton expressed an interest in the recreation facility to which Quality of Life funds are to be allocated. He noted that this winter has demonstrated the need for additional indoor recreation facilities. He expressed concern with regard to seeing the new recreation

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facility move forward and that it reach the most users at the broadest utility possible. He discussed his sincere interest in including racquetball courts in the recreation facility. He referred to comments from the neighborhood meetings, and noted the importance of indoor basketball courts and improved theater space. He noted that the survey responses will depend very much on the questions asked, and suggested that specific questions regarding volleyball and racquetball should be added. He expressed the hope that the design of the recreation facility will have a wide utility. He acknowledged that more facility space is needed, and suggested that the types of activities which can be accommodated should be expanded.

Vice Chairperson DePauw expressed appreciation for Mr. Winston's participation and for his comments about the Parks and Recreation Department staff. She commended the Parks and Recreation Department staff for their efforts in maintaining parks and recreation facilities. She discussed the importance of open space which can accommodate motorcycles and OHVs. She expressed an interest in developing a fenced-in dog park. Commissioner Felesina expressed an interest in addressing the need to extend indoor services to other parts of the City.

CRAC Member Greytak expressed concern with regard to protecting natural areas of the River. He advised that continued impacts, without a good plan, will result in the loss of quality in the natural areas and open space. He noted the discussion of private development of a gymnasium facility, which indicates the lack of facility availability. Mr. Winston explained that the master plan is a policy document which will deal with "big-picture items." He discussed the need to ensure protection of natural areas of the River. He suggested that the CRAC's task will be to keep reviewing the information produced by the consultants to ensure this area is covered. CRAC Vice Chairperson Pugsley expressed the opinion that Mr. Winston has a very good perception of the City's present situation. CRAC Member Pahl advised of his interest in bike riding. He expressed concern with regard to development of safe bike routes, and an interest in "seeing some things change now" rather than years into the future.

OSAC Member Bird expressed appreciation for Chairperson Keeton's comment with regard to correcting the perception that the school population is leveling off. From an open space perspective, she expressed appreciation that the consultants have addressed trails. She expressed the opinion that trails have been somewhat neglected in the community, and concern that people have difficulty accessing open space. She discussed the need to continue to ensure that the City's open space is both protected and made available for the public's enjoyment. OSAC Member Riedl commented that the health of parks and recreation facilities is a good barometer of a community's health. He expressed appreciation for the focus on levels of service, and the hope that this can be a focus of the master plan. He pointed out that levels of service are indicators to which goals and objectives can be applied. He advised that the OSAC has been very concerned about trail and route connectivity for alternative modes of transportation. He suggested that the master plan should identify these areas in order to provide incentives for developers to consider opportunities to fulfill the goals and objectives outlined.

STC Vice Chairperson Roberts advised of having reviewed the current development capacity map and that parks are not indicated. She suggested that as the community changes, the perception of the need for neighborhood parks in certain areas may be altered. She noted the indications of low density and medium density on the development capacity map, and pointed out that the community would change with the density and possibly even with population ages, "and you would suddenly have a desire for park space that you didn't have before because you had a sense of openness that you lose as you develop an area." She inquired as to whether the potential for parks should be indicated on the development capacity map. Mr.

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Winston explained that the development capacity map is an attempt to quantify the City's build-out potential. He acknowledged that parks would be considered in future development, but not reflected on the development capacity map.

In response to a question, Mr. Plemel explained that assumptions were made in developing the development capacity map, one of which is full density will not be available based on zoning. He advised that planned unit development provisions allow for clustering outside of a flood plain to get the required density. He advised that some of the assumptions could certainly be argued; the development capacity map is simply a starting point. In response to a further question, Mr. Plemel explained that the development capacity map is a snapshot of the City's current master plan and existing land uses, showing vacant properties. In consideration of the location of the properties, the input of Clarion and Associates and professional planners on staff at the Planning and Community Development Department, Mr. Plemel advised that the assumptions are fairly accurate. He advised that the numbers reflected are certainly not random; zoning designations have been assigned and the consultants and City staff have experience with planned unit developments. Mr. Plemel reiterated that the development capacity map is not a target, but an attempt at determining growth potential and, based on that, where parks and recreation facilities might be located. [Commissioner Livermore arrived at 6:28 p.m.]

