

CARSON CITY OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the February 26, 2007 Meeting

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A regular meeting of the Carson City Open Space Advisory Committee was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Monday, February 26, 2007 in the Community Center Sierra Room, 851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada.

PRESENT: Vice Chairperson Dan Jacquet
Michael Fischer
Tricia Lincoln
Wayne Perock
Howard Riedl
Bruce Scott

STAFF: Roger Moellendorf, Parks and Recreation Department Director
Juan Guzman, Open Space / Property Manager
Kathleen King, Recording Secretary

NOTE: A recording of these proceedings, the committee's agenda materials, and any written comments or documentation provided to the recording secretary during the meeting are public record, on file in the Clerk-Recorder's Office. These materials are available for review during regular business hours.

CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM (6:00:42) - Vice Chairperson Jacquet called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. A quorum was present. Chairperson Hartman was absent.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS (6:00:57) - None.

1. ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES - January 22, 2007 and February 6, 2007 (6:01:05) - In reference to item 3-C of the January 22, 2007 minutes, Member Riedl advised of the intent to have congratulated staff on accepting volunteer services by Muscle Powered and the Carson City Chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers. **Member Fischer moved to approve the minutes, with the proposed amendment. Member Scott seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0. Member Riedl moved to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2007 meeting. Member Perock seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.**

2. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA (6:02:41) - Mr. Guzman requested to defer item 3-B to the next meeting. He suggested addressing item 3-D prior to item 3-A, and Vice Chairperson Jacquet concurred.

3. AGENDA ITEMS:

3-A. ACTION TO RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS THE ALLOCATION OF UP TO \$40,000 FROM OPEN SPACE FUNDS TO BE USED AS A PARTIAL MATCH ON GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR THE PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION OF TWO BRIDGES OVER THE MEXICAN DITCH IN ORDER TO PROVIDE CONNECTIVITY BETWEEN TRAIL SEGMENTS ALONG THE MEXICAN DITCH TRAIL (6:50:45) - Mr. Guzman introduced this item, provided background information, and reviewed the staff report. Member Scott expressed a preference for a bridge rather than a culvert in light of the potential grant funding. He commended Muscle Powered and Lumos & Associates for their assistance and participation.

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(6:55:55) Chas Macquarrie, a Carson City resident and Muscle Powered member, referred to the results of the citywide survey, conducted as part of the parks and recreation and unified pathways master plan elements processes, which indicated trails and connectivity as a community priority. He advised that staff had identified some very critical missing links in the unified pathways master plan element. He provided background information on the involvement of Muscle Powered and a group of engineering firms in town. He advised that conceptual plans for bridges, locations, and cost estimates have been developed.

Member Scott noted that the Mexican Ditch Trail is one of the few with a fire hydrant. At Vice Chairperson Jacquet's request, Mr. Macquarrie described the bridge designs, including load capacities. He referred to the photograph included in the agenda materials. He advised of initial considerations for designing a complete bridge, but that "the simplest way to go was certainly with a prefabricated bridge." Mr. Guzman acknowledged that motorized use would be restricted to maintenance and public safety vehicles only; general use would be for pedestrians, bicyclists, equestrians. Fire Chief Stacey Giomi is aware of the bridge's load capacity.

Mr. Guzman acknowledged that the \$40,000 request represented 25 percent of the total project budget. He advised that Ms. Bollinger and Mr. Krahn had accomplished leveraging one grant against another with matches from the private sector to considerably reduce the project cost. Packaging the cost to the Open Space Program will provide the opportunity to leverage against the cost for other needed facilities in the area. In response to a question, Mr. Guzman advised that one grant application was due last Wednesday; other grant application deadlines are pending. Mr. Guzman acknowledged that construction would be scheduled for the fall of 2007. He noted a key factor of having all the components come together at the same time. In reference to a previously presented proposal, Member Fischer expressed appreciation for the reduced cost estimate.

Vice Chairperson Jacquet called for public comment and, when none was forthcoming, entertained a motion. **Member Scott moved to recommend to the Board of Supervisors the allocation of up to \$40,000 of open space funds to be used as a partial match on grant applications for the planning and construction of two bridges over the Mexican Ditch in order to provide connectivity between trail segments along the Mexican Ditch Trail, and to thank Muscle Powered and Anne and Chas Macquarrie particularly for their efforts in this regard. Member Fischer seconded the motion.** Member Riedl disclosed that he is a member of the Truckee Meadows Chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers. Vice Chairperson Jacquet called for a vote on the pending motion; **motion carried 6-0.** Member Scott disclosed that he is also a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

3-B. ACTION TO CONSIDER RECOMMENDING TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS A CONSERVATION EASEMENT ON HORSE CREEK RANCH, PROPERTY OWNER MR. MICHAEL FAGEN, APN 007-051-78 - Deferred.

