

DRAFT MINUTES
Joint Meeting
Carson City Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC)
Carson City Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC)
Monday, July 18, 2022 • 5:30 PM
Community Center Robert "Bob" Crowell Board Room
851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada

PRC Members

Chair – Lea Case	Vice Chair – Kurt Meyer
Commissioner – Lisa Schuette	Commissioner – Stacie Wilke-McCulloch
Commissioner – Lee-Ann Keever	Commissioner – Dave Whitefield
Commissioner – Janice Caldwell	

OSAC Members

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

Staff

Jennifer Budge, Parks and Recreation Department Director
Lyndsey Boyer, Open Space Manager
Ben Johnson, Senior Deputy District Attorney
Gregg Berggren, Trails Coordinator
Danielle Howard, Public Meetings Clerk

NOTE: A recording of these proceedings, the board's agenda materials, and any written comments or documentation provided to the recording secretary during the meeting are public record. These materials are on file in the Clerk-Recorder's Office, and are available for review during regular business hours.

An audio recording of this meeting is available on www.CarsonCity.org/minutes.

1. CALL TO ORDER

(5:35:51) – PRC Chairperson Cartwright called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL & DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

(5:36:06) – Roll was called, and a quorum was present.

PRC Attendee Name	Status	Arrived
Chairperson Lea Case	Present	
Vice Chairperson Kurt Meyer	Present (via WebEx)	
Commissioner Lisa Schuette	Present	
Commissioner Stacie Wilke-McCulloch	Present	

Commissioner Lee-Ann Keever	Present	
Commissioner Dave Whitefield	Present	
Commissioner Janice Caldwell	Present	

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

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

(5:38:54) – OSAC Vice Chairperson Kimbrough entertained public comments. John Vettel introduced himself as a Carson City resident on Derby Court and was commenting in regards to an area of Long Ranch Park where the public has been allowed to have dogs off leash. He stated that there was “talk” about requiring dogs on leash in the referenced area, and while he always walked his dog on a leash, he was “100 percent opposed to” requiring dogs to be on leash in that area, as the individuals who visit the area with off-leash dogs do so to enjoy the day by “allowing themselves to get together and let their dogs run, and they don’t cause any problems” for Mr. Vettel or anyone else.

(5:41:50) – Craig Swope introduced himself and indicated that he was representing the Friends of the Silver Saddle Ranch (FOSSR). He commented that the FOSSR Board of Directors voted unanimously in support of the draft Dog Rules and Regulations Policy in general and as it related to the Silver Saddle Ranch. He clarified that the FOSSR Board of Directors were in favor of the idea of using leashes for dogs around the Silver Saddle property as well as the pastures to reduce conflict. He added that the FOSSR Board of Directors supported off-leash dog use on most of the trails and for most of the hiking at the Silver Saddle property, although the Board also was in favor of the idea of visitors carrying a leash even with off-leash dogs.

(5:42:38) – John Barrette introduced himself as a Carson City resident on Highland Street and paraphrased his written public comment submitted via email, which is incorporated into the record, opposing the draft Dog Rules and Regulations Policy.

(5:43:20) – Jenny Haas introduced herself as a 19-year Carson City resident, indicated that she lives in a neighborhood across from Centennial Park, and described herself as “a responsible citizen and … a steward to the environment.” She stated that she is a Mutt Mitt Station volunteer for the [Prison Hill] Fifth Street Trailhead, and she carries her own dog waste bags for her dog as well as picks up her own trash. Ms. Haas commented that she “love[s]” the City’s quality-of-life initiatives, but “quality of life comes in many flavors.” She stated that the parks she frequents the most are Centennial Park and the Silver Saddle Ranch, and “two of my greatest joys are walking my dog on a leash from the outside of the parking area at Silver Saddle to the Red House zone between the pastures, [and] the other joy is walking my dog on a leash after work on a paved road that circles the ball fields at Centennial Park; it’s perfect for winter evenings when it gets dark early after work, and it provides a safe place free of rattlesnakes.” Ms. Haas presented a bag of trash that she had picked up at half of Centennial Park on Saturday, July 16, 2022 that she indicated were from the “special users.” She noted that the proposed dog “regs” were based on feedback from residents who responded to the Carson City Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Department’s June

2021 public dog use survey, and the population of the City is more than 58,000 residents. She inquired about the percentage of people who had responded to the survey as well as the percentage of the City's population that makes complaints about dogs. Ms. Haas commented that the draft Dog Rules and Regulations Policy "feels like a foregone conclusion, and that makes me really sad." She requested not recommending, or at least revising, the proposed regulations outlined in the draft Policy and asked for a solution that would be a compromise that "is a little less draconian." She inquired about the alternative direction to be considered by Staff if the draft Policy was not approved, and she requested focusing more on education, science, and stewardship volunteers and focusing less on regulations that would be difficult to enforce. Referencing the draft Policy, Ms. Haas inquired about the distance from the trailhead for which dogs could be allowed off leash, who would monitor and regulate that leash rule, how that leash rule would work at the Riverview Park trailhead, and how bicyclists would manage their dogs with the leash rule at the trailheads. She asked how one would access the Wild Horse Trail trailhead without having driven into the park, since the Wild Horse Trail trailhead was approved for on-leash dog use with off-leash dog use permitted beyond the trailhead, and access to the trailhead for the "walking public" with a dog was prohibited from Arrowhead Drive. She pointed out that the multiuse path at the Silver Saddle Ranch entrance leads to the Red House, where dogs would be prohibited, and she asked if that rule would apply to the FOSSR Board of Directors or the ranch hand's dog. Ms. Haas added that if the OSAC's and the PRC's decision was to approve the draft Policy, she requested allowing an easement through Centennial Park on the paved loop and for dogs to be allowed on leash at the Red House between the pastures and the Silver Saddle Ranch.

(5:47:01) – Ellen DeChristopher introduced herself and noted that she was commenting in regards to Long Ranch Park for the draft Dog Rules and Regulations Policy. She thanked the OSAC and the PRC for the opportunity to submit a written public comment, which was submitted via email and is incorporated into the record. She paraphrased her written public comment and commented about how people found it difficult to respond to the dog use surveys, and without knowing the "catalyst" for implementing a policy to prohibit off-leash dog use for the east side of Long Ranch Park, it was "very difficult to have a meaningful dialogue on it without knowing it." She echoed Ms. Haas' request during her public comment and suggested better fencing around the pastures at Silver Saddle Ranch. She also added that "the Director's special powers can enact a temporary restriction during calving season and reroute dogs on leash around the pastures to the right of the yard." Ms. DeChristopher appreciated the public having the opportunity to provide input.

(5:48:50) – Debby Hope introduced herself as resident of Kings Canyon Meadows for over 20 years near Long Ranch Park, and she indicated that she had a dog for approximately 15 of those 20 years. She agreed with all the previous public comments, and she read her written public comment submitted via email, which is incorporated into the record. She added that if someone were to break the rules, she preferred for that individual to be held accountable and commented that "you don't punish the whole school district because one kid didn't do their homework."

(5:51:22) – Barbara Singer introduced herself as a resident on Saint George Way and was commenting in regards to Long Ranch Park for the draft Dog Rules and Regulations Policy. She commented that City residents were "very lucky" because Long Ranch Park is "a long park, which means we have swings and play areas at one end, and we have open space at the end near Thames [Lane], so that why not think about keeping that area where the grass is where we can throw the frisbee, where the dogs can run and keep that in that area, and then, yes, in the area where the playground is, fine, we can just keep our dogs on leash when we walk around." She requested that "one little area" permit off-leash dog use, and she pointed out that Sonoma Park is "very far in the other direction," and Fuji

Park is “down in the other direction, which isn’t great.” Ms. Singer hoped that the OSAC and the PRC would leave Long Ranch Park in its current condition.