Chairperson Keeton commented that parks and recreation facilities should be considered in redevelopment areas. He noted that Longview Park is receiving more and more use. He suggested neighborhood parks will most likely be more meaningful if the City's younger family population grows.

Mr. Winston expressed appreciation for the comments. He advised that the development capacity map and the consultants' analysis are merely an attempt to "get a handle on where we're at today" and determine possibilities. The next step will be to evaluate possibilities in terms of alternative futures and return with recommendations about land use choices. Mr. Winston reviewed the "Parks Levels of Service" section of the Discussion Issue Sheet. He noted the 13.3 acres of park per 1,000 population and advised that this "is a good number." He explained that "there is no magic number," but the consultants generally try to encourage communities to have at least 10 acres per thousand for overall park numbers. He noted that the City has a strong emphasis on larger community parks, and stated that the Edmonds Sports Complex is "something that most communities would love to have." He noted that Centennial Park has equivalent capacity as it continues to be built out. Mr. Winston advised that neighborhood parks were figured at 1.1 acre per thousand. Most communities have been in the 2-3 acres per thousand on the low end of the scale and 5-6 acres per thousand on the upper end. The number was brought up in the focus group and neighborhood meetings, and the comments received indicated that the community enjoys the ability to walk on a path and look at natural areas, to access nearby natural areas, etc. Mr. Winston noted that the comments were not representative of the entire community, and that the idea will be tested as part of the survey. He inquired as to whether the Committee / Commission members want to continue with the same emphasis placed on sports / athletic field complexes. He advised that children's play is becoming more structured, and noted that the Youth Sports Association is "quite extraordinary in its scope and reach." He suggested this may be something unique to Carson City upon which to build.

Commissioner Livermore discussed funding sources available for parks and recreation facilities over the past ten years, including the general fund and residential construction tax. He noted how residential construction tax funding has been used to "gingerbread" developments rather than to develop neighborhood parks in recent years. He pointed out that the neighborhood park at Silver Oak has never been constructed. He expressed appreciation for Mr. Winston's comments regarding neighborhood parks, and suggested that there may be additional recreation facilities needed in the existing neighborhood parks.

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In response to a question, Commissioner McKenna advised that school facilities can be used by the public at any time the use would not conflict with school district uses. Chairperson Keeton inquired as to whether School District facilities were considered in the neighborhood park statistics. Mr. Winston advised that the issue came up a number of times in the neighborhood and focus group meetings, and that there were various opinions regarding the ability to use School District facilities as neighborhood parks. He advised of concerns expressed by School District officials regarding liability issues. He noted that school districts in other communities struggle to meet educational needs and maintenance of outdoor facilities such as school grounds. There has been greater cooperation between cities and school districts in sharing maintenance and making school grounds into true neighborhood parks. Mr. Winston suggested this is increasingly the direction because of school districts receiving fewer and fewer financial resources. He advised that accessibility to school grounds will have to be considered, and the degree to which they are designated neighborhood parks will have to be determined. Chairperson Keeton observed that there are usually basketball hoops and open fields available on school grounds. Commissioner McKenna advised that School District buildings and facilities are also used for neighborhood meetings, and suggested that they should be used more as neighborhood community centers. He commented that "the more taxpayers' facilities can be used for taxpayers' purposes, the better off we are." Ms. Singer acknowledged that elementary school buildings are still used for the Recreation Division's Latch Key Program.

In response to a question, Chairperson Keeton suggested that if the survey responses indicate no serious feeling of a lack of neighborhood parks, there is no need to construct them. He reiterated that neighborhood parks should be addressed in redevelopment areas. STC Chairperson Bondi commented that maintaining public access to open lands around outlying areas is very important. As the City reaches build out and some of the larger parcels on the edges of town develop, she expressed concern with regard to maintaining public access through those parcels to federal lands around the City. OSAC Member Riedl agreed. He expressed the opinion that the focus should not be on distributing parks evenly throughout the community but on accessibility. In response to a question, he suggested that levels of service, planning conformity between various departments and the zoning master plan, and development incentives should be directed toward maintaining accessibility. Commissioner Livermore pointed out that areas which are considered open space at certain times of the year become snow play areas during the winter. He suggested that neighborhood parks don't always have to have "a slide and a swing" but accessibility to be used at different times of the year. Mr. Winston suggested that perhaps people aren't perceiving a lack of neighborhood parks because of open land given the fact development has not filled in everywhere, even in the heart of the City. Commissioner Curtis discussed the lack of restrooms available in neighborhood parks. Commissioner McKenna suggested developing a procedure for citizens to petition for construction of neighborhood parks.

