

CARSON CITY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the October 1, 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, October 1, 2002 in the Community Center Sierra Room, 851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada.

PRESENT: Chairperson Jim Dunn
Lou Cabrera
Tom Keeton
Glen Martel
Larry Osborne
Jon Plank
John Simms

STAFF: Steve Kastens, Parks and Recreation Director
Scott Fahrenbruch, Parks and Recreation Operations Director
Vern Krahm, Parks Planner
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) - Chairperson Dunn called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Roll was called; a quorum was present. Vice Chairperson Wilke and Commissioner DePauw were absent.

ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES - September 16, 2002 and September 17, 2002 (1-0008) - Commissioner Keeton moved to accept the minutes. Commissioner Simms seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0. In response to a question regarding the September 16, 2002 minutes in light of the action agendized as item 3, Mr. Kastens explained that minutes are simply a record of the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS (1-0035) - None.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. ACTION REGARDING SUPPORT FOR STATEWIDE BALLOT QUESTION #1, A STATEWIDE PARKS, TRAILS, AND OPEN SPACE BALLOT INITIATIVE TO BE VOTED ON IN THE GENERAL ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 5, 2002 (1-0205) - Mr. Kastens reviewed the staff report and introduced Alicia Reban, Executive Director of the Nevada Land Conservancy. Ms. Reban provided background information on Question #1 which would raise \$200 million in support of clean water, parks, and wildlife throughout Nevada. She advised that a strong multi-partisan north/south coalition has developed in support of Question #1, and expressed the hope that the Commission would provide its endorsement. She commended staff on the materials included in the agenda packets, and reviewed the elements of Question #1 as well as the list of funding allocations. She discussed benefits for northern Nevada, the effect on the ad valorem tax rate, and advised that the program sunsets once the bonds are issued.

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Commissioner Keeton expressed opposition to the \$35 million allocation for the Nevada Department of Cultural Affairs to establish a museum at the Las Vegas Spring Preserve. In response to a question, Ms. Reban expressed the understanding that the bonds can be issued all at once or from time to time depending upon the nature of the projects. Commissioner Osborne expressed appreciation for the information provided by staff, and advised of having researched the Question. He further advised that he would not support the Question. He explained that the Question was proposed and passed during the 2001 Legislative session. Since then, the State has determined a budget deficit estimated to be between \$300 and \$400 million. Commissioner Osborne indicated that, while the goal of Question #1 is very laudable, the end doesn't justify the means at this time. He pointed out that the revenue bonds will have to be paid back with interest by the State. In an effort to generate additional revenue for the State, the Governor has proposed a property tax increase of 10 cents which would be in addition to the increase imposed by Question #1. Commissioner Osborne expressed concern regarding a proposal for revenue bonds "with everything the State is facing" and particularly for some of the projects proposed. He agreed with Commissioner Keeton's comments, and stated that taxpayer bonds should not be issued to build a State museum. He expressed the opinion that the timing for Question #1 is wrong although its goals are very laudable, and reiterated that he would not support the Question.

Ms. Reban advised that the voters have not had a chance to decide "these kinds of questions" in over ten years. She suggested that it will be a long time before funding such as would be made available by Question #1 will again be available. She acknowledged that there are projects proposed which "enjoy a lot of support ... in Clark County," but there are opportunities for northern Nevada as well. She suggested that because of recent scrutiny of the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act, "there is nothing out there that we can count on for sure and we might as well take a look at this and see what this can do for the entire State." She advised that Clark County will receive about 40% of the Question #1 funding, and the balance will be available, through a competitive grant process, to the rest of the State. She indicated that there are good projects in Carson City and throughout the north that need the support of Question #1. She commented that the outcome of the vote will be interesting.

Commissioner Martel agreed that the agenda of Question #1 is laudable, but advised that there are many tax and fee increases coming for Carson City residents on which they will not have a chance to vote. There will be "serious" utility and tax increases at the end of 2002 and beginning of 2003. He acknowledged that the voters will ultimately decide, but encouraged the public to consider other increases in addition to those proposed by Question #1. He advised that he could not support the Question at this time. Chairperson Dunn called for public comment; however, none was provided. **Commissioner Plank moved to recommend to the Board of Supervisors to support the Statewide Ballot Question #1, a statewide parks, trails and open space ballot initiative to be voted on in the general election on November 5, 2002. Chairperson Dunn seconded the motion.**

Commissioner Cabrera expressed a concern regarding the Commission becoming a forum to endorse ballot initiatives. Commissioner Simms agreed and advised he didn't have enough information on the Question to make an objective decision. He expressed a concern that providing endorsement for ballot initiatives is beyond the Commission's purview and charge. Mr. Kastens advised that the proposal has been presented to other communities and that the Washoe County Commissioners recently endorsed the Question. He suggested that the Question presents an opportunity to further the cause of parks and recreation and development of programs in Carson City; that Carson City citizens may be looking to the Commission to decide whether the Question is beneficial since it is park and recreation related. He advised that one of the

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Commission's purposes is to serve as a forum by which these types of issues can be addressed. He indicated an initial concern because of Carson City's Question #18; however, he noted that Question #1 was not developed by Carson City. Because the Question is a statewide initiative, Mr. Kastens suggested that it wouldn't hurt for the Commission to review and decide whether or not to endorse it.

