

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: October 1, 2013

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 3A

APPLICANT: Roger Moellendorf, Parks and Recreation Director
Vern L. Krahn, Park Planner
Kenneth Tait, Everybody Plays Advocate

REQUEST: **For Possible Action:** To recommend to the Board of Supervisors to support the Western Nevada Youth Foundation's effort to fund the installation of a universally accessible/sensory playground and to designate a site for the project in Mills Park.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Over the past few months, Parks and Recreation Department staff has been working with Everybody Plays advocates (Refer to Exhibit A) to identify a location for a universally accessible/sensory playground in Mills Park. These advocates are associated with the Western Nevada Youth Foundation (WNYF), 501 C 3 organization (Refer to Exhibit B). The location beginning considered for this project is an area east of the existing tennis courts, west of Mills Park Lane (park entrance off of Palo Verde Drive), and south of the existing creek. Everybody Plays advocates will be at this meeting to present their ideas and project scope for this universally accessible/sensory playground project (Refer to Exhibit C).

Also, they will be discussing their upcoming fund raising events, ideas for community partnerships with the builders within the community, and their desire to apply for grants to complete the project (Refer to Exhibit D). Parks and Recreation Department staff is in support of this project and its location in Mills Park. Both City staff and the advocates are seeking a recommendation from the Parks and Recreation Commission to take to the Board of Supervisors a request to dedicate this area for their project. If the advocates can raise the funds and get the necessary in-kind labor commitment from the builders within the community, they will return at a later date with a detailed playground design and phasing plan for the Commission to approve.

Staff does not want an open ended City commitment to reserve this area of the park indefinitely for this project. The advocates understand staff's reasoning and agree with this project constraint. They are very motivated to begin playground construction in the next few years. As a result, staff is recommending the Commission add the following language to the below motion:

“and reserve this area of the park for the next five years with the option for yearly administrative extensions after that date by the Parks and Recreation Director”.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: I move to recommend to the Board of Supervisors to support the Western Nevada Youth Foundation's effort to fund the installation of a universally accessible/sensory playground, designate a site for the project in Mills Park, and reserve this area of the park for the next five years with the option for yearly administrative extensions after that date by the Parks and Recreation Director.

Our Story



Hello, my name is Wendy Robards. We live in Dayton, Nevada where I have raised my three amazing children. My oldest daughter Aubrie, was born 21 years ago with a very rare genetic disorder by the

name of "Jouberts Syndrome". Due to this disorder Aubrie has multiple special needs, is medically fragile and has spent her life in a wheelchair. I then had my 14 year old daughter named Alexis and she was born during the time I did therapeutic foster care. We had over 20 children living with us over a 7 year span. The children had special needs that ranged from mild to severe. My youngest child is Nicholas, he is now 10 and I was fortunate enough to adopt him at birth. He struggles with sensory/tactile disorders.

As you can imagine raising this many children, and with all having such different needs it could be very frustrating to spend an afternoon at the park. A place that for most is peaceful, relaxing, adventurous, and welcoming.....becomes impossible for those with any type of disability. Now parks generally are ADA accessible. So, we were able to GET to the park. Then what???My daughter in her wheelchair unable to get through the sand, wood chips, pot holes in the lawn, generally was always left sitting on the sidelines, watching from a distance, as her siblings would swing and run around

the inaccessible monster equipment. I had several children that had the sensory issues and could not handle the touch, smell, visual stimulation or sounds of the park. My children with Downs Syndrome/Autistic would run like the wind and try to escape, even if it meant running full force in front of a loaded swing set!! Therefor a trip to the park with my family generally resulted in me taking two ibuprofen's and heading for home extremely discouraged. This is when I would dream. Dream of a park that was universally accessible for EVERYONE! A park that removed the "dis" in disability and gave everyone the ABILITY to play. In my dream Veterans who have lost limbs can ride a merry go round next to their children, elderly can exercise while playing with their grand kids, children with special needs leave feeling only special not different, and siblings can swing on a swing set right next to their sister who is in a wheelchair. This is my dream for MY family and for families everywhere. Please join us in making this dream a reality, one park at a time!!



The Wendy Robards Universal
Dream Park Foundation
P.O. Box 260
Dayton, Nevada 89403
Phone/Fax: 775 241-2086
wendysdreampark.com



Wendy Robards Universal Dream Park

A Park For All Ages
And Abilities



wendysdreampark.com

Shouldn't Everybody Get The Chance?



