

CARSON CITY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the September 3, 2002 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, September 3, 2002 in the Community Center Sierra Room, 851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada.

PRESENT: Vice Chairperson Stacie Wilke
Lou Cabrera
Donna DePauw
Tom Keeton
Glen Martel
Jon Plank
John Simms

STAFF: Steve Kastens, Parks and Recreation Director
Scott Fahrenbruch, Parks/Facilities/Cemetery Operations Director
Juan Guzman, Open Space Manager
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 and inspection during regular business hours.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL (1-0001) - Acting Chairperson Martel called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Roll was called; a quorum was present. Chairperson Dunn and Commissioner Osborne were absent.

ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES - August 20, 2002 (1-0007) - Mr. Kastens acknowledged that the Foundation for the Betterment of Parks and Recreation annual awards ceremony is scheduled for Wednesday, September 11th at 1:00 p.m. Commissioner Keeton moved to accept the minutes, as presented. Commissioner Simms seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS (1-0018) - None.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. REVIEW AND ACTION ON WHETHER TO PROCEED WITH THE RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION TAX FUNDING ALLOCATION PROCESS (1-0026) - Mr. Kastens reviewed the staff report. He referred to the attached 2002 RCT Applications table and noted there were items listed which cost less than \$25,000. He acknowledged that sufficient funding was available to cover some of those items, but cautioned the Commission that this could begin a trend of allocating available funding rather than allocating funding based on established priorities. He recommended waiting until there is sufficient RCT funding available to allocate to priority projects. [Vice Chairperson Wilke arrived at 5:35 p.m., and Acting Chairperson Martel passed the gavel.]

Mr. Kastens and Commissioner Simms responded to questions regarding the purpose of the Governor's Field fence crowns. Commissioner Plank noted that the two Community Center items could be accommodated within the available \$25,000 balance, but advised he wouldn't "fight too hard for it if staff thinks it's a little bit unfair." He discussed the purpose of the Community Center to serve citizens of all ages, and requested consideration of the two items. Mr. Kastens commented that Commissioner Plank has done a good job of championing the cause of the Community Center as reflected in RCT allocations over the past couple years.

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In response to a question, Mr. Kastens provided an overview of the \$99,514 reserve representing salary benefits, unreserved fund balance, contractual services, and supplies as outlined in the staff report. In response to a further question, Mr. Kastens advised that the only restriction on RCT funding is that it must be spent within two years after a development is 75% complete. He clarified that the RCT funding which is the subject of this agenda item represents various developments around the City. He advised there are no other legal requirements for expenditure of RCT funds.

Vice Chairperson Wilke called for additional questions and comments from the Commissioners and from the public. When none were forthcoming, she entertained a motion. **Commissioner Martel moved to accept staff's recommendation that no allocations be made this year and that the funding be carried over to 2002/2003. Commissioner Cabrera seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.** Mr. Kastens advised of having sent a letter to all the applicants advising of staff's recommendation and inviting them to attend this meeting. In response to a question, he advised that the applications will be carried forward to next year unless they are submitted as part of the Capital Improvements Program budget.

2. ACTION TO PROVIDE THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT WITH PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING ISSUES IDENTIFIED AS PART OF THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT PINE NUT MOUNTAINS PLAN UPDATE (1-0175) - Mr. Guzman introduced himself and advised of his role as the City's liaison to the Bureau of Land Management on the Pine Nut Mountains Plan Update. He reviewed the staff report, discussed the presentation to the Open Space Advisory Committee ("OSAC") at their August 19th meeting, and advised that the recommendation before the Commission included the OSAC's suggested revisions. He advised that once the recommendations have been reviewed and input received by the Carson River Advisory Committee ("CRAC"), they will be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors. He referred to a displayed map, pointed out the Pine Nut Mountains plan area and the area covered by the BLM's Urban Interface Plan, and reviewed the recommendations outlined in the staff report.

Commissioner Plank advised that reconstruction of the Brunswick Canyon Bridge has been prioritized in the Regional Transportation Commission's Transportation Improvement Plan. Federal grant funding will be requested for the project, and Commissioner Plank noted that it will re-establish an access available prior to the 1997 flood which was separate from the residential area on Deer Run Road. He advised that the sand pit in Brunswick Canyon is a source of extremely valuable, concrete-quality sand that would benefit Carson City's economy. He indicated that mine proceeds could be a source of tax revenue to the City at some time in the future, and suggested leaving open the possibility of mineral extraction. He acknowledged that surface mining "makes a mess," but noted that federal laws require restoration and bonding. He cited the example of the Barrick Mining Company in Elko County which restored a site to a condition that is "better than it was to begin with." He discussed the American Borade Corporation's approach to accessing its product from an open-pit mine in Death Valley which was forced to be closed upon the area becoming a national monument. They simply drilled a shaft outside the monument and tunneled underneath. With regard to vehicle access, Commissioner Plank expressed the hope that the plan will prevent scarring of the hillsides. He advised of previous discussions with Mr. Kastens regarding the possibility of partially funding a ranger in cooperation with the BLM. Mr. Kastens indicated that this possibility has been explored; however, a stumbling block has presented in the form of BLM's requirement that their rangers patrol only BLM property or properties adjacent thereto. This would prevent the ranger from venturing into other City parks. Mr. Kastens advised that the City's park rangers currently patrol areas along the River as part of their regular route.