(5:52:50) – Sheila Bridges introduced herself as a fifth-generation native Nevadan, and she stated that she attended Corbett [Elementary] School in 1969, so her “roots run deep” in the area. She indicated that she lived in the Northridge Drive area and used to live on Baker Drive. She commented that Sonoma Park “was great,” and then she moved to Ridgefield Drive, nearby where the Steinheimer Park is located, and met people who indicated that the park was an open park and encouraged bringing dogs off leash to the park. Ms. Bridges commented that the Steinheimer Park users were a community in which the residents organize potlucks at the park, and the community’s dogs played at the park. She noted that the park was “just a beautiful park where people can hang out.” She stated that she had never witnessed a problem at the park, and she pointed out that the park was on the Carson City Park System List to permit only on-leash dog use. Addressing the Members and the Commissioners, Ms. Bridges commented that “when I’m looking at you guys, I really get the feeling this has already been decided,” which she hoped was not the case. She pointed out that, although many of the public commenters did not receive a dog use survey or had not responded to a survey, “we’re all here, and we’re all giving our feedback.” She questioned if the OSAC and the PRC were going to listen to the individuals who attended the meeting to provide public comment on the draft Dog Rules and Regulations Policy or “some anonymous person who filled out a survey because they don’t like dogs, and maybe they’ve lived here for five minutes?” She asked the OSAC and the PRC “how much joy do you want to take away from people?” and she stated, “we are responsible; we don’t need more regulations, we don’t need constant regulations.” She inquired about a hypothetical scenario in which someone decides to call 911 dispatch on a person with a dog off leash on the Kings Canyon Waterfall Trail, as “pretty soon, we have the police called all the time because dogs are off leash, … because this is what happens when things like this are enacted, and it infringes on freedoms we’ve had.”

(5:56:23) – Taylor Phillips introduced himself as a “born and raised” local to Carson City and stated that he had moved all over the country. He mentioned having left “a pretty well-paying job at the airlines basically for Carson City,” and he was currently a corporate pilot. He stated that he had always been an animal advocate and had worked with the Guide Dogs for the Blind. He mentioned that he had a one-year-old “well-trained” puppy that had “good” recall command. Mr. Phillips commented that quality of life is “pretty important.” He believed that he “would almost guarantee” that the issues that had arisen in the past were “statistical outliers,” and “whatever big, umbrella policy” being considered for implementation was “probably a poor way of dealing with that.” He agreed with the previous public comments and suggested using “a smaller approach” by assessing more individual cases to develop better solutions. Mr. Phillips added that his dog did “really well” off leash and enjoyed playing fetch, and he stated that the community members he has met at the parks have been “really influential.” He requested that the OSAC and the PRC “maintain that quality of life, and don’t make a rash decision.”

(5:58:01) – Maggie Stillwell introduced herself as a 30-year Carson City resident and was attending the meeting to represent the equestrians and “the horseback riding contingency over the valley.” She mentioned that Gardnerville equestrians and the Reno residents were visiting the Riverview Park Trail System. She commented that, as a horseback rider, she has been horseback riding at the Riverview Park for 30 years “before it was much of a park at all,” and she never had trouble with dogs off leash. She pointed out how vulnerable she is when riding on a horse with loose dogs around, and she stated that she takes her stock dogs with her because they divert the loose dogs away from her horse. She noted that her dogs are working dogs and “stick with” her. Ms. Stillwell believed that there needed to be a category added to the draft Dog Rules and Regulations Policy for working dogs in addition to service animals, and she clarified that there are working dogs in training or working with livestock that are used

with cattle and sheep. She also believed that the OSAC and the PRC should consider that there are people who are not on foot with off-leash dogs, and she added that she would “cut down past the Red House”; however, her dogs also have immediate recall and remain on the path with Ms. Stillwell. She thanked those in attendance who control their dogs when she’s riding her horse on the trail, and she has had to tell one person in 30 years to “come get your dog” due to the dog charging her horse.

(6:00:58) – America Oujevolk introduced herself as a Carson City resident on the east side of the City by the Mexican Ditch Trail and the Prison Hill Trail, and because she was one of the volunteers who refills the dog waste bags in the dog waste receptacles, she had been visiting those trails every day. She also hiked at many of the City’s trails, including the Ash Canyon Creek Trail and the Kings Canyon Trail, which are three-feet-wide and on “very steep embankments.” She referenced page #2 of the draft Dog Rules and Regulations Policy regarding the “Voice Command/Voice Control” definition and indicated that she could not get ten feet away from another person on the Ash Canyon Creek Trail or the Kings Canyon Trail, and she stated that visitors of those trails hold their dogs while politely passing one another. Ms. Oujevolk added that her dog would be banned due to the voice command/control rule in the draft Policy. She stated that in the trails in the valley, such as in the Mexican Ditch area, are 10-feet-wide, and while she would move her dog to the side of the trail if necessary, there are motorized bicycles that can travel at 20 miles per hour, and with the visibility on some of the trails being 30 to 40 yards, she has two to four seconds to move out of the way. Additionally, her dog was 15 years old and could not move fast enough for Ms. Oujevolk to move out of the way and comply with the voice command/control rule, so she requested the OSAC’s and PRC’s consideration relating to that matter.

(6:02:44) – Svetlana Grabelnikova introduced herself and indicated that she lived and worked in Carson City. She stated that she is a dog owner and was opposed to the draft Dog Rules and Regulations Policy. She did not understand why it was necessary for the City to develop more policies for what was already enforced, and she inquired about what had “triggered” the decision to construct a draft Policy, as she had not heard of any recent dog attacks. Regarding dog waste and “water waste,” she pointed out that there have not been measures specified to differentiate between dog waste and coyote waste. Referencing the fiscal impact of agenda item 5.A, she informed the OSAC and the PRC that there were “more important” and “more pressing” issues affecting the City that the City could allocate funds toward, such as the City’s “desperate need” for another high school, the housing crisis, and the lack of storm drainage in her neighborhood. Ms. Grabelnikova noted that, according to the Nevada Humane Society, one in every sixth household owned a dog, which she indicated was approximately 10,000 dogs in the City and “10,000 people you’re discriminating against for no reason.” She stated that the two dog parks available to the public could not “house” 10,000 dogs, and she wished to remind the OSAC and the PRC that the discussion concerned public lands, which she noted belonged to the public. She requested that “you guys please stop telling us what we can and can’t do on our land.”

(6:05:15) – Joan Wright introduced herself as a resident on Fourth Street and stated that she and her husband alternate taking their “very energetic” dog to Long Ranch Park and Trails every day. She added that she and her husband would be in their 70s during the current year. She commented that the Dog Rules and Regulations Map appeared to show many areas where dogs can be taken off leash; however, she pointed out that the OSAC and the PRC needed to take into account how older individuals would get to those areas as well as having areas “where you can throw a ball when you’re not particularly ambulatory yourself.” She echoed previous public comments regarding Long Ranch Park and believed that the park “works really well.” She added that her dog is able to get its energy out while she also gets to enjoy “a nice walk.” Ms. Wright did not believe that it was “right” to show the

Long Ranch Park Trails with a green square on the Carson City Park System List when it should show a yellow square to indicate an on-leash area, as she almost did not attend the meeting as a result of the error.

(6:06:45) – Kristi Krafft introduced herself as a resident on Lepire Drive and commented that she was “fairly new” to visiting Sonoma Dog Park. Based on her observations from visiting Sonoma Dog Park for the past two months at various times during the day, she noted that there was “a quiet, peaceful crowd” with typically 15 to 30 dogs at the park, and the visitors generally know each other as well as the dogs’ names. She commented about an incident at Sonoma Dog Park that occurred on July 10, 2022 at about 7:00 p.m., during which she was sitting on a park bench in the shade with two other individuals and three gentlemen standing at the park when three law enforcement officers harassed and detained her and the other individuals. She added that “this one rookie cop,” who she identified as Officer Arrison, indicated to Ms. Krafft that she regularly visited the park and “incite[d] the dogs to bark on a regular basis,” and she had stated that her three Labrador Retrievers had not been heard barking before and were “extremely well-behaved.” She commented that the law enforcement officers were “out of line,” as Sonoma Park visitors were “a well-behaved crowd.”

(6:10:07) – Chris Pattison introduced himself as a Carson City resident and indicated that he has lived in the City for his entire life. He commented that he has never witnessed any problems with dogs in the City. He stated that he owned a hunting dog, a German Shorthaired Pointer, which he indicated needed room to run, otherwise the dog would ruin the house. He noted that many dogs need exercise and to be allowed off leash, and he commented that the areas where the OSAC and the PRC were proposing restrictions for dog use were the “best” and “perfect” areas for dogs. Mr. Pattison inquired about the ranch dogs that were used to work the cattle for the ranch area where the draft Dog Rules and Regulations Policy indicated that dogs would be prohibited, and he suggested having somewhat stricter regulations or allowances for what to do with unruly animals due to an incident with an off-leash dog attacking a cow. He added that there were many ways to mitigate the issue without “having these drastic changes.” He stated that many of the residents take their dogs to the Kings Canyon area that was being proposed for prohibiting dogs, which he described as “a beautiful place to take our dogs.” He believed that there was a problem with dog owners picking up after their dogs and/or leaving their dogs’ bags of waste.