The Chance to Participate

The Chance to Contribute

The Chance to be included!

THE CHANCE TO PLAY!

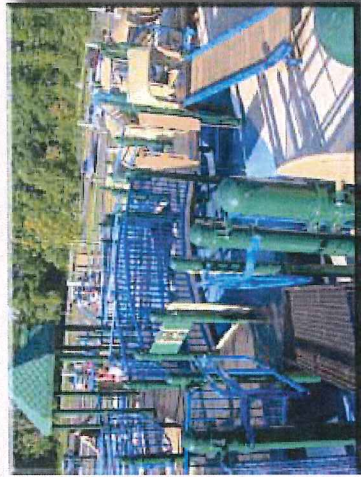


A PARK FOR ALL AGES AND ABILITIES

The Wendy Robards Universal Dream Park Foundation is a non-profit group dedicated to the creation of universally accessible parks and playgrounds.

What is a Universally Accessible Playground?

There are many playground structures and parks that meet the ADA (Americans With Disabilities) requirements regarding accessibility but very few are truly UNIVERSALLY accessible. We define a Universally Accessible Park as one that not only allows access to individuals of all needs but engages them in cooperative activities and nurturing play. We envision a park where special needs children can play alongside their siblings, where Parents with disabilities are not hindered from interacting with their kids, where seniors find an inviting place to play with their grandchildren or to just exercise, and where all individuals can enjoy a safe and sensory laden experience. This is our **DREAM PARK** and it will be without barriers or exclusion because **EVERYBODY PLAYS!**



Our Mission

The mission of our foundation is to gather the necessary resources to develop a Universally Accessible Playground. This will be a place that welcomes people of all ages and abilities without separation or restriction. We are committed to this endeavor and ask that you join us in creating an environment where... **EVERYBODY PLAYS!**

And We Need Your Help!

Your donations and contributions to our foundation will help make this park a reality! And we don't plan on stopping with just one because every community should have a Universally Accessible Park! Check out our web site at wendydreampark.com for more information!

Donations can be made at First Independent Bank in the name of Western Nevada Youth Foundation on acct# 71018725 or any Wells Fargo Bank in the name of "Diddy Pooh Universal Accessible Park" on acct# 5919563428.

If sending in a donation please make check out to either of these accounts

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION!

Shouldn't Everybody Get The Chance?

The Chance to Participate

The Chance to Contribute

The Chance to be included

THE CHANCE TO PLAY!



A PARK FOR ALL AGES AND ABILITIES

So many do not get the chance to play, children and adults with special needs often find themselves unable to enjoy the parks around them, unable to interact with their friends and family in a healthy and nurturing environment! This is a tragedy! AND WE WANT TO CHANGE THAT!

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!

Visit Us At: www.wendysdreampark.com



THE WENDY ROBARDS UNIVERSAL DREAM PARK FOUNDATION

The mission of our foundation is to gather the necessary resources to develop a Universally Accessible Playground. This will be a place that welcomes people of all ages and abilities without separation or restriction. We are committed to this endeavor and ask that you join us in creating an environment where **EVERYBODY PLAYS!**

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
DISTRICT DIRECTOR
2 CUPANIA CIRCLE
MONTEREY PARK, CA 91755-7431

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Date: DEC 30 1996

WESTERN NEVADA YOUTH FOUNDATION
PO BOX 1060
CARSON CITY, NV 89702

Employer Identification Number:
88-0341420
Case Number:
956303142
Contact Person:
JOYCE DARBY
Contact Telephone Number:
(310) 214-6835
Accounting Period Ending:
June 30
Addendum Applies:
No

FYI

Dear Applicant:

Based on information you supplied, and assuming your operations will be as stated in your application for recognition of exemption, we have determined you are exempt from federal income tax under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code as an organization described in section 501(c)(3). We also determined that you are a private foundation within the meaning of section 509(a) of the Code.

Based on the information you submitted with your application, we have determined that you are likely to qualify as a private operating foundation described in section 4942(j)(3) of the Code. Accordingly, you are treated as a private operating foundation for your first year of exempt status. After that, you will be treated as a private operating foundation as long as you continue to meet the requirements of section 4942(j)(3).

If you change your sources of support, your purposes, character, or method of operation, please let us know so we can consider the effect of the change on your exempt status and foundation status. If you amend your organizational document or bylaws, please send us a copy of the amended document or bylaws. Also, let us know any changes in your name or address.

