

CARSON CITY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the November 1, 2005 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, November 1, 2005 in the Community Center Sierra Room, 851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada.

PRESENT: Chairperson Tom Keeton
Vice Chairperson Donna DePauw
Donna Curtis
John Felesina
Charlene Herst
Michael Hoffman
John McKenna

STAFF: Roger Moellendorf, Parks and Recreation Department Director
Barbara Singer, Recreation Superintendent
Vern Krahn, Park Planner
Lee Plemel, Planning and Community Development Principal 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 during regular business hours.

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

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS (1-0028) - None.

1. ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES - September 20, 2005 (1-0015) - Commissioner Curtis moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Felesina seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

2. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (1-0024) - None.

3. AGENDA ITEMS:

3-A. PRESENTATION ONLY BY RESOURCE CONCEPTS, INC. ON THE CARSON RIVER AQUATIC TRAIL PLAN FROM MEXICAN DAM TO DAYTON VALLEY STATE PARK (1-0033) - Mr. Moellendorf introduced Lynn Zonge, of Resource Concepts, Inc., and reviewed the staff report. Ms. Zonge provided background information on the project, and narrated a slide presentation. She discussed project outcomes, including a river safety map and an aquatic trails plan. In response to a question, she described the length of the proposed runs and possible portage locations.

Commissioner McKenna discussed beaver dams on the River, and the importance of a balance between preserving wildlife habitat and providing for recreation. He expressed a preference for leaving the River in its present condition and adding recreational amenities closer to Deer Run Road on the east side around Empire Ranch Golf Course and the Silver Saddle Ranch. He suggested that leaving the River pristine all the way past Fort Churchill would be ideal. Ms. Zonge acknowledged the Mexican Dam is privately owned, and advised that a conceptual idea on the method by which to make it passable would be presented

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in the future. She noted that the dam is “in bad shape ... and could benefit from some help.” Vice Chairperson DePauw expressed a preference for maintaining as much wilderness along the River as possible, and concern over access closures. In response to a comment, Mr. Moellendorf advised that the project would include identification of all private property along the River.

Mr. Moellendorf advised of having worked in the past with Gary Lacy, designer of the Truckee River Water Park. He discussed the possibility of changing old structures, such as the Mexican Dam, so as not to interfere with the function but, at the same time, to enhance appearance and safety. Ms. Zonge responded to questions regarding concerns over mercury and the project time line. In response to a further question regarding funding for the study, she advised of a relationship with the Nevada Commission on Tourism. She advised of having had no success in attempting to contact the Lyon County Parks and Recreation Director or the County Manager. Commissioner Hoffman expressed support for a portage location at the Santa Maria Ranch. In response to a question, Ms. Zonge discussed benefits of the trails plan in advertising the River as a “wonderful resource.” Mr. Moellendorf noted that the project will be a nice compliment to the V&T Railway. The net effect of the V&T Railway being located at the main road will cut off a lot of convenient access into the canyon. Mr. Moellendorf agreed with Ms. Zonge’s earlier comments that once the area is made into an attractive recreation amenity, nefarious activities should decrease. He discussed the possibility of an adopt-a-river program. Commissioner Felesina noted the annual River clean up sponsored by the Kiwanis Club. He expressed a preference for keeping the River natural, and suggested discussing possible access with the developer of the Santa Maria Ranch. Commissioner McKenna suggested discussing with the Sheriff’s Office the possibility of increasing patrol in the area as the project moves forward. In response to a question, Mr. Moellendorf advised that concepts for the aquatic trail have included one or two bridge crossings. He further advised that a trails plan will be developed in conjunction with the project. Chairperson Keeton called for public comment.

(1-0461) Michael Bish inquired as to whether kayak / canoe access would be available in both directions on the River. He noted that canoes are not as easily portaged as kayaks, and Mr. Moellendorf agreed. Mr. Moellendorf responded to questions regarding canoe and kayak portages designed by Mr. Lacy. Chairperson Keeton suggested designing easy portage around a dam to accommodate canoers and kayakers who may want to paddle upstream.

In response to a question, Ms. Zonge advised there had been no preference expressed for motorized craft on the River. The majority of input has been “natural, natural, natural.” Chairperson Keeton thanked Ms. Zonge for her presentation.

