

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Carson City Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC)
Monday, August 16, 2021 • 5:30 PM
Community Center Robert “Bob” Crowell Board Room
851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada

Committee Members

Chair – Alan Welch
Member – Susan Martinovich
Member – Mary Berge
Member – Kristine Currie

Vice Chair – Donna Inversin
Member – Mark Kimbrough
Member Robert Ghiglieri

Staff

Jennifer Budge, Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Director
Lyndsey Boyer, Open Space Manager
Ben Johnson, Deputy District Attorney
Gregg Berggren, Trails Coordinator
David Navarro, Parks Operations Superintendent
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.

All approved meeting minutes are available on www.CarsonCity.org/minutes.

1. CALL TO ORDER

(5:31:42) – Chairperson Welch called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

(5:31:56) – Roll was called, and a quorum was present.

Attendee Name	Status	Arrived
Chairperson Alan Welch	Present	
Vice Chair Donna Inversin	Present	
Member Susan Martinovich	Absent	
Member Mark Kimbrough	Present	
Member Mary Berge	Present	
Member Robert Ghiglieri	Present	5:55 p.m.
Member Kristine Currie	Present	

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

(5:32:15) – Chairperson Welch indicated that public comments would be limited to three minutes before entertaining public comments. Dave Bentel, appearing via phone call, introduced himself and commented about his “disgust with the City’s apparent attempt to bypass the Carson City Code of Ordinances Title 12 Water, Sewerage and Drainage, Chapter 12.18.” He referenced the Carson City Municipal Code (CCMC) Section 12.18.040, “Permit Application” and “Application Data Required” and added that “if the application had been correctly submitted and a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan had been developed, the existing blocked culvert beneath Golden Eagle Lane would have been correctly identified as a crucial item for either cleaning out or replacing.” Mr. Bentel indicated that Golden Eagle Lane residents have to regrade the eroded and potholed section above the culvert “to allow some semblance of safety,” and he stated that it was time for the City to “accept responsibility for maintenance of the paved section of the roadway between the culvert and the mailbox cluster,” as the City was “insisting on the use of the staging area for [off-highway vehicle] (OHV) access to Prison Hill.”

(5:38:52) – Dan Greytak, appearing via phone call, introduced himself as a City resident and noted that his comment was in regards to Item 7. He stated that he was on the Carson River Advisory Committee when the Open Space Program acquired properties, and he mentioned that habitat protection and preservation was one of the major items that the Carson River Advisory Committee discussed. He did not believe that allowing dogs on open space would provide those habitats with protection, nor would doing so be good for wildlife, watershed, or the natural conditions on the open space properties, which should be conserved. He also did not believe dogs should be allowed in the Carson River accept perhaps in a designated spot or in Riverview Park, which he stated could be “our sacrifice area where we take dogs,” and he was uncertain if on-leash dogs should be on the rest of the trails in the river corridor. Mr. Greytak suggested allowing dogs on Prison Hill and the areas on the west side “where they can still be controlled.”

(5:40:41) – Lyndsey Boyer acknowledged the public comment received via email from Lynn Zonge related to Item 7, attached and labeled as “Exhibit A.”

4. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: APPROVAL OF MINUTES: OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION JOINT MEETING OF 6/21/2021.

(5:41:21) – Chairperson Welch introduced the item and entertained comments, corrections, and/or a motion. Vice Chairperson Inversin pointed out that “care squared” should be corrected to “Carriage Square” in the second paragraph of page #4 as well as the misspelling of her name on the second-to-last paragraph on page #12.

(5:42:35) – MOTION: Member Kimbrough moved to approve the June 21, 2021 joint meeting minutes as corrected.

RESULT:	APPROVED (5-0-0)
MOVER:	Kimbrough
SECONDER:	Inversin
AYES:	Welch, Inversin, Kimbrough, Berge, Currie
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None
ABSENT:	Martinovich, Ghiglieri

5. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY: PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION REGARDING NEVADA OPEN MEETING LAW, ETHICS IN GOVERNMENT AND CARSON CITY BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS POLICY REVIEW.

