

Item # 11c

**City of Carson City
Agenda Report**

Date Submitted: May 29, 2007

Agenda Date Requested: June 7, 2007

Time Requested: 15 Minutes

To: Mayor and Supervisors

From: Parks and Recreation Department

Subject Title: Action to approve a recommendation from the Carson City Parks and Recreation Commission naming Silver Oak Park as John B. Mankins Park.

Staff Summary: During the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting of May 15, 2007, The Commission approved a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to name the new park being constructed in the Silver Oaks subdivision the John B. Mankins Park. This recommendation was made on a 6-1 motion.

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 Carson City Parks and Recreation Commission naming Silver Oak Park as John B. Mankins Park..

Explanation for Recommended Board Action: The Parks and Recreation Department has received several requests for naming the new park being constructed on Oak Ridge Drive in the Silver Oak subdivision. Names were solicited by the department, and an article ran in the April 9, 2007, Nevada Appeal informing the public that the Parks and Recreation Department and the Parks and Recreation Commission were accepting nominations for naming the park. Nine nominations were submitted from the public. The Parks and Recreation Commission, in accordance to Resolution No. 1988-R-59, considered the nominations during their May 15, 2007, meeting. Through motion and a vote of 6-1, the Commission has recommended naming the park after John B. Mankins. John B. Mankins was one of the earliest settlers of Carson City. Mr. Mankins was the first recorded owner of Eagle Station, from 1857-1858, which later became Carson City. Mr. Mankins' ranch was composed of a large portion of Eagle Valley and included portions of the current Silver Oak Development. Mr. Mankins sold his ranch and trading post to several partners including Abraham Curry who is considered the founder of Carson City. This nomination was made by Annette Mankins on behalf of her family, who continue to live in Carson City.

Applicable Statute, Code, Policy, Rule or Regulation: NRS 244.209, and Carson City Resolution No. 1988-R-59.

Fiscal Impact: N/A

Explanation of Impact: N/A

Funding Source: N/A

Alternatives:

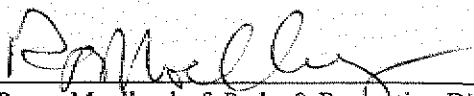
1. Deny the recommendation of the Carson City Parks & Recreation Commission and select another name for the park.
2. Deny the recommendation of the Carson City Parks and Recreation Commission and direct the Commission to consider another name.

Supporting Material:

Resolution No. 1988-R-59

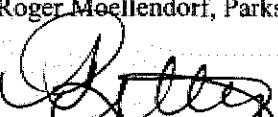
Minutes of Agenda Item 5C from the May 15, 2007, Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.
Background information regarding John B. Mankins.

Prepared By:

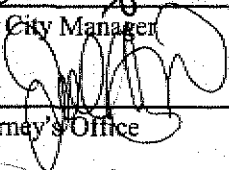

Roger Moellendorf, Parks & Recreation Director

Date: 5/29/07

Reviewed By:


Linda Ritter, City Manager

Date: 5/29/07


District Attorney's Office

Date: 5/29/07


Finance Department

Date: 5/29/07

Board Action Taken:

Motion: _____ 1: _____ Aye/Nay

2: _____

(Vote Recorded By)

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
FOR THE NAMING OF PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES
WITHIN CARSON CITY.

WHEREAS, Carson City Charter Provision 2.230 empowers the Board of Supervisors to regulate parks and public buildings and grounds within the City; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to establish policies and procedures for the naming of the parks and recreation facilities within Carson City.

NOW, THEREFORE, this Board hereby resolves to adopt the following:

POLICIES

1. Names, if possible, should have geographic, topographic, historical, or individual significance, generally recognized and known throughout the area.
2. Where consideration for naming involves geographical, topographical, or historical connotations, the Director of Parks and Recreation should solicit help from historical societies, subdividers, or other groups having knowledge of the area.
3. Names submitted for individuals (living or dead), should be those who have contributed greatly to the community or appropriate to the function of the facility to be named.
4. A part of the selection process may include, where desirable, a contest or competition involving the entire City in order to obtain suggestions for names to stimulate public interest.
5. Priority should be given to those names which have been unrecognized previously.
6. Individuals and organizations, etc., should be encouraged to forward proposed names to the Department of Parks and

1 Recreation at any time for inclusion on the master list for
2 future consideration.

3 PROCEDURES

- 4 1. It will be the responsibility of the City Manager to direct
5 the Parks and Recreation Department to solicit names as soon
6 as the City has acquired title to the property or funds
7 approved by the Board of Supervisors for financing the
8 project.
- 9 2. To avoid duplication and impropriety, all proposed names must
10 be submitted in writing to the Department of Parks and
11 Recreation who will be responsible to keep a current master
12 list of names submitted.
- 13 3. When a specific facility is being considered for naming,
14 publicity to this effect will be distributed by the Parks and
15 Recreation Department and in these cases, deadline dates will
16 be set and adhered to. All names submitted will then become
17 a permanent part of the master list.
- 18 4. In order for a name to be considered by the Park and
19 Recreation Commission, a detailed resume and justification
20 must be submitted in writing to the Commission in care of the
21 Parks and Recreation Department.
- 22 5. Once the resume has been received by the Parks and Recreation
23 Department, their staff shall review and research the name
24 and forward such data to the Parks and Recreation Commission
25 for their recommendation to the Board of Supervisors.