3-B. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ONLY REGARDING THE DRAFT FEDERAL LANDS BILL MAP TO IDENTIFY CERTAIN BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (“BLM”) AND U.S. FOREST SERVICE (“USFS”) LANDS THAT MAY POTENTIALLY BE DISPOSED OF THROUGH A U.S. CONGRESSIONAL LANDS BILL INTO CARSON CITY OR PRIVATE OWNERSHIP FOR VARIOUS USES SUCH AS OPEN SPACE, PARKS, RECREATION FACILITIES, TRAILS, UTILITY FACILITIES, OTHER PUBLIC USES OR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (2-0051) - Mr. Plemel provided background information on this item, and discussed the purpose of a federal lands bill. He advised that the map included in the agenda materials and displayed in the meeting room was not part of the City’s master plan. The map was based upon the compact growth scenario being developed in the master plan, however. Mr. Plemel explained the purpose for pursuing a federal lands bill is at the direction of Nevada’s congressional delegates. The BLM and USFS lands

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identified are generally urban interface properties which could be better managed by the City, contain existing utilities and facilities, may serve future recreational needs, or may be more appropriately utilized for economic development purposes. Mr. Plemel pointed out said properties on the map which was displayed in the meeting room, and advised that specific uses would be identified in the lands bill. Potential uses include public, recreation, offices or other facilities, economic development, commercial, industrial, and residential. Mr. Plemel noted that park and recreation use at existing sites would continue. He discussed the process for developing the lands bill, which includes public meetings and, ultimately, congressional consideration.

Mr. Plemel pointed out USFS properties identified in the urban interface, including a C-Hill parcel, which is being tentatively proposed for transfer. Larger areas have also been identified, and City staff will continue to work with the USFS. USFS representatives believe they are better suited to manage the upper forested areas, and that the City should manage the lower interface areas. Mr. Plemel advised that comments and input will continue to be received through November and December, and that a revised draft will be presented to the advisory committees and the Board of Supervisors in January.

In response to a question regarding Carson River Park and the Ambrose-Carson River Natural Area, Mr. Krahn advised that current uses, under the City / BLM management plan, are those which are now permitted. Any other uses are strictly regulated by the management plan. Acquiring the Silver Saddle Ranch would provide more of an opportunity for use as a regional park facility. In response to a question, Mr. Plemel reiterated that land uses would be determined and included in the language of the lands bill. In response to a further question, he pointed out a study area on the displayed map, as well as some of the upper portions of City-owned property being considered for trade with the USFS. He acknowledged having been in discussion with USFS representatives, and advised that more discussion will be required in order to come to an agreement. With regard to the BLM, Mr. Plemel advised that consideration of the eastern portal and lands identified in the BLM Urban Interface Plan have been part of the master plan process from the beginning. BLM representatives have indicated there are no resources available to update the urban interface plan, and that identifying lands for use other than specified in the urban interface plan should be done via the lands bill. City staff will continue to work with the BLM.

In reference to the Prison Hill recreation area, Commissioner McKenna noted a "color shift" on the displayed map. He expressed the understanding that the area directly to the west of Eagle Valley Middle School is BLM property. He defined a recreation area starting at Fifth Street south to the River near the prison. He noted the Silver Saddle Ranch and the Koontz Lane water tank to the east and west. He inquired as to the possibility of regional park development in the area if the City were to acquire the land or tie in the subject area so that people would have access from the west side of town. He expressed the understanding that the northern portion of the Prison Hill recreation area is banned to motor vehicles, and that the designated OHV area is in the southern portion. Acquiring Silver Saddle may provide opportunities to "make everybody happy -- the walkers, the mountain bikers, and the motorized people" by taking over a portion of the management of the Prison Hill recreation area. Commissioner McKenna inquired as to the possibility of trading other land, such "as the little closed in areas across from the Edmonds Sports Complex to maybe those owners of land down there so we could bring the Prison Hill recreation area all the way to the River and maybe get access on both sides of the River, thereby enhancing Carson City's ability to manage the River as a park." With regard to the Highway 50 corridor into Lyon County, Commissioner McKenna pointed out an area which is currently under development. He suggested this area may be a good place for retail or something that would benefit Carson City's economy. He suggested

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trading off corners may allow for acquisition of River property. In response to a question, Commissioner McKenna expressed the opinion that the Koontz Lane water tank site is the last, best public area on the east side of town for schools, recreation centers, parks, adult sports, etc. that aren't amenable to expansions of the Edmonds Sports Complex.

In response to a question, Mr. Plemel pointed out, on the displayed map, an area which would not be initially included in any land exchanges. He pointed out areas identified for potential economic development purposes, and those identified for City ownership under the listed purposes. In response to a further question, he advised that future proposed changes to lands identified for specific purposes would have to be done through a similar, congressional act.