As of January 1, 1984, you are liable for social security taxes under the Federal Insurance Contributions Act on amounts of \$100 or more you pay to each of your employees during a calendar year. You are not liable for the tax imposed under the Federal Unemployment Tax Act (FUTA). However, since you are a private foundation, you are subject to excise taxes under Chapter 42 of the Code. You also may be subject to other Federal excise taxes. If you have any questions about excise, employment, or other Federal taxes, please let us know.

Donors may deduct contributions to you as provided in section 170 of the Code. Bequests, legacies, devises, transfers, or gifts to you or for your use are deductible for federal estate and gift tax purposes if they meet the applicable provisions of sections 2055, 2106, and 2522 of the Code.

Donors may deduct contributions only to the extent their contributions are gifts, with no consideration received. Ticket purchases and similar payments in conjunction with fundraising events may not necessarily qualify as deductible contributions, depending on the circumstances. See Publication 1391, which sets forth guidelines on when payments made by taxpayers for admission

Letter 1075 (DO/CG)

Exhibit B

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WESTERN NEVADA YOUTH FOUNDATION

to, or other participation in fundraising activities for charity are deductible as charitable contributions.

You are required to file Form 990-PF, Return of Private Foundation or Section 4947(a)(1) Trust Treated as a Private Foundation. Form 990-PF must be filed by the 15th day of the fifth month after the end of your annual accounting period. A penalty of \$10 a day is charged when a return is filed late, unless there is reasonable cause for the delay. However, the maximum penalty charged cannot exceed \$5,000 or 5 percent of your gross receipts for the year, whichever is less. This penalty may also be charged if a return is not complete, so please be sure your return is complete before you file it.

You are not required to file federal income tax returns unless you are subject to the tax on unrelated business income under section 511 of the Code. If you are subject to this tax, you must file an income tax return on Form 990-T, Exempt Organization Business Income Tax Return. In this letter we are not determining whether any of your present or proposed activities are unrelated trade or business as defined in section 513 of the Code.

You need an employer identification number even if you have no employees. If you did not enter an employer identification number on your application, we will assign a number to you and let you know. Please use that number on all returns you file and in all correspondence with the Internal Revenue Service.

In accordance with section 508(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, the effective date of this determination letter is July 5, 1995.

This determination is based on evidence that your funds are dedicated to the purposes listed in section 501(c)(3) of the Code. To assure your continued exemption, you should keep records to show that funds are spent only for those purposes. If you distribute funds to other organizations, your records should show whether they are exempt under section 501(c)(3). In cases where the recipient organization is not exempt under section 501(c)(3), you must have evidence that the funds will remain dedicated to the required purposes and that the recipient will use the funds for those purposes.

If you distribute funds to individuals, you should keep case histories showing the recipients' names, addresses, purposes of awards, manner of selection, and relationship (if any) to members, officers, trustees or donors of funds to you, so that you can substantiate upon request by the Internal Revenue Service any and all distributions you made to individuals. (Revenue Ruling 56-304, C.B. 1956-2, page 306.)

If we have indicated in the heading of this letter that an addendum applies, the addendum enclosed is an integral part of this letter.

Because this letter could help resolve any questions about your exempt status and private foundation status, you should keep it for your records.

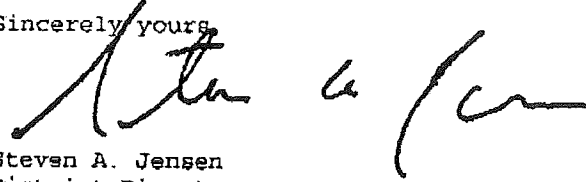
Letter 1075 (DO/CG)

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WESTERN NEVADA YOUTH FOUNDATION

If you have any questions, please contact the person whose name and telephone number are shown in the heading of this letter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven A. Jensen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S".

Steven A. Jensen
District Director



Wendy Robards Universal Dream Park Project Area Proposal

The Wendy Robards Universal Dream Park Foundation is working on the creation of a universally accessible playground/park in the Carson City area. It is our desire to see a playground/park that caters to the needs of all individuals and abilities.