Mr. Winston provided background information on the trails workshop, and reviewed the Proposed Trail Types handout. He advised of a general consensus from the trails workshop that users were willing to share trails as long as trail etiquette is followed. He further advised that another trails workshop will be scheduled in February to review a draft trails plan. He requested the Commission and Committee members to review the map during the break. [Chairperson Keeton recessed the meeting at 6:56 p.m. and reconvened at 7:26 p.m.]

Mr. Winston solicited comments regarding the trails. He advised of a good discussion about equestrian access to trails, particularly in the southeast quadrant of the City, and a prototype for how equestrian trails can be incorporated into a relatively urban setting. In response to a question, Mr. Winston advised of having been faced with legal issues associated with trails and discussed concerns from a liability standpoint. He noted that the City has "an awful lot of volunteer trails."

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Commissioner Livermore discussed the prototype trail signage program adopted for Riverview Park several months ago. He expressed the opinion that the signage program should be considered for adoption as part of the trails master plan. Commissioner Curtis discussed trail etiquette and referred to the comments that trail users can all work together. She inquired as to the method by which trail etiquette will be communicated to the general public, and suggested exploring, through the survey, the idea that trail users can all work together. She referred to discussions which took place during the focus group meetings that motorized vehicles should have designated areas. Mr. Winston commented that the trails workshop was “a feel good session,” and advised that there was general consensus that everyone should be able to get along with mutual respect. He noted the separation of motorized and non-motorized uses on the Proposed Trail Types handout. He advised that each of the equestrian and motorized groups indicated a preference for separate, general areas. He pointed out general areas on Prison Hill identified for motorized and for equestrian uses, and advised that within the general categorization there would be motorized and non-motorized uses.

OSAC Member Bird noted the intersection of some of the motorized and non-motorized trails depicted on the map. She expressed a concern with regard to continuity for motorized uses. She advised of trail alignments depicted on the map that private property owners have specifically requested to have deleted. Mr. Winston explained that once a general alignment is identified, City staff will verify the same and contact property owners to ensure that the trail alignment is feasible or that an alternative alignment is designated. Commissioner Hoffman noted the value placed on waterways during the trails workshop, including the Carson River, Clear, Ash Canyon, and Kings Canyon Creeks. He advised of receiving comments from Tahoe Rim Trail Association members regarding signage. He inquired as to whether the freeway is the point at which trails and bike planning should begin. Mr. Winston advised that several objectives were identified, one of which was the need to get from a neighborhood onto a trail to a school or a park, and another which was system wide such as to get across the City or loop around the City. Commissioner Livermore discussed the trail system in Sun Valley, Idaho which has rules of the road. He suggested that the City’s trail system should consider adoption of rules of the road and appropriate signage.

In response to a question, Mr. Krahn advised that the City’s trail network is a consideration as well as connectivity issues. He suggested that spending wisely throughout the City and in the foothills connecting trails, “we’ll get the biggest bang for the buck for the users.” He advised that City staff has not yet provided a direction to the consultants. He acknowledged that the survey should address whether connectivity is a primary goal as opposed to building new trails. STC Chairperson Bondiott commented that bicyclists are interested in the most direct route which is often in conflict with transportation. She noted that Arrowhead Drive and Edmonds Drive are reasonable routes for bicyclists and provide direct access to major parks and recreation facilities; however, due to concessions made for industrial traffic on Arrowhead Drive and high speed traffic on Edmonds Drive, these routes are not feasible. Mr. Winston commented that the issue is further complicated by the fact that there are so many various types of trail users, particularly bicyclists. Those bicyclists who are commuting would rather be treated like a car, and those who are riding for enjoyment would rather ride in a painted bike lane instead of a multi-use street.

