

**DRAFT MINUTES**  
**Joint Meeting**  
**Carson City Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC)**  
**Carson City Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC)**  
**Tuesday, August 16, 2022 ● 6:00 PM**  
**Community Center Robert “Bob” Crowell Board Room**  
**851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada**

**PRC Members**

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

**OSAC Members**

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

**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](http://www.CarsonCity.org/minutes).

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

(6:02:39) – OSAC Chairperson Welch called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL & DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

(6:03:36) – Roll was called, and a quorum was present.

PRC Attendee Name	Status	Arrived
Chairperson Lea Case	Present (via WebEx)	
Vice Chairperson Kurt Meyer	Present	
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	Present	
Vice Chairperson Mark Kimbrough	Present	
Member Donna Inversin	Present	
Member Susan Martinovich	Present	
Member Mary Berge	Present	
Member Robert Ghiglieri	Present	
Member Kristine Currie	Present	

### 3. PUBLIC COMMENT

(6:04:17) – OSAC Chairperson Welch entertained public comments. Ms. Boyer introduced Samantha Essig as the new Senior Natural Resource Specialist for the Carson City Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Department, and Ms. Essig briefly described her background.

### 4. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: APPROVAL OF MINUTES –

No minutes were available for approval.

### 5. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION:

#### 5A FOR DISCUSSION ONLY: DISCUSSION AND REVIEW REGARDING THE PLACEMENT OF ORNAMENTAL PAINTED ROCKS IN CARSON CITY PARKS, TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE.

(6:05:53) – OSAC Chairperson Welch introduced the item. Mr. Berggren referenced the Staff Report and the accompanying attachment, both of which are incorporated into the record.

(6:10:29) – OSAC Chairperson Welch entertained Member input. Member Currie was concerned about the potential for ecological damage and respected “the science that went behind that concern.” She understood the great concern with plastics “getting more and more into our environment ... because those plastics get everywhere very fast.” She supported the painted rocks as an attempt to “bring kindness to everybody and to bring beauty to the world in a human way.” Ms. Currie was in favor of the rock garden idea, and she suggested such ideas as organizing events with a contest based on the painted rocks or placing the painted rocks in more accessible areas for individuals who cannot travel to the less-accessible regions of the trails. Member Berge was in favor of “a rock part trail” kept in one small area and not “spread out” because she believed that the City should have the ability to pick up any painted rocks that are not on a designated area. She also supported “the idea of kindness” and did not wish for there to be “such nitpicking” that would prevent someone from placing “a nice little rock to make someone’s day a little better.” She noted that the City had “way more important things to do.” Member Martinovich enjoyed the painted rocks when running on the Virginia and Truckee (V&T) Trail, and she noted that a portion of the V&T Trail is paved, has walls, and has houses on the other side of the walls, which have all already impacted the natural terrain. As a Carson City native, she believed there was opportunity for the painted rocks along areas that were already impacted, such as sidewalks, and mentioned that there were painted rocks in Long Ranch Park

that were placed next to the street on the sidewalks. She noted that, based on her previous job, political signs cannot be displayed in public right-of-way and commercial advertising cannot be displayed in State-owned right-of-way, so there could be a policy to address if painted rocks become “politicized” and/or inappropriate. Member Martinovich suggested that the removal of painted rocks could be “self-monitoring” to ensure that the intent of the displayed rocks is to help “bring something nice,” since there were not Department staff. She clarified that she did not support placing painted rocks in open space areas, including such areas as the climb up to Kings Canyon or the V&T Trail from Koontz Lane through the dirt section of the trail. Member Ghiglieri agreed with Members Currie, Berge, and Martinovich and added that he “had no issue” with the painted rocks on the paved paths; however, he did not wish to see the painted rocks on the dirt trails leading into the foothills or on the east side of the City on single track or double track trails. He recommended including in a policy that the City has the right to pick up any rock at any point in time for any reason.