3-C. DISCUSSION ONLY REGARDING THE STATUS OF THE OPEN SPACE PROGRAM BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006 - 07 (7:04:53) - Mr. Guzman introduced this item, reviewed the staff report and the attached exhibits. In response to a question, he advised that staff is pursuing a full-time Open Space Assistant position to be paid by the Open Space Program. He responded to additional questions regarding the Wood Rodgers contract funding, and the amount of funding annually allocated from the open space portion of Question #18. He discussed cost saving measures being implemented in light of the City's budget shortfalls. At Member Scott's request, he reviewed contractual

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work being done by Resource Concepts, Inc. He referred to the list of contracts included in the agenda materials, and responded to questions regarding funding allocated to the pedestrian bridge. He responded to additional questions regarding the mechanism of the Question #1 State of Nevada account, the land acquisition line item, and Question #1 funding allocated to the Carson River. Vice Chairperson Jacquet called for public comment; however, none was forthcoming.

3-D. DISCUSSION ONLY REGARDING THE QUALITY OF LIFE INITIATIVE BALLOT LANGUAGE; CARSON CITY MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 13.06, OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE; AND PROVISIONS, STANDARDS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF EXISTING POLICIES FROM THE OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN ELEMENT REGARDING THE USE OF OPEN SPACE FUNDS (6:03:57) - Mr. Guzman reviewed the staff report. In response to a question, Member Fischer advised that Question #18 passed by 54 percent of the vote. In response to a question, Mr. Guzman explained the relationship between the retention basins along Combs Canyon Road and the freeway improvements. He pointed out, on a displayed map, a wetland at the northern portion of the Silver Saddle Ranch which is related to the freeway as mitigation. Open Space staff has contributed to management of the wetland. Member Scott discussed the storm water utility instituted since passage of Question #18 which is more directly involved with detention basins and related facilities. He suggested that the involvement of the Open Space Program would now be in the form of trails and management of related open space areas which don't have to do with operations. In response to a further question, Member Scott expressed the belief that this committee is very definitely involved in watershed issues. Detention ponds and related facilities are more the responsibility of the storm water utility and engineering division. Mr. Guzman provided an overview of the City's major project review process. He acknowledged that the committee occasionally considers detention areas in relationship to use. He advised that the committee's consideration of watershed is in general. He referred to the Open Space Program's management of a Natural Resources Conservation Service grant for rehabilitation of the Waterfall Fire area. The focus of the rehabilitation project is primarily drainage, erosion, and related issues. Member Fischer provided historic information on discussions which took place during focus group presentations of Question #18, and expressed the opinion that the voters were likely not considering the Open Space Program being involved in water retention.

Mr. Guzman reviewed that portion of the staff report pertinent to the Open Space Master Plan element and the Carson City Municipal Code. He explained the issue of perpetuity as related to open space property, and discussed the public process required to change an open space designation. He read a portion of CCMC Section 13.06.150 into the record. Member Riedl referred to CCMC Section 13.06.140, Maintenance and Management, and read a portion of the same into the record. Mr. Guzman read into the record Policy 2.3 of the Open Space Master Plan element, and noted that the language is contrary to the provisions of the ordinance. He advised that the ordinance was passed prior to the master plan element, and noted that the master plan is a guiding principle and the ordinance is law. He recommended considering amendment to the language of Policy 2.3 to correspond with the language of the ordinance. He explained the process for amending the master plan. Mr. Guzman acknowledged that the master plan element would need to be amended to allow for allocating open space funding to develop trails and trail-related improvements. Member Fischer recalled discussion, during development of the master plan element, indicating concern that the Open Space Program wouldn't be "the deep pockets" for trail construction. He suggested the language of the master plan element, at Policy 2.3, reflects the committee's intent following passage of the ordinance. Member Scott recalled the intent to facilitate trails where possible, provide connectivity, etc., but that actual trail construction should be the responsibility of the

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Parks and Recreation Department. In response to a comment, Mr. Guzman advised that improvements at the Moffat open space property were funded by the Open Space Program. This was done at the request of the owner and in exchange for a reduction in the sale price of the property. Member Scott expressed the role of the Open Space Program to assist in establishing the ability for a trail to be constructed in the future and not necessarily to become involved in trail construction. He agreed that a minor adjustment to the language of Policy 2.3 may be needed, but expressed support for the positions taken by the committee in the past. He commented that the Open Space Program and this committee have had a good relationship with the Parks and Recreation Department in past projects. Vice Chairperson Jacquet expressed support for having the latitude to contribute to trails projects with open space values.

Mr. Guzman noted that Question #18 was passed approximately ten years ago. He referred to the recent citywide survey, conducted as part of the parks and recreation master plan and unified pathways master plan elements processes, and noted the responses which indicated the importance of trails and a preference for open space nature-type parks rather than developed community parks in certain areas. In response to a question, he advised that the committee has latitude in interpreting the policies of the Open Space Master Plan element. In response to a question, Mr. Moellendorf provided additional information on the survey which was sent to 3,000 homes in Carson City.

Member Riedl expressed appreciation for and commended the Open Space Master Plan element. He advised of having voted in favor of Question #18, and expressed understanding for caution over “getting a deep pockets reputation for things other than acquiring open space land.” He acknowledged the number of years since passage of Question #18, and noted the extensive public outreach associated with the recently-passed parks and recreation and unified pathways master plan elements. He further acknowledged the overwhelming indication that natural parks with trails and passive improvements are the community’s preference. He agreed with considering amendment to the language of Policy 2.3. He expressed the hope that the master plan will continue to be used as a guide, and that the committee will consider opportunities to contribute to the community for open space, trails, and other passive uses. He noted the importance of promoting open spaces, and requested the committee members to keep this in mind.