Commissioner Simms noted that the Commission's endorsement of past issues has been with its participation in the development process. He pointed out that the Commission was not provided an opportunity to participate in the development of Question #1. He reiterated the concern that it would be inappropriate for the Commission to address this matter. Commissioner Keeton expressed no opposition to the 40% allocation of funding to southern Nevada because 70% of Nevada's population lives there. He reiterated opposition to the allocation for the Nevada Department of Cultural Affairs museum project. He expressed the opinion that the item was appropriately presented to the Commission because it represents an opportunity to enhance Carson City funding.

Ms. Reban advised of having many conversations about Question #1 in recent weeks. When presenting the information to the Washoe County Parks and Recreation Commission, leveraging was a large part of the discussion. She advised that Washoe County Question #1 was recently passed and that the Washoe County Parks and Recreation Commission is interested in some of the statewide Question #1 funds becoming available for matching purposes.

Commissioner Plank suggested considering that 70% of the population who will vote on this Question is in Clark County. Forty percent of the funding will be allocated to Clark County and 60% will be available for the balance of the State. Commissioner Plank referred to the community's prioritization of the river corridor in Carson City's Open Space Master Plan, and pointed out that Question #1 is focused on the river corridor. He referred to the comments of Commissioners Osborne and Martel and indicated there will need to be a balance. He expressed a concern that funding such as would be provided by Question #1 may never again be available.

Chairperson Dunn called for a vote on the pending motion. Mr. Kastens suggested conducting a roll call vote, the results of which were as follows: Commissioner Cabrera - yes; Commissioner Plank - yes; Commissioner Martel - no; Commissioner Osborne - no; Commissioner Simms - no; Commissioner Keeton - yes; Chairperson Dunn - yes. **Motion carried 4-3.** Chairperson Dunn thanked Ms. Reban for her presentation and staff for the information included in the agenda materials. Commissioner Keeton suggested that the Commission is most likely better informed on this issue "than anyone else in the State" because of the information included in the agenda packet. Commissioner Simms stated that his comments were not in opposition to Question #1, that protecting our lands is an admirable goal. He reiterated his concern regarding the Commission's purview. Ms. Reban thanked the Commission for the discussion and comments.

2. STATUS REPORT ON THE LONG RANCH ESTATES PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES IMPROVEMENTS (1-0045) - Mr. Kastens reviewed the staff report and attachments. He discussed problems experienced by the contractor with regard to boring under Kings Canyon Road. He advised of a conversation with the developer's representative earlier in the day, who advised that NDOT granted a permit to allow the boring to take place on Friday, October 4th. The bore project will accomplish connecting irrigation from the north side of Kings Canyon Road to the landscape areas.

(1-0147) Bob Luce, a resident of Long Ranch Estates, expressed appreciation for the efforts of Mr. Kastens,

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Mr. Fahrenbruch, and Mr. Krahn on behalf of the Parks and Recreation Department. He expressed dissatisfaction with the efforts of the developer and advised that the problems encountered on the bore project are six years old. He expressed skepticism with regard to the developer meeting the specified schedule. He indicated that the efforts of Parks and Recreation Department staff appear to be appropriate and that there isn't "a whole lot more that can be done." He expressed the opinion that the "maximum action" should be taken if the developer fails to meet the agreed-upon schedule. He reiterated that this problem goes back six years. He advised of being previously unaware of letters from Mr. Fahrenbruch written over two years ago addressing issues in Phases 3 and 4. Mr. Luce discussed problems yet to be corrected, including the landscaping at the median east of Phase 1-B, and debris/dirt piles in the area. Chairperson Dunn thanked Mr. Luce for his comments.

