

**City of Carson City
Agenda Report**

Date Submitted: March 27, 2012

Agenda Date Requested: April 5, 2012

Time Requested: 15 minutes

To: Mayor and Supervisors

From: Parks and Recreation Commission and the Parks and Recreation Department

Subject Title: Action to approve a recommendation from the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Parks and Recreation Department regarding opposition to the "American Energy and Infrastructure Jobs Act transportation bill. (Sean Lehmann and Roger Moellendorf)

Staff Summary: The Parks and Recreation Commission as well as the Parks and Recreation Department is recommending that the Board of Supervisors take official action to oppose the "American Energy and Infrastructure Jobs Act" as they believe that the legislation will negatively impact Carson City's ability to fund important city infrastructure projects such as bike lanes, pedestrian pathways, and safe route to school projects.

Type of Action Requested: (check one)

☐ Resolution

☐ Ordinance

☒ Formal Action/Motion

☐ Other (Specify)

Does This Action Require A Business Impact Statement: ☐ Yes ☒ No

Recommended Board Action: I move to approve a recommendation from the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Parks and Recreation Department regarding opposition to the "American Energy and Infrastructure Jobs Act transportation bill.

Explanation for Recommended Board Action: During the February 21, 2012, Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, the Commission discussed the latest version of the "American Energy and Infrastructure Jobs Act" transportation bill. The Commission is concerned that the provisions of this bill will negatively impact Carson City's ability to fund important non-motorized transportation projects. The Commission feels strongly that the City's budding system of trails, pathways, bike lanes as well as equestrian trails are important elements of the high quality of life that Carson City provides for its residents as well as a potential economic stimuli. The Commission understands that this bill may undergo several permutations, however; the Commission recommends that the Board of Supervisors oppose any bill that contains the following tenets:

1. Allows state transportation departments an option not to fund pedestrian projects.
2. Eliminates the Safe Route to School program for cities under 200,000 population.
3. Allows states to build bridges without including safe access for pedestrians and bicyclists.
4. Eliminates bicycle and pedestrian coordinators from state departments of transportation.

Applicable Statute, Code, Policy, Rule or Regulation: N.R.S.3071, C.C.M.C. 2.16.010

Fiscal Impact: N/A

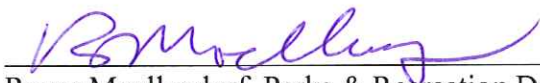
Explanation of Impact: N/A

Funding Source: N/A

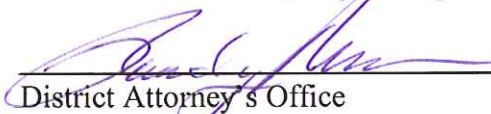
Alternatives: 1) Reject the recommendation.

Supporting Material:

Letter from Sean Lehmann, Chair, Parks and Recreation Commission
Minutes of the February 21, 2012, Parks and Recreation Commission meeting

Prepared By:  **Date:** 3/27/12
Roger Moellendorf, Parks & Recreation Director

Reviewed By:  **Date:** 3/27/12
for Lawrence A. Werner, City Manager

 **Date:** 3/27/12
District Attorney's Office

 **Date:** 3/27/12
Finance Department

Board Action Taken:

Motion: _____ 1: _____ Aye/Nay

2: _____

(Vote Recorded By)

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as it had been in the past. Commissioner Westergard suggested that Commissioner Curtis' issues would need to be addressed via the by-laws. Commissioner Brod noted that "Steve and Molly have both done a great job", adding that it was her personal opinion that "it was nice to rotate officers", and Commissioners Lehmann and Westergard expressed their agreement. Vice Chairperson Walt explained that members of the Board of Supervisors were on commissions because of a State Statute requirement, adding that "anything beyond that is our personal choice". She also noted that the City was re-evaluating the Commissions and the City Manager was looking into several factors such as term limits, successions, etc. She appreciated the fact that some perceived her as "too busy"; however, she would accept the nomination, calling her attendance "very good". Chairperson Lasco explained that he also believed in rotations, and called for a vote, since there were no other nominations. **Commissioner Westergard moved to close the nominations. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Adams. Chairperson Lasco called for a vote in favor of Vice Chairperson Walt's nomination as Chair. Motion failed 3-4-1. Chairperson Lasco called for a vote in favor of Commissioner Lehmann as Chair. Motion carried 4-3-1.** Chairperson Lasco congratulated Commissioner Lehman.