(6:17:25) – Member Inversin referenced Carson City Municipal Code (CCMC) 13.06.010 stating that the objective of the Open Space Program is *“to promote quality of life for citizens of Carson City through the preservation and protection of the quality of the natural environment which has given Carson City much of its character,”* and *“natural environment includes many spectacular views of the mountains, Carson River, and Eagle Valley.”* She indicated that the V&T Trail was considered open space and emphasized that painted rocks were not natural. Member Inversin mentioned that the wall along the V&T Trail was built by the housing development in that area. She was “totally opposed” to any painted rocks within any open space areas and supported finding a park to place painted rocks in.

(6:19:11) – OSAC Vice Chairperson Kimbrough brought to the OSAC’s and the PRC’s attention that a national trails conference was being organized for Reno during April 2023, and one of the presentations at the conference was for “Art on the Trail” for people to bring their communities’ works of art from trails. He noted that any painted rock in national parks is considered graffiti because their mission is “total protection of the environment,” and he stated that “cities have this responsibility to split that a little bit.” He added that because there were more people, “you have to govern more towards for people than you do the natural environment sometimes.” OSAC Vice Chairperson Kimbrough was not opposed to art in the hardscaped areas and mentioned how much he enjoyed viewing the mural on the underpass of Interstate 580. He believed that art activity still needed to be controlled and mentioned knowing some art groups, such as the Brewery Arts Center (BAC), or some “leadership” in the community that may help. PRC Chairperson Case wished to see some of the painted rocks on the trail, identified as the Freeway Multi-Use Path, that starts “kind of on Lompa [Lane] and spits you out over by Home Depot and Walmart, ... and that takes us over to the park over off James [Drive],” which she noted was all a developed area.

(6:24:22) – Commissioner Caldwell believed that the public placing painted rocks in locations around the City was “a fad” and would “pass,” so she was unsure “if we have to get real excited about it.” She suggested that the OSAC and the PRC “just let it be.”

(6:25:02) – Commissioner Schuette agreed “with so much of what so many people have said” and expressed that she “love[d] an idea of a kindness project.” She believed that “the world could use and benefit from kindness, and when people are reaching out, sharing beauty and thoughtfulness, that’s always a good thing.” She echoed Member Martinovich’s input regarding the V&T Trail, and Commissioner Schuette believed that the area along the wall of the V&T Trail was “a joyful, lovely, makes sense kind of place for something like this.” She agreed with previous Member and Commissioner input regarding opposition to placing painted rocks in natural environments, and she echoed OSAC Vice Chairperson Kimbrough’s statement. She supported the idea of “embracing art within limited

areas.” Commissioner Whitefield indicated that he frequently bicycled on the portion of the V&T Trail referenced in the agenda materials, and he believed that, although that part of the trail was designated as open space, “you’d be hard-pressed to actually identify it as such if you’re on the trail, so maybe it needs to be reidentified or reallocated to some other designation.” He believed that leaving the painted rocks in areas for others was “a very nice activity to promote the well-being of the community,” which he supported in “any place that it makes sense in terms of hardscape.” Commissioner Keever suggested designating an area where the painted rocks could be displayed as well as some form of prohibition against political advertising or advertising in general on the rocks. She proposed using the painted rocks on a trail or in a park that was “not a real popular one” for a promotional project. Commissioner Wilke-McCulloch echoed Member Currie’s input and advised being careful with the potential ecological damage. She suggested arranging rock gardens with the painted rocks in parks that no longer have playground equipment as a way to encourage people to use those parks.

(6:29:41) – PRC Vice Chairperson Meyer commented, “I’m kind of voiced out at heart in leave no trace, so I agree with those spaces that are out there for people to step onto the dirt that there’s no painted rocks on it.” He “kind of enjoyed” the painted rocks on the hardscapes along the freeway and the V&T Trail; however, he “did not necessarily enjoy that” when he turned to bicycle into the hills on his mountain bike.