(5:42:50) – Chairperson Welch introduced the item. Mr. Johnson presented on the Nevada Open Meeting Law (OML), during which he referenced the accompanying documents that are incorporated into the record as well as showed a video produced by the Carson City District Attorney’s Office. He also responded to clarifying questions.

6. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY: DISCUSSION REGARDING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF QUALITY-OF-LIFE AND ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OPEN SPACE PROGRAM.

(6:11:12) – Chairperson Welch introduced the item. Ms. Boyer and Ms. Budge referenced the Staff Report and accompanying attachment, both of which are incorporated into the record.

(6:17:04) – Member Kimbrough believed that “the world needs to know what this program has done for this community because it’s huge,” and he commented that it was really exciting that there would be a celebration for the 25th anniversary of the Quality-of-Life Initiative (QOLI) and establishment of the Open Space Program because the public needs to understand what the benefit of the QOLI is. Member Currie agreed with Member Kimbrough and remarked about the “great list of activities” that the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Staff had planned. She asked about the Department reaching out to the local newspapers about the celebration and mentioned a reporter with the Nevada Appeal who may be a good person to contact. Ms. Budge confirmed that there would be a “huge media campaign” and some public interest stories with Carson Now and the Nevada Appeal. Chairperson Welch mentioned that the local radio station does public service announcements (PSAs).

(6:19:25) – Vice Chairperson Inversin wished to have a banner or plaque at each facility, park, [open space, and trail] or something on the kiosks with the amount of money used from the QOLI for that property because many people are not aware of what the QOLI is. Ms. Budge believed Vice Chairperson Inversin’s suggestion was a great idea and noted that it was required for any location funded by the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) to have a sign posted with a logo that indicates that it was partially funded by the LWCF, which the Department could “mirror.” She mentioned that she was hesitant about using dollar amounts, however.

(6:22:48) – Member Ghiglieri suggested trying to get a magazine, such as *Travel Nevada*, to publish an article about what the Department did for the celebration to increase participation.

7. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY: DISCUSSION REGARDING RECOMMENDATIONS TO STAFF CONCERNING A DOG USE POLICY OR ORDINANCE FOR CARSON CITY PARKS AND OPEN SPACE AREAS, INCLUDING A REVIEW OF DRAFT DOG RULES AND REGULATIONS POLICY GUIDELINES.

(6:23:08) – Chairperson Welch introduced the item. My. Boyer and Ms. Budge referenced the Staff Report and the accompanying documents, all of which are incorporated into the record. Ms. Boyer noted that Member Kimbrough had been “super helpful” by helping Staff compile, evaluate, and summarize the survey data so the Members could see where a lot of the public’s opinions aligned. Ms. Boyer and Ms. Budge guided discussion on the matter as well as responded to clarifying questions.

(6:31:05) – Vice Chairperson Inversin commented that Staff had done a great job so far and recommended including that Centennial Park is also a trailhead for trails that dogs use. She also pointed out that many people are not aware of Pioneer or Empire Cemeteries or where they are located. In response to Vice Chairperson Inversin’s question, Ms. Boyer indicated that the Carson River was “probably the biggest question mark” in terms

of a dog use policy due to there being so much land to consider, and she believed it was important to develop consistency across the entire river corridor if possible. Vice Chairperson Inversin believed that the dogs should be kept out of the water of the Carson River to protect wildlife as well as the creeks that feed into the river in order to preserve the water quality. She was uncertain about the ability to regulate dog use at Riverview Park due to its popularity with people that bring their dogs, though she believed that it should be closed during nesting season. Ms. Boyer clarified that dogs were required to be on leash on the Buzzy's Ranch Trail and were not prohibited. Vice Chairperson Inversin clarified that she agreed with a minimum of on-leash dog use and seasonal closure to dogs for use of the Carson River corridor.