There are many playground structures and parks that meet the ADA (Americans With Disabilities) requirements regarding accessibility but very few are truly UNIVERSALLY accessible. We define a Universally Accessible Park as one that not only allows access to individuals of all needs but engages them in cooperative activities and nurturing play. We envision a park where special needs children can play alongside their siblings, where Parents with disabilities are not hindered from interacting with their kids, where seniors find an inviting place to play with their grandchildren or to just exercise, and where all individuals can enjoy a safe and sensory laden experience. This is our DREAM PARK and it will be without barriers or exclusion because EVERYBODY PLAYS!

Currently Carson City has no wheelchair accessible playground equipment and many individual with special needs are forced to look on as others play on and enjoy the areas playgrounds and parks. Manual and motorized wheel chairs often find it difficult or impossible to traverse the grassy areas surrounding playground equipment and are then faced with the added burden of sand or bark filled playgrounds.

To this end we are currently looking at an area in Mills Park to build this Dream Park. We believe that a park of this nature will not only become a focal point for the communities special needs individuals and their families to experience healthy interactions with their loved ones and peers, but also attract a larger section of Carson City's population to come and enjoy this beautiful park.

It is our intention to make the Wendy Robards Universal Dream Park a show case and model of how universally accessible parks should be built and with your support we can make this park a reality.

The mission of our foundation is to gather the necessary resources to develop a Universally Accessible Playground. This will be a place that welcomes people of all ages and abilities without separation or restriction. We are committed to this endeavor and ask that you join us in creating an environment where...

EVERYBODY PLAYS!

The Wendy Robards Universal Dream Park Foundation sincerely thanks you for your consideration



Wendy Robards Universal Dream Park Project Area Proposal

examples of inaccessible parks/playgrounds



examples of accessible parks/playgrounds





Wendy Robards Universal Dream Park Project Area Proposal

LOCATION MAP KEY

The Wendy Robards Universal Dream Park Foundation is working on the creation of a universally accessible playground/park in the Carson City area. It is our desire to see a playground/park that caters to the needs of all individuals and abilities. We are looking at the Palo Verde Park and surrounding area in Mills Park to build this Dream Park.

- A** This will be where we would like to see the main accessible play structure located. this would be surrounded by other sensory, exercise and accessible playground equipment. a mix of concrete and pour in place rubber surfaces will be utilized for accessibility and safety.
- B** The existing restrooms will have to be updated to be ADA compliant
- C** The existing pavillion and surrounding area needs to be redesigned
- D** Sidewalks need to be made ADA compliant. Possibly remove portion of planter to expand handicapped parking
- E** Make existing park table ADA accessible
- F** Expand and upgrade existing parking lot



Wendy Robards Universal Dream Park Possible Project Area



PROJECT AREA



PROJECT POINTS





A Park For All Ages And Abilities
www.wendysdreampark.com

Committee Member

Kenneth Tait
President/Advocate

Phone: 775 684-9377 • E-mail: Whippet1925@yahoo.com



A Park For All Ages And Abilities
www.wendysdreampark.com

Committee Member

Judie Crowley
Grant Writer/Advocate

Phone: 775 338-3834 • E-mail: winniemotorhomeyahoo.com

Donation Receipt from [Western Nevada Youth Foundation]

Questions? Contact Ken Tait at 775 684-9377 or
 Wendy Robards at 775 560-5827
 EIN# 88-0341420



Donor Name	
Address	
City	
State/Province	
Postal code	
Phone	
Total pledge amount	
Type of donation	
Description	
Value	