Commissioner McKenna discussed the importance of developing a plan to identify specific purposes for the various properties prior to submitting the lands bill. He suggested including flexibility in order to have a "plan that really works for everybody." In response to a question, Mr. Plemel reviewed the series of advisory committee and public meetings at which this item would be presented. In response to a further question, he reviewed the methods by which to provide public input. He advised that BLM representatives have expressed support for the process. The congressional nature of the lands bill would supersede the BLM's urban interface plan. In response to a question, Mr. Plemel anticipated the lands bill to be submitted to Congress within two years. Chairperson Keeton called for public comment.

(2-0493) Michael Bish discussed the importance of public input. He suggested that people use the Silver Saddle Ranch and Prison Hill because of the opportunity to "get out into open space, having a chance to exercise, watch nature in an area fairly close to the City." He expressed opposition to lots of development in the area of the Silver Saddle Ranch or Prison Hill, and the opinion that the community's recreational needs are being met.

Chairperson Keeton thanked Mr. Plemel for his presentation and recessed the meeting at 6:34 p.m.

3-C. ACTION REGARDING POSSIBLE CHANGES TO THE MOST CURRENT DRAFT OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN (2-0543) - Chairperson Keeton reconvened the meeting at 6:46 p.m., and provided direction with regard to the process for providing input. He commended Commissioner Curtis on the time invested in reviewing details of the draft plan. Mr. Moellendorf agreed, and reviewed the staff report. He summarized revisions to the following portions of the draft: Paragraphs 1.2 and 1.4, Section 2, Paragraph 7.2, and Section 8. He referred to Appendix 9.1, Summary of Implementation Strategies, and advised that it serves as a summation of the entire master plan. He requested input of the commissioners.

Discussion took place regarding the method by which to provide comments and input, and consensus was to do so section by section. Discussion took place regarding Section 1, and **Commissioner McKenna moved to approve. Commissioner Hoffman seconded the motion.** Chairperson Keeton called for public comment and, when none was forthcoming, a vote on the pending motion. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Commissioner Curtis noted the partnerships with the School District and the Western Nevada Community College referenced in Paragraph 2.8. In response to a question, Commissioner McKenna advised of the School District's desire to cooperate with Carson City to utilize the taxpayers' facilities to the highest possible degree. He clarified there had been no formal recognition but "20-40 years of history to prove

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that.” He advised that the School District would most likely not consider any formal documentation. Mr. Krahn noted the joint use agreement between the City and the School District. Mr. Moellendorf advised of informal discussions with WNCC officials. In response to a question, Mr. Krahn referred to recent upgrades at Fritsch Elementary School, to playgrounds on park property at Fremont Elementary School, to portable classroom units on City property at Empire Elementary School. He advised of a consistently “great working relationship with the School District,” and advised that paragraph 2.8 simply documents “what’s been happening and what we’re hoping to do in the future ... without tying them down to anything too specific.” Commissioner McKenna suggested adding the words “For example” prior to the sentence beginning “In exchange for additional City use of certain school grounds as public parks...” Commissioner Herst suggested adding the words “in Oakland, California,” after the words “East Bay Regional Park District” in paragraph 2.5.3. Mr. Moellendorf explained the purpose of the Executive Summary, and advised that details are included throughout the plan. Commissioner Herst suggested providing at least one example of additional funding sources for the future in paragraph 2.7. She suggested adding, “For example, future funding opportunities could include a bond question.”

(2-1303) WNCC Facilities Director Dave Rollings advised that WNCC looks forward to expanding partnerships with the City. He discussed future plans for expansion at WNCC.

Chairperson Keeton entertained a motion. **Commissioner Hoffman moved to approve Section 2, as amended. Commissioner Herst seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-1.**

Discussion took place regarding “Hispanic soccer teams” referenced in paragraph 4.1.3. Commissioner Herst offered to research challenges to exclusive Hispanic teams. Mr. Moellendorf noted that Section 3 had been skipped, and Chairperson Keeton entertained a motion. **Commissioner Curtis moved to accept Section 3, as presented. Commissioner McKenna seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.**

In reference to paragraph 4.2, Commissioner Herst requested that Douglas County’s skateboard park be listed. Discussion took place regarding additional suggested revisions to section 4. Chairperson Keeton called for public comment and, when none was forthcoming, entertained a motion. **Commissioner McKenna moved to approve Section 4, with the deletion of the last section of paragraph 4.2. Commissioner Herst seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-2.**