(6:37:17) – Member Berge was in favor of using “a hybrid method,” including seasonal closures to dogs, with the Carson River corridor because she did not wish “to put [the Carson City Park Rangers] into a situation where they’re going to have to be policing this because it’s a no-win situation, and people have been walking their dogs down there, like [Vice Chairperson Inversin] said, really since humans have lived here.” She believed that law enforcement would need to be involved “down there all the time” to eliminate dogs in Riverview Park. She also believed that “you have to be very flexible when you’re talking about dogs” and that dogs should be allowed on leash on the Buzzy’s Ranch Trail. Chairperson Welch suggested an on-leash dog policy rather than prohibition of dogs if the concern was adjacent ponds with nesting along some trails so people would be able to go from one area to another where dogs might be permitted off leash. He believed that it would be another enforcement challenge to prohibit dogs from creeks due to current heavy dog use. Member Currie agreed with using a hybrid policy and referenced the survey data indicating that on-leash dog use in sensitive areas was supported by 76 percent of those that responded. She stated that the survey data could be publicized and used as a “lead-in” for the adoption of a hybrid policy system. Member Ghiglieri was also in favor of the hybrid policy, as he did not believe removing dogs completely during nesting season would be the best approach logically. He suggested starting out with an on-leash requirement initially and continuing with that policy if it is satisfactory to the needs of wildlife, as doing so would add justification for removal of dogs in those areas if the policy is inadequate. He also pointed out that the seasonal restrictions are from April through October, which is not a short period of time, and people “are not going to be very happy” when they have been using these trails for 20 to 30 years. Member Berge inquired about whether special signs could be created for the nesting seasons that could be put up seasonally on the trails.

(6:45:15) – Member Kimbrough stated that there was a lot of support for closures from people, and he commented that the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Department would need to be specific about closing for nesting to show “how you came up with the idea that there’s a nesting area here or not.” He remarked about how difficult it would be to keep dogs on leash near water, though many people know that water typically has wildlife. He also commented that the Committee needs to be prepared to support the Staff that write the final Dog Rules and Regulations Policy if they get negative feedback from the public about who made the decisions outlined in the policy.

(4:48:33) – Ms. Budge requested comments and recommendations from the Members to share with the Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) about the tributaries that run through such parks as Long Ranch Park and Mills Park. Member Kimbrough commented that it would be easier to explain to people that dogs must be on leash at all riparian areas.

(6:49:32) – Member Berge clarified that she believed dogs should be on leash during the closed portions rather than eliminated. She remarked about why parks would have large fields in parks to chase balls and Frisbees if

dogs were required to be on a leash, and she did not believe dogs could only be on leash at those parks. Ms. Budge indicated that, in a three-month period, there have been 180 contacts concerning dogs in the one park that prohibits dogs. She mentioned that there is essentially “an imaginary line” at Long Ranch Park because half of the park requires dogs to be on leash while the other half only requires dogs to be under voice control, and Ms. Budge pointed out that there are also still wildlife and busy streets. She acknowledged that change can be difficult for people and, as a dog owner herself, understood that dogs are like children to dog owners; however, she also indicated that there was a concern, as two of her children have been bitten by off-leash dogs at a park several times, and some people do not mind having dogs come up to them on trails while others “are terrified.”

(6:51:48) – Member Ghiglieri recommended looking into LWCF funds for wildlife protective fences to be built around higher-priority primary habitats. Ms. Boyer stated that Staff have reached out to the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) for some guidance from some of its Habitat Biologists.

(6:52:44) – Vice Chairperson Inversin believed that any park with a creek flowing through it should require dogs on leash and recounted an anecdote of a serious incident at Long Ranch Park involving a dog in the off-leash area crossing over into the on-leash area and injuring a small dog. She commented that the current conditions at Long Ranch Park were “set up to fail,” and she believed that the park should require dogs on leash throughout.