In response to a question, Mr. Guzman advised that the Pine Nut Mountains Plan was originally part of the Carson Resource Management Plan and the Walker River Resource Area. It is "in dire need" of the update. In response to a further question, Mr. Guzman advised that the BLM has been very receptive to input from

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Carson City. The City and the BLM have a long history of working together on plans, finding innovative solutions to problems, sharing costs of facilities, etc. Mr. Guzman discussed the recent opportunity to testify, together with a Douglas County Commissioner, before the State Lands Committee in Elko regarding the excellent working relationship with the BLM. (1-0519) Commissioner Plank commented that the Carson City Board of Supervisors has opted not to join other rural counties in opposing the BLM regarding use of public lands.

Commissioner DePauw commended the OSAC for considering additional access to the River area, and advised that limited access has been one of her main concerns. She agreed with maintaining the existing accesses and not creating new ones. She discussed a tour of various accesses provided to her and her husband by Kevin Walsh, and expressed a preference that the Sedge Road access remain open. She discussed the importance of accommodating various forms of recreation in the area. She suggested scheduling a joint meeting between the Commission, the OSAC, and the CRAC to further discuss the plan and to provide an additional opportunity for public input.

Commissioner Martel expressed agreement with not eliminating mineral extraction because of the possibility that, at some time in the future, in a certain location, and given certain conditions, a mining operation could be established. He expressed agreement with the fire management recommendation outlined in the staff report, and with earlier comments to maintain access for all forms of recreation. He further agreed that it is not necessary to create any additional access points.

Mr. Guzman discussed the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act ("SNPLMA") program, and pointed out areas on a displayed map which have been, or are in the process of being, approved by the Secretary of the Interior for purchase. These areas will provide considerably more federally-owned land near the River which will hopefully facilitate additional access. Mr. Guzman pointed out privately-owned lands which may become available for SNPLMA Round IV nomination. Commissioner Martel expressed concern regarding access to the Silver Saddle Ranch. Mr. Kastens explained that the Silver Saddle Ranch was purchased with SNPLMA funding and, as such, became the property of the BLM. Carson City participated in recommending the Ranch for purchase and in development of the BLM's management plan. The management plan has been in place for a little over a year, and Mr. Kastens anticipates that more access to the Ranch will be allowed. Mr. Guzman discussed the haying operation at the Silver Saddle Ranch which represents an example of innovative problem solving and the excellent working relationship between the City and the BLM.

Commissioner Keeton discussed recreation activities which don't mix very well such as off highway vehicles and bicyclists. He agreed with providing more access for all forms of recreation, but suggested segregating an area for hikers and bicyclists. He noted that this type of access should not result in too much scarring. Mr. Guzman advised that extensive discussion has taken place with regard to this matter, and that there is an opportunity to provide such an access in the area of Johnson Lane. In response to a question, Mr. Guzman explained the wording of the recommended action included in the staff report. Vice Chairperson Wilke called for additional comments and questions from the Commissioners and from the public.

(1-0731) Tom Quigley inquired as to discussions regarding a new access road. Mr. Guzman pointed out an area which participants in the plan update process have recommended for a new road that would access a flat area for staging off road vehicles. He advised that the OSAC did not see an advantage to the new road, and referred to the minutes of the August 19th OSAC meeting included in the agenda materials which detailed the discussion. He advised that Kevin Walsh has been requested to provide a presentation regarding the recommendation. He acknowledged that the Ambrose Natural Area is included in the Urban Interface Plan, but is not being addressed as part of the plan update. Mr. Quigley expressed opposition to a sand extraction

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operation unless it is done in such a way as to avoid the residential areas. He requested the Commission to defer action on this item until additional public comment has been received.