(6:31:31) – Chairperson Lasco entertained nominations for the position of Vice Chair. **Commissioner Adams nominated Commissioner Westergard for the position of Vice Chair. The nomination was seconded by Vice Chairperson Walt. Commissioner Lehmann nominated Commissioner Brod for the position of Vice Chair. The nomination was seconded by Commissioner Curtis.** Chairperson Lasco called for additional discussion, and when none were forthcoming, a vote. **Commissioner Brod was elected to the position of Vice Chair by a vote of 4-3-1.** Chairperson Lasco entertained public comments; however, none were forthcoming.

B. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY AND A REVIEW OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION BYLAWS. (6:32:54) – Chairperson Lasco introduced the item. Mr. Moellendorf thanked Chairperson Lasco and Vice Chairperson Walt for serving on the Commission and believed that they "both did a great job". He also presented a Staff Report, incorporated into the record, comprising of the Commission's by-laws, and solicited the Commissioners' input. He explained that the Commission could not vote on the proposed changes at this time. Commissioner Westergard suggested waiting for the upcoming changes from the Board of Supervisors and the City Manager prior to voting on the by-laws. Commissioners suggested several changes and sought input from Ms. Russom and Mr. Moellendorf. Discussion also ensued regarding the Open Meeting Law, and Ms. Russom ensured that all commissions were subject to that Law. Mr. Moellendorf agreed to incorporate the suggested changes and return them to the March meeting for a vote.

C. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: TO APPROVE SCHEDULING A PARKS AND FACILITIES TOUR THIS SPRING. (6:38:29) – Chairperson Lasco introduced the item. Mr. Moellendorf noted that the Commission had expressed interest in touring the parks, and explained that since the parks system had grown extensively, he suggested a two or three-hour tour. He suggested having this tour on a Saturday and proposed several dates. Several Commissioners expressed interest in having the tour in place of a scheduled Parks and Recreation Commission meeting. Mr. Moellendorf clarified that the tour would have to be posted and open to the public. **Vice Chairperson Walt moved to have the Parks and Facilities tour on Tuesday, May 1, 2012, in place of the regularly-scheduled Parks and Recreation Commission meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lehmann.** Chairperson Lasco entertained public comments, and when none were forthcoming, a vote. **Motion carried 8-0.**

D. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: TO DETERMINE A POSSIBLE COURSE OF ACTION AND RECOMMENDATION REGARDING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES' "AMERICAN ENERGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE JOBS ACT" TRANSPORTATION BILL. (6:44:41) – Chairperson Lasco introduced the item. Mr. Moellendorf explained that Commissioner Curtis had requested this agenda item, and presented a Staff Report, incorporated into the record. He noted that two bills were being presented, one in the US House of Representatives and another in the US Senate, regarding transportation enhancement. Mr. Moellendorf read the recommendation of Patrick Pittenger, Transportation Manager, also incorporated into the record, noting that the bills would impact smaller areas such as Carson City, specifically citing that the Nevada Department of Transportation not being obligated to fund pedestrian projects. Commissioner Curtis expressed concern that non-motorized transportation was essential to Carson City and suggested recommending an action to the Board of Supervisors. In response to Commissioner Westergard's question, Mr.

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Moellendorf explained that he did not know where the Nevada delegation stood on this issue. Chairperson Lasco explained the importance of Safe Route to School to Carson City, and Commissioner Lehmann explained that the bike lane on Kings Canyon Road was a good example of the need to advocate Safe Route to School. Chairperson Lasco suggested a creative engineering solution to the problem. Mr. Moellendorf ensured that the bus service would not be jeopardized by these bills, according to Mr. Pittenger. Chairperson Lasco noted that he preferred not to make political recommendations to the Board of Supervisors; however, in this case, he believed this was appropriate to be put to the transportation commissions. **Vice Chairperson Walt moved to recommend that the Commission contact the Board of Supervisors in writing and request that they oppose the proposed bills. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Curtis.** Commissioner Westergard noted that he would abstain, because he was "not educated enough" about it. Commissioner Curtis suggested explaining to the Board of Supervisors that the Commission supported Safe Route to Schools. Commissioner Brod inquired about a timeline. Discussion ensues regarding the impact the Commission's recommendation would make. Mr. Moellendorf suggested that Staff draft a letter, to be signed by the Commission Chairperson requesting the action proposed in the motion. Chairperson Lasco called for public comments, and when none were forthcoming, a vote. **Motion carried 7-0-1.**

5. MEMBERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION. (7:06:07) – Chairperson Lasco introduced the item. Vice Chairperson Walt inquired about the annual budget and Mr. Moellendorf suggested discussing it in the April meeting. Chairperson Lasco congratulated everyone for a successful season of the ice rink. Vice Chairperson Walt requested an update on the ice rink, and also announced the dates and times of the AYSO registrations. Chairperson Lasco encouraged the Commission to read several articles in the Parks and Recreation Magazine. Commissioner Lehmann reported that the running event at Carson River Park had been successful and announced that the last run would take place at Washoe State Park, at 9 a.m. on March 10, 2012.

A. REPORT FROM SCHOOL BOARD LIAISON – Commissioner Wilson was not present to report.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (7:09:30) – Commissioner Curtis requested information on Active Net, and Mr. Moellendorf explained that this was new software for the reservations and rentals, and suggested a future presentation. Vice Chairperson Walt praised the online reservations system of the Parks and Recreation Department, calling it "very good and very easy to use". Commissioner Curtis suggested a goal-setting session, an implementation strategies discussion of the Master Plan, and an Open Meeting Law discussion. Commissioner Walt suggested attending the District Attorney's annual training of the Open Meeting Law. Ms. Russom suggested reading NRS Chapter 241.

7. CITIZEN COMMENTS (7:17:18) – Chairperson Lasco entertained citizen comments; however none were forthcoming. Chairperson Lasco thanked In-Focus magazine for their content.

8. ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT (7:18:05) – Vice Chairperson Walt moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Curtis. The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

The Minutes of the February 21, 2012 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting are so approved this 6th day of March, 2012.

STEVE LASCO, Chair

March 14, 2012

Board of Supervisors
201 North Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701

Re: Opposition to the "American Energy and Infrastructure Jobs Act"

Dear Mayor and Board of Supervisors,

During the February 21, 2012, Parks and Recreation Commission meeting the Commission discussed the latest version of the "American Energy and Infrastructure Jobs Act" transportation bill. The Commission is very concerned that this bill as proposed would negatively impact Carson City's ability to fund important city infrastructure including bike lanes, pedestrian pathways, and the construction of safe routes to schools for our school children. The Parks and Recreation Commission on a vote 7-0-1 (one abstention) moved to forward to the Board of Supervisors a recommendation that the Board oppose this legislation.

Carson City has worked diligently to develop an efficient system of pathways, trails and bike lanes that provide safe and energy efficient alternatives for our residents to travel back and forth from their homes, to work, businesses, commercial areas, and recreation sites. This work has conformed to the City's "Unified Pathways Master Plan" which was adopted by the Board of Supervisors on April 6, 2006. This plan has successfully guided the City's efforts to the point that Carson City was recently designated as an official "Runner Friendly Community" by the Road Runners of America Club. Future improvements to our non-motorized transportation system will be seriously jeopardized by this proposed transportation act.

Of particular concern to the Parks and Recreation Commission is this Act:

1. Allows the state transportation departments an option to not fund pedestrian projects.
2. Virtually eliminates the Safe Route to School programs for cities under 200,000 in population which will halt the construction of safe ways for children in smaller cities including Carson City to walk or ride bicycles to schools.
3. Allows states to build bridges without including safe access for pedestrians and bicyclists.
4. Eliminates bicycle and pedestrian coordinators from state departments of transportation.

Therefore, the Parks and Recreation Commission opposes any act that includes the above provisions and recommends that the Board of Supervisors take action to do so as well.

The residents of Carson City take pride in our non-motorized system of trail and pathways that allow not only access throughout our city for pedestrians, bicyclists and equestrians but also provides unlimited access to our City owned open space lands as well as our adjacent federal and state lands. This system is an important asset that provides a wonderful quality of life for our residents and visitors. In an era of soaring gas prices and alarming rates of obesity and obesity related illnesses in adults and youth, Carson City and the nation need to put more emphasis on non-motorized transportation infrastructure, not less.

Sincerely,



Sean Lehmann
Chair, Parks and Recreation Commission