3. ACTION TO PROVIDE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AND THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT WITH RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE PRELIMINARY ISSUES IDENTIFIED AS PART OF THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT PINENUT MOUNTAINS PLAN UPDATE (1-0577) - Mr. Kastens reviewed the staff report. Commissioner Martel moved to recommend to the Bureau of Land Management and the Board of Supervisors to treat the Pinenut Mountains Plan Amendment the same way that the Urban Interface Plan has been treated in reference to mineral development. Commissioner Osborne seconded the motion. Chairperson Dunn noted that there were no citizens present for public comment, and called for a vote on the pending motion; **motion carried 6-1.**

Commissioner Keeton moved to recommend to the Board of Supervisors and Bureau of Land Management to support the use of off-road vehicles on existing, designated trails with the understanding that the concept of any kind of new access will be dealt with at a later time through the Parks and Recreation Department and the Bureau of Land Management. Commissioner Simms seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

Commissioner Osborne moved that the Parks and Recreation Commission recommend to the Bureau of Land Management and the Board of Supervisors that the Pinenut Mountains are considered a visual and scenic resource; the scenic quality is usually best preserved by the careful management of activities to minimize scarring and visual impacts such as mines and road cuts; the Pinenut Mountains are a valuable recreation resource for Carson City and surrounding counties and that policies must be developed to enhance and provide for recreational opportunities while protecting and minimizing impacts to the scenic resource; that Carson City and the Bureau of Land Management must continue to explore opportunities to jointly manage facilities and properties wherever possible. Commissioner Cabrera seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

Commissioner Cabrera moved to recommend that Carson City's position should be to encourage the Bureau of Land Management to actively manage fire fuels in order to avoid the possibility of catastrophic events and to recommend adoption of this position by the Board of Supervisors. Commissioner Keeton seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

Commissioner Plank moved to recommend that, in the land acquisition by the Bureau of Land Management, the City recommends allowing access for the V&T Railroad. Commissioner Martel seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

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GENERAL DISCUSSION:

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS (1-0667) - None.

COMMENTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS (1-0722) - Commissioner Keeton advised that the speed limit and "children at play" signs have yet to be installed on Longview Drive. Commissioner Plank advised of having spoken to Streets Department staff earlier in the day, who informed him that a traffic count had been conducted. He provided the results of the traffic count and advised that signs will be installed shortly.

Commissioner Plank conveyed information from, and read a portion of, a *Nevada Appeal* article regarding mining in the Pinenut Mountain Range. In response to a question, Mr. Kastens advised that the plaque for the Snowshoe Thompson Chapter of E. Clampus Vitus has been received by Jim Lacey. Street Department Concrete Specialist Don Wass will construct the monument and Mr. Kastens anticipates that it will be completed by Nevada Day. In response to a question regarding access to the V&T Trail at the corner of the Wellington Crescent subdivision, Mr. Kastens advised that NDOT is continuing work on the right-of-way settings.

STATUS REPORTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS (1-0781) - None.

COMMENTS AND STATUS REPORTS FROM STAFF (1-0672) - Mr. Kastens advised that he and Mr. Fahrenbruch will be traveling to Tampa, Florida for the National Parks and Recreation Association Congress. They will be participating in job shadowing activities to prepare for the 2004 National Parks and Recreation Association Congress which will be held in Reno. He recommended canceling the October 15th meeting and the Commissioners concurred. He acknowledged that the next regular meeting would be held Tuesday, November 5th and reminded the Commissioners of the Parks tour scheduled for Sunday, November 3rd.

(1-0784) Mr. Fahrenbruch provided a report on the dedication ceremony of the ALS Association's Memorial Grove which was held Saturday, September 28th in the Mills Park Arboretum. He advised that Commissioner Plank served as Mayor Pro Tem, and that Senator Mark Amodei and Congresswoman Marcia DeBraga were also present. City staff had installed a kiosk explaining the purpose of the memorial grove.

(1-0842) Mr. Krahn advised that he and Mr. Fahrenbruch have been working with the Viet Nam Veterans Association to improve the Viet Nam Veterans Memorial in Mills Park. The Carson City memorial will be dedicated on November 11th as the Viet Nam Veterans State Memorial. Commissioner Plank commented that Carson City is finally "being recognized as the place in the State to do things." He referred to the ALS Association's contribution to the Mills Park Arboretum and advised that the current president of the Viet Nam Veterans Association is very pleased about the dedication of Carson City's memorial.

STATUS REPORT ON QUESTION #18, RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION TAX AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT (1-0805) - Mr. Kastens advised that construction of the Fuji Park improvements begins October 2nd. Other than a small dog show scheduled in the next couple weeks, there are no other events scheduled at Fuji Park and the Fairgrounds. In response to a question, Mr. Krahn advised that Andy Bourelle of the *Reno Gazette-Journal* has expressed an interest in publishing an article once construction begins. Commissioner Osborne suggested contacting Amanda Hammon at the *Nevada Appeal* as well. Mr. Krahn

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advised that he will also contact David Morgan of News Carson City and that the Parks Department will publish a press release.

ADJOURNMENT (1-0872) - Commissioner Cabrera moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:22 p.m. Commissioner Martel seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

The Minutes of the October 1, 2002 meeting of the Carson City Parks and Recreation Commission are so approved this _____ day of November, 2002.

JIM DUNN, Chair