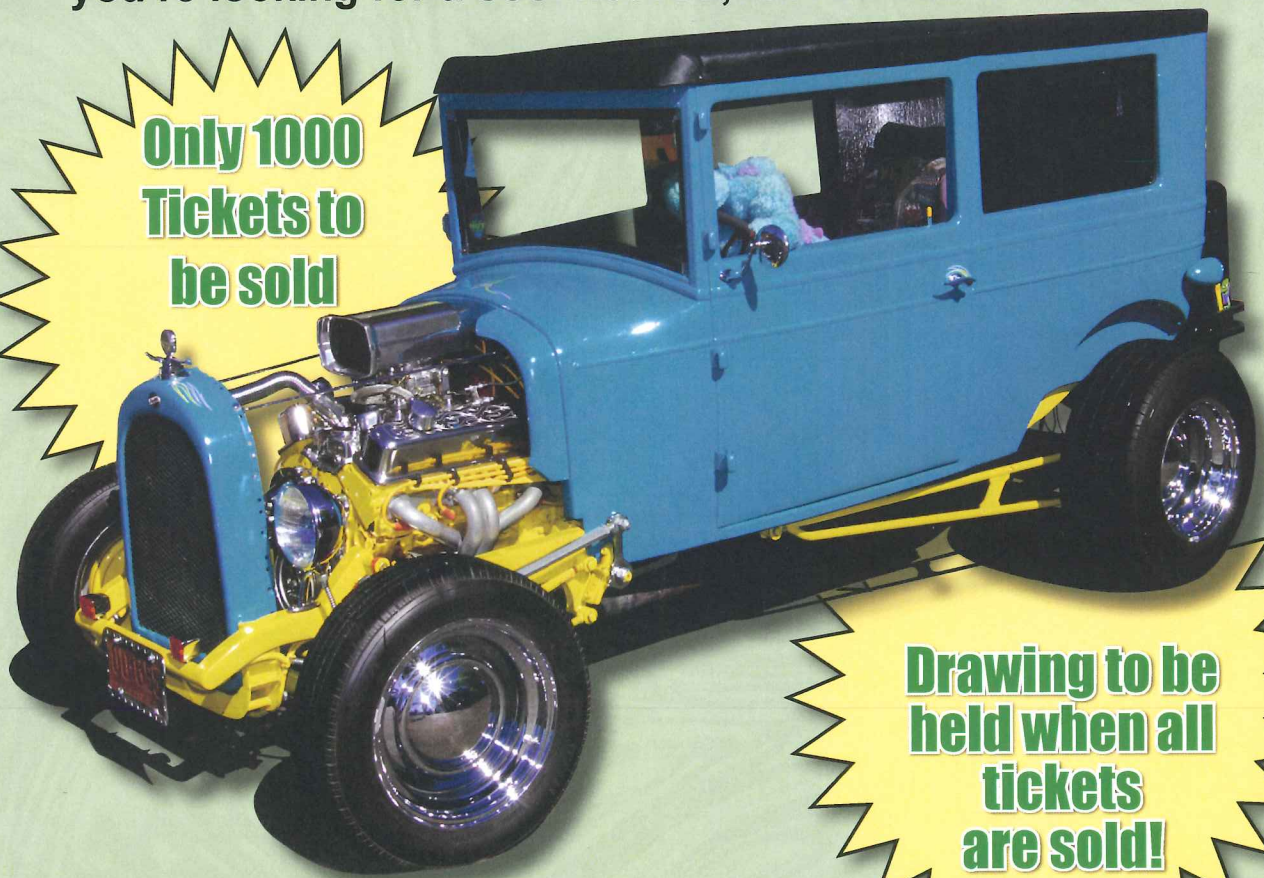
Thank you for your generous support!

The mission of our foundation is to gather the necessary resources to develop a Universally Accessible Playground. This will be a place that welcomes people of all ages and abilities without separation or restriction. We are committed to this endeavor and ask that you join us in creating an environment where **EVERYBODY PLAYS!**

\$50 YOU CAN WIN THIS CAR!! \$50

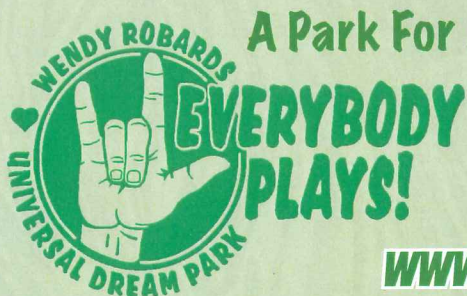
We are raffling off this **1925 Willys Whippet**, frame rails boxed, 4" Channel, Steel Body, 350 small RV cam, Turbo 350 with, 8" Ford posi rear end with 300 gears, Electric Fan, EZ wiring kit, new glass in rear windows only, no glass in doors, steering tilt wheel, Mustang Box, seats are out of 94 Saturn with a cover with Route 66, interior not completed, 13 MPG with reg. gas runs at 180 degrees all day, Only 10,000 miles drive anywhere. If you're looking for a cool hot rod, rat rod this is the one!!

**Only 1000
Tickets to
be sold**



**Drawing to be
held when all
tickets
are sold!**

Proceeds to Benefit:



A Park For All Ages and Abilities

**Help us build a park/playground that
everyone can enjoy!**

A place to PLAY!

www.wendysdreampark.com

*For more info contact Ken Tait at 775 684-9377 or Whippet1925@yahoo.co
Need not be present to win • Winner responsible for pick-up of vehicle*

\$50

\$50