Commissioner McKenna suggested the difficulty in defining the location of trails for hikers, walkers, and runners. He expressed the opinion that the use will accommodate the trail after the distances are built in. He suggested that bicyclists and equestrians seem to have a fairly good idea of what they want and where they want to go. He discussed the need to be cautious in building “things for people that use their feet” because of changing needs. He advised that bicycles, under Nevada and California law, are considered vehicles. They have the same rights and responsibilities as a car and are allowed the same access to roads. Commissioner McKenna advised of statistics which indicate an increase in injuries resulting from shunting

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bicycles off onto separate trails. OSAC Member Riedl advised that the Regional Transportation Commission is supposed to consider bicycles as a transportation mode. He suggested involving the RTC when considering bicycle paths for transportation purposes. He expressed the opinion that the Parks and Recreation Commission will need to “lean heavily” on the RTC to uphold its requirements to recognize bicycles as a mode of transportation.

Commissioner Livermore discussed the process for relocating the bicycle lanes on South Carson Street to Silver Sage Drive at the time the road was widened from four lanes to six. He advised that manufacturers are very opposed to sharing roads with bicyclists, and discussed the necessity of political decisions in the interest of the community’s economic development. Mr. Krahn advised that once the Board of Supervisors adopts the trails master plan, the City’s Engineering Department staff will “take it to heart.” He expressed the opinion that Senior Projects Manager Robb Fellows is a tremendous advocate for bicyclists and pedestrians, and advised that Mr. Fellows is responsible for overseeing development requirements based on the City’s bicycle plan. He advised that the RTC considered multi-use trail projects for the most recent round of enhancement grant funding. OSAC Member Riedl discussed the importance of understanding that the RTC is required to have a bicycle element in the regional transportation plan. He advised that plan conformity is essential to receiving enhancement funding from the Federal Highway Administration.

With regard to recreation centers, Mr. Winston advised that comments received from the neighborhood and focus group meetings, from City staff, and from Committee / Commission members indicate that indoor facilities will be an area which will reach demand threshold more quickly than other facilities. As a result, the consultants began considering where facilities could be located from a long-range perspective. He advised of a trend in the recreation industry for full-fledged, combination facilities. These facilities take on a very different aspect in that they fulfill needs for every member of the family. Mr. Winston advised of having suggested to City staff to consider how a new recreation facility should be organized in consideration of what the community may be interested in through future years. A workshop with recreation program specialists was held over the last few days during which 15-16 possible sites were considered and tested for feasibility. Mr. Winston suggested that the area of the community center represents a recreation facility already, “it’s just in a number of different buildings.” He noted the aquatic center, the gymnasium, the theater, aerobics, meeting rooms, etc. He suggested considering a strategy whereby the buildings could be tied together with a few in-fill facilities which would create a full-fledged recreation center. He advised that the workshop group will be returning with suggestions and recommendations in the next several weeks to help inform the recreation master plan as well as Question #18 decisions which are more imminent.

In response to a question, Mr. Winston advised that the consultants have found, even where recreation centers such as the Community Center have been constructed, “there are still people who want to be handed a towel.” He advised that public recreation centers become a feeder system to private facilities, and that private facilities cater to a slightly different group. Public recreation centers reach a different category of people who are either intimidated by or can’t afford a private facility. Mr. Winston advised that public recreation centers seem not to compete with private facilities. Chairperson Keeton advised that the workshop discussions included the philosophy that the City will not compete with a functioning, worthwhile private enterprise which is serving the needs of the community. Commissioner McKenna commented that the issue is whether government is providing a necessary function or interfering with private business. He inquired as to when a “series of sports centers, rec centers becomes too many and when is a few just right.”

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STC Chairperson Bondiott expressed an interest in continued communication between the City and the School District and the City and the State, particularly with regard to Stewart Indian School. Mr. Moellendorf advised of workshop discussions regarding immediate, mid-range, and future needs. Consideration has been given to fulfilling immediate and mid-range needs with cooperative agreements with the School District, Western Nevada Community College, and any other possible provider of services and facilities. He agreed with Mr. Winston's comments that public recreation centers are focused more toward family and community benefits rather than specific, individual or adult pursuits. Commissioner Livermore discussed Baseball University south of Johnson Lane.

