



STAFF REPORT

Report To: Board of Supervisors

Meeting Date: October 18, 2018

Staff Contact: Lyndsey Boyer, Senior Natural Resource Specialist

Agenda Title: For Possible Action: To adopt a resolution to designate Carson City, NV as a Bee City USA affiliate (Lyndsey Boyer, lboyer@carson.org)

Staff Summary: The Great Basin Beekeepers of Nevada propose adopting a resolution to designate Carson City as a Bee City USA affiliate. This program serves to promote a healthy and sustainable habitat in order to support vital pollinator populations for the benefit of our health and economy. Adopting the Bee City USA designation will promote educational opportunities that encourage citizens and department staff to make pollinator friendly choices for the benefit of our community.

Agenda Action: Resolution

Time Requested: 10 minutes

Proposed Motion

I move to adopt resolution number _____, to designate Carson City, NV as a Bee City USA affiliate.

Board's Strategic Goal

N/A

Previous Action

N/A

Background/Issues & Analysis

Established in 2015, the Great Basin Beekeepers of Nevada are a grassroots group based out of the Carson City area that focus on promoting a healthy, sustainable habitat for bees and other pollinators by actively pursuing education of the public. In 2017, the Great Basin Beekeepers of Nevada contacted Mr. Mayor Crowell to pursue designating Carson City as the first Bee City USA affiliate in Nevada. The Bee City USA program endorses a set of commitments for creating sustainable habitats for pollinators, which are vital to feeding the planet. This program supports the creation of a healthy pollinator habitat by encouraging citizens to pursue cultural practices, such as planting native plants that will provide forage for a variety of pollinator species. Additional commitments include implementing best management practices for pollinators in the Parks, Recreation & Open Space Department. Examples include: incorporating pollinator friendly plant species into restoration seed mixes, encouraging staff to use integrated pest management (IPM) strategies whenever possible (i.e. physical removal), as well as encouraging pollinator friendly plant choices when reviewing development proposals. No fiscal impacts are anticipated from adopting these practices, and other non-fiscal resources can be provided to the public such as education on best practices. Additionally, in coordination with the Great Basin Beekeepers of Nevada, pollinator curriculum can be incorporated into the youth recreation programs. Adopting these practices in our community will ensure that pollinator populations are able to thrive in Carson City, ensuring healthy and abundant agricultural production and native landscapes. Participation in the program does not require a long-term commitment and continued participation in the program will be evaluated each year.

Applicable Statute, Code, Policy, Rule or Regulation

NRS Chapter 278.

Financial Information

Is there a fiscal impact? Yes No

If yes, account name/number:

Is it currently budgeted? Yes No

Explanation of Fiscal Impact: No fiscal impact to the City of Carson City. The Great Basin Beekeepers of Nevada will be responsible for all associated costs.

Alternatives

Suggest edits and revise resolution.

Board Action Taken:

Motion: _____

- 1) _____
- 2) _____

Aye/Nay

(Vote Recorded By)

CARSON CITY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CARSON CITY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
DESIGNATING CARSON CITY, NEVADA AS A BEE CITY USA® AFFILIATE.

WHEREAS, the mission of BEE CITY USA is to galvanize communities to sustain pollinators, responsible for the reproduction of 90% of the world's wild plant species, by providing them with a healthy habitat, rich in a variety of native plants and free to nearly free of pesticides; and

WHEREAS, due in part to the tremendous diversity of wild native bees, and introduced honey bees, we have very diverse dietary choices rich in fruits, nuts and vegetables; and

WHEREAS, bees and other pollinators have experienced population declines due to a combination of habitat loss, use of pesticides, and the spread of pests and diseases; and

WHEREAS, in order to enhance understanding among local government staff and the public about the vital role that pollinators play and what each of us can do to sustain them, Carson City chooses to support and encourage pollinator habitat creation and enhancement on both public and private land; and

WHEREAS, an ideal pollinator-friendly habitat:

- Provides diverse and abundant nectar and pollen from plants blooming in succession throughout the growing season;
- Provides water for drinking, nest-building, cooling, diluting stored honey, and butterfly puddling;
- Provides undisturbed spaces (leaf and brush piles, un-mowed fields or field margins, fallen trees and other dead wood) for nesting and overwintering for wild pollinators;
- Has pesticide use carried out with least ill effects on pollinators;
- Is comprised of mostly, if not all, native species of annual and perennial forbs, grasses, vines, shrubs, and trees in landscapes, parks and open space;
- Includes, where possible, designated pollinator zones in public spaces with signage to educate the public and build awareness; and
- Provides for safe and humane removal of honey bees when required.

WHEREAS, pollinator-friendly communities can benefit local and regional economies through healthier ecosystems, increased vegetable and fruit crop yields, and increased demand for pollinator-friendly plant materials from local nurseries and growers; and

WHEREAS, supporting pollinators fosters environmental awareness and sustainability, and increases interactions among community stewards; and

WHEREAS, designating Carson City as a BEE CITY USA community would:

- Enhance understanding among the public about the vital role that pollinators play and how to sustain them;
- Encourage pollinator habitat creation and enhancement on both public and private land;
- Honor and emphasize Carson City's rich history, both past and present;
- Benefit local businesses that support pollinators;
- Celebrate our cultural identity as a community that values sustainable practices;
- Contribute to tourism in the region;
- Improve food security and health by supporting local food sources; and
- Encourage local collaboration on projects that promote environmental education and sustainable practices.

NOW, THEREFORE, Carson City resolves as follows:

1. Carson City, through its Parks, Recreation & Open Space Department is hereby designated as the BEE CITY USA sponsor and will facilitate the program on behalf of the City.
2. The Senior Natural Resource Specialist of Carson City is designated as the BEE CITY USA liaison.
3. Facilitation of the Carson City BEE CITY USA program is assigned to the Great Basin Beekeepers of Nevada.
4. The Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department is authorized to, and should encourage and support:
 - a. **Celebration:** Annually participate in National Pollinator Week (third full week of June) by encouraging educational events, pollinator habitat plantings or restoration, proclamations or promotions that showcase Carson City's commitment to enhancing pollinator health and habitat within the City's park system.