(6:30:35) – OSAC Chairperson Welch agreed with allowing painted rocks on hardscape and suggested implementing a policy decision for the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Department to have “considerable leeway” with designating where painted rocks were and were not appropriate. He also enjoyed seeing the painted rocks and commented that if any mass balance was calculated on the amount of paint use on the rocks compared to the amount of paint used on the City’s streets, buildings, “and everything else, it’s a miniscule thing.” Commissioner Schuette added that the matter was an opportunity to discuss why some paints were acceptable while other paints were not acceptable to use on the rocks.

(6:33:15) – OSAC Chairperson Welch entertained public comments. Deni French introduced himself as a Carson City resident and wished to have “this type of format related to most every subject” in regards to the Members and the Commissioners providing their input on the subject. He asked where the painted rocks would go if they are removed from their original location and where the rocks were coming from, which he indicated was “a huge question for me.” He stated that the materials used on the rocks could not be cleaned up for the rocks to be placed back into the environment, so he believed that every rock needed to be considered “precious,” and he clarified that if the painted rock was going to “go home and sit on somebody’s coffee table, great, if it made them happy.” Mr. French “love[d]” the art and enjoyed looking at “what people have come up with”; however, he was opposed to “that type of art” being displayed on hardscapes or softscapes. He believed the painted rocks could be used in certain parks, for festivals, or for different activities that have been suggested. He was looking forward to “the individuals that had started this knowing that they have had a chance to say their peace because they got cut short the other opportunities.”

(6:35:41) – Chris [inaudible last name] introduced himself and agreed with designating an area for the painted rocks. He commented that “the last thing I want to see ... is a teal-painted rock sitting next to me” after completing “a big climb.” He added, “hopefully, this painted color stuff just runs its trip, and it’s done with and goes away.”

(6:36:17) – Sheila Bridges introduced herself as a fifth-generation Nevadan and indicated that she was 58 years old. She asked if the “C” created with painted rocks on C-Hill was graffiti, as she believed that area was open space. She commented that “in the name of art, we’ve got what looks like a decapitated head ... in front of this building

here,” and she pointed out that there was paint on the asphalt and the houses. She indicated that she had not viewed any data or study regarding the environmental impact from the paint on the rocks. She stated that she had seen painted rocks during COVID-19 on the trail in the Ridgefield area; however, she never observed “anything political,” and added that all the painted rocks were “nice” and “very beautiful.” Ms. Bridges questioned if the “side of a mountain behind a Save Mart” was open space “before you decided to put hundreds of apartment buildings” in that area and commented, “I guess open space is sacred until it’s not; it’s sacred until we have to put up apartment buildings.” She pointed out that, despite the concern over “a painted rock,” she has seen a booze bottle every day and syringes frequently while walking her dog, and she has seen trash “everywhere,” including on the open space trails. She asked if “everything” needed to be regulated. She mentioned that “we’re so worried about the natural environment, yet ... let’s just tear up the Lompa Ranch,” adding that doing so would lead to there being no more open space in the City “pretty soon” because on “every single open space, there’s a realty sign on it.”

(6:39:42) – Catherine Boyle introduced herself as a Carson City resident, and based on her research, she noted that rock trails were “quite popular” around the United States. She stated that while the painted rocks were “a fad” in some areas, “they’ve been going for absolutely years” in other areas. She was opposed to painted rocks being placed on the dirt trails and supported the current federal and State policies concerning trails. She hoped that a policy could be implemented to define the area for the cinderblock wall, the asphalt, and the painted asphalt as well as what would be considered “political.” Ms. Boyle commented that the natural space had already been damaged by the cinderblock wall, the asphalt, and the paint dividing both sides of the asphalt for the V&T Multi-Use Path, so it could be “an ideal environment.” She supported limiting display of the painted rocks to the cinderblock wall. She expressed that she “love[d]” such art as the metal sculptures along Highways 80 and 50, which she added “brings ... a lightness to our hearts just like a rock wall does when somebody’s taking a stroll.” She also commented that “it’s only much to do about nothing if you haven’t spent literally hours upon hour upon hours painting these suckers ... to have them thrown away by one person.”