STC Chairperson Bondiott discussed the dark skies issue, and requested consideration for opportunities to shield lights for new facilities. Commissioner McKenna discussed recreational needs to accommodate such as roller hockey and other alternative sports. He inquired as to how these activities will be focused into the master plan. Mr. Winston advised that the consultants and City staff have considered motocross, in-line hockey, etc. He commented on the difficulty of predicting the popularity of non-traditional sports. He advised of a resurgence of tennis in some communities, and that he anticipates a resurgence of racquetball. He suggested that the "incubator question" is not just how to make room for the next big thing, but how do you encourage people to experiment. He advised that the consultants have suggested to recreation departments in other communities some kind of experimental program where people can nominate an activity, and the department will make an investment in that activity for a year or two to determine its success. He suggested that pioneering new recreational activities doesn't require huge investments to accomplish. He noted that the amount of flexibility which can be built in is limited. Gymnasiums have certain dimensional requirements; however, the workshop participants looked at recreation centers earlier in the day which have built-in flexible space.

Commissioner McKenna discussed the popularity of indoor soccer in the Chico Area Recreation District. He requested consideration of indoor target or sports shooting for the recreation plan, and advised that Carson High School has an indoor shooting range which is used by the ROTC and the shooting club. Mr. Moellendorf commented that recreation can be a trendy industry. The challenge is determining the difference between "flash-in-the-pan" pursuits and recreational activities which have some longevity. It's difficult to make large investments in those areas which only last a short time. Mr. Moellendorf mentioned spinning classes as an example. He noted that building flexibility into a recreation center accommodates experimentation to determine "what works and what doesn't."

Commissioner Herst inquired as to whether any trends were indicated at the National Recreation and Park Association Conference. Mr. Fahrenbruch discussed frisbee golf, and advised that extreme sports seem to be making a comeback and that team sports are plateauing or waning. Mr. Moellendorf agreed that team sports seem to be losing their appeal and individual sports are starting to pick up. Mr. Fahrenbruch advised that indoor soccer and paint ball are other recreational trends. In response to a question, Mr. Moellendorf advised that team sports are waning in all age groups. In response to a question, Mr. Winston described deck tennis.

Mr. Winston advised that the concept of gateways into the City was originally incorporated in the Open Space Master Plan element. He discussed the natural areas on the northern and western ends of town which separate Carson City from adjacent communities. He advised of a variety of proposals presented, particularly for Highway 395 in the northwest quadrant of town. He further advised that gateways will be considered as part of the comprehensive master plan. He emphasized the uniqueness of entering the community "with a vista that you can see below ... natural setting, attractive hills, rock outcrops, and native vegetation," and pointed out this is something that cannot be recaptured once it is squandered or lost. He

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advised of initial proposals which appeared to be receiving advance attention; however, the consultants and City staff have since concluded that gateways should be carefully considered in the context of the comprehensive master plan. He advised of having strong feelings about the matter, and commented that the City's gateways are an "incredible resource ... that other communities just don't have. Those that have lost them, where communities begin to blend together and that sense of the edge of the community has been lost, a sense of character and identity has also been lost and can't be recaptured." Mr. Winston advised that gateways will be discussed as an important part of the comprehensive master plan. Commissioner Livermore agreed that Carson City has a unique identity as Nevada's capital. He expressed an interest in hearing the consultants' insights with regard to the City's gateways.