(6:54:17) – Ms. Boyer stated that Staff were considering full prohibition of dogs at the Kings Canyon Waterfall Trail to preserve the water quality, as the inlet below the Kings Canyon Waterfall is directly where water is taken to go into the community’s water treatment facility. She noted that there is consensus from City staff and the State Resource Specialists that prohibition of dogs in that location would likely be best. She mentioned that Staff have been considering requiring dogs on leash on paved trails because they are typically in town and crossing through intersections and busy streets, and she noted that feedback was needed on the different types of trails, including the new Prison Hill trail. Chairperson Welch believed that Staff should “back away” from adding in specifics regarding such factors as the surfaces of the trails, as it was going to be difficult enough with managing which locations were going to allow on-leash and off-leash dog use or prohibit dog use altogether, and he commented that incorporating an additional complication was “going down the road of getting yourself wrapped around the axel.” Vice Chairperson Inversin was in favor of requiring dogs on leash for any improved hard-surfaced, 12-feet-wide trail primarily because of more small, young children using these trails. Member Ghiglieri agreed with Vice Chairperson Inversin and added that, because of such trails as the Virginia and Truckee (V&T) Trail that eventually turns into a dirt path and multiple single tracks, using a certain distance in the policy would add a “buffer zone” between the single tracks and getting onto the developed trail systems. Member Kimbrough was in favor of giving people every opportunity for off-leash dog use “once you’ve gone beyond what we’re trying to protect,” and he referenced the survey data and suggested educating those who violate the policy in place by requiring them to attend a course with the Nevada Humane Society to avoid being issued a citation.

(7:04:48) – Member Berge requested organizing “Trail Days,” during which “dog people” could educate people at the trailheads regarding what is expected of them after the Dog Rules and Regulations Policy has been established. Member Currie was in favor of Member Berge’s idea. She suggested starting with steps that the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Department could likely achieve while monitoring the process and leaving the option to respond, adjust, and develop further protections.

(7:10:59) – Regarding areas to consider for on-leash dog use or prohibition of dogs (question #5 of Attachment 1), Member Kimbrough stated that “if you put ‘dogs on leash at all times,’ there is no exceptions, and you don’t

have to look for them.” He recommended “keeping it simple” with allowing off-leash dog use on trails 200 feet beyond the trailhead, especially those on the west side because those trails typically move into public land. Member Ghiglieri recommended having temporary closures for all dogs on active ranching/grazing areas for sheep, as he believed Staff could display laminated flyers at each trailhead indicating that “this area is closed when sheep are visible.” Vice Chairperson Inversin agreed with Member Ghiglieri’s recommendation and pointed out that the cattle grazing on the east side of the City are “pretty much” enclosed by improved trails, and requiring dogs to be on a leash while using improved trails or multiuse paths would eliminate the issue with the grazing cattle. Member Ghiglieri believed it was important to include why the sheep grazing was happening and the benefits for the lands around the City. Chairperson Welch added that there could be a regulation made that states that dogs must be on leash while the signs could encourage dog owners to not bring their dogs at all.

(7:20:49) – Ms. Budge informed the Members that Staff have been doing outreach with the Nevada Humane Society, as the Nevada Humane Society has a contract with the City for Animal Control Officers, and Staff were trying to coordinate with them. She added that Staff have discussed with the District Attorney’s Office about coordinating the timing with an update for the animal ordinances with the parks and open space ordinances because of there being “overlap.” She also mentioned that Staff had been informed that the best practice was for a City the size of Carson City to establish a leash law, which Carson City does not currently have in place.

(7:23:00) – Member Kimbrough pointed out that there needed to be consideration for trails that go through open space.

8. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT FOR THE HORSECREEK RANCH CONSERVATION EASEMENT FOR 2020.

