

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Carson City Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC)
Monday, October 18, 2021 ● 5:30 PM
Community Center Robert “Bob” Crowell Board Room
851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada

Committee Members

Chair – Alan Welch	Vice Chair – Donna Inversin
Member – Susan Martinovich	Member – Mark Kimbrough
Member – Mary Berge	Member – Robert Ghiglieri
Member – Kristine Currie	

Staff

Jennifer Budge, Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Director
Lyndsey Boyer, Open Space Manager
Ben Johnson, Deputy District Attorney
Gregg Berggren, Trails Coordinator
Georgia Vasey, Senior Natural Resource Specialist
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

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

2. ROLL CALL & DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

(5:30:40) – Roll was called, and a quorum was present.

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

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

(5:30:57) – Chairperson Welch entertained public comments; however, none were forthcoming.

4. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: APPROVAL OF MINUTES – OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF AUGUST 16, 2021.

(5:31:22) – Chairperson Welch introduced the item and entertained comments, corrections, and/or a motion.

(5:31:35) – MOTION: Member Kimbrough moved to approve the August 16, 2021 meeting minutes as presented. Member Martinovich abstained from voting, as she was absent during the August 16, 2021 meeting.

RESULT:	APPROVED (5-0-1)
MOVER:	Kimbrough
SECONDER:	Currie
AYES:	Welch, Kimbrough, Berge, Ghiglieri, Currie
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	Martinovich
ABSENT:	Inversin

5. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY: PRESENTATION AND UPDATES FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE SILVER SADDLE RANCH (FOSSR) REGARDING THE ORGANIZATION AND ACTIVITIES FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2021.

(5:31:56) – Chairperson Welch introduced the item, and Ms. Boyer introduced Dave Dineen from the Friends of the Silver Saddle Ranch (FOSSR) Board of Directors. Mr. Dineen reported the following updates:

- The FOSSR worked on the kiosk panels at the Silver Saddle Ranch.
- The FOSSR helped with the interpretive panels at Buzzy’s Ranch.
- The Jazz and Beyond Festival, which was held at the Silver Saddle Ranch, did “really pretty well, considering it was really smokey and hot,” and there were no wagon rides due to the wildfire smoke.
- Craig [Swope], a FOSSR Board of Directors member, has been doing a lot of the historical tours, which Mr. Dineen noted have been really popular, though the September tour was canceled due to the wildfire smoke.
- The FOSSR would be working with Ms. Boyer and the rest of Staff on the Quality-of-Life Initiative Celebration at the end of the month, and there would be some wagon rides on that day.
- The FOSSR would be working on the Homestead Holidays event, for which the FOSSR had a meeting already.
- The FOSSR was looking into re-siding the house at the Silver Saddle Ranch as well as installing some irrigation around the house.

(5:34:45) – Chairperson Welch thanked Mr. Dineen for all of his work and indicated that the Committee appreciated all of the work from the FOSSR. He entertained Member questions and comments, and Mr. Dineen responded to clarifying questions. Member Kimbrough commented that the FOSSR was doing a good job.

6. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY: DISCUSSION REGARDING THE POTENTIAL OLD WOODS RANCH CONSERVATION EASEMENT ACQUISITION AND THE FOREST LEGACY GRANT.

(5:36:52) – Chairperson Welch introduced the item. Ms. Boyer referenced the Staff Report and the accompanying attachments, all of which are incorporated into the record.

(5:43:38) – Ms. Boyer entertained Member questions, and she and Mr. Berggren responded to clarifying questions. In response to Member Martinovich’s question, Ms. Boyer confirmed that the Carson City Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Department had the approximately \$50,000 available for the 25 percent match for the Old Woods Ranch conservation easement. Mr. Berggren stated that the ultimate goal for land acquisition is to eventually have a trail that travels from northern Washoe County to Alpine County.

(5:49:44) – In response to Chairperson Welch’s question, Mr. Berggren indicated that, even though the property at the north end of the Clear Creek Trail “is somewhat problematic right now,” the trail connectivity is still important regardless of whether there is a trailhead in the north end area, and other links could be used to get back onto the Clear Creek Trail if necessary.

(5:51:05) – Nevada Land Trust (NLT) Executive Director Alicia Reban provided a brief overview of the Forest Legacy Program and the grant process as well as further background on the matter. She acknowledged the managers of the Old Woods Ranch, LLC property, Telsche Saunders and Michelle Murray, who were present for this item. She stated that the other two properties that would be combined with the Old Woods Ranch, LLC were the McCleary Ranch LLC and the upper Clear Creek parcel, and she noted that doing so increases the ability to pull matching funds from a variety of sources. Ms. Reban also mentioned that there was another landowner that was contemplating gifting a portion of his/her property, which would count towards a match for all.