In response to a question, Mr. Guzman advised that Principal Planner Lee Plemel and Community Development staff have traditionally taken the lead with regard to formulating a vision for the City's gateways. Mr. Guzman advised that the City's gateways were ranked as the fourth priority in the Open Space Master Plan element and are, therefore, not presently a great priority of the Open Space Program. He advised that open space property in the gateway areas would be considered if opportunities were presented in keeping with the Open Space Program priorities. Commissioner McKenna noted the areas contiguous to Carson City to the south, north, and east, and commented on the number of people from contiguous communities which use Carson City parks and recreation facilities. He advised that many communities have placed parks and recreation into a taxing district, "a government that covers the area it serves." He suggested considering, as part of the master plan, the possibility of forming a recreation district which encompasses the area in order to provide for the facilities needed to support future growth in contiguous communities. Mr. Winston advised that Commissioner McKenna's proposal hadn't been discussed or mentioned previously, and would "require a larger vision." Chairperson Keeton suggested considering the concept as a long-range possibility. Mr. Moellendorf agreed that the idea is interesting, and advised that recreation districts can be aligned with school districts or county lines. Recreation districts provide a more regional outlook to recreation services, as well as more stable funding. Typically, an independent governing body or authority oversees the operation. Mr. Moellendorf agreed that the concept merits consideration. Commissioner McKenna advised that the taxpayer is then allowed to pay for and consume government recreation services that they deem necessary and beneficial.

Commissioner Patton commented that Carson City, encompassed by Eagle Valley, has "some pretty natural, indelible, topographical gateways, particularly from the north." He suggested that the northern 395 entrance will not change topographically, nor will the approach from Highway 50 West. He noted that the southern gateway is largely being determined by development in Douglas County. He expressed an interest that the City prepare to be flexible with regard to the eastern gateway because of the "booming development area" in Lyon County. He expressed understanding for the desire to maintain, to the extent possible, a natural, scenic, open area, but expressed concern with regard to not allowing for flexibility. He discussed the V&T Railroad and increased traffic to Lyon County.

Commissioner Livermore referred to Commissioner McKenna's comments, and advised that the Indian Hills General Improvement District has their own parks and recreation department and their own facilities. He suggested the possibility of joint use agreements from an operational standpoint.

Mr. Winston discussed the efforts to include the Hispanic community in the master planning process. He expressed surprise at the magnitude of participation, both currently and projected into the future. In response to a question, Mr. Fahrenbruch advised that there are currently 20 adult Hispanic soccer teams, and that 50+ are anticipated over the next five years. The teams play at the lower Centennial Softball Complex on the softball fields and a small soccer field, and on the large grass area at Mills Park whenever

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possible. Mr. Fahrenbruch advised that the same group is playing indoor soccer at the Pony Express Pavilion. He discussed adult baseball as another large and growing sport. He advised that the current demand is predominantly Hispanic, but expressed the opinion that the sport will include participation from the entire community as interest has been expressed. He discussed the need to consider multi-use fields, as the Centennial Sports Complex is developed, in order to accommodate adult soccer, adult baseball, and adult softball. Mr. Winston advised that artificial turf is a growing trend in some parts of the country. It allows much more intensive use of fields without rejuvenation or irrigation requirements. Mr. Winston noted the installation expense, but advised that the amortization is in the vicinity of 6-7 years saved in maintenance costs. Mr. Fahrenbruch agreed, and noted that the quality of artificial turf has improved over the years. Commissioner Livermore advised of the need to utilize treated effluent for irrigation.

(1-2823) Beth Scott, President of the Equestrian Alliance, expressed appreciation for the attention given to equestrian trails and access issues. She expressed the opinion that more attention should be given to mothers with young children who depend a great deal on neighborhood parks and recreation facilities. She advised that park restrooms are very important. She encouraged continued attention to neighborhood parks in spite of the seeming lack of demand in the comments received from the neighborhood and focus group meetings.

Commissioner McKenna commented that play areas for toddlers and small children should also be considered, in addition to security issues. In response to a comment, Mr. Fahrenbruch advised that Sunset Park has play equipment specifically geared toward toddlers. Other parks have playground equipment appropriate for children ages 5-12. Each park is as diverse as possible to provide for different age groups. Mr. Fahrenbruch advised that Parks staff has always been supportive of park restrooms; however, park designs which include restrooms are almost never approved. He expressed the hope that the master plan will address development of a policy regarding park restrooms. He suggested that the policy could be based on park size or demographics. He advised that Parks staff fought very hard to include a restroom facility at Long Ranch Park; however, the residents succeeded in having the restroom facility deleted from the design. He reiterated the need to develop criteria, as part of the master plan, to create a policy with regard to park restrooms. In response to a question, Mr. Fahrenbruch explained how the residents were successful in having the restroom facility deleted from the Long Ranch Park design. Chairperson Keeton suggested agendaizing discussion of such a policy for a future Commission meeting.

