



STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item: 5F

Report To: Open Space Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: September 18, 2023

Staff Contact: Lyndsey Boyer, Open Space Manager, lboyer@carson.org

Agenda Title: For Discussion Only: Review and discussion of the Open Space Advisory Committee (“OSAC”) Bylaws, specifically to review the OSAC mission statement. *(Requested by Member Susan Martinovich) (Lyndsey Boyer, lboyer@carson.org)*

Staff Summary: A special workshop between the Parks and Recreation Commission (“PRC”) and OSAC was held on December 16, 2022. Discussion from the workshop, as well as a pre-workshop survey identified the OSAC mission for potential revision to better match the vision and goals of the committee. This item is for members to further discuss the OSAC mission statement.

Agenda Action: Other/Presentation

Time Requested: 20 minutes

Proposed Motion

N/A

Board’s Strategic Goal

Efficient Government

Previous Action

February 24, 2020 (Item 3C) – The OSAC moved to recommend to the Board of Supervisors proposed amendments to the OSAC Bylaws.

November 5, 2020 (Item 24A) – the Board of Supervisors approved the proposed amendments to the OSAC Bylaws.

Background/Issues & Analysis

As requested by Member Susan Martinovich, this item will include discussion related to potential modifications to the existing OSAC mission. During the Strategic Planning Retreat between PRC and OSAC, held December 8, 2022, members of OSAC discussed the current OSAC mission statement and the desire to modify it to better reflect the work of the committee. At a subsequent OSAC meeting, members Susan Martinovich, Robert Ghiglieri and Sam Mozingo were appointed to a sub-committee to review and recommend a new mission statement. The draft mission statement and associated OSAC Bylaws would then be brought back to OSAC for review and recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for approval. This agenda item is for discussion only, in order to brief the OSAC members on efforts being made to revise the mission statement. A recommendation for a revised mission statement will be presented as an action item at a future meeting.

Definition of a mission statement: A mission statement describes the purpose for the present and the future. Why do we exist?

In the Strategic Planning Retreat held in 2022, a survey question was posed related to the OSAC mission, and whether it accurately describe the purpose of OSAC. Responses had a 60%/40% split with 60% answering 'No'.

Current Statement:

Reporting to the Board of Supervisors, the Open Space Advisory Committee will develop, oversee, and support the Open Space Program by working in concert with staff and the public to acquire, interpret, preserve, and enhance natural landscape, agriculture and cultural resources while balancing the needs of the public's opportunities for passive recreation.

Summary of comments:

To the question – What might be missing from the group's mission?

The specific comments can be found on page 8 of the Strategic Planning Retreat Meeting Notes.

1. Is *develop* the right word used to reflect what we do? The word is confusing;
2. Question about land ownership so maybe be clear its jurisdiction on Open Space land;
3. How to promote and educate open space to the community;
4. Connectedness and trails; and
5. Need to include equity, diversity, access and inclusion;

The OSAC committee can send any thoughts or comments to Susan Martinovich (martinovichsusan@gmail.com)

EXHIBIT A – Strategic Planning Retreat Meeting Notes, excerpt

Applicable Statute, Code, Policy, Rule or Regulation

CCMC Chapter 13.06.20-.80 Open Space Advisory Committee

Financial Information

Is there a fiscal impact? Yes No

If yes, account name/number:

Is it currently budgeted? Yes No

Explanation of Fiscal Impact: N/A

Alternatives

Provide alternative direction to staff regarding modification of the OSAC Bylaws.

Planning Retreat Notes

Detailed Findings

1. Getting Grounded on Our Mission

Ground each commission on their respective Mission statements and personal why's.

What is your personal WHY?

PRC:

- Care about our community—we are a vital part of a healthy and inclusive community
- Care about trails and tennis courts
- Want to do good
- Want to give back
- Big parks person—always go to our neighborhood park

OSAC:

- Protect, provide recreational opportunity
- Lived here whole life—want be involved with my community and give back
- Being able to educate friends and family on access of Open Spaces
- Meaningful impact on my city
- Give back to my community—showcase Carson City
- Integral to my life (12 years on OSAC)
- In my DNA

Accomplishment most proud of? (One thing your most proud of your group together with the Dept. has accomplished?)

PRC:

- Proud of creating us all as part of a bigger picture—development with 1710
- Complete Streets Model—we are all-inclusive
- Ross Gold

- Dog policy
- Growing events
- Park parent network
- Get the pool redone
- Fee schedule-how much money school district saves using community center & pool (example: swimming state championships held at pool)

OSAC:

- Participating in the community
- Trail systems
- Reports-tells the story to the community
- Government process for Prison Hill?
- Bentley property along Carson River

Staff:

- The dog policy-it was highly collaborative
- The effort to develop a trail system that connects people to public lands and that it is accessible to everybody, including those of diverse ages and abilities
- Dog policy-all the work put into that was very important and a relief to our staff, especially park rangers and maintenance staff
- Creating a better pay scale for our seasonal workers (close to 200 seasonal employees)
- Staff's relationship with OSAC and PRC has developed over last 5 years; Staff is out in the community being "the face of" Parks and Rec; Help is coming from the committee and commission, which is appreciated and helpful to have other advocates and voices to share messaging with the community
- Comradery; Extended family relationship

What might be missing from your group's Mission?

PRC:

- The why behind our mission-what is it specifically that parks bring to our community's quality of life-we think a park is a destination, but it can be part of day-to-day life, an integral part of a neighborhood
- Highlight that we are part of the community pulse
- A mention of trails and trailheads
- Connectivity of public spaces so everybody can get there
- Maintain-90% of our time is spent maintaining and running (quality of life funds)
- Maintain-need to be able to keep up our parks and recreation facilities safe and accessible
Equity, diversity, access, and inclusion (we need to include this and will help support future funding)

OSAC:

- Is "development" the right word used to reflect what we do
- Misconception of land ownership us vs. Forest Service, BLM, etc.
- Having a phrase on Open Space Lands (jurisdiction of influence is Open Space)
- Promote open space out in the community with family and friends so the community understands there is an Open Space Program-unique in the State and rare, engender a sense of community pride through outreach and education
- Connectedness & trails (with other trail systems and parks within the city) is one of the most important things we are doing (tied to Interconnected Trails and Parks)
- Education and connecting to the community
- Equity, diversity, access and inclusion (we need to include this and will help support future funding)
- Education needs to be in there-the public doesn't realize how the Quality-of-Life Initiative is being spent and leveraged (want to see that so the public knows how we are making their money work for them)
- "Passive recreation" needs to be added
- The word "developed" is confusing

2. Alignment and Collaboration (Part #1) - Staff Support

How might the PRC and OSAC better support staff's projects and initiatives today?

Strategic Considerations

- Working on developing a scholarship program for youth programs and sustainable funding (with the Parks Foundation)
Re-doing Carson City Master Plan for Carson River- assistance through National Park Service RTCA program-coming to PRC and OSAC to engage further, including the public
- Priorities for the river-want more help through that process
- Updating Parks Master Plans-having the involvement from a board that has a different perspective than the staff and other avenues to hear perspectives from the public
- Mills Park Master Plan
- Open Space naming-staff has been guiding this process and could use more input from PRC and OSAC
- DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) and access included more into our programming-support from boards to identify where we can better incorporate this to support the diverse community
- Building and supporting a robust volunteer program (get the word out with people who are committed to specific objectives above and beyond staff)