(6:43:00) – Ryan Espinoza introduced himself and commented that people could “self-police” on the matter. He indicated that “what’s political to one is not political to another” and suggested that someone’s First Amendment rights could be violated by restricting what could be painted on the rocks. He mentioned that a political painted rock was art to the person who painted it. He questioned who would remove the painted rocks and enforce the designated areas with there being two Park Rangers “covering how much property?” Mr. Espinoza indicated that there did not need to be more rules because “people take care of things themselves.”

(6:44:02) – Perry Carlson introduced himself and indicated that he and his wife were long-time Carson City residents. He thanked the Commission [and the Committee] “for serving the citizens of Carson and trying to make it a better place to live,” and he mentioned that he also served the City for 33 years with the Carson City Fire Department. He commented that he and his wife had a 15-year tradition that involved decorating a pinyon pine on S-Hill with the State colors and garland on the day after Thanksgiving, and they removed the decorations after the 12 days of Christmas. Mr. Carlson stated that he and his wife had received many positive comments regarding the decorating from the field hikers on the S-Hill trail, and he noted coming across some rock art on “bad days” that would change his outlook for the rest of the day. He requested that the OSAC and the PRC “leave it alone” if it was not an issue.

(6:45:32) – Ms. Budge appreciated those that participated at the meeting being “open and considerate” when sharing their opinions on the matter, and she understood “the passion on both sides of it.” She noted there being certain



First Amendment protections for individuals in place to prevent censorship by the City. She indicated that Staff were willing to create a policy that could be presented for the Members' and the Commissioners' consideration. OSAC Chairperson Welch entertained additional Member and Commissioner input, and Ms. Budge responded to clarifying questions. OSAC Vice Chairperson Kimbrough, Member Martinovich, and Member Currie were in favor of creating a policy, and OSAC Vice Chairperson Kimbrough suggested that Staff research what other communities implemented to use as a template for a policy. Ms. Budge stated that one of the first tasks for the Carson City Arts and Culture Supervisor could be to develop the possible policy for the painted rocks once the position has been filled. Member Martinovich acknowledged Mary Fischer for having proposed the Carson City freeway landscaping projects to the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT), which led to NDOT creating a committee based on aesthetics and landscaping as well as policies. Member Currie wished to have "a permissive policy" created to "do as much as possible to guide the permission for doing this in a way that contributes to art [and] contributes to quality of life without detracting or harming." Commissioner Wilke-McCulloch noted that there were "a lot of things that we have on our plate right now as a Department" that she believed were a priority, and she wished that a potential policy on the matter be kept on "a priority status." She also thanked Mr. Berggren for the presentation and time with having stayed through the previous joint meeting when the item was tabled. OSAC Chairperson Welch agreed with Commissioner Wilke-McCulloch's input.

**5B FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING A RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OR STAFF REGARDING THE OPEN SPACE AND TRAIL COMPONENTS OF THE DRAFT DOG RULES AND REGULATIONS POLICY.**

(6:51:00) – OSAC Chairperson Welch introduced the item. Ms. Boyer referenced the Staff Report and the accompanying attachments, all of which are incorporated into the record, and she indicated that the OSAC and the PRC would be focusing on the trails and the open space areas components of the draft Dog Rules and Regulations Policy. Ms. Budge also responded to clarifying questions.

(6:55:25) – OSAC Chairperson Welch entertained Commissioner and Member input. Commissioner Schuette commented that the City was a dog-friendly community, and the OSAC and the PRC were trying to be respectful of every individual within the community as well as consider the safety of dogs through the development of the draft Policy.

(6:59:05) – PRC Vice Chairperson Meyer indicated that he hiked, walked, and mountain biked with his dog and believed being able to have his dog off leash while "rolling through the hills" was "a wonderful part" of the City.

(6:59:36) – Based on a suggestion from Commissioner Caldwell, Member Currie requested simple, inexpensive signage that clearly defines trailheads and where dogs can be allowed off leash on the trail. Member Berge suggested also including simple signage on the multi-use paths or the paved paths that run along the ditches to indicate that dogs must be on leash.