Commissioner McKenna suggested including a volunteer component to the Parks, Recreation, and Trails Master Plan. He commented that involving volunteers, such as Boy Scouts, senior groups, etc. becomes a recreation activity in and of itself. CRAC Member Greytak discussed the importance of parking and access to neighborhood parks. Vice Chairperson DePauw suggested including park restrooms as a question on the opinion survey. Commissioner Curtis expressed the hope that the final master plan will include detail regarding the economic benefits of recreation.

In response to a question, Mr. Krahn expressed support for volunteerism, and discussed the various Eagle Scout projects done over the years, the Community Clean-Up Trailer, the kiosk installed by the Carson City Leadership Class at the end of Kings Canyon Road, numerous clean up projects on open space property, etc. He advised that Parks staff makes every effort to accommodate volunteer groups. He discussed the Parks and Recreation Department Use Agreements with various groups which operate City-owned recreation facilities throughout the community. He expressed the opinion that community recreational opportunities would be severely limited without volunteer leadership. In response to a question, Mr. Fahrenbruch discussed the tour provided by Parks staff of City-owned recreation facilities run by volunteers and non-profit corporations as part of the National Recreation and Parks Association Conference. He

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advised that most of the tour participants “had never heard of such a thing” and were “truly amazed” at all the facilities and programs operated by volunteers. Commissioner Herst pointed out that the discussion indicated volunteerism as a “key element to recreation.” Commissioner Livermore discussed the adopt-a-park program, and suggested becoming more proactive in recruiting sponsors. Commissioner McKenna suggested hiring or designating a Parks and Recreation Department volunteer coordinator, and discussed the resources and community involvement represented by volunteerism.

3-C. DISCUSSION ONLY REGARDING THE PARKS, RECREATION, AND TRAILS MASTER PLAN OPINION SURVEY (1-3229) - Mr. Winston provided an overview of the survey and its purpose. Commissioner Livermore suggested reviewing the City surveys published over the last few years as a resource for the subject survey. Mr. Winston explained that the survey questions are posed in consideration of how the answers provided will be used, i.e., “is there some meaningful interpretation to be provided from the answer to the question.” He reviewed specific questions, and advised that some of them will be asked in more than one way in order to cross-reference the responses. Discussion took place regarding suggestions for revision and addition to the survey. Mr. Winston and Mr. Krahn responded to questions regarding the method by which the survey will be distributed in order to receive statistically valid responses. Mr. Winston acknowledged that the survey will include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. In response to a question, he advised of discussions with regard to distributing a Spanish version of the survey through the contacts established in the Hispanic community, and keeping the responses separate as indicators. Additional discussion took place regarding suggested additions and revisions to the survey.

(2-0105) In response to a question, Mr. Winston discussed problems associated with telephone surveys. In response to a further question, he advised that an on-line survey would not be statistically valid. Mr. Winston anticipates that the survey will be mailed in February. He advised that a revised draft will be presented to the Commission prior to the survey being mailed. Chairperson Keeton called for additional public comment and, when none was forthcoming, recessed the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

3-D. DISCUSSION ONLY REGARDING THE USE OF MOTORIZED “POCKET BIKES” AND SCOOTERS AT PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES (2-0367) - Vice Chairperson DePauw provided background information on her interest in and concerns regarding this item. She inquired as to whether the City has an obligation to provide a venue for motorized pocket bikes and scooters. Mr. Moellendorf advised of two issues associated with motorized scooters and pocket bikes; one is from a transportation standpoint and the other is how they affect parks and recreation facilities. He discussed past experience in that Green River, Wyoming “seemed to be overrun” with motorized scooters and pocket bikes. He advised of a public outcry in Green River, and concerns of pedestrians being “run down from behind,” neighborhood noise nuisance, traffic and safety concerns, etc. The City of Green River addressed the situation by requiring motorized scooter and pocket bike operators to comply with traffic laws. Violators were subject to arrest for illegal operation of a motorized vehicle. The City of Green River termed the vehicles as “motorized toys.”