26 ADOPTED this 22nd day of September, 1988.

27 AYES: Supervisors Ron Swirczek

28 Tom Fetic

1 Marilee Chirila

2 E. M. "Doc" Scrivner

3 Dan Flammer, Mayor

4 NAYES: Supervisors None

5 ABSENT: Supervisors None

6
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8 DAN FLAMMER, Mayor

9 ATTEST:

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11 ALAN GLOVER, Clerk-Recorder
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CARSON CITY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

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for everybody.” Chairperson Curtis suggested allowing dogs on leashes for all the trails at Long Ranch and prohibiting dogs around the play area. Mr. Benton cautioned that the commissioners’ discussion was moving into deliberation.

In response to a comment, Mr. Fahrenbruch advised that the intent of the agenda item was to provide an overview of existing policies, and to receive input and ideas. Staff will return to the commission with proposed policies based on said input. In response to a comment, Mr. Fahrenbruch advised that Parks Department staff would have to work with Animal Control staff with regard to ensuring proper pet vaccinations and licensing. He clarified, however, that the Parks Department will not take on the responsibility of policing pets and pet owners. Chairperson Curtis thanked Mr. Fahrenbruch for his presentation and the commissioners for their comments.

5. ACTION ITEMS:

5-A. ACTION TO RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS THE NAMING OF SILVER OAK PARK (5:49:42) - Chairperson Curtis introduced this item. Mr. Moellendorf reviewed the staff report and the attached exhibits. In response to a question, Mr. Benton advised that the commission would not be limited to the names submitted by the public. Mr. Moellendorf read into the record the list of nominations and corresponding narratives, as outlined in the staff report. Chairperson Curtis provided direction with regard to public comment, and opened this item. In response to a question, Mr. Moellendorf provided additional explanation as to the origin of Exhibit B, which list he read into the record. Vice Chairperson Felesina noted a correction to the spelling of Bill Dunfield’s name.

(5:58:19) Leo Mankins expressed support for the John Bracken Mankins Park nomination. He provided historic information on John Bracken Mankins’ ownership of 865 acres in Eagle Valley, and an overview of the legal description of the property. He displayed an article by State Library and Archives Division Administrator Guy Rocha, and provided historic information on John Bracken Mankins’ property and his descendants’ continuous residence in the area. Mr. Mankins related anecdotal information regarding public interest in John Bracken Mankins and his ownership of the Eagle Station property. He reiterated support for the nomination. Commissioner Livermore referred Mr. Mankins to historic information on Eagle Station contained in a book entitled *Early Carson City*. Discussion followed, and Mr. Mankins displayed an article about an ancestor who lived to be 111 years old.

(6:07:29) Annette Mankins provided historic information on Mankins family involvement and contributions to the community. She expressed support for the John Bracken Mankins Park nomination, and pointed out the members of the Mankins family who were present in the audience.

(6:09:48) Dave Saarem, of 2188 Alfred Way, advised of having been a Carson City resident since 1971. He provided background information on his personal involvement with the Mankins family. He advised that Leo and Annette Mankins and Nell Mankins and Dave Smith have owned and operated successful businesses in Carson City for many years. He discussed donations of time, money, expertise and equipment by the Mankins family over the years for the betterment of Carson City. He commended the family on their values, integrity, and dedication, and challenged the commissioners to come up with a more honorable name for the park.

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(6:12:27) LeAnn Mankins Saarem advised of having been born in Carson City and raised on El Rancho Drive adjacent to the Silver Oak development. She discussed her family's dedication to the community, and advised it would be an honor to have the park named for John Bracken Mankins.

(6:13:26) Susan Ballew expressed support for the William "Bill" Dolan Park nomination. She advised that her father would have been very honored to know of the nomination. She provided historic information on Mr. Dolan's residence in Carson City and contributions to the community. She advised that Mr. Dolan "touched the lives of people in the present and knew everyone in town. And he brought history to life ... through his column." She expressed appreciation for the nomination and requested the commission's consideration.

(6:15:45) Michael Pollard expressed support for the Donald Lee Campbell Park nomination. He provided background information on Mr. Campbell's residence in Carson City and his service to the community. He requested the commission's consideration of the nomination.