(7:01:25) – Members Martinovich and Ghiglieri supported the changes that Ms. Boyer highlighted in the draft Policy, and Member Martinovich believed that the draft Policy was "good [and] reasonable." Member Ghiglieri thanked Staff for all the work with regards to the draft Policy and noted the progress that was made during the one year he had been involved with developing the draft Policy. He strongly agreed with a public comment that was submitted regarding the protection of wildlife, and he believed that the public may need to be encouraged to keep animals on leash during such times as when there are new fawns or while in the Carson River area to protect the wildlife in that area. Member Inversin agreed with Member Ghiglieri's input and wished for Staff to add that dog

owners were responsible for ensuring that their dogs do not harass wildlife under the “responsibility of dog owners” section of the “Basis and Guiding Principles.” She suggested closing the river corridor on both sides of the Carson River during the nesting season, as the river corridor was “a flyaway corridor” for nesting birds, and she emphasized the importance of the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Department protecting the nesting birds. She requested making the Dog Rules and Regulations Map interactive as soon as the draft Policy is accepted. OSAC Vice Chairperson Kimbrough indicated that he was “a strong defender of that Carson River corridor” and mentioned that there were so many species in the Carson River area that University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) students would visit the river corridor for one of their courses. He referenced Dan Greytak’s written public comment submitted via email, which is incorporated into the record, and OSAC Vice Chairperson Kimbrough supported some closures in the Carson River area to protect the river corridor. He commented that the public could “enjoy it much more if you’re down there with your children [and] your grandchildren than after dogs chased everything off before you get there.” He clarified that he was not “anti-dog” and believed that the Carson River corridor was not the appropriate place to have “a free run of your dog.”

(7:07:13) – OSAC Chairperson Welch entertained public comments. Mr. French appreciated the consideration of the Carson River area, as he was “very concerned” about the nesting birds and the butterfly species that were in movement. He was in favor of Member Inversin’s request to make the Dog Rules and Regulations Map interactive and suggested adding seasonal closures to the map.

(7:09:04) – Christopher Gentine introduced himself and indicated that he has lived in Carson City his entire life. He stated that he and his wife “constantly recreate” with their dogs typically off leash, so “this whole issue is kind of agitating to me,” as he believed the on-leash/off-leash laws were “an infringement on my individual freedom.” He did not believe that individual freedoms should be “voted away” based on the majority population, and he referenced religious freedoms and freedom of speech. Mr. Gentine inquired about what the draft Policy was in response to and noted that the previous meetings discussed dog instances without elaborating on what those instances involved. He added that he worked in law enforcement and pointed out that Animal Control’s response was that there was no identified problem. He understood, as “dog people,” “not everybody has to be dog people,” and he did not believe that it was appropriate for dogs to be “everywhere at every time.” He also believed that people should have the right to choose whether to have their dogs off leash or to have a dog with them. Mr. Gentine agreed with most of the policies implemented concerning the trailheads, but he was concerned that those policies would be expanded to certain trailheads. He inquired about whether there was an identified problem concerning bald eagles or fawns and commented that policies were implemented for “a problem that does not exist.”

(7:12:04) – Laura Gentine introduced herself. She indicated that she has lived in Carson City for 18 years, has always had dogs, and walked her dogs every day off leash, which she described as her “whole world.” She stated that she used the City trails every day and had always encountered “very respectful” people on the trails. She mentioned that she has never had “even semi-serious altercations with other dogs, whether they’re on or off leash,” and she stated that her dogs had never eaten birds or deer. Ms. Gentine commented that when another dog is on leash, it was understood that, with an off-leash dog, “you respect the leash” and pull aside the off-leash dog. She stated that people “love” their dog and do not wish to see their dogs get hurt because “for a lot of us, ... those are our kids,” but the public did not need to be “micromanaged.” She noted the discussion about the impact that dogs have on the environment, the trails, and the wildlife at the previous joint meeting of the OSAC and the PRC, and she pointed out that humans had “the greatest impact of all on all of those things.” Ms. Gentine suggested taking into consideration the construction in the community. She noted that the word “dangerous” was used frequently during the previous joint meeting and hoped that the OSAC and the PRC did not assume that every dog was