Ms. Singer responded to questions regarding the format of the table at page 21, and agreed to refine the same. Mr. Moellendorf and Ms. Singer responded to questions, and discussion took place, regarding the implementation strategies listed at paragraph 5.3.1. With regard to paragraph 5.4, Ms. Singer agreed to further research whether businesses in Roseville, California provided support to the sports tournaments which generated additional revenue in that community. Mr. Moellendorf agreed that the information would be interesting to review. In response to a question, Ms. Singer advised that the \$20,000 grant from the Convention and Visitors Bureau was allocated toward developing survey data for sports tournaments held in Carson City. She offered to have Recreation Supervisor Joel Dunn present a report at a future meeting. Commissioner Herst suggested revised language to the last section of paragraph 5.5.1. Commissioner Curtis expressed an interest in requesting the consultant to compare fee schedules among various jurisdictions outside the scope of the master plan document. Chairperson Keeton called for public comment and, when none was forthcoming, entertained a motion. **Commissioner Hoffman moved to approve Section 5, with corrections. Commissioner Felesina seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.**

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In response to a question, Mr. Moellendorf discussed the definitions listed in Table 1 of paragraph 6.1.1. In paragraph 6.2.1, Commissioner Herst suggested adding a reference to the appropriate Appendix. With regard to paragraph 6.2.4(4)(Nbhd 12), Commissioner McKenna advised of very preliminary discussions regarding the possibility of constructing additional elementary school space at Seeliger School. Discussion took place regarding suggested revisions to paragraphs 6.2.2, 6.2.4(1), 6.2.4(4), 6.5.3, and 6.6. **Commissioner Curtis moved to delete the last sentence of paragraph 6.6. Commissioner Herst seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.** In reference to paragraph 6.7, discussion took place with regard to including language about rooms to accommodate special events, and other suggested revisions. Commissioner Curtis suggested considering areas in Carson City which may be appropriate for an amphitheater and an equestrian events center, and removing from paragraph 6.11.2 the corresponding language. Consensus of the commission was to delete the bullet points in paragraph 6.11.2. Commissioner McKenna suggested deleting the last sentence of paragraph 6.9.4(1), and the commissioners concurred. Discussion took place regarding paragraph 6.11.3. Mr. Moellendorf suggested adding the words, "or other appropriate sites" to the end of subparagraph (3), and the commissioners concurred. In response to a question, Mr. Moellendorf discussed the Clear Creek Conservation Camp facility. Commissioner Curtis suggested adding language to consider possible uses of the Clear Creek camp area for local recreation or meeting facilities. Mr. Moellendorf expressed concern with regard to deleting the bullet points in paragraph 6.11.2. He expressed understanding for the goal to preserve the natural environment of the Silver Saddle Ranch, but noted that the area represents great opportunities for recreation. He suggested that amenities could be added with limited impact to the natural environment. He further suggested that an outdoor amphitheater would not be out of the question for such a location; it would depend upon size, management, etc. He expressed concern that only maintaining the ranch character may limit opportunities. Chairperson Keeton called for public comment.

(2-2860) With regard to paragraph 6.11.3, Michael Bish advised that the Silver Saddle Ranch boundaries include a portion of the east side of the River. In reference to previous comments, he advised that there is no access to the Pine Nut Mountains through the main portion of the Silver Saddle Ranch. Commissioner McKenna noted that the language paragraph 6.11.3 was general enough so as not to imply development of an equestrian event staging area.

Chairperson Keeton entertained a motion. **Commissioner Hoffman moved to approve Section 6, with the suggested revisions. Commissioner Curtis seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.**

Commissioner Herst suggested re-titling Section 7 as "Funding and Priorities." In response to a question, Mr. Moellendorf referred to paragraph 7.1.4(2) and read the language into the record. He advised that the subject language provided for the establishment of landscape maintenance districts. Following discussion, Commissioner McKenna suggested adding the words, "including landscape maintenance districts" to the end of subparagraph 2. Commissioner Curtis suggested adding a subparagraph 7 to the end of paragraph 7.2.2, Tier II, as follows: "Does taking this action include any partnership opportunities for sharing development and operation costs?" Chairperson Keeton called for public comment and, when none was forthcoming, entertained a motion. **Commissioner Herst moved to approve Section 7, with the suggested revisions. Commissioner Hoffman seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.**

Discussion took place regarding suggested revisions to paragraph 8.1. In response to a question, Mr. Moellendorf advised that master plan amendments are provided for in the State statutes. Discussion followed, and Mr. Moellendorf suggested adding language to the end of Section 8 indicating that the master