(6:12:20) – Paul Johnson introduced himself as a resident on Stagecoach Lane. He commented that he has lived in Carson City for 22 years and believed that “the present system was working pretty well.” He believed that allowing dogs in almost all the parks would present problems, as there was already a problem with individuals bringing dogs into parks at which there was signage indicating that dogs were not permitted, and he was especially concerned about dogs being in such parks as Carriage Square Park and John Mankins Park with small children. He believed that allowing dogs around small kids, even on leash, could “invite a bite, a tripping accident, a collision, and somebody’s going to get hurt.” Mr. Johnson clarified that he did not object to dogs, as his family had a dog for 12 years that was “wonderful with our kids,” but he did “object to people who are not responsible and don’t take care of their dogs, don’t restrain them, don’t pick up after them.” He pointed out that some individuals were not picking up their dogs’ waste on the Ash Canyon Trail, the Mexican Ditch Trail, and the Prison Hill Recreation Area. He mentioned that he and his wife walk on the west side of the City behind Western Nevada College often and had never seen a dog under voice command/control based on the definition provided in the draft Dog Rules and Regulations Policy. Mr. Johnson believed that dogs were appropriate at some of the parks, excluding the smaller, neighborhood parks.

(6:15:05) – Veronica Galas introduced herself as a resident on the east side of Carson City by the Mexican Ditch. She was unaware of the dog use survey until the night prior to the meeting, and she did not know where the survey

was delivered to, as she hiked at many trails and took her dogs to many of the parks. She inquired about the communication for the survey. She also inquired about the “impetus” for the draft Dog Rules and Regulations Policy, and she believed that regulation was not the way to solve a problem. She suggested discussing the problem with dog owners and non-dog owners. Ms. Galas stated that she had “adopted” a three-quarters of a mile area to pick up dog waste due to there possibly being senior citizens who are unable to bend over to pick up their dogs’ waste or bicyclists who do not stop to pick up their dogs’ waste, and she suggested an “adopt a highway kind of thing” for volunteering. As a dog owner, she was willing to “be a part of a solution if this is trying to solve a problem,” and she was unaware of any public meeting that was scheduled to discuss a problem relating to this matter. She also believed that the 10-feet rule for voice command/control in the draft Policy was “problematic.”

(6:18:22) – Albert Le Balch introduced himself as a resident at Sussex Place in the Kings Canyon Meadows, and he pointed out that private property was included in the ordinance, since Kings Canyon Meadows is private property. In regards to the draft Dog Rules and Regulations Policy, he stated that the “proposed need” had already been addressed, as the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space website currently listed all the parks for on-leash dog use along with a video regarding park etiquette and a sign stating that “dogs are allowed on or off leash under the control of their owner” and “during any organized youth sports practices, dogs must be on leash.” He suggested a compromise with allowing off-leash dog use for the 15 sites that have permitted on-leash dog use, and he asked if parking was evaluated for the three designated areas for off-leash dog use. Mr. Le Balch noted that designating three areas for off-leash dog use would be “an extreme inconvenience to the current residents that only have to go to a few of the parks” and pointed out the financial impact related to the draft Policy. He also commented that the definition of a staging area was “ambiguous.”

(6:21:41) – Thomas Mix introduced himself and read his public comment submitted via email, which is incorporated into the record.

(6:24:02) – Colette Buran introduced herself, indicated that she lived in the Longview area, and stated that she was a realtor and had been a realtor for the past 32 years in Carson City, so she could “speak to quality of life.” She commented that when people are looking for a home, they consider such areas as the Longview and Northridge areas that offer “two beautiful parks” as well as the schools and what is affordable. She stated that “when you take a brush, and you brush the entire area of Carson City, you have to remember why people come here; we are a town that embraces open space,” which she indicated was “very rare.” Ms. Buran commented that she has witnessed caregivers pushing elderly people in wheelchairs with dogs on their laps in the parks, and it would give those people joy to watch their dogs run and play with the other dogs. She mentioned that the dog park was “a huge factor” for someone having purchased a house in her subdivision. She requested that the OSAC and the PRC consider “if it ain’t broke, why are we fixing it?” She also mentioned that, while she always had her dog on a leash, she had a severe hip injury during the previous year and had to take her dog to the park for it to exercise because she could not have the dog pulling her on a leash, with Long Ranch Park being one of the few areas where she could do that. She added that Sonoma Park was not the environment she was looking for, as it was “packed.”

(6:26:40) – Jean Barrette introduced herself as a resident on Highland Street and agreed with the previous public comments regarding the draft Dog Rules and Regulations Policy for leashing dogs. She commented that people adopt dogs to run and play with them and enjoy all of the open space in Carson City, and she stated that she and her husband travel with their dog and “check out” the facilities that every city has before traveling to those areas. She noted that many facilities were “going out of their way to make dogs welcome in the communities,” which she

believed the OSAC and the PRC needed to take into consideration. Ms. Barrette also did not see how the draft Policy could be enforced.

(6:28:11) – Ryan Espinoza introduced himself and commented about how the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Department did not have all of the rules and regulations “covered” at parks currently, such as signage that should be included at all the parks with the parks’ open hours, despite adding more laws. He noted that the City had two Park Rangers that are “never” seen, and inquired about how the new rules would be enforced if the City cannot cover the areas it already has to enforce the existing rules, which he stated, “doesn’t make a lot of sense.” Mr. Espinoza commented that “things need to be just left alone” and “more regulation doesn’t mean more compliance.” Additionally, he commented that the public should be able to manage and control themselves because they are adults, and he stated that enacting more regulations would take more time away from law enforcement.

(6:29:50) – Margi Lopez introduced herself and indicated that she was commenting on behalf of herself in addition to her friend, Laura Redmon, who was unable to attend the meeting. She stated that Ms. Redmon has been a resident of Carson City for 18 years, and Ms. Lopez has been a resident for 10 years. Ms. Lopez commented that she and Ms. Redmon had likely completed over 7,000 dog walks together, some on leash with “a pack” of 10 to 15 dogs as well as some off leash. She mentioned that she adopted a dog with severe fear and aggression from the Nevada Humane Society when she was employed at the Nevada Humane Society, and because she could not take her dog to a fenced dog park, she and Ms. Redmon had taken Ms. Lopez’s dog into “the hills” so their combined dogs could run together, during which there had not been an incident. She noted that Ms. Redmon was a schoolteacher, and Ms. Lopez worked with her brother to manage an apartment complex. Ms. Lopez indicated that she had more dog waste from leashed dogs on Robinson Street than she had “ever seen at a dog park or on a trail,” and she was picking up waste every morning. She mentioned that she and Ms. Lopez have rescued dogs and volunteered for Carson Animal Services Initiative (CASI) and the Nevada Humane Society, and Ms. Lopez had fostered dogs. She also mentioned that she and Ms. Redmon have been active in the community with their dogs, and she believed having dogs confined to a leash was not healthy for the dogs. She stated that taking her dogs to a dog park would not work for her dogs, and she knew many other individuals with dogs that were similar. She wished to have trails where she would be allowed to walk and hike with her dogs, and she stated that she and Ms. Redmon leashed their dogs and pulled them to the side of the trail when approaching other people. Ms. Lopez indicated that her dogs and Ms. Redmon’s dogs do not chase after the deer or people, and she has received compliments regarding how well-behaved her dogs are.