dangerous and every situation involving dogs was dangerous. She requested that the OSAC and the PRC “please give us the courtesy that we work really hard to raise really good dogs every single day,” and she mentioned that she worked every day to have dogs that could be involved in the community. She also mentioned that dogs “give back,” as she also owned therapy dogs. She indicated that, as an educator, she has had a tradition to walk her dogs on the Riverview Park Loop every night before the first day of school, and she would be “devastated to lose that” because she considered the tradition to be her “therapy” and her “everything.”

(7:15:38) – Dan Greytak introduced himself as a citizen of Carson City and read his written public comment.

(7:18:36) – Mr. Espinoza referenced Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 503.631 regarding dogs running at large and NRS 503.005 prohibiting the harassment of any game mammals or game birds by any means. He commented that the City did not need more policies “to micromanage adults.”

(7:19:32) – John Barrette introduced himself. He commented that the draft Policy may be well-intentioned, but it was “too broad and too restrictive.” He stated that the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Department was “attempting to find a solution to a mostly imagined problem, ... nor will anything be improved by some of the language in this draft.” He believed that adults should be treated as such “in a state like this where adults have been treated that way until they prove otherwise.” Mr. Barrette added that the bond between people and dogs was “one of the oldest natural bonds on this planet.” He referenced the “Voice Command/Voice Control” definition on page #2 of the draft Policy and commented that “this just sets up a situation where people who don’t like dogs and people who have dogs will be at each other’s throats on occasion.” He also requested changing the “responsibility of dog owners” section on page #4 of the draft Policy to “responsibility of dog and horse owners,” as the horses needed their waste picked up, and he noted that he requested that change a year ago at another joint meeting of the OSAC and the PRC. Mr. Barrette thanked the Members and the Commissioners for excluding Long Ranch Park and Mayor’s Park from enforcing on-leash dog use and urged adding Blackwell’s Pond Park to the parks that allow off-leash dogs. He did not oppose requiring on-leash dog use at trailheads and was “glad” that the OSAC and the PRC intended to allow dogs off leash in most cases on various trails, as he believed doing so was “wise policy.”

(7:22:41) – Ms. Bridges referenced the “wildlife” definition on page #3 of the draft Policy and inquired about how many animals were killed once a large housing complex is approved for construction. She agreed with Ms. Gentine’s public comment and added that humans were “also responsible for maintaining because otherwise we should just all commit suicide and let the animals ... take over ... to protect the wildlife.” She indicated that she remembered when there was “nothing out there” at the Carson River during the 1970s, and she stated that “nobody cared about the Carson River until people came along, developed a bunch of houses, and decided to make it this natural habitat.” She requested specific data on dog incidences and what the incidences referred to. Ms. Bridges also inquired about who would enforce the draft Policy once implemented. She predicted less people picking up after their dogs due to there not being enough Parks, Recreation, and Open Space staff to enforce the Policy, and individuals would be “mad” and “resentful” of not being allowed to have their dogs off leash.

(7:25:55) – Perry Carlson introduced himself. He indicated that he and his wife walk their dogs every day “rain or shine” on S-Hill during the winter or on Carson River Road due to its access to water and added that his dogs were “Carson City celebrities” in the 1980s and 1990s, having been published in the newspaper “numerous times.” He mentioned that there was a quarter of a mile or an eighth of a mile area off Carson River Road where dog owners take their dogs to swim, play fetch, and socialize with other dogs during the hot summer months. He commented that he was “all game” for if the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Department wished to build a suitable pond or



swimming area at Fuji Park. He suggested allowing the area off Carson River Road to be an option for off-leash dogs, and the rest of the river corridor could be closed to dogs in order to protect the wildlife. He supported closing the Carson River area during the nesting period, but he did not support permanently closing the area, as it was one of the few wet areas where dog owners and dogs could “get away from the summer heat.”