In response to a question regarding the time table, Mr. Guzman advised that BLM staff has indicated a desire for sufficient public comment to be received on the plan update. He expressed agreement with the possibility of scheduling a joint meeting between the Commission, the OSAC, and the CRAC. He acknowledged that the BLM is conducting its own public comment process, but that the City's advisory committees are also a source of public input which will be forwarded to the BLM. He discussed participation and county representation in the plan update meeting process, and advised that it is important for Carson City to provide a forum for citizen input. Commissioner Cabrera suggested that this puts the Commission's responsibility in a different light in terms of additional meetings to ensure adequate public comment is received. Commissioner Simms agreed with scheduling a joint meeting, and suggested publishing a press release or a newspaper article inviting the public to attend and provide input. Commissioner Cabrera noted that the discussion changes staff's recommended action. Commissioner DePauw requested that the Commissioners be provided copies of OSAC and CRAC agendas. Commissioner Plank requested staff to invite Transportation Manager John Flansberg or Senior RTC Engineer Harvey Brotzman to participate in that portion of the joint meeting which deals with access in order to discuss the Brunswick Canyon Bridge reconstruction. Vice Chairperson Wilke requested Mr. Kastens to schedule the joint meeting based on consensus of the Commission. She thanked Mr. Guzman for his presentation. No formal action was taken.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS (1-0904) - Vice Chairperson

Wilke requested staff to provide an update on Question #18 projects. Commissioner DePauw requested an update regarding utilization of Question #18 facilities, such as the Wungnema House and the Aquatics Facility. Mr. Kastens advised that he would provide a status report on Question #18 projects at the next meeting. Commissioner Plank requested staff to schedule a parks tour in the near future.

COMMENTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS (1-0966) - None.

STATUS REPORTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS (1-0968) - None.

COMMENTS AND STATUS REPORTS FROM STAFF (1-0969) - Ms. Singer provided background

information on her report, which will be provided on a monthly basis. She requested the Commissioners to contact her with specific questions and requests for information. She displayed the latest edition of the *Discover Us* publication, advised of the publication dates, and reviewed areas of circulation/distribution. She advised of the website, provided the address, and requested input from the Commissioners with regard to the same. She provided an update on the Aquatics Facility, year-round swim lessons, and the recent increase in fees beginning April 15, 2002. She noted that the fee increase resulted in an additional \$12,031 as compared to last year's summer revenues. She discussed Summer Kamp locations, enrollment, daily attendance, revenue collected, and costs. She advised that the registration process went much smoother this year and that next year a mail-in registration process will be implemented. She advised that payment for Summer Kamp and Latch Key can be made over the Internet and many parents utilized this option. She explained the increase in fees was directly related to increased gasoline prices in the utilization of school district buses for transportation of program participants. She discussed the results of the program evaluation and modifications to next year's program. She reviewed the increase in participation for the Spring and Summer Volleyball programs; modifications to the Softball program to include spring, summer, and fall seasons; and Phase I of the ADA retrofit improvements to the Community Center. Vice Chairperson Wilke thanked Ms. Singer for her report.

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STATUS REPORT ON QUESTION #18, RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION TAX, AND CAPITAL

IMPROVEMENT (1-1161) - Mr. Kastens advised that the Board of Supervisors will be presented the Fuji Park contract at their September 5th meeting. The bid was submitted within \$521 of the engineer's estimate. In addition, the bid for the Pony Express Pavilion roller hockey dasher boards will also be presented at the September 5th Board meeting.

Mr. Kastens advised of having attended the August 28th Regional Planning Commission meeting wherein Robert Luce presented his concerns regarding the Long Ranch Estates RCT improvements. Mr. Kastens advised of having met with Mark Rotter, of Capital Engineering, earlier in the day on August 28th to advise him of the Commission's decision to support staff in withholding the residential construction tax reimbursement. Capital Engineering representatives have assured staff that they will meet the October 1st deadline for completion of all improvements on the south side of Kings Canyon Road. In addition, they have committed to completing the Long Ranch Estates Phase IV landscape improvements by October 15th, and the Phases V and VI improvements by November 15th. All improvements should be completed by the end of November 2002. An additional landscape contractor has been hired and the developer is committed to completing the improvements according to the time table.

Commissioner Plank inquired as to the status of the Parks Department offer to place picnic tables in the park at the corner of Musser and Stewart Streets. Mr. Fahrenbruch advised that he has been awaiting a response from State Buildings and Grounds staff. He offered to contact them again. He explained the offer was to donate some of the older picnic tables which are being replaced in various City parks. Commissioner Plank provided background information on the idea to provide a place for State employees in the area to eat lunch and enjoy the park during the summer months.

ADJOURNMENT (1-1245) - Commissioner Martel moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m. The motion was seconded and carried 7-0.

The Minutes of the September 3, 2002 meeting of the Carson City Parks and Recreation Commission are so approved this _____ day of September, 2002.

JIM DUNN, Chair