(6:33:03) – Charles Rieckhoff thanked the OSAC and the PRC for listening to the public commenters, introduced himself, and indicated that he represented the concerns of several neighbors living in the Kings Canyon area. He mentioned that his parents live in the Longview area and appreciated the comments regarding that area. He stated that he had returned to Carson City with his wife and two Labrador Retrievers to care for his parents and their quality of life. He remembered walking the family dog in the Longview and Kings Canyon areas and commented, “what a beautiful area.” He clarified that he and his wife specifically move to the area because of the open space and the sense of freedom, and he stated that the area would not be the same with the new rules and regulations proposed in the draft Dog Rules and Regulations Policy. He requested considering the draft Policy’s changes and making sure that the rules are “common sense” and likely to be followed. Mr. Rieckhoff noted that he understood there were “some really good reasons why you may be changing things,” but he was concerned that people would not follow the rules proposed in the draft Policy. He and his referenced neighbors did not believe that there was effective communication or feedback before the Kings Canyon Trail dog restrictions were implemented, and they did not understand why some of the proposed changes were not posted at the Kings Canyon Trailhead or the local

sites to inform visitors that those sites would be impacted. Referencing the water quality, he stated that as “someone who understands that and understands the real value of what’s going on, the science behind the bacteria that gets in the water from things like the dogs, … that’s very marginal science,” and he requested that the water quality changes be measured after prohibiting dogs at the Kings Canyon Waterfall. Mr. Rieckhoff inquired about why dogs were completely prohibited at the Kings Canyon Waterfall Trail.

(6:36:44) – Susan Hoffman introduced herself as a lifelong Carson City resident living near Sonoma Park for 30 years and stated that she had seen the changes to Sonoma Park. She suggested fencing some more parks instead of prohibiting off-leash dog use in other parks “so that that mass of humanity and dogs that come to Sonoma Park could spread out a little bit and maybe stay in different neighborhoods because Sonoma Park is fantastic, and since it was fenced, everyone comes there.”

4. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: APPROVAL OF MINUTES – OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF 04/18/2022 AND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING OF 04/05/2022.

(6:38:15) – OSAC Vice Chairperson Kimbrough introduced the item and entertained comments and a motion for approval of the April 18, 2022 OSAC meeting minutes.

(6:38:25) – MOTION: Member Inversin moved to approve the April 18, 2022 OSAC minutes as presented. Member Ghiglieri seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0-0.

(6:38:49) – PRC Chairperson Case entertained corrections and a motion for approval of the April 5, 2022 PRC meeting minutes.

(6:38:55) – MOTION: Commissioner Keever moved to approve the April 5, 2022 PRC minutes as presented. Commissioner Whitefield seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0.

5. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION:

5.A. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING A RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGARDING A PROPOSED DRAFT DOG RULES AND REGULATIONS POLICY FOR CARSON CITY PARKS AND OPEN SPACE AREAS.

(6:39:11) – OSAC Vice Chairperson Kimbrough introduced the item. Ms. Budge thanked everyone for their time and feedback, indicated that she understood how emotional the matter was as a dog owner herself while also having had two of her own children bitten twice by dogs in a park. She added that Staff wished to work with the public on the draft Dog Rules and Regulations Policy by finding solutions and addressing concerns at the meeting, and she stated that “nothing is a done deal.” Ms. Budge provided background for the item, including that the Carson City Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Department has tried to do outreach and educate the public to make sure that the City’s parks are safe to use and visitors are following the rules that were established in the parks. She clarified that extensive community outreach was held to gather feedback from the public, and there have been public discussions at nine separate public meetings over the past two years about dog use. She stated that there were 773 responses from residents and users to the 2021 dog use survey, of which 472 of participants asked to be updated on the topic, and she sent a public meeting notice from her email account to those 472 participants. Additionally, there were approximately 27 questions that were posed to the public regarding public dog use areas for opinions on potential policies and to gather data about experiences, conflicts, and issues. Ms. Budge referenced the Staff Report,

the accompanying attachments, and the Late Materials, all of which are incorporated into the record. She pointed out that because Carson City Municipal Code (CCMC) 13.02.090 prohibits dogs in all parks unless the park has been exempted by the Carson City Board of Supervisors (BOS), a policy associated with the Resolution is needed to allow dogs in the areas that public comments expressed concern for. She noted that Staff has identified a lot of conflicts at trailheads involving dogs, and many of the trailheads are located near busy streets. She indicated that a few open space areas permitted on-leash dog use because they were deemed environmentally sensitive, such as the agricultural lands. She mentioned that more than 7,000 acres of off-leash areas were still proposed in the draft Policy. Ms. Budge wished to enable people to make informed decisions regarding the parks and open space areas they can visit as well as help the Animal Control officers so they are able to help the Carson City Park Rangers and enforce the rules and regulations. She stated that based on information presented by the Park Rangers for the time period beginning on March 25, 2019 to November 10, 2020 regarding documented dog contacts concerning residents or dog owners not following the rules, bite incidents, or “something in between,” there had been 161 contacts at Mills Park despite adequate signage, 46 contacts at Fuji Park, 15 contacts at Ronald D. Wilson Memorial Park, nine contacts at Carriage Square Park, nine contacts at Long Ranch Park, eight contacts at Pete Livermore Sports Complex, seven contacts at John Mankins Park, five contacts at Centennial Park, five contacts at Schulz Ranch Park, five contacts at the Carson Ridge Disc Golf Park, five contacts at Baily Fishing Pond, four contacts at the Sonoma Park playground, four contacts at the Lone Mountain Cemetery, two contacts at the Carson City Rifle and Pistol Range, one contact at Foreman-Roberts House Park, one contact at Mayor’s Park, one contact at Ross Gold Park, one contact at Sunland Vista Park, and one contact at Governors Field. She also mentioned that there was a serious dog bite incident at the Mexican Ditch Trail recently.

(6:52:13) – Ms. Boyer stated that she had taken note of suggestions and errors that the public had commented about and confirmed that she and Ms. Budge would ensure that the information in the draft Dog Rules and Regulations Map and the Carson City Park System List is accurate going forward. Based on the points she had heard referenced repeatedly, Ms. Boyer clarified the following:

- Staff were not proposing any changes in rules and regulations at Silver Saddle Ranch that were not already in practice, including dogs would not specifically be allowed in the Red House itself, and the yard, the complex, and the trails would still permit dogs off leash.
- Dogs were never allowed off leash in such locations as the pastures at Silver Saddle Ranch and Buzzy’s Ranch, which are fenced and for cattle grazing only; however, all of the trails and the equestrian areas would still be permitted for off-leash dog use.
- Trailheads that are on City property and under City management would be reflected in supporting materials, as trailheads that are not under the Department’s specific management would be removed from the supporting materials.
- Dogs were prohibited at John D. Winters Centennial Park Complex because it is a sports field; however, there is a trail at the back with a trailhead that would need to be clarified further.

(6:55:30) – Ms. Budge added that prohibiting dogs, other than service animals, in the identified special-use facilities was existing practice.

(6:57:45) – In response to OSAC Vice Chairperson Kimbrough’s inquiry regarding the process for addressing a scenario in which a family with a dog that is off leash is in an on-leash dog use area, Carson City Senior Park Ranger John Costello stated that Park Rangers would make contact with individuals violating the rule and suggest an area where off-leash dogs are permitted. He noted that the Park Rangers’ goal was to offer more areas where people

could visit with their dogs because they understood that Sonoma Park and Fuji Park were not sufficient for the public, and he indicated that Park Ranger Tyler Kerver “does a great job” with providing such educational material as brochures so people are informed about why dogs are preferred on leash in certain areas. Ranger Costello stated that he spends “a pretty good-sized portion” of his time during the day dealing with dog incidences because many of the parks do not permit dogs, and he mentioned that the Park Rangers could spend an entire day at Mills Park educating visitors because dogs were not allowed in Mills Park. He stated that the focus on areas where on-leash dog use was being considered for consistency made his job a lot easier, and he noted that, as a dog owner himself who enjoys letting one of his dogs off leash where permitted to avoid dog conflicts, there were “so many” areas for people to visit with their dogs off leash. Having witnessed conflict at Sonoma Park, he believed that Sonoma Park was overpopulated, which was why the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Department was trying to identify other areas for the public to visit with their dogs on leash and off leash. Ranger Costello offered for those who have questions to contact him by phone or email and responded to additional Member and Commissioner questions.

(7:06:30) – In response to Commissioner Keever’s question, Ms. Budge noted that Staff identified the need for additional fenced urban areas for off-leash dog use in the dog use policies and guidelines, and she indicated that there is a Condition of Approval for the Lompa Ranch North subdivision requiring the developers to incorporate a three-acre dog park. She also stated that an area identified, based on discussion from the OSAC-PRC subcommittee and the dog use survey, as a potential location for fenced-in dog parks were Mayor’s Park, Ronald D. Wilson Park, and Long Ranch Park. She mentioned that a 10-acre park would be built on Lompa Ranch West, and the amenities and the components have not yet been addressed for that future park, so that park may also be an option for another area for off-leash dog use.