(7:27:58) – Robyn Orloff introduced herself and supported the open space areas portion of the draft Policy. As a runner, hiker, and mountain biker, she appreciated that most of the open space areas permitted off-leash dog use, and the areas that were restricted to on-leash dog use “made sense” to her. She supported Staff being able to temporarily close and restrict dog use “along the way as they see possible” and thanked the OSAC and the PRC for making changes based on the public comments provided during the previous joint meeting of the OSAC and the PRC.

(7:29:51) – Ms. Boyer clarified the following:

- In addition to creating consistency throughout the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Department and having clear policies and procedures for the public and Department staff, one of the reasons for developing the draft Policy was the current CCMC indicating that dogs were prohibited everywhere in the park system.
- Ms. Boyer agreed with the addition of a “don’t harass wildlife” component to the draft Policy under the “responsibility of dog owners” section, and Staff identified an area for the addition in the draft Policy.
- Staff were not proposing any changes or restrictions toward dogs at Riverview Park, and the park would continue to permit off-leash dog use.

Ms. Budge added that the definition for voice command and control in the draft Policy would be revised and possibly replaced by CCMC 13.02.120.

(7:31:46) – OSAC Chairperson Welch entertained additional Member and Commissioner questions and comments, and Ms. Boyer and Ms. Budge responded to clarifying questions. OSAC Vice Chairperson Kimbrough pointed out that the 2021 dog use survey results provided data on dog conflicts and problems.

(7:34:19) – Commissioner Whitefield thanked Staff for the hard work and for having done “a good job” of incorporating and addressing many of the concerns provided by members of the public.

(7:34:41) – In response to Commissioner Wilke-McCulloch’s question, Ms. Budge stated that Staff would work on a plan to implement signage at all the park system locations and incorporate “a really robust” outreach effort after the Carson City Board of Supervisors (BOS) has approved whichever iteration of the draft Policy. Commissioner Wilke-McCulloch suggested using QR Codes with the interactive map technology.

(7:36:50) – Commissioner Whitefield emphasized that the draft Policy was “an example of permissive regulation,” as the current CCMC prohibited dogs from any parks and open space land. Member Inversin believed that it was “phenomenal” for a community “of this size” to have six parks that allow dogs off leash, and Commissioner Keever added that most communities of 100,000 people have a total of 3.5 dog parks.

**(7:39:31) – MOTION: Commissioner Whitefield moved to recommend the draft Dog Rules and Regulations Policy to the Board of Supervisors with the revision of the “Voice Command/Control” definition to be consistent with CCMC 13.02.120 and the addition of the “don’t harass wildlife” component to subsection 3.2.2 under “responsibility of dog owners.” Commissioner Caldwell seconded the motion.** OSAC Chairperson Welch entertained additional comments. Commissioner Schuette believed that the draft Policy was “a good draft”

and could foresee “some potential tweaks” in the document. She commented that “we are all part of this community, and ... the effort here is to help make this community or continue to allow this community to be a wonderful place for everyone.” She also echoed Commissioner Whitefield’s and Ms. Budge’s statements. OSAC Vice Chairperson Kimbrough believed that the Carson River was being disrespected by allowing dogs to run and play in the river and commented, “I think we just did something terrible for something we worked so long and so hard to establish that corridor over many years.” Member Currie indicated that she shared some of OSAC Vice Chairperson Kimbrough’s concern toward the riparian areas; however, she noted that language in subsections 3.1.3 and 4.9.1.1 of the draft Policy indicated that the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Department would close areas during nesting without restricting the timeframe for when the areas would be closed. She believed that the draft Policy allowed for the Department to protect the riparian areas in the event that dog interference with wildlife was shown to be a real concern over time. OSAC Chairperson Welch called for a vote by the Members. **The motion carried 6-1-0 for the OSAC, with OSAC Vice Chairperson Welch voting in opposition to the motion.** PRC Vice Chairperson Meyer called for a vote by the Commissioners. **The motion carried 6-0-0, as Commissioner Keever announced her departure from the meeting at 7:43 p.m.**