In response to Vice Chairperson DePauw’s question with regard to the City’s obligation to serve these recreational vehicles, Mr. Moellendorf advised that the matter had not been raised in any of the neighborhood, focus group, or master plan meetings. He expressed the opinion that the issue in Carson City is “nowhere near the magnitude” he experienced in Green River. He advised of not having been aware of the problem until Vice Chairperson DePauw raised it at the last meeting. He requested Mr. Fahrenbruch to research the matter to determine any past problems. He expressed the opinion that the matter should be

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addressed as a law enforcement and transportation issue if there are problems in the streets, on the sidewalks, and in public thoroughfares. He advised that staff has not addressed whether some type of facility should be provided.

Vice Chairperson DePauw expressed concern with regard to areas designated for motorcycle and OHV use, such as Prison Hill. In response to a question, Mr. Moellendorf advised that where City ordinances apply, "it becomes a law enforcement issue." Mr. Fahrenbruch reviewed the August 30, 2004 memorandum from Chief Deputy Steve Schuette included in the agenda materials. He advised that the vehicles would be prohibited from Parks and Recreation Department facilities, even if the Sheriff and the District Attorney hadn't categorized them as motor vehicles, pursuant to Parks and Recreation Department policies with regard to motorized vehicles in parks.

In response to a question regarding parking lots at Parks and Recreation Department facilities, Mr. Fahrenbruch advised that motorized scooters and pocket bikes would be treated the same as any other motor vehicle. He noted that Parks staff will abide by the provisions of the August 30th memo. In response to a question, Mr. Fahrenbruch clarified that motorized vehicles are not allowed within the boundaries of a City park. Commissioner Livermore related comments and concerns expressed by Sheriff Furlong and Supervisor Aldean.

(2-0628) Dave Morgan advised that the Sheriff's and District Attorney's interpretation is one which has been evolving at the State level, and clearly reflects the enforcement policies of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department.

Mr. Fahrenbruch read into the record a Carson City Municipal Code section, which provides for motor vehicles to only be operated in areas designated for their use. In addition, there are two pages of the CCMC enforced by the Parks and Recreation Department which are not posted at parks and recreation facilities. Chairperson Keeton discussed the need for Parks staff to inform the local newspapers of the applicable City ordinances as well as Parks Department policies. Commissioner Livermore suggested that the issue could represent an opportunity for private enterprise. Chairperson Keeton expressed the opinion that the City should not be obligated to provide a facility for motorized scooters and pocket bikes. Discussion took place with regard to the same. Chairperson Keeton called for additional public comment; however, none was provided.

4. NON-ACTION ITEMS:

STATUS REPORT ON QUESTION #18, RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION TAX, AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS (2-0720) - None.

STATUS REPORT ON UPDATE OF THE PARKS, RECREATION, AND TRAILS ELEMENT TO THE MASTER PLAN (2-0723) - Previously covered.

STATUS REPORT ON STATEWIDE BALLOT QUESTION #1 PROGRAM, GRANT APPLICATIONS, AND PROJECTS (2-0725) - None.

STATUS REPORTS AND COMMENTS FROM STAFF (2-0728) - Mr. Moellendorf, Mr. Fahrenbruch, and Mr. Krahn reviewed the tentative agenda for the next Commission meeting.

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STATUS REPORTS AND COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS (2-0811) - Commissioner Livermore advised that he would be presenting, at a future meeting, a 360-degree aerial photograph of the Carson-Tahoe Regional Medical Center campus. In response to a question, Mr. Krahn advised that the plant list for the Eagle Creek Detention Park at the Carson-Tahoe Regional Medical Center campus has not yet been developed.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS (2-0842) - Vice Chairperson DePauw requested staff to agendaize discussion of the Silver Oak neighborhood park. Commissioner Curtis requested staff to agendaize discussion regarding "internal processes."

5. ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT (2-0917) - Commissioner Herst moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Felesina seconded the motion. Motion carried 9-0.

The Minutes of the January 5, 2005 meeting of the Carson City Parks and Recreation Commission are so approved this 1st day of February, 2005.

THOMAS N. KEETON, Chair