(7:09:58) – Member Currie supported the work being done to establish additional parks for off-leash dog use. She was concerned about decreasing the list of dog-friendly parks from 15 to two as well as the distribution and accessibility of newly established parks for off-leash dog use, since there were families that may not have the resources to travel to some of the parks. She commented that neighborhood parks were “a tremendous facility to develop neighborliness and community, and if you add in dog lovers to that, having neighborhood parks that are easily accessible to our entire community, including those who don’t have the income or the time to drive to a specialized dog fenced-in park, I think has to be a major consideration.” She also noted that the dog parks, both located on the south end of the City, were difficult for those on the north end of the City to access due to gas prices for those “lucky enough to have a car” as well as many individuals preferring to walk their dogs to the neighborhood parks. Member Currie mentioned how she has come across many people in the City who do not have motorized transportation, and she inquired about how many dogs were allowed on the Jump Around Carson (JAC) transit system. She stated that her house was chosen for purchase because of the several parks located in the area within easy walking distance from her house for her dog. She commented that there was “no problem to fix here” and pointed out that there were thousands of dogs in the community to take into consideration for dog-related incidents at dog parks. She also pointed out that there were many small parks that were self-policed by community members, and visitors of such parks were “generally pretty open” to community members suggesting “rambunctious” dogs be on leash.

(7:14:39) – In response to Member Ghiglieri’s question, Ranger Costello stated that the Park Rangers have responded to instances for such special-use facilities as Pete Livermore Sports Complex regarding dogs, especially during the time of year when there are more events.

(7:16:29) – James Rehm, who works with Carson City Animal Services and the Carson City Nevada Humane Society, introduced himself and stated that both agencies try to use education by offering resources, possible ways to solve issues, and leashes to the public before enforcement action is used. He added that matters are escalated to a more punitive action with noncompliant individuals. He also responded to Member and Commissioner questions. In response to PRC Chairperson Case’s question, Mr. Rehm stated that more prevalent, readily available education would make his job a lot easier, since many of the issues he has observed were due to people not knowing what to do or how to handle situations, and many of the “fights” he has observed were from people not knowing how to approach dogs or when to disengage from dogs. He noted that the majority of calls he received came from neighborhoods and streets, specifically from the northeast side of the City

(7:21:45) – OSAC Vice Chairperson Kimbrough entertained public comments. Deni French introduced himself as a Carson City resident and commented that the item “has been a total learning experience for me.” He mentioned that during his time working for the Humane Society, he was never bitten by a dog, although he had been bitten approximately five times by dogs and “chewed up pretty good a couple of times working as a security guard and other facets of my existence.” He thanked Member Currie for having “touched on some of my concerns,” including many people not having access to transportation and the means to travel to the available dog parks. He supported fenced areas that were “set for dogs” to run in, and he believed that the open space areas needed to be considered for the wildlife. Mr. French believed that “everybody’s really doing well,” and “overdoing this might be the wrong way to go.” He stated that he would not know what the Members and the Commissioners would be voting on in terms of a motion, as there had been “a miscue on communication of what’s really being considered.” He believed that if residents were assured that each park and situation was being taken into consideration and worked with independently, people would feel more comfortable. He commented that the discussion with Ranger Costello and Mr. Rehm as well as hearing from the neighbors of the people who live in areas where there are parks that potentially could allow dogs or that need to be fenced in were “very helpful,” and he added that “this is a huge amount of material” that he did not believe could be covered “like it has.” Mr. French noted that everyone attending the meeting was “sincere and caring.”

(7:25:27) – Mr. Espinoza noted that when Fuji Park closes for “a re-makeover,” Sonoma Park would be the only off-leash dog park, and he asked if anyone from the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Department had considered the impact to the neighborhood Sonoma Park was located in because there are sometimes no areas to park on Sonoma Street during Saturdays and Sundays. He suggested looking into opening some more dog parks “sooner than later.”

(7:26:06) – Addressing Ms. Boyer and Commissioner Schuette, Ms. Stillwell was involved in a program called Share the Trails that provides education regarding multiuse trails, and she proposed including dog owners in the program because a lot of people were not aware of what to do when coming across a horse, a bicyclist, or a runner.

(7:27:02) – Mr. Pattison agreed with Ms. Stillwell’s proposal and believed that there should be more representation for dog owners in the community. He agreed that the ordinance concerning dogs needed to be expanded upon, but some of the issues that arose from disallowing dogs at such parks as Mills Park and gaining 161 dog contact instances would lead him to believe that “stricter controls” amount to an increase in issues. He suggested comparing the number of dog contacts when there was “less control” at Mills Park in the same amount of time to the timeframe of when the new rules were introduced. He noted that Mr. Rehm stated that most of his calls on the job were not in parks, which would also lead Mr. Pattison to believe that there was no issue for parks with dogs other than on occasion and not to the level that was being considered during the meeting to warrant “more stricter controls.”

(7:28:37) – Ms. Haas thanked the OSAC and the PRC for the opportunity to comment. She wished to have reassurance from the draft Policy and Dog Rules and Regulations Map that “the broad red swaths are not true broad red swaths” so dogs were still allowed on the pathway through the pastures at Silver Saddle Ranch. Ms. Boyer confirmed that dogs were still allowed on the pathway and pointed out the green lines that bisect the red area on the map to identify the trails that run through the pastures. Ms. Haas asked if the paved road at Centennial Park was acceptable for dogs to be on, and Ms. Budge clarified that the trailhead at the north end of Centennial Park that leads to the Wild Horse Trail and access to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands would allow dogs off leash; however, the John D. Winters sports complex and Eagle Valley Golf Course would not permit dogs, including the on road to enter that area. Ms. Haas proposed an easement allowing dogs on leash in the paved areas of Centennial Park and the three-quarter mile loop for the draft Policy.

(7:31:28) – Ms. Grabelnikova commented that the [772] residents and users who responded to the dog use survey were “trying to decide something that affects the whole City” when there were 55,000 Carson City residents, and she indicated that it may be “a bit premature” to decide on the number of rules and regulations proposed in the draft Policy. She also stated that she did not hear Ranger Costello or Mr. Rehm request more regulations and noted that Ranger Costello and Mr. Rehm suggested more education instead. She added that it may be “wiser” to organize a meeting on dog safety education and include educational material with such wording as “your dog’s leash is the same as your seatbelt.” Ms. Grabelnikova proposed educating people on “how they can do what they’re doing better” rather than telling people what to do.

(7:32:40) – Ms. Hope thanked the OSAC and the PRC for “listening so attentively” to the public commenters’ concerns as well for considering Long Ranch Park for off-leash dog use. She hoped that all of the “pleas” for the parks had been heard, and requested that “the trails that people are saying, maybe take into account what’s really important and near and dear to our hearts and our dogs.” She supported Member Currie’s input and called her “a wonderful woman.” She also requested “a reprieve on our little off-leash area Long Ranch Park so that we’re not instantly banned from there” until the area has been fenced in.

(7:33:40) – Dan Greytak introduced himself as a 40-year property owner in Carson City, and as a member of the Carson River Advisory Committee for several terms to represented wildlife, he stated that “we’re losing the delineation and the definition and the purpose and use” of the parks and open space areas. He referenced CCMC 13.06.100, which reads *“generally, lands acquired with open space funds shall be preserved and managed in a near natural condition. ... Open space land will generally be open for passive recreation improvements developed where appropriate and environmentally compatible.”* He also referenced pages #14 and #15 from the Carson City Open Space Plan indicating that, from Question 10, “the three most important reasons to preserve open space were to preserve hillsides from development, to protect wildlife habitat, and to provide trails,” for which he noted that protecting wildlife habitat and providing trails were “a challenge ... with what we know we’re hearing today,” and, from Question 7, “respondents strongly supported virtually all the potential restrictions on open space,” including requiring dogs to be kept on leashes and requiring people to stay on trails. Mr. Greytak commented that it was “well understood that dogs running in open spaces will have great impacts on the wildlife that are there,” and if open spaces lands, which were purchased to protect wildlife habitat, are “opened up” for dogs to “run free,” there will be changes to open space areas, particularly in the close areas between the urban interface that “we are now recreating into more.” He pointed out that there was a lot of wildlife at the Carson River, which the public “love[s]” for many recreational activities, and increasing off-leash dog use in the river corridor would lead to such wildlife as mink to relocate to Douglas County so there would no longer be opportunities to see them in Riverview Park. He also noted that dogs were restricted from 1.2 miles of the 10 miles of the Carson River in the county.