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plan will be reviewed annually. Chairperson Keeton entertained a motion. **Commissioner Curtis moved to approve Section 8, with the suggested revisions. Commissioner Herst seconded the motion.** Chairperson Keeton called for public comment; however, none was provided. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Following discussion, consensus of the commission was to delete Appendix 9.2 and instead reference it in the body of the document. Discussion took place regarding the various recreational amenities available to neighborhood 7, and Commissioner Curtis suggested adding the language, "Investigate further the neighborhood perceptions of school grounds as parks. If appropriate, explore ways to improve access and usability of school grounds as neighborhood parks." Discussion took place regarding recreational amenities available to neighborhood 12. (3-0007) With regard to neighborhood 16, Commissioner Curtis suggested adding language to "investigate whether or not uses of existing parks are satisfactory." In response to a question, Commissioner McKenna advised that dogs are not allowed on school property. In response to a comment, Mr. Moellendorf referred to the implementation strategies, one of which directs review of the City's policy on dogs in parks. Additional discussion followed. Following discussion of neighborhood 19, consensus of the commission was to remove the words "dog-friendly" from Direction 3. Commissioner Curtis suggested adding the language, "With neighborhood residents, verify express desire for neighborhood park" to the Directions for neighborhoods 24 and 29. Chairperson Keeton called for public comment and, when none was forthcoming, entertained a motion. **Commissioner Curtis moved to approve Appendix 9.4, with the suggested revisions. Commissioner McKenna seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.**

Discussion took place with regard to reformatting Appendix 9.5 for readability, and the specifics of the City's policy on dogs in parks. Commissioner Curtis suggested adding a column for "dogs allowed; leash required." Following a call for public comment, Chairperson Keeton entertained a motion. **Commissioner McKenna moved to approve Appendix 9.5, with the suggested revisions. Commissioner Herst seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.**

Consensus of the commission was to reformat Appendix 9.6 for readability. Chairperson Keeton called for public comment and, when none was forthcoming, entertained a motion. **Commissioner Hoffman moved to approve Appendix 9.6, with the suggested revisions. Commissioner McKenna seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.**

Commissioner Curtis commented that Appendix 9.7 was very helpful. **Commissioner Herst moved to approve Appendix 9.7, as written. Commissioner Felesina seconded the motion.** Chairperson Keeton called for public comment and, when none was forthcoming, a vote on the pending motion. **Motion carried 7-0.**

In response to a question, Mr. Krahn advised he would review the maps with Mr. Winston to ensure consistency and no redundancy. He acknowledged the possibility of enlarging the maps. Chairperson Keeton called for public comment and, when none was forthcoming, entertained a motion. **Commissioner McKenna moved to approve Appendix 9.8. Commissioner Curtis seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.**

Mr. Moellendorf noted that Appendices 9.1 and 9.3 had not yet been approved. Chairperson Keeton entertained a motion to accept Appendix 9.1. **Commissioner Hoffman so moved. The motion was seconded and carried 7-0.** Chairperson Keeton entertained a motion to approve Appendix 9.3.

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Commissioner Hoffman so moved. Commissioner Felesina seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0. Chairperson Keeton called for additional public comment with regard to Draft 10 and, when none was forthcoming, entertained a motion to approve Draft 10, as amended at this meeting. **Commissioner Herst so moved. Commissioner Hoffman seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.**

Mr. Krahn advised that the next iteration would be in the form of a final draft to be presented to the public. He reviewed the method by which the comments and input provided at this meeting would be incorporated, and advised that a redlined version of the final draft would be presented to the commission. He responded to questions regarding the master plan meeting schedule, and the method by which comments and input from other advisory committees would be presented.

4. NON-ACTION ITEMS:

STATUS REPORTS AND COMMENTS FROM STAFF (3-0417) - In response to a question, Mr. Krahn provided a status report on Silver Oak Park. Discussion took place regarding concerns over blowing dust.

STATUS REPORTS, COMMENTS, AND CONCERNS FROM COMMISSIONERS (3-0456) - In response to a question, Commissioner McKenna advised that the PTA recently purchased playground equipment for Fritsch Elementary School.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS - Deferred.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM STAFF (3-0461) - Mr. Moellendorf advised that an updated master plan for Fuji Park would be presented at the November 15th commission meeting.

5. ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT (3-0468) - Commissioner Herst moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m. Commissioner Felesina seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

The Minutes of the November 1, 2005 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting are so approved this 3rd day of January, 2006.

THOMAS N. KEETON, Chair