

CARSON CITY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the October 7, 2003 Meeting

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A regular meeting of the Carson City Parks and Recreation Commission was scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 7, 2003 in the Community Center Sierra Room, 851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada.

PRESENT: Chairperson Stacie Wilke
Donna Curtis
Donna DePauw
Michael Hoffman
Pete Livermore
John McKenna

STAFF: Steve Kastens, Parks and Recreation Director
Scott Fahrenbruch, Parks and Recreation Director of Operations
Vern Krahn, Parks Planner
Barbara Singer, Recreation Superintendent
Kathleen King, Recording Secretary

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

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL (1-0007) - Chairperson Wilke called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Roll was called; a quorum was present. Vice Chairperson Keeton and Commissioners Dunn and Hurst were absent.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS (1-0022) - None.

1. ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES - September 2, 2003 (1-0015) - Commissioner McKenna moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Livermore seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

2. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (1-0018) - None.

3. AGENDA ITEMS:

3-A. ACTION TO APPROVE A SECTION OF THE MILLS PARK ARBORETUM AROUND THE NEVADA VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL AS A MEMORIAL GROVE COMMEMORATING VIETNAM VETERANS (1-0031) - Mr. Krahn introduced Jim Weller, President of the Carson City Area Chapter #388 of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. Mr. Krahn reviewed the staff report, and provided background information on the City's successful relationship with the ALS Foundation to establish a separate memorial grove at Mills Park. Mr. Krahn provided overviews of the site plan (Exhibit A), the Memorial Tree Grove plan (Exhibit B), and a description of the proposed bench and a portion of the Mills Park Arboretum Master Plan (Exhibit C), copies of which were included in the agenda materials. Mr. Krahn and Mr. Kastens responded to questions regarding the area designated for the Vietnam Veterans memorial grove. Commissioner Livermore expressed concern regarding the proximity of the memorial tree grove to the pavilion depicted on the site plan in that it may interfere with activities planned by pavilion users. He suggested widening the east/west portion of the proposed area and reducing

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the north/south portion by the same amount in order to accommodate the same number of trees. Mr. Krahn pointed out existing cottonwood trees to the south of the pavilion depicted on Exhibit B, and explained that one purpose of the plan is replacement of the park's cottonwood canopy. The proposed plan depicts a series of trees along the sidewalk in order to provide for shade and to visually enhance the memorial. Commissioner Livermore reiterated his concern with regard to "taking a major portion of the park and turning it into a memorial garden ... thereby potentially eliminating other public uses." Mr. Krahn advised of discussions held with Mr. Fahrenbruch to ensure that the memorial grove plan would not conflict with other events and activities. Discussion took place regarding the size of the area designated for the memorial grove. Commissioner Livermore expressed support for the concept but requested reconsideration of the size of the proposed grove area.

In response to a question, Mr. Krahn advised that the purpose of the agenda item was the Commission's consideration of the area identified in Exhibit B as the memorial grove, and phases 2 and 3 of the memorial grove plan. He advised that phase 1, in partnership with the Chapter #388 Vietnam Veterans, is nearly complete. In response to a question, he advised that phases 2 and 3 are dependent upon donations to the Chapter #388 Vietnam Veterans. Mr. Weller described details of the existing Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and discussed the purpose of the proposed grove to accommodate memorialization of Vietnam Veterans who did not enter service from Nevada. He explained the method by which service men and women, who did not enter service from Nevada, will be memorialized.

Commissioner Hoffman advised of having visited the Vietnam Veterans Memorial at times when events were scheduled in the subject pavilion. He expressed the opinion that planting trees along the sidewalk adjacent to the pavilion will not present a conflict with activities scheduled in and around it. He agreed that the cottonwoods need to be replaced, and expressed the opinion that "the sidewalk is the best place." He noted that the open areas will remain available for activities. Commissioner Livermore expressed concern regarding the height of the trees interfering with competitive activities. He expressed support for the memorial grove, but suggested a compromise to ensure that it will not deter from multiple uses of the park.

In response to a question, Mr. Weller advised that the 151 names inscribed on the memorial plaque are those of service men who entered service from Nevada, and who were killed or are missing in action in Vietnam. He responded to additional questions regarding the criteria by which future additions to the memorial will be made. He advised that the criteria were developed and will be implemented by the Chapter #388 Vietnam Veterans. He expressed appreciation for the partnership developed between the Chapter #388 Vietnam Veterans and the Parks Department staff. He provided historic information on development of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Commissioner DePauw advised that the trees proposed for the memorial grove are slow growing and will not provide shade which is comparable to the existing cottonwoods. Therefore, multiple trees will be required to replace each cottonwood as it is removed. She expressed support for the proposed memorial grove plan, and commented that it was "quite well done." She expressed the opinion that sufficient open space will remain in Mills Park to accommodate various activities.