Member Lincoln expressed agreement with Member Riedl’s comments, and the opinion that trails and open space connectivity are very important. She expressed appreciation for the committee’s latitude in considering use of open space funds for trail development. She read a portion of the Question #18 language into the record with regard to trails and connectivity, and suggested that it was important at the time the question passed. Mr. Guzman discussed the “overall vision” of the open space portion of Question #18 to “connect the interior spaces ... with the outside particularly since we are surrounded by so much federal land.”

Member Perock discussed the importance of stewardship of open space lands. In response to a question, Mr. Guzman advised that the Open Space Master Plan element emphasizes the relationship and need to provide stewardship over open space lands. He noted that the Open Space Program has become the custodians of watershed lands owned by the Utility following the Waterfall Fire. He advised of numerous master plan policies related to management, and discussed the specifics associated with management.

Member Fischer provided additional clarification of the intent of the Question #18 explanation language and the master plan policy related to trails. Discussion followed, and Mr. Guzman noted consensus of the committee to allocate Open Space Program funding to improvements from time to time. Vice Chairperson

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Jacquet discussed the balance between stewardship and facility development for enjoyment of passive recreation activities as the committee's basic charge. Mr. Moellendorf suggested the example of construction of a fire access road or fuels reduction projects which create defensible space and also serve as pathways or trails to connect open spaces and facilitate recreational access. He noted "may" as the key word in Section 13.06.150(1) of the CCMC, and advised that each project can be evaluated as to enhancement of the Open Space Program. He noted the responsibility of staff to ensure that projects presented for possible funding correspond with Open Space Program policies.

Member Scott referred to Question #18 as the Quality of Life Initiative, and expressed pride over the accomplishments of the Open Space Advisory Committee since its passage. He noted the "enabling language" of Question #18, and viewed his role as a committee member to keep the quality of life in focus while considering changing times. He further noted the potential for two or three "very, very big purchases or a whole bunch of little bits and pieces and linkages ..." for the Open Space Program. He advised of having considered, with a great deal of interest, development of the parks and recreation and unified pathways master plan elements. He expressed the belief that quality of life is supported and positively impacted by such things. He expressed support for evaluating each project to ensure it corresponds to the Open Space Program mission, and providing additional quality of life. Member Fischer thanked Mr. Guzman for his presentation, and requested that future committee members be provided copies of the agenda materials pertinent to this item.

Vice Chairperson Jacquet called for public comment. (6:47:33) Donna Curtis proposed scheduling a joint meeting between this committee and the Parks and Recreation Commission to discuss the "fuzzy line" between active and passive recreation. Mr. Guzman suggested scheduling the meeting for April.

3-E. ACTION TO CONSIDER A JOINT MEETING WITH THE CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON MONDAY, MARCH 19, 2007 (7:21:59) - Mr. Guzman introduced this item and reviewed the staff report. He advised he would be absent from the meeting but that Open Space Assistant Ann Bollinger would be available to cover for him. In response to a question, he reviewed the tentative agenda for the March 19th committee meeting. In response to a further question, he advised that the joint meeting is not project driven and could be scheduled for another time. Vice Chairperson Jacquet expressed concern over Mr. Guzman's absence from the meeting. Discussion followed, and Vice Chairperson Jacquet suggested a working group of each committee could accomplish the same objective. Mr. Moellendorf explained the purpose of the joint meeting, and agreed that an informal meeting could be scheduled between the chairs and vice chairs of the two committees. Member Scott agreed with the suggestion to schedule a meeting between staff and a working group of the two committees. The other committee members and staff concurred. Mr. Guzman suggested rescheduling the March 19th meeting to Monday, March 26th.

4. NON-ACTION ITEMS:

STATUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM STAFF (7:27:31) - Mr. Guzman reported that staff continues to work on the federal lands bill. He advised that U.S. Forest Service representatives are endorsing the committee's recommendation regarding the Borda Meadow. He anticipates that funding will be allocated to purchase the Wilson property. He responded to questions regarding the property surrounding the landfill. He anticipates receiving the first part of the NRCS report from RCI within the next month. He provided a status report on the Horse Creek Ranch conservation

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easement. He acknowledged having received additional comments and correspondence from members of the Schulz family. He responded to questions regarding specific language in the conservation easement, and USFS operations on Kings Canyon Road. He advised that USFS representatives will be presenting to the committee, at a future meeting, information regarding special arrangements by which jurisdictions can assist in land management.

MEMBERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION (7:33:48) - None.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (7:33:53) - Previously covered.

6. ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT (7:34:35) - Member Fischer moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 p.m. Member Perock seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

The Minutes of the February 26, 2007 Carson City Open Space Advisory Committee meeting are so approved this 26th day of March, 2007.

STEPHEN D. HARTMAN, Chair