(5:58:30) – Ms. Boyer entertained Member questions, and she and Ms. Reban responded to clarifying questions. Member Currie was concerned about how the potential acquisition of the Old Woods Ranch, LLC could continue over the next 20 to 40 years, and she stated that keeping the land as a viewscape would minimize the prospect of any future development in that area. She hoped that the grant would “come through” and wished to ensure that public access to the land could be allowed through trails. Member Berge echoed Member Currie’s comment and believed that the referenced plan for the property is “a marvelous idea and a marvelous project.”

(6:02:21) – Member Kimbrough thanked the family with Old Woods Ranch, LLC for their willingness and patience with the land acquisition process. He also mentioned that NLT has “a wonderful record.”

(6:06:12) – In response to Member Martinovich’s question regarding who makes the decision on the grant, Ms. Reban believed that there was a regional part of the process before the “national sort of ranking,” which she indicated was where the NLT was “on hold right now.”

(6:08:11) – In response to Chairperson Welch’s question, Ms. Boyer indicated that the conservation easement would be held by the State, and Ms. Reban confirmed that the State would be responsible for monitoring the Old Woods Ranch, LLC property.

(6:09:04) – Based on Member Currie’s previous comment, Ms. Boyer clarified that the property would not be a specific destination and identified it as more of a “pass through” if Staff were able to obtain the other easements that were needed to create the trail connectivity. Chairperson Welch pointed out that even though there were currently some barriers to creating a trail through the property, ensuring that a trail is allowed within the conservation easement may be something that should be requested, as the circumstances concerning those referenced barriers may change in the future.

7. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY: REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF THE PRISON HILL OHV AREA MONITORING REPORT, AND UPDATES ON THE PRISON HILL OHV AREA.

(6:10:44) – Chairperson Welch introduced the item. Ms. Vasey and Mr. Berggren referenced the Staff Report and the 2021 *Prison Hill OHV Area Monitoring Report*, both of which are incorporated into the record.

(6:16:43) – Chairperson Welch entertained Member questions and comments, and Staff responded to clarifying questions. Member Ghiglieri believed that Staff were doing a “great job” in the off-highway vehicle (OHV) area of the Prison Hill Recreation Area, and he suggested taking photographs at the same timeframe each year to help with the vegetation.

(6:17:33) – In response to Member Kimbrough’s inquiry, Mr. Berggren stated that if the opportunities for people to utilize that area are not provided, then people will find those opportunities “wherever.” He explained that some of the rehabilitation of the OHV area was done by, for example, using the Technicians from the Nevada OHV [Program] to do vertical mulching by planting dead brush to “visually erase the road” as well as by using signage and replacing signage. Ms. Boyer indicated that initial seeding has been implemented in the area with the native-seed blend, and Ms. Vasey had found some “interesting” revegetation techniques that involve sawing off pieces of live sagebrush that can then be planted into the ground to establish some “sagebrush islands.” Member Kimbrough complimented the rehabilitation efforts led by City Staff.

(6:22:20) – Member Berge wished to “give you all kudos” for the contents of the report and complimented the efforts with the area. Member Currie added that the difference in the OHV area from 2019 to present day regarding the improvements is “really amazing,” and she agreed with Mr. Berggren about replacing removed signage until the signage eventually stays. She also agreed with actively managing the graffiti vandalism referenced in the report. In response to Ms. Currie’s questions, Ms. Vasey stated that, going forward, photographs of the area will likely be taken towards the summer season. Concerning maximum capacity in the OHV area, Mr. Berggren indicated that as new trails are developed and other trails are decommissioned while monitoring activities, Staff will have to determine what the capacity is, and if it seems as though the capacity is being exceeded, then Staff will need to discuss what actions may need to be taken. He did not believe the area was anywhere close to being at capacity at this point.

(6:27:11) – Chairperson Welch echoed the previous compliments made by other Members and noted that “it was such a train wreck when we got this thing” in reference to the conditions of the OHV area.

8. STAFF UPDATES - DISCUSSION ONLY

8A. 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, KINGS CANYON TRAILHEAD, NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR THE 5TH STREET TRAILHEAD AND TRAILS PROJECT, PRISON HILL RECREATION AREA, V&T TRAIL, AND NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY.

(6:28:00) – Chairperson Welch introduced the item. Mr. Berggren presented his report, which is incorporated into the record, and he and Ms. Boyer responded to clarifying questions.

(6:40:16) – Chairperson Welch commented that a lot of work had been completed during the summer and recommended that those interested check out the Lincoln Bypass Trail. He also gave “kudos” to Muscle Powered for assisting with trail design.

(6:41:44) – Member Kimbrough noted that the success of the Lincoln Bypass Trail had led to the parking area of the trail to reach beyond capacity and wished that Staff would address the parking issue.

(6:46:28) – Member Martinovich complimented the report.

(6:47:47) – Chairperson Welch commented that he really liked the “Moving Through Time” interpretative sign referenced in the report and requested considering signs that describe the geologic history of the area.