(7:24:13) – Chairperson Welch introduced the item. Ms. Boyer presented the Staff Report and the accompanying documents, all of which are incorporated into the record, and responded to clarifying questions.

(7:32:17) – In response to Member Ghiglieri’s question, Ms. Boyer believed that Mr. Hochuli’s and Mr. Cosker’s intention was to go below ground for utilities, though she was uncertain if this was specified in the Conservation Easement. Ms. Boyer stated that she would follow up with the Committee on questions concerning utilities.

(7:34:15) – MOTION: Chairperson Welch referenced the proposed motion to approve the annual monitoring report as presented.

RESULT:	APPROVED (6-0-0)
MOVER:	Welch
SECONDER:	Kimbrough
AYES:	Welch, Inversin, Kimbrough, Berge, Ghiglieri, Currie
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None
ABSENT:	Martinovich

9. STAFF UPDATES - DISCUSSION ONLY

9A. TRAILS COORDINATOR REPORT: ACTIVITIES RELATED TO TRAIL PROJECTS MANAGED BY THE OPEN SPACE DIVISION, INCLUDING UPDATES ON THE CAPITAL TO TAHOE

AND LINCOLN BYPASS TRAILS, ASH CANYON TRAILS, KINGS CANYON TRAILHEAD, PRISON HILL RECREATION AREA, NATIONAL TRAILS DAY, AND THE OPEN SPACE SUMMER RECREATION INTERN.

(7:34:46) – Chairperson Welch introduced the item. Mr. Berggren presented his report, which is incorporated into the record, and responded to clarifying questions.

(7:48:20) – Chairperson Welch commented that he was excited about what would be happening with the trails.

(7:48:49) – Member Berge echoed Chairperson Welch’s comment, thanked Mr. Berggren, and complimented Mr. Berggren and those who were also involved with the work for the trails.

(7:51:20) – Member Kimbrough thanked Mr. Berggren for all of his work on trails and remarked that “Carson City is very fortunate to have this man take over the trail program.” Vice Chairperson Inversin referred to Mr. Berggren as “a wonderful asset” and noted how he has assisted with the V&T Trail.

9B. OPEN SPACE MANAGER REPORT: ACTIVITIES RELATED TO PROJECTS MANAGED BY THE OPEN SPACE DIVISION, INCLUDING UPDATES WITHIN THE CARSON RIVER CORRIDOR.

(7:54:21) – Chairperson Welch introduced the item. Ms. Boyer presented the report, which is incorporated into the record, and noted that she had worked on the report with the new Senior Natural Resource Specialist, Georgia Vasey. Ms. Boyer and Ms. Budge also responded to clarifying questions.

(8:10:39) – Member Ghiglieri stated that his job consists of transporting materials via helicopter over large areas and offered to provide information for Ms. Boyer. He commented that he could see a concern with “throwing a lot of money at something” when seeding in such areas as Prison Hill, as this may not be effective, and he recommended having Staff assess the Prison Hill area for natural revegetation first to combat the noxious weeds since there has been moisture in that area.

(8:26:10) – Chairperson Welch proposed that Members take on tasks based on their individual interests while Staff identifies tasks that Members could assist with.

9C. DIRECTOR’S REPORT: UPDATES REGARDING THE DEPARTMENT’S PROJECTS, PROGRAMS, FACILITIES, AND EVENTS; GRANTS; LEGISLATIVE UPDATE; SEASONAL EMPLOYEE SHORTAGE AND STATUS OF RECRUITMENT FOR VACANT POSITIONS; BUDGET UPDATE INCLUDING AMERICAN RECOVERY PLAN ACT FUNDING; BOARD DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP IN SEPTEMBER AND BOARD OF SUPERVISOR’S ACTION ITEMS.

(8:26:55) – Chairperson Welch introduced the item. Ms. Budge thanked and complimented Ms. Boyer and Mr. Berggren and presented her report, which included referencing Late Material incorporated into the record along with the 2021 Carson City Board of Supervisors Items. She also responded to clarifying questions.