(7:36:49) – Ms. Galas indicated that she lived in the Mexican Ditch area. She believed it was “very strange” that the biggest problem concerning dog contacts was Mills Park, since dogs were not allowed at Mills Park, and she pointed out that the problem was “minuscule” when evaluating the other parks and excluding Mills Park. She commented that the solution was to deal with “problem areas” and to “not make a large swath decision where there is no problem.” She stated that she was “a proud owner of a normally-friendly dog” with leash aggression and indicated that there would need to be an education campaign organized by the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Department to address leash aggression for if the City was to vote to allow dogs on leash only.

(7:38:23) – Ms. Bridges commented that she had never seen law enforcement at Steinheimer Park, and she did not understand why the park was one of the parks listed for on-leash dog use. She stated that, having frequented Sonoma Park in the past, it was “a little unrealistic” to tell people that were unhappy with the proposed changes outlined in the draft Policy to visit Sonoma Park instead, as Sonoma Park was already overcrowded.

(7:39:24) – Erica Phillips introduced herself as a resident on Mary Street and supported the previous public comments expressing concern for decreasing the number of available dog parks. She commented that she was “learning to have deeper ties to this City and this community,” with her dog and the dog parks having helped strengthen those ties to the community because she was able to make friends for herself and her dog at the parks, and she stated that, as someone who works from home, “having that be limited or taken away, even with the idea of adding more parks and creating clearer policies, which I do think we need to have, still gives me cause and pause for concern” due to how long it would take to add new parks. She added that waiting for additional parks when there are budget cuts and “money gets worked around into other departments” felt somewhat “like an empty promise,” and because she “love[d]” the City and her dog, she did not wish to “change something so drastically in a way that I know will probably negatively affect us both.”

(7:41:17) – David Vanier introduced himself. He commented that he enjoyed riding his bicycle around the Prison Hill/Silver Saddle Ranch area and has had three negative experiences with off-leash dogs, including being charged at by the dogs on all three incidences and having to use pepper spray on a dog to stop it from attacking Mr. Vanier. He stated that dog owners that allow their dogs to be loose without a leash “think that they have command/control of their animal, and then that animal is able to get one free bite, and that’s not right; I don’t want to get bit.” Because of his experiences with off-leash dogs, he did not use the trail or ride his bicycle on the east side of Prison Hill in between the houses in the area, and he commented that if he was to be mauled and “messed up enough” in that area, it would “be a while” for someone to carry him out of the area on a stretcher. Referring to dog use rules and regulations, Mr. Vanier did not believe “it goes far enough, especially in these open spaces,” as there was also a lot of sage brush in those areas where he and the dogs cannot see each other, and he indicated that the dog owners needed to have some sort of physical restraint for their dogs, such as a leash. He suggested designating Mills Park as an off-leash dog area by adding a fence so people who do not wish to interact with dogs can choose to stay away from that area. He wished for dogs to be happy, but not “at the expense of me getting mauled.”

(7:43:42) – Mr. Le Balch reemphasized the error he pointed out during item #3, and he recommended the that the OSAC and the PRC “go for a subset of those” 15 parks that were currently designated for off-leash dog use because of the many people who commented about the areas that they live in. He added that “this blanket process is going to cause more headaches.”

(7:44:43) – Mr. Phillips commented that “we haven’t really had any statistics more than just counting dog contacts,” which he pointed out were largely incidences in which the Park Rangers and employees that noticed and approached

dogs that were not permitted to be in the area. He added that the conflicts “within” those dog contacts “haven’t even arisen as far as a conversation,” and he pointed out that he had not heard any statistics related to dog bites “per how many dogs have been to approved dog parks,” which he believed were statistics that should be “dealt with” before making any decisions on the matter. Mr. Phillips believed that Mr. Rehm’s attitude “says a lot of why we shouldn’t do anything” because it was “lackadaisical.” He also pointed out that the majority of the timeframe in which the data on dog contacts was collect was during the COVID-19 pandemic, and he did not believe that was a long enough timeframe.

(7:46:31) – Randy Case introduced himself as a lifelong Carson City resident and commented that he has always “love[d]” and owned dogs. He stated that he was bitten by dogs as a child “a handful of times, and it took a long time to get over that.” He stated that the reason he decided to comment was because he heard the use of the words “insignificant” and “minuscule” when addressing dog incidences, and while the draft Policy was “not excellent,” he believed that “something needs to be done, and I would certainly hope that my local government would do whatever they could to ensure that [his daughter] doesn’t have any experiences as negatively as I have.” He requested that those participating in the meeting to dismiss that “less than one percent of people are going to have something, but for that small portion of people, it can be very traumatic,” as some incidences can be much more serious. Mr. Case was “happy” that there was discussion on the matter and encouraged “finding some middle ground.”

(7:48:14) – **OSAC Vice Chairperson Kimbrough closed the public comment period, recessed the meeting, and reconvened the meeting at 7:55 p.m.** OSAC Vice Chairperson Kimbrough noted that the fact that over 700 individuals responded to the dog use survey was “huge for any survey” and indicated that there were many people who wished to provide feedback about dogs. Referencing the data from the dog use survey, he commented that “the number one thing of all else was the dogs off leash created problems for people with a dog on a leash or without a dog,” and a third of the responders with and without dogs had dog conflicts, with 200 responders having witnessed serious dog encounters. OSAC Vice Chairperson Kimbrough added that there were many dog conflicts, most of which took place in dog parks, that were not discussed that were a part of the data that aided the OSAC and the PRC to progress to the current position with the draft Policy. He noted that there was support from people for the use of leashes in some wildlife areas, although most significant factor was the safety component relating to dog conflicts. He stated that the belief that Staff were trying to take away opportunities with dogs was “a misunderstanding,” and he believed that Staff had done “a really good job” of trying to open a discussion about how the community should regulate dog use.

(8:02:30) – Ms. Budge indicated that the Members and the Commissioners could suggest revisions for Ms. Budge to add to the copy of the draft Policy, which she would read back to the Members and the Commissioners. She added that there could be immediate funding for such improvements as additional fenced areas that were brought to the Members’ and the Commissioners’ attention or existing parks that may have fencing added to them, as they were all eligible for residential construction tax, and there was currently a lot of construction taking place that generates the residential construction tax. She requested that the Members and the Commissioners suggest any other locations to consider for a fenced-in area, and she and Ms. Boyer clarified the agenda materials. Based on Ms. Budge’s clarification, OSAC Vice Chairperson Kimbrough entertained Member and Commissioner input and potential modifications pertaining to the Carson City Park System List starting with the proposed leash requirement for dogs on trailheads, and Ms. Budge responded to clarifying questions.

(8:05:18) – Member Inversin was in favor of the leash requirement for trailheads due to having witnessed and experienced “too many incidents at trailheads” involving dogs jumping on her and dogs running into the road. She

also pointed out that the draft Policy was proposing permitting off-leash dog use on trails once out of the parking lot, and the public had access to many open space areas where off-leash dogs were allowed.

(8:08:00) – Member Berge thanked the members of the public for attending the meeting and stated that, as a dog owner, she enjoys allowing her dogs to run; however, she noted that pedestrians and bicyclists on the streets made communities strong and healthy by lowering crime and creating connections with people. She believed that the City needed more dog parks. She also mentioned having similar experiences to Mr. Vanier's while bicycling and had witnessed dogs chasing wildlife in open space areas.

(8:12:07) – Commissioner Schuette believed that it was important for the community to understand why dogs were prohibited from special-use facilities, which she explained was because community events “can create its own issue,” and dogs running around in areas where they are not permitted to do so would need to be removed from that area, leading to dogs being left in hot cars. She encouraged everyone to “do our part in keeping animals safe, looking out for each other, and respecting those areas where it's not a good place to have a pet.”