Chairperson Curtis called for additional public comment and, when none was forthcoming, called for commissioner comments. Commissioner Tierney provided background information on Donald Lee Campbell's military service. He advised that the nomination, on behalf of the Navy League of the United States, Carson City Council #347, represented the endorsement of 150 members. He further advised that Mr. Campbell lived in the Silver Oak development and had looked forward to playing tennis at the park. He advised that Mrs. Campbell recently donated \$10,000 to the Navy League for the Carson High School NJROTC Program.

Commissioner Livermore provided background information on Resolution 1988-R-59, and read various policies into the record. He commented on several of the nominations included in the agenda materials. He noted parks to be developed in the near future and encouraged the nominators to resubmit their nominations if not chosen. Chairperson Curtis suggested considering renaming Long Ranch Park. Commissioner Keeton provided additional background information on Donald Lee Campbell and his service to the community. He expressed support for a nomination which would represent Carson City residents "who came from the outside and are immigrants to Carson City." Commissioner McKenna discussed the School Board's naming process. He commented on the importance of historical significance to a community, and expressed support for the John Bracken Mankins Park nomination. He referred to the John D. Winters Centennial Park as an example. He acknowledged that both Donald Lee Campbell and William "Bill" Dolan deserve recognition. He noted "there are always going to be more people that deserve recognition than there are facilities to name." He suggested considering historic criteria over popularity, and requested to make the motion at the appropriate time. Chairperson Curtis suggested "John B. Mankins Park" rather than John Bracken Mankins Park. Vice Chairperson Felesina discussed the various nominations, and agreed with the importance of commemorating history. Chairperson Curtis entertained a motion. **Commissioner McKenna moved to name the park termed Silver Oak Park the John B. Mankins Park. Commissioner Livermore seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-1.** Chairperson Curtis thanked the citizens for their attendance and participation. Commissioner Livermore advised that the commission's action constituted a recommendation to be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors.

April 9, 2007

TO: THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

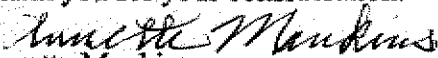
Dear Commissioners:

Why I am writing to you is you requested residents to suggest names for a park in Silver Oak. I am sending you an article that Guy Rocha wrote in the newspaper recently regarding a gentleman named John Bracken Mankins. He was the owner of Eagle Station from 1857 - 1858, now known as Carson City, Nevada. (Please read the article enclosed.) Now no one realized there are descendants of J. B. Mankins living right here in Carson City. In fact, for 30 years we lived next to the field which now homes are built upon in the Silver Oak development, and in fact we lived about two football lengths away from the proposed park.

Very few people realize JOHN BRACKEN MANKINS was the first recorded owner of Eagle Station from 1857 - 1858, which later became Carson City, NV. Virtually every account of the transaction has John B. Mankins selling the ranch, which composed a large portion of Eagle Valley.

My husband, Leo A. Mankins, and his two sisters, Nelouise Mankins Smith and Roxanne Mankins Spring, live right here in Carson City, and are descendants of "John Bracken Mankins". With this knowledge I feel it would be an honor to name a beautiful park in Eagle Valley after the original owner, "J. B. MANKINS.

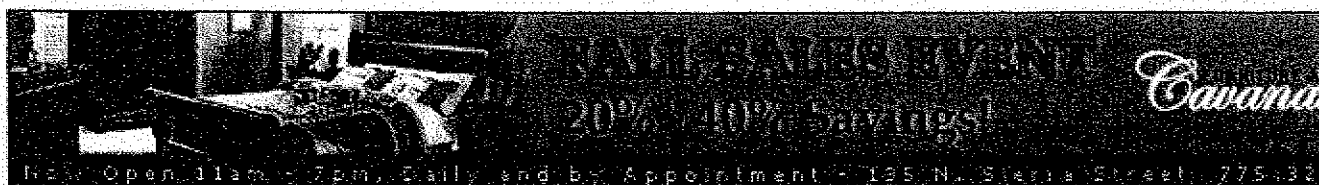
Thank you for your consideration.


Annette Mankins

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How history favors Curry, forgets others

Posted: 9/24/2006

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Guy Rocha

Carson City is not in Carson Valley, despite what some uninformed newcomers to our area may believe.

We trust editor Myron Angel's "History of Nevada" (1881) when we are told that Eagle Valley, where our state capital is, was named by December 1851. Eagle Valley acquired

its name from the trading post in the southwest end of the valley, where Frank Hall shot and killed an eagle, then stuffed the bird and mounted it over the station entrance door.

Hall, who sold his interest in Eagle Station and Ranch in 1853, died in Carson City in 1902. Three years before his death, Hall repeated the story of Eagle Valley's naming to journalist Alfred Doten who published it in his history of Nevada's capital.