8B. SENIOR NATURAL RESOURCE SPECIALIST AND OPEN SPACE MANAGER REPORT; ACTIVITIES RELATED TO PROJECTS MANAGED BY THE OPEN SPACE DIVISION, INCLUDING UPDATES WITHIN THE CARSON RIVER CORRIDOR.

(6:50:25) – Chairperson Welch introduced the item. Ms. Boyer presented the report, which is incorporated into the record, and she and Ms. Vasey responded to clarifying questions.

(7:00:30) – Member Berge thanked Staff for all their hard work, and Member Kimbrough complimented Staff for taking initiative to pursue grants.

(7:03:27) – In response to Member Ghiglieri’s question, Ms. Boyer confirmed that there appeared to be some resprouting of one plant after the Prison Hill Fire. Ms. Vasey added that she had spoken to several land managers about the best way to restore the Prison Hill area, and it was advised to heavily seed the area, though the process also required to be “dovetailed with a really nice weather event.” Ms. Boyer also indicated that all of the projects that she could think of that were reviewed for the Section 106 review process of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) had a finding of “no adverse effect.”

8C. DIRECTOR’S REPORT: UPDATES REGARDING THE DEPARTMENT’S PROJECTS, PROGRAMS, FACILITIES, AND EVENTS; GRANTS; LEGISLATIVE UPDATE; LEGAL UPDATE; STATUS OF RECRUITMENT FOR VACANT POSITIONS; AND BOARD OF SUPERVISOR’S ACTION ITEMS.

(7:09:41) – Chairperson Welch introduced the item. Ms. Budge presented her report, during which she announced the upcoming BOOnanza event as well as the City’s float in the Nevada Day Parade that will include a poster, designed by Carson City Park Ranger Tyler Kerver, highlighting the Quality-of-Life Initiative Celebration and vintage poster. She added that some Open Space Staff would be participating in the parade. She stated that she and Ms. Boyer would be presenting a Quality-of-Life report at the November 4, 2021 Carson City Board of Supervisors (BOS) meeting to show all of what the funding that the Quality-of-Life Initiative has contributed, and there would be a proclamation declaring the month of November as the “Quality-of-Life Month” in Carson City. Ms. Budge listed several activities that can be found on the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Activity Guide located on the www.carson.org website, including a dodgeball tournament, a historical tour at Silver Saddle Ranch, hikes and bicycle rides, beginner pickleball classes at the Multi-Purpose Athletic Center (MAC), a free shooting day at the Rifle and Pistol Range, a free swim day at the Carson Aquatic Facility pool, full moon hikes, and Junior Ranger Days. She informed the Committee that the federal lands bill was unsuccessful, as it was introduced with some other lands bills that were “a bit controversial,” and she added that the bill will be reintroduced for the next

legislative session. She also indicated that there were vacancies for the Sports Field Coordinator, the Full-Time Park Maintenance Coordinator, and the Full-Time Office Specialist positions in the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Department.

(7:13:26) – Mr. Johnson presented a legal update on litigation involving Buzzy’s Ranch, which was filed in the beginning of 2020, during which he indicated that trial was initially scheduled for the month of October 2021; however, the courts had granted a motion for summary judgment that was filed by Mr. Johnson, and the judge had found that the City did not breach the contract by denying growing hemp on the property. Additionally, the judge found that the previous owner, James Jarrard, had breached the contract by inviting the hemp company onto the program. He added that there was a possibility for an appeal. Mr. Johnson thanked Ms. Budge and Ms. Boyer for their assistance as well as the former Open Space Directors Ann Bollinger and Juan Guzman for their roles in some of the witness preparation.

(7:15:00) – Chairperson Welch entertained Member questions. Member Currie referenced the activities as well as Ms. Budge and Ms. Boyer presenting to the BOS and commented, “if we don’t showcase what we’re doing, no one else will.” She believed that it was helpful to mention what the Open Space resources were funded by to show responsibility, accountability, and transparency. Ms. Budge informed Member Currie that there would also be a big public outreach component for the Quality-of-Life Initiative funding. Member Currie suggested promoting the one quarter of one percent for the Quality-of-Life Initiative sales tax rate increase through a real dollar value or promoting purchasing stuff in Carson City to continue supporting the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Department.

9. MEMBERS’ ANNOUNCEMENTS

(7:18:08) – Chairperson Welch entertained Member announcements; however, none were forthcoming.

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – DISCUSSION ONLY

(7:18:17) – Chairperson Welch entertained requests for future agenda items. Member Ghiglieri suggested revisiting the workshop that was originally planned for September 2021.

(7:19:30) – Member Currie wished to agendize a field trip to the parcel of land discussed during Item #6.

(7:20:40) – Member Kimbrough requested revisiting awards from the OSAC.

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS

(7:21:14) – Chairperson Welch entertained public comments; however, none were forthcoming.

12. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: TO ADJOURN

(7:21:25) – MOTION: Chairperson Welch adjourned the meeting at 7:21 p.m.

The Minutes of the October 18, 2021 Carson City Open Space Advisory Committee meeting are so approved this 7th day of December 2021.