(8:20:48) – Discussion ensued regarding the prohibited dog use at John D. Winters Centennial Park Complex, during which Ms. Budge clarified that, while she appreciated the suggestion of an easement, the City “wouldn’t give an easement to itself, so from a process standpoint, that mechanism might not make sense.” Based on Commissioner Schuette’s suggestion to allow individuals to walk their on-leash dogs in the parking area during the winter months, Ms. Budge expressed concern about the potential dog conflicts in the roadway due to the heavy travel on the road and the year-round use of the golf course, and she did not wish to encourage dogs in the road area; however, she also stated that she would trust Parks, Recreation, and Open Space staff to educate rather than “calling that specifically out in the Policy” during the off season and when no sports tournaments would be organized. Commissioner Schuette agreed with Ms. Budge’s input. Ms. Budge noted that the Master Plan for the John D. Winters Centennial Park Complex needed to be updated, and a path or trail may be identified to accommodate the local neighborhood when considering updates to the Master Plan.

(8:24:37) – During discussion regarding dog use at the City parks, Commissioner Schuette referenced the public comments and the input from Member Currie regarding limited access to motorized transportation as well as noted such problems as there being more vehicles on the road, limited parking, and lack of community involvement. She wished to continue to allow Long Ranch Park to provide the off-leash dog use area because she believed that Long Ranch Park was “a perfect example of a system that is working and that is appreciated and that really highlights the beauty of what community can be.” She believed that enclosed areas were “critical” for off-leash dog use and encouraged being mindful of making areas available for off-leash dog use to such individuals as those with physical disabilities. She suggested agendizing an item to identify three additional parks to fence for off-leash dog use. Commissioner Keever pointed out that there were three parks that Ms. Budge indicated were under consideration for fencing, and she proposed exempting those three parks from the designation of on-leash dog use proposed in the Carson City Park System List “with the understanding that they, within the next year or so, would be fenced, and let the status quo for those three go forward.” Member Currie, from a list of criteria, offered excluding playground and picnic areas and areas with athletic courts for consideration of off-leash dog use. She also requested targeting smaller parks, including Steinheimer Park based on Ms. Bridge’s public comment, and Commissioner Keever added that Sunset Park or Washington Park would be “another great one” to consider for off-leash dog use. Ms. Budge recommended considering the neighbors and how close houses were to neighborhood parks when discussing the possible neighborhood parks that could be designated for off-leash dog use. She suggested exempting the locations where the Members and the Commissioners believed there should be a fenced-in dog park to allow

the off-leash dog activity to continue until the fenced area would be instituted, and off-leash dog activity would be confined to the fenced-in area once it has been constructed. Member Inversin pointed out that the OSAC and the PRC had not received feedback from the neighbors located near the neighborhood parks that may not wish to have the dogs around those areas, and Ms. Budge proposed noticing the neighbors for a future meeting to consider a specific neighborhood park for a fenced-in dog park, such as Steinheimer Park, as well as possibly updating the Master Plan for that park. Based on a suggestion from PRC Chairperson Case regarding recommending removal of CCMC 13.02.090 and modification of CCMC 7.13.080 to the BOS, Commissioner Caldwell was in favor of updating the CCMC first, which Mr. Johnson indicated was discussed among himself, Ms. Budge, and Ms. Boyer when updating the draft Policy and could be considered as an option; however, the Carson City District Attorney's Office was in the process of a multiyear review and revise complete rewrite of the CCMC.

(8:45:01) – In response to Commissioner Wilke-McCulloch's question, Ms. Budge advised that the OSAC and the PRC could remove sections of the draft Policy and recommend portions of the draft Policy to the BOS that they are “very comfortable with,” and there could be continued discussion on outstanding issues. Commissioner Keever was “comfortable” with taking action on the trailheads and the special-use facilities sections of the Carson City Park System List, and she suggested revisiting the parks section after obtaining more feedback from neighbors as well as more information. Discussion ensued, during which Commissioner Wilke-McCulloch did not believe that completing a revised draft Policy at this meeting would “end up being the kind of policy that's going to stick; I think it's going to come back, and it's going to get revisited and revisited.” She believed that many factors were brought to the OSAC's and the PRC's attention during the meeting that the Members and the Commissioners did not have answers for. Member Inversin added, “we're never going to satisfy everybody.” Member Currie requested adding some more smaller parks to allow dogs off leash due to there being “a lack of distribution” of off-leash parks, and Ms. Budge indicated that Mayor's Park and Ronald D. Wilson Memorial Park were suggested by the OSAC-PRC subcommittee for additional off-leash dog parks for a total of six off-leash areas within the City to eventually be fenced. The Members and the Commissioners agreed to schedule another joint meeting of the OSAC and the PRC to continue discussion on the draft Policy. OSAC Vice Chairperson Kimbrough entertained a motion.

(9:03:42) – MOTION: Member Berge moved to recommend the draft Dog Rules and Regulations Policy to the Board of Supervisors with the changes to turn Long Ranch Park, Steinheimer Park, Mayor's Park, and Ronald D. Wilson Memorial Park as green allowing for off-leash use. Member Inversin seconded the motion.

(9:08:25) – OSAC Vice Chairperson Kimbrough noted that rivers were critical for the habitats in the community, as rivers in the desert are “huge” for the food chain, birds, and other animals that live in the river corridor, and he believed with all the Carson River permitting off-leash dog use, “that's terrible; it's going to scare all the wildlife away.” He also commented that “it's a known fact with trails that dogs have an impact on trails when it comes to wildlife, especially smaller critters.” He supported either allowing dogs on leash at the Carson River or permitting dogs off leash in one area, such as the Carson River Canyon.

(9:10:40) – Member Berge wished to amend her motion.

(9:11:01) – MOTION: Member Berge moved, for the draft Dog Rules and Regulations Policy of the Carson City Park System List, to recommend approval of the special-use facilities portion, the trailheads portion, and the parks portion with changes to Long Ranch Park, Mayor's Park, Steinheimer Park, and Ronald D. Wilson Memorial Park to [allow for] off-leash use as well as the addition of the Korean War Memorial/Riverview Trailhead for on-leash use, excluding the other portions of the Carson City Park System

List. Commissioner Schuette seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0-0 by the OSAC votes and 7-0-0 by the PRC votes.

(9:16:04) – OSAC Vice Chairperson Kimbrough recessed the meeting and reconvened the meeting at 9:19 p.m. Commissioner Wilke-McCulloch also announced her departure from the meeting at this time.

5.B. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING A RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OR STAFF REGARDING THE DRAFT MEMORIAL POLICY.

(9:35:58) – OSAC Vice Chairperson Kimbrough introduced the item, for which the Staff Report and the accompanying attachments are incorporated into the record.

(9:37:19) – Commissioner Schuette suggested including a link on the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Department's webpage, as she wished to make the link easy to find for those who wish to make a donation, and she believed it would be “a nice way” to acknowledge donors. Ms. Budge noted that Staff would be “happy to do that” and mentioned that other ideas were to produce a brochure with memorial benches and other handouts to provide opportunities for people to see the available options.

(9:38:09) – MOTION: Commissioner Whitefield moved to recommend the draft Policy as presented to the Board of Supervisors. Commissioner Schuette seconded the motion. OSAC Vice Chairperson Kimbrough entertained Member and Commissioner questions and comments. He commented that he wished to see some support for the Foundation for Carson City Parks and Recreation, and he pointed out that the Foundation was mentioned “just lightly off like they could take money there.” Ms. Budge stated that the Department could work with the Foundation on the brochures, and Staff would be “happy” to encourage the donations to go through the Foundation. OSAC Vice Chairperson Kimbrough called for a vote. **The motion carried 5-0-0 by the OSAC votes and 6-0-0 by the PRC votes.**

6. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY:

6.A. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY: DISCUSSION AND REVIEW REGARDING THE PLACEMENT OF ORNAMENTAL PAINTED ROCKS IN CARSON CITY PARKS, TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE.

(9:20:08) – OSAC Vice Chairperson Kimbrough indicated that the item would be heard during the next joint meeting of the OSAC and the PRC, and he entertained public comments related to the item. Richard Boyle introduced himself as a resident on Montelena Court and stated that, according to the *Nevada Appeal*, the National Park Service considers painted rocks to be illegal graffiti as well as a source of pollution. He commented that “it’s kind of skewed to start with,” and during the pandemic, he had started painting decorative rocks “to give people a smile” and for others to enjoy, particularly along the Virginia and Truckee (V&T) Trail. He noted that other individuals “joined in on this thing,” with the approximately 300 rocks in the location having been removed by someone else. Mr. Boyle added that the location of the rocks was “not a pristine trail,” as he “could see it on a pristine trail, and maybe that’s what you’re going to be looking at in this policy and procedures,” but the V&T Trail was somewhat of a commuted, asphalt trail. He requested that the OSAC and the PRC, when developing the policy, remember that there were “different categories” to consider. He also wished to know where those rocks that were

removed had gone. Mr. Boyle presented some painted rocks that he offered for those present at the meeting to take with them.