In response to a question, Mr. Krahn provided an overview of the discussion which took place at the September 25th Shade Tree Council meeting. Commissioner Livermore referred to Exhibit B, and suggested planting the memorial trees 50 feet from the east/west sidewalk. He reiterated his concern that planting the trees too close to the pavilion will limit its use. Commissioner DePauw reiterated her opinion

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that there appeared to be no conflict between the proposed memorial grove plan and the pavilion. In response to a question, Mr. Kastens advised that the Commission was being asked to consider approval of the memorial grove and the area in which it will be planted. He advised that the plan proposes to plant trees in conjunction with the sidewalk, not in any open areas. In response to a question, Mr. Krahn advised that the appropriate distance from the sidewalk for planting the proposed tree species would be 10-15 feet.

In response to a question regarding how to address Commissioner Livermore's concerns, Mr. Kastens advised that soccer, football, and similar competitive activities have been restricted to the large turf area in the northern portion of the park. He acknowledged that the proposed trees may present obstacles to frisbee throwing and kite flying, but advised that he has had several requests for a "frisbee golf course" at Mills Park. The trees would serve to make such a course challenging. Mr. Kastens provided background information on, and described the locations of, facilities near the pavilion, including the volleyball courts and the horseshoe pits.

In response to a question, Mr. Kastens advised that Carson City Rendezvous vendors have not been allowed into the subject area since the grass was planted. Mr. Fahrenbruch advised that Rendezvous vendors access the park via the east end at the open area directly to the west of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. He assured the Commission that the trees proposed for the grove will not be densely planted along the sidewalk in order to ensure appropriate access for Rendezvous vendors and participants. **Commissioner McKenna moved to approve the memorial grove concept and pass a positive recommendation on to the Board of Supervisors for their consideration. Commissioner DePauw seconded the motion.** In response to a request for clarification, Commissioner McKenna acknowledged that the motion was to approve the plan, as presented in Exhibit B. Commissioner DePauw agreed. Commissioner Livermore expressed support for veterans, but advised he would not support the motion because the plan limits the public's use of Mills Park. He further expressed support for planting trees, but disagreed with planting them in the subject area because it represents "a single purpose issue." Chairperson Wilke called for a vote on the pending motion; **motion carried 5-1.**

Mr. Weller reiterated his appreciation for the relationship which has developed between the Carson City Chapter #388 Vietnam Veterans of America and the Carson City Parks and Recreation Department staff.

3-B. ACTION REGARDING ALLOCATION OF 2002-03 RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION TAX FUNDS (1-0614) - Mr. Kastens reviewed the staff report, which included answers to questions posed at the September 2, 2003 Commission meeting and staff's recommended allocations. The Commissioners reviewed their individual recommendations, and discussion took place with regard to the same. Mr. Kastens acknowledged that RCT funding was not allocated last year.

(1-0930) Rod Butler, a BMX rider, father of BMX riders and track volunteer, discussed the health and safety issues associated with the lighting project, including that night races could be scheduled which would eliminate the need to ride during the day in the summer heat. He referred to the \$25,000 previously allocated to extend power to the track. He expressed the opinion that the longer the lighting project is postponed, it seems the \$25,000 was spent for "no reason." He expressed dissatisfaction "as a taxpayer" with such an idea. He qualified the Carson City BMX track as a "second level track" compared to tracks in California. He discussed goals to advance the Carson City BMX program and advised that the lighting

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project would further these goals. He suggested that improving the track with the lighting project would provide for the possibility of hosting higher level events in Carson City which could, in turn, benefit the economy.

Chairperson Wilke called for additional public comment; however, none was provided. **Commissioner Livermore moved to recommend approval of Projects #11 and #12 for the Ronald D. Wilson Memorial Park restroom facilities and site development in the amounts of \$15,500 and \$40,000, respectively. Commissioner Curtis seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.**

Commissioner McKenna moved to fund Item #9, the Edmonds Sports Complex BMX Track Lighting for \$30,000. Chairperson Wilke seconded the motion. Motion failed 3-3.

Commissioner Curtis moved to fully fund Item #4, Various Neighborhood Parks Signage, and Item #5, \$18,000 for the concrete borders, and that the remaining \$15,000 be allocated to Item #9, the Edmonds Sports Complex BMX Track Lighting. Commissioner Livermore seconded the motion. Motion failed 3-3.

Commissioner Livermore moved to fund Item #4, Various Neighborhood Parks Signage, in the amount of \$12,000. Commissioner DePauw seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-1.

