

CARSON CITY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the April 6, 2010 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, April 6, 2010 in the Community Center Sierra Room, 851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada.

PRESENT: Chairperson Donna Curtis
Vice Chairperson Steve Lasco
Commissioner Charles Adams
Commissioner Janice Brod
Commissioner Randy Carlson
Commissioner James Smolenski

STAFF: Roger Moellendorf, Parks and Recreation Department Director
Scott Fahrenbruch, Parks and Recreation Operations Director
Kristin Luis, Deputy District Attorney
Jano Barnhurst, Recording Secretary

NOTE: A recording of these proceedings, the Commission'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 available for review during regular business hours.

CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM (5:33:19) - Chairperson Curtis called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. Roll was called; a quorum was present. Commissioners Livermore, Lehmann, Walt and Westergard were absent. Chairperson Curtis noted that Commissioners Livermore, Lehmann and Westergard notified her of their absence.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS (5:33:57) - None.

1. ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES (5:34:08) - Commissioner Smolenski moved to approve the minutes of the February 2, 2010 meeting. Vice Chairperson Lasco seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Carlson moved to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2010 meeting. Commissioner Smolenski seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

2. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA () -

3. AGENDA ITEMS:

3-A. DISCUSSION ONLY REGARDING THE FUJI PARK DOG PARK CONCEPTUAL SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN (Roger Moellendorf/Scott Fahrenbruch) (5:35:06) - Chairperson Curtis introduced the item. Mr. Moellendorf gave background information, reviewed the staff report which is incorporated into the record and acknowledged members of Parks 4 Paws in attendance. He described the various areas and components of the conceptual park on a displayed map. In response to a question, he described the location of a trail traveling the length of Fuji Park. Chairperson Curtis expressed appreciation for the dog park and noted that it will be a big change from the current park. She opined that there may be

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some consternation within the community because of the fee system. Mr. Moellendorf responded that they expect some resistance from certain users noting that the park is currently dog friendly, but not yet a dog park. He opined that moving the dogs to their own area will reduce conflicts between dog and non-dog owners. In response to a question, he replied that the decision has not yet been made as to whether the remaining areas of the park will allow dogs.

(5:50:02) Mr. Fahrenbruch reminded the Commission that the park was closed for two weeks last year due to heavy use. He explained that moving the dogs to the undeveloped area will help with maintenance. He explained the conflicts that have been experienced between dog and non-dog users noting that separating activities will help them produce better events. He advised that the existing restrooms will be available year round. He gave a detailed explanation of the fee card access system noting many operational issues that still need to be determined, and suggested working with Parks 4 Paws about establishing fees. He noted the cost of approximately \$17,000 to install gates and fencing and anticipated a fully operational dog park for approximately \$20,000. He described future phases of the park will include park benches, the access system, drinking fountain, and possibly “mutt mitt” stations. Handicapped parking areas, maintenance gates and an ADA compliant surface were pointed out on the displayed map. Chairperson Curtis disclosed her membership in Parks 4 Paws. She advised that \$5,000 of Q-18 funds has been allocated for the dog park and hoped for additional in-kind support adding that it will up to Parks 4 Paws and the community to raise the remaining funds. She also noted plans for a future dog park in the Centennial Park area.

Ilona Strull, Chairperson for Parks 4 Paws gave background information on the organization. She announced the upcoming “Bark, Wine & Dine” fundraiser on May 1 at Fuji Exhibit Hall noting that she and Chairperson Curtis are selling tickets for \$25 per person. She expressed hope for another “pooch plunge” in the Fall. She noted that fencing the park would be considered Phase 1 and they would continue fundraising for more amenities. Chairperson Curtis reiterated that the project is being generated by dog owners with help from the City. Vice Chairperson Lasco expressed support for the park and a more “managed, orderly process...” but expressed concern about liability. Mr. Moellendorf advised that it will be covered through the City’s general liability policy. Mr. Fahrenbruch added that because of the access system, users’ privileges can be revoked should problems arise. Commissioner Adams suggested coordinating the access system with Animal Control in unison with licensing. Vice Chairperson Lasco noted the possibility of transient visitor use and encouraged researching that avenue. In response to a question, Mr. Moellendorf replied that owners have to remain on site with their dogs. Chairperson Curtis acknowledged members of Parks 4 Paws who were in attendance.