(9:26:01) – Ms. Bridges indicated that she walked on Northridge Drive and inquired about the significant impact of painted rocks on the environment because when she walked on the paved trail, she observed syringes, cigarette ends, and empty booze bottles, which she also wished to know the impact of toward the environment. She commented that the painted rocks “brought just a little bit of joy during the pandemic, and they’re beautiful.” Ms. Bridges also mentioned that there were a lot of problems in the City, and she did not understand how the “beautiful, pretty rocks” among the “plain” rocks were “destroying Carson City right now.”

(9:27:43) – Mr. French commented that the painted rocks were “beautiful”; however, “the statements in the paper suggest that because there’s a certain desire to be able to express yourself, there is also the possibility of people mistreating that option.” He mentioned the painting materials used on the painted rocks and inquired about where the rocks come from and where they end up. He indicated that he was “mixed on this” because he understood that “we need outlets, and these are ways to communicate in a really neat, beautiful, and artistic” way. Mr. French agreed with the principle that “cities leave no trace” and believed there could be opportunities for fundraisers so people could submit their painted rocks for purchasing or for donations toward an organization, after which the painted rocks should be removed. He added that the paint “breaks down, and that goes into the environment.” He noted that he also observed “needles and such … all the time” when walking and believed that those items should be watched out for more.

(9:30:36) – Catherine Boyle stated that each rock that is painted is thoroughly scrubbed and washed, fully painted, and fully sealed three times with UV protection “so it will take quite a bit of time for these rocks to break down.” She indicated that the painted rocks were only placed at the cinderblock wall along the V&T Trail and not near the Carson River, on hiking trails, or in riverbeds. She pointed out that the cinderblock wall was freshly repaved with tar and painted with a yellow line, and she inquired about if the yellow line was sealed to protect the environment. Ms. Boyle noted that many people walk along the trail and pointed out the comments that were received about the painted rocks, how more people were participating in painting rocks “to bring joy to others,” and how the painted rocks had “rotated.” She mentioned that her painted rocks “disappear” and added, “who cares if it brings a little bit of joy to somebody?” Ms. Boyle indicated that the painted rocks were not contaminated and commented that there was more dog waste “out there” than there were painted rocks. She also asked, “are we talking about bringing happiness and bringing community together, or are we talking about leaving a bare asphalt strip up against a cinderblock wall pristine?”

(9:35:36) – MOTION: Commissioner Schuette moved to table agenda item 6.A to be discussed at the next joint meeting. The motion was seconded by Member Currie. The motion carried 5-0-0 by the OSAC votes and 6-0-0 by the PRC votes.

7. STAFF UPDATES – DISCUSSION ONLY

7.A DIRECTOR’S REPORT: UPDATES REGARDING DEPARTMENT’S PROJECTS, PROGRAMS, FACILITIES, AND EVENTS; GRANTS; STATUS OF RECRUITMENT FOR VACANT POSITIONS; AND BOARD OF SUPERVISOR’S ACTION ITEMS.

(9:41:50) – OSAC Vice Chairperson Kimbrough introduced the item. Ms. Budge reported that the Mills Park survey, currently at over 900 responses, was still in progress and could be filled out on the City’s website,

<https://www.carson.org/>. She stated that all the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Department seasonal positions were vacant, including for parks, aquatics, and youth, all of which had recently received raises in pay starting July 1, 2022 for a starting wage of at least \$12 an hour. Additionally, there were some full-time positions that were open, including the Arts and Culture Coordinator position, the Recreation Coordinator position, and the Recreation Coordinator position for sports, and the Department had recently hired Samantha Essig for the National Resource Specialist position, Albert Hardgrave for the Supervising Lifeguard position, and Caitlin Beaudette for the Theater Coordinator position. Ms. Budge also responded to clarifying questions.

8. MEMBERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

(9:42:59) – PRC Chairperson Case entertained Commissioner announcements. Commissioner Schuette gave “a shoutout” to Carson City Recreation Superintendent Dan Earp and Carson City Recreation Program Manager Mike Freeman for leading “a wonderful kayak trip” to Donner Lake, and she commented that she and those who participated “had a ball.” She also gave “a shoutout” to Carson Tahoe Hospital for partnering with the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Department and helping with purchasing the kayaks. She recommended participating in any of the kayaking, snowshoeing, or hiking events.

(9:43:53) – Commissioner Keever informed Ms. Budge that she had received a lot of positive feedback on the Carson City Rifle and Pistol Range and how “wonderful,” “nice,” and knowledgeable the Ranger Master was. She added that there was a suggestion of nametags for the staff at the Rifle and Pistol Range. She stated that the drainage was fixed at Fuji Park, and the Sonoma Park regular visitors wished to know if they could make donations to the Foundation for Carson City Parks and Recreation for a second water fountain at the park. She also mentioned that “the disc golf community” wished to know if Staff would be opposed to them setting up practice baskets at the Pete Livermore Sports Complex.

(9:45:00) – Commissioner Whitefield announced that registration had recently been opened for the two-day pickleball fundraising tournament at the Multi-Purpose Athletic Center (MAC) on October 22 and 23, 2022, and registration would be open until September 20, 2022. Additionally, the tournament would include “men’s doubles,” “women’s doubles,” and “mixed doubles.” He stated that the tournament could be found on the Pickle Ball Brackets website, <https://pickleballbrackets.com/pts.aspx>. He mentioned that the kitchens in the pickleball court at Mills Park were painted blue, which was completed two months ago.

(9:46:08) – OSAC Vice Chairperson Kimbrough entertained Member announcements. Member Inversin announced that, because of Mr. Berggren and his intern, almost all the V&T Trail signs were displayed, and the Historic V&T Trail Workgroup were in the process of completing the map, which would be added to the national Rails to Trails website once completed. She stated that the Workgroup was also working on getting some easements in Douglas County, and the Workgroup would be working with Douglas County to complete its Master Plan for bicycling and pedestrian trails, in which the V&T Trail would likely be recognized. She indicated that a preapplication would be submitted with the intention to obtain a grant with the first engineering study on the bridge over the Carson River.

(9:47:27) – Member Currie stated that her out of town guests were “so impressed” with the new signs at the Riverview Park area, and the guests recognized the consistency and the design.

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – DISCUSSION ONLY

(9:48:23) – OSAC Vice Chairperson Kimbrough introduced the item. Ms. Budge proposed scheduling a joint meeting in August 2022 to continue discussion on the rest of the draft Dog Rules and Regulations Policy and the ornamental painted rocks, and the Members and the Commissioners agreed to schedule the joint meeting for August 16, 2022.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

(9:53:19) – OSAC Vice Chairperson Kimbrough entertained public comments. Mr. French commented that parks and open space areas were “wonderful,” and Carson City “should have as much and all they can.” He stated that parks, because they were not open spaces, were “contrived” and “built for human interaction with activities that are designed, put on that area, and set for their enjoyment,” while open spaces were supposed to be designated for the natural habitat, the plants, and the wildlife. He added that people needed access to the open spaces to understand “what it’s about” and to enjoy the areas. Mr. French believed that the dog use issue “opened my eyes” to dogs in open spaces and dealing with wildlife. He indicated that he was “not one that likes fences, and I know there has to be some time or situation with the dogs and such.” He thanked everyone for responding to his concerns, including in regards to the slurry seal above Western Nevada College (WNC) on the V&T Trail, which he indicated was “a very unfortunate circumstance of my finding out at a point where it put me in a bit of a panic.” He suggested addressing slurring areas individually, as “it was a terrible match” at the referenced location, and he pointed out that sage trees were “going away” while the “bodies” of the other plants were “left at their feet.” Mr. French mentioned that “if you read anything about sage, they talk [and] they communicate just like lawns and other trees, … [and] they can live to be 100 if we leave them alone.” He indicated that people were the sages’ “biggest destroyer” due to construction and development.

11. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: TO ADJOURN

(9:56:48) – OSAC Vice Chairperson Kimbrough adjourned the meeting at 9:56 p.m.

The Minutes of the July 18, 2022 Carson City Open Space Advisory Committee and the Carson City Parks and Recreation Commission joint meeting are so approved this 6th day of December 2022.