Commissioner DePauw moved to fund Item #9, Edmonds Sports Complex BMX Track Lighting, for \$20,000, and Item #5, Concrete Playground Borders, for \$10,000. Commissioner Livermore seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

Commissioner Livermore moved that the remaining amount be dispersed next year. Commissioner Hoffman seconded the motion. Commissioner DePauw indicated she was unaware there were remaining funds to allocate and, in response to a question, advised she would have allocated the full amount. **Commissioner Livermore withdrew his motion.** Discussion took place regarding allocation of the remaining funds, and **Commissioner DePauw moved to allocate the remaining \$2,500 to Item #5, Concrete Playground Borders. Commissioner Livermore seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.**

Mr. Kastens read back the final list of allocations, as follows: Ronald D. Wilson Memorial Park Restroom Facilities and Site Development (Items 11 and 12) in the amount of \$55,500; Various Neighborhood Parks Signage in the amount of \$12,000 (Item #4); Edmonds Sports Complex BMX Track Lighting in the amount of \$20,000 (Item #9); and Concrete Playground Borders in the amount of \$12,500 (Item #5).

4. NON-ACTION ITEMS:

STATUS REPORTS ON QUESTION #18, RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION TAX, AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT (1-1162) - Mr. Kastens reported on minor delays with the Mills Park/Highway 50 parking lot project. He anticipates that the problems have been resolved and that the project will begin within the next week. He further reported that the Governor's Field irrigation project is agendized for the October 16th Board of Supervisors meeting. The contractor for the V&T Multi-Use Path is scheduled to begin work on Monday, October 13th.

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In response to a question, Mr. Kastens advised that plans are in the process of being developed for the Governor's Field parking lot restoration project. In preparation for developing the plans, several non-ADA compliant curbs and approaches were identified. Correcting these items will affect drainage on the property; therefore, the parking lot project has been postponed and staff is developing a plan to create positive drainage throughout the complex. In addition, the City's overlay program was postponed until the spring at which time the Governor's Field complex will be incorporated. In response to a further question, Mr. Kastens advised that the ADA corrections are being made as the result of a Department of Justice audit. He advised that Ross Gold Park and a couple other City parks will undergo similar adjustments. He clarified that the facilities were constructed in compliance with ADA regulations which have, over time, been revised and updated.

In response to a question regarding the status of phase 2 at Fuji Park, Mr. Kastens advised that staff is in the process of developing a scope of work with the consultant team. Mr. Krahm anticipates that the scope of work will be complete within a week.

STATUS REPORTS AND COMMENTS FROM STAFF (1-1252) -

Ms. Singer distributed the Fall 2003 edition of *Discover Us* and invited the Commissioners' comments and submissions. She reviewed statistical information on Aquatic Facility and Recreation Department programs and participation over the past summer. She compared revenues between this summer and last summer. She advised that her next report would be scheduled for the first Commission meeting in November. Discussion took place regarding the possibility of improving the weight room equipment at the Aquatic Facility, and Ms. Singer advised that she would contact Operations Supervisor Kurt Meyer. Ms. Singer acknowledged that basketball registration was scheduled for October 8 and 9, advised that softball season has ended, and informed the Commission and the public of the Halloween Festival scheduled at Carson Mall on Saturday, October 11th. Chairperson Wilke thanked Ms. Singer for her report. Mr. Kastens reviewed the "FYI" items included in the agenda materials.

STATUS REPORTS AND COMMENTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS (1-1455) -

Commissioner Curtis reviewed her October 1, 2003 letter to NDOT Project Manager Jim Gallegos which was included in the agenda materials. She expressed an interest in agendizing presentations by state and federal agency representatives regarding projects of interest to the Commission. She advised of having attended a recent Open Space and Carson River Advisory Committee field trip. She requested a status report on the master plan update. Discussion took place regarding notification of other pertinent advisory committee and organization meetings.

Commissioner Livermore discussed a conference recently attended by Youth Sports Association Treasurer John Simms. He will discuss with Mr. Simms the possibility of scheduling a presentation to the Commission. Commissioner Livermore advised of comments provided by a citizen at a recent Board of Supervisors meeting regarding the necessity of the Carson River Advisory Committee and the Shade Tree Council. The citizen requested the Board of Supervisors' consideration regarding abolishment of these two advisory committees.

Chairperson Wilke advised that October 8th was Walk Your Child to School Day.

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FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS (1-1637) - Mr. Kastens acknowledged that review of park/facility fees would be agendized for the first Commission meeting in November.

5. ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT (1-1646) - Commissioner DePauw moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 p.m. Commissioner Curtis seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

The Minutes of the October 7, 2003 meeting of the Carson City Parks and Recreation Commission are so approved this 4th day of November, 2003.

STACIE WILKE, Chair