But should we always trust Myron Angel's groundbreaking work? The myth in this story relates to the sale of Eagle Ranch in 1858 and the events that immediately followed. Virtually every account of the transaction has John B. Mankins selling the ranch, which composed a large portion of Eagle Valley, to Abraham Curry, John J. Musser, Frank M. Proctor and Benjamin F. Green for \$1,000, "the payment being \$500 coin and some mustangs." The story is found in Angel's "History of Nevada" (pages 532-33) and cites Carson City's Nevada Tribune of July 17, 1876. Doten, in 1899, claimed it was "half a dozen mustangs."

Well, what's wrong with this story, since the sources are relatively contemporary to the event? Abe Curry had been dead three years in 1876; Musser died in 1871; and Proctor and Green had left Nevada. So who related this story to the newspaper, or had the myth of Abe Curry and the founding of Carson City already begun? Clearly, it had.

If one examines the deed transferring the property from "J.B. Mankin(s) to Curry, Proctor & Musser" on Aug. 12, 1858, and filed with the Ormsby County Recorder on June 11, 1862, a number of facts stand out.

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First, B.F. Green, Frank Proctor's father-in-law, was not a partner in the transaction. However he witnessed it and had the deed recorded. Other reliable sources tell us that after the completion of the deal, Proctor gave Green one-half of his one-third holding in the Eagle Ranch. More importantly, while the selling price was \$1,000, the down payment was \$300 and the balance was to be paid within 30 days. There is no mention of mustangs in the deed, although that does not rule out the possibility that Mankin later took the horses in lieu of cash.

Whatever the case, only Doris Cerveri, in writing her biography of Abraham Curry (1990), examined the deed to confirm the legal terms of the sale. Angel's account of the Eagle Ranch sale has been repeated ad nauseam in publications, and now we find it broadcast throughout the world on history-related Web sites.

It is also Angel's "History of Nevada" that gives Abe Curry the status of Carson City's principal founder in 1858 and relegates Musser, Proctor, and Green to the shadows. The truth be known, Curry would not emerge as a mover and shaker in the new town until 1861 following the creation of Nevada Territory. Musser and Proctor, both prominent attorneys in Sierra County, Calif., before relocating to western Utah Territory, were far more active than Curry in the political effort to create a new territory.

Musser, the former Sierra County district attorney who ran unsuccessfully for the California State Senate in 1858, was selected as president of a constitutional convention in July 1859. The objective: secede from Utah Territory and create a provisional Nevada Territory.

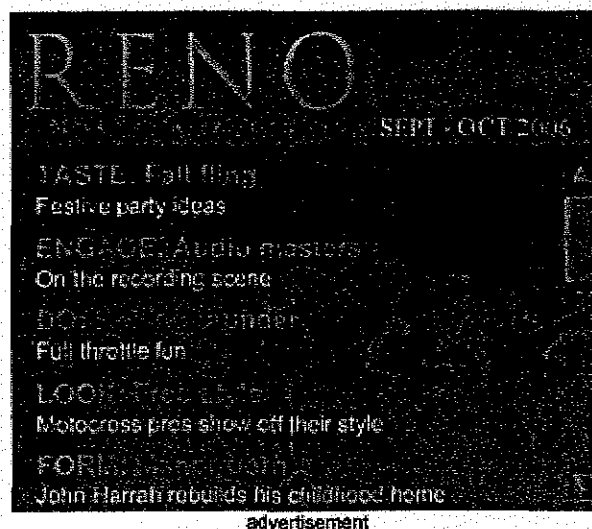
Following the convention in Genoa, he was elected the provisional territory's delegate to Congress and traveled to Washington, D.C. Proctor, the former Sierra County assessor, while serving as a convention delegate from the Humboldt District, was chosen as a vice president and declared his candidacy for chief justice of the Territorial Supreme Court. Curry, too, served as a delegate, yet the records of the convention portray him as a minor player from Eagle Valley.

Curry, the last to arrive to the California gold country and Sierra County, was indeed the least prominent of the four men who laid out Carson City in Utah Territory. Even Benjamin Green, who was not a full partner in this business consortium, had recently served as Sierra County treasurer. Curry's business acumen and perseverance ultimately propelled his career in eclipsing those of his partners prior to his death in 1873.

Looking back, we can say that Curry clearly deserves to be called the "Father" of Carson City for all he did to promote and develop the town. However, there were other principal players in the drama and intrigue surrounding the purchase of Eagle Ranch, the founding of Carson City and the establishing of Nevada Territory that for too long have been overshadowed by the much-deserved tributes to Abe Curry. Curry has a statue on the legislative mall and a street name to remind us of his accomplishments, Musser and Proctor only street names, and Green has been all but forgotten.

Credit Myron Angel for shaping our perceptions over the years and, at times, inadvertently misleading us.

Guy Rocha is the Nevada state archivist. Send him e-mail at grocha@clan.lib.nv.us.

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