10. MEMBERS’ ANNOUNCEMENTS

(8:33:16) – Vice Chairperson Inversin informed the Committee that 25 signs were printed for the V&T Trail, which would go along Carson Street and Washington Street, and she indicated that arrows would also be made for the trail. She added that the V&T Trail signs would be placed from Carson River to Combs Canyon, and the V&T Trail

map would be published on the national Rails-to-Trails Conservancy website (www.railstotrails.org). Vice Chairperson Inversin mentioned that Muscle Powered officially have earned nonprofit status with the State and had submitted the application for federal nonprofit status, with which Vice Chairperson Inversin can apply for a grant from NV Energy for signage for the trail from the Carson River to the Truckee River.

11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – DISCUSSION ONLY

(8:32:58) – Chairperson Welch introduced the item and entertained requests for future agenda items; however, none were forthcoming.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS

(8:37:23) – Chairperson Welch entertained public comments. Robyn Orloff, appearing via phone call, introduced herself and was concerned about compliance issues for permits for the West Basin area of Prison Hill, as the area is highly erosive with seven ephemeral streams on it. She stated that the United States Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) typically would not put a rock crawler route up an ephemeral stream; however, rock crawler routes were designated for the washes in the West Basin area. She referenced CMCC Chapter 13.06 and was surprised that no one on the Committee saw any “red flags” with the West Basin, as six-foot-wide rock crawlers would destroy the washes, which are considered a natural resource. Ms. Orloff was concerned about the City inviting cross-country riding in the Prison Hill open areas, despite the fire restriction by the Carson City Fire Department for riding off designated roads and trails, and she indicated that there have not been any monitoring studies. She had expected that the Prison Hill OHV area would be developed in keeping with the rest of the open space Conservation Easement considerations. She pointed out that, according to the Horsecreek Ranch Conservation Easement, the City is the owner, the BLM is supposed to be the holder, and an annual field study was federally mandated, though one had not been done other than during 2017 and 2018.

13. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: TO ADJOURN

(8:43:44) – MOTION: Chairperson Welch adjourned the meeting at 8:43 p.m.

The Minutes of the August 16, 2021 Carson City Open Space Advisory Committee meeting are so approved this 18th day of October 2021.

EXHIBIT A

From: Lynn Zonge <lynnzonge3@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 16, 2021 11:19 AM
To: Public Comment; Lyndsey Boyer; Gregg Berggren
Subject: Up coming meeting discussion regarding dogs in our watershed

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

Hello,
I am a resident in Carson City, a dog lover, and a consumer of the wonderful drinking water supplied by Carson City.
Sorry I cannot attend the meeting this Thursday.

I strongly urge the Open Space Advisory Committee and the Parks and Recreation Commission to not allow dogs in our watersheds that provide source water for our community.
You can find a map of our source water protection areas here:
<https://www.rci-nv.com/photos/2017/01/Carson-CSWPP.pdf>
The map is on PDF page 14. Look at Watershed 1 and Watershed 2

While the source water protection watershed areas are quite a large, as a minimum, the watershed upstream of our intake structure at North Kings Canyon should be off limits to dogs. Carson city is expending a considerable effort in keeping fecal matter out of the North Canyon watershed, and requesting that no dogs are allowed in that area is a small request considering the vast open spaces where dogs are allowed and where fecal matter would not be a big impact to our sources drinking water.

Other communities, such as Salt Lake City, have their vast watersheds that are sources of their drinking water off limits to dogs. While this is not popular, it is a very good protection of their drinking water sources and helps their citizenry to think about where their drinking water comes from.

I drink Carson City tap water. When my friends visit, they often say how good our water tastes. I'd like to keep it that way.

Happy to provide more comment if needed

Best

Lynn Zonge

775-720-5872

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When words are both true and kind, they can change the world. Buddha
Be the change you want to see in the world. Mahatma Gandhi