## **6. STAFF UPDATES – DISCUSSION ONLY**

### **6A DIRECTOR’S REPORT: UPDATES REGARDING THE DEPARTMENT’S PROJECTS, PROGRAMS, FACILITIES, AND EVENTS; GRANTS; STATUS OF RECRUITMENT FOR VACANT POSITIONS; AND BOARD OF SUPERVISOR’S ACTION ITEMS**

(7:46:21) – OSAC Chairperson Welch introduced the item. Ms. Budge reported that the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Department interviewed for the Carson City Arts and Culture Supervisor position and intended to make an offer of employment to officially fill the position soon. Additionally, the Department interviewed for the Carson City Recreation Coordinator position for sports. She stated that the Department was hiring for all the part-time seasonal positions, including for lifeguards, youth, and park maintenance, all of which had increased rates of pay, and those interested could apply through [www.carson.org](http://www.carson.org) > jobs.

(7:47:16) – Member Martinovich commented about the many conversations on social media concerning picking up garbage and “a lot of things that aren’t being done.” She stated that the workforce and the inability to fill positions were “the number one thing” discussed at the meetings and “places” with other states and agencies throughout the country, and she thanked Department staff for coming to work and “having the passion that you have and the time that you’re taking to do all of this.” Member Berge suggested exploring forming a partnership with the university system to offer an incentive by allowing those employed with the Department in a part-time position to earn a credit or two credits in certain fields.

## **7. MEMBERS’ ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION**

(7:49:49) – OSAC Chairperson Welch entertained Commissioner and Member announcements. Commissioner Schuette announced that she attended the National Association of Counties (NACo) conference in July 2022, and she stated that the “Park and Recreation and Art” presentation was “really amazing.” She noted that much of what was discussed during the meeting “really coincided” with the presentation. Based on the presentation, she stated that a park for some communities was a place to go for organized recreation, and she pointed out that “we all look at the world through our own lens.”

(7:51:43) – Member Martinovich requested a presentation from Staff of a final Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Budget during the next meeting, and Ms. Budge indicated that all the items that were recommended for the Open Space Budget were approved by the BOS.

(7:53:11) – Member Inversin announced that she, OSAC Vice Chairperson Welch, and Mr. Berggren were part of the team working on the Nevada Transportation, Trails, and Tourism Summit, scheduled for November 8, 2022 through November 10, 2022, which was also sponsored by NDOT and the Eastern Sierra Trails Coalition. She added that the Summit was free to attend, and Member Inversin intended to include a tour of the V&T Trail.

(7:55:37) – Commissioner Caldwell indicated that the renovations of Ross Gold Park’s tennis courts would begin during the upcoming weekend.

(7:55:59) – Member Currie informed the OSAC and the PRC that a personal matter would affect her continued presence on the OSAC.

## **8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – DISCUSSION ONLY**

(7:52:12) – OSAC Chairperson Welch introduced the item. OSAC Vice Chairperson Kimbrough stated that the Foundation for Carson City Parks and Recreation was willing to gather the funds to pay for the awards toward members of the community and asked if the matter could be agendized for the next meeting.

(7:54:52) – Commissioner Whitefield requested agendizing a discussion item regarding an update on the Mills Park Master Plan revision.

## **9. PUBLIC COMMENT**

(7:56:25) – OSAC Chairperson Welch entertained public comments; however, none were forthcoming.

## **10. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: TO ADJOURN**

(7:56:52) – OSAC Vice Chairperson Kimbrough adjourned the meeting at 7:56 p.m.

The Minutes of the August 16, 2022 Carson City Open Space Advisory Committee and the Carson Parks and Recreation Commission joint meeting are so approved this 6<sup>th</sup> day of December 2022.