3-B. DISCUSSION ONLY REGARDING THE PROPOSED PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT’S “ADOPT-A-PARK” PROGRAM (*Scott Fahrenbruch*) (6:10:06) - Chairperson Curtis introduced the item. Mr. Fahrenbruch gave background information and reviewed the staff report which is incorporated into the record. He advised that over 1,200 surveys were sent to Northridge residents and the majority returned indicated a desire to participate in the program. He explained the purpose of the survey is “to gauge the interest of the community...” He noted that they will be evaluating the responses next week to determine a course of action. He expressed appreciation to Cooperative Extension for their huge effort in researching the feasibility of the program. He referred to the exhibits in the agenda packet

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and gave historical information on a previous program. He explained the various tasks that could be performed by adopt-a-park volunteers and expressed hope that “fun things” could be found to retain their interest. He added that they are looking for corporate sponsorships in addition to neighborhood families to assist with the program. He noted that the liability aspect still needs to be determined. Chairperson Curtis commented that one of the PRC’s goals is to assist with this project. Mr. Fahrenbruch responded that the Chamber of Commerce and Cooperative Extension have expressed willingness to support the project. He noted that they need to ensure that they “grow with the program...” Commissioner Brod suggested partnering with the School District to get children outside and more involved, opining it “an easy way to reach out to families with young kids and putting them to work.” She added that Fritsch School takes field trips to neighborhood parks and it could be a good opportunity for them to work on the park.

(6:22:01) Commissioner Carlson relayed a conversation with Superintendent Stokes regarding volunteer internships for students. He requested a definition of requirements before taking it to the School Board adding that they are ready and willing to help. Chairperson Curtis opined that students could receive positive work experience as volunteer coordinators. Mr. Moellendorf commented that the PRD regularly works with volunteers noting that organizing them can be time consuming. Mr. Fahrenbruch added that there will be tasks in the Adopt-a-Park program that volunteers can do without supervision. In response to a comment, Vice Chairperson Lasco volunteered to attend next week’s meeting.

3-C. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION’S 2010 GOALS (*Roger Moellendorf*) (6:27:31) - Chairperson Curtis introduced the item. Mr. Moellendorf gave background information and reviewed the staff report which is incorporated into the record.

Regarding Goal #2, Vice Chairperson Lasco commented on discussions with WNC regarding a volunteer coordinator and that a student candidate could be located to meet the need. He stressed the importance of gathering and directing steam towards volunteerism. He suggested dividing the goal with Commissioner Carlson to coordinate his aspects with the School District and Vice Chairperson Lasco would proceed with WNC. Chairperson Curtis suggested getting it more focused by the next meeting.

Regarding Goal #1, Commissioner Brod advised that she presented their ideas to the Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) who were very supportive. She noted involving Muscle Powered, Sage Brush Stompers, and the CVB in trails planning and suggested an item on the next agenda to approve working with them on the project. Chairperson Curtis gave background information and suggested obtaining potential help from Lumos & Associates as well.

Regarding Goal #3, Chairperson Curtis noted that Commissioner Lehmann will begin attending Betterment of Parks Foundation meetings and trying to generate more involvement by erecting signage in parks.

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Regarding Goal #4, Commissioner Adams advised that he plans to research various programs to get people out and active. Mr. Moellendorf suggested that Mr. Dunn introduce him to their contracted instructors for additional input. Vice Chairperson Lasco suggested looking at the “Biggest Loser” aspect and exploring

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stepping stones to fitness as part of the overall focus. Chairperson Curtis added that the Carson Area Wellness Coalition has been discussing activities and explained that they will try to replicate the Easter Egg Roll at the White House. Commissioner Brod suggested the self-paced triathlon which is already a City sponsored public event. In response to a comment, Mr. Moellendorf explained the “Maximum Meltdown” program for City employees.

Regarding goal #5, Chairperson Curtis explained that it involves developing a proposal once the survey is completed.

Commissioner Carlson expressed the understanding that while members have agreed to undertake and promote the goals, sub-committees have not been formed to address them. Chairperson Curtis noted that the minutes will provide additional ideas.

4. MEMBERS’ ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION (6:46:02) - Vice Chairperson Lasco requested a date for the parks facilities tour as soon as possible. Chairperson Curtis suggested going to just a few parks to discuss them more specifically. She noted an e-mail from Commissioner Westergard regarding a poll in the *Nevada Appeal*. Mr. Moellendorf discussed the results of the poll advising that 47 percent were in favor and 53 percent against building an indoor recreation center. He added that he will get more details to provide to the Commission. Vice Chairperson Lasco described the polled question noting that he didn’t see any relevance. Mr. Moellendorf responded that even though it’s not a scientific poll, it doesn’t diminish the relevancy of public opinion.

4-A. REPORT FROM SCHOOL BOARD LIAISON - None.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (6:50:09) - Chairperson Curtis suggested the budget. Mr. Moellendorf advised that it should be ready for the next meeting noting that the Finance Department is having a difficult time due to the many changes that are occurring.

Mr. Moellendorf noted Ms. Barnhurst’s last PRC meeting, expressed appreciation for the quality of her work, and wished her good luck in her future endeavors.

6. ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT (6:52:05) - Chairperson Curtis entertained a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Smolenski moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 p.m. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairperson Lasco which carried unanimously.

The Minutes of the April 6, 2010 Carson City Parks and Recreation Commission meeting are so approved this 4th day of May, 2010.

DONNA J. CURTIS, Chair