

CARSON CITY OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the June 15, 2009 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, June 15, 2009 in the Community Center Sierra Room, 851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada.

PRESENT: Chairperson Steve Hartman
Vice Chairperson Dan Jacquet
Teri Green-Preston
Tricia Lincoln
Howard Riedl
Bruce Scott

STAFF: Roger Moellendorf, Parks and Recreation Department Director
Juan Guzman, Open Space / Property Manager
Ann Bollinger, Natural Resources Specialist
Moreen Scully, Deputy District Attorney
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. These materials are available, in the Clerk-Recorder's Office, for review during regular business hours.

CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM (6:00:46) - Chairperson Hartman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. A quorum was present. Member Fischer was absent.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS (6:01:03) - Mr. Guzman introduced Fleet Feet Sports owner Scott Keith and, in conjunction with displayed slides, provided background information on the 5K race held Saturday, June 13th which Mr. Keith helped facilitate. (6:02:27) Mr. Keith discussed the winter race series, sponsored by Fleet Feet Sports, which used Carson City trails, some of which are on open space property. He advised of having raised \$600 for the Open Space Program, and donated it "to help with trails." He discussed the Saturday, June 13th 5K race, as part of the Mexican Ditch Trail bridge dedication, noting for the record that Mr. Moellendorf finished the race before Mr. Guzman. He commended the two bridges connecting the Mexican Ditch trail network which is "heavily used by local runners." He advised of using the area for training programs sponsored by Fleet Feet Sports. Chairperson Hartman thanked Mr. Keith for the donation, and requested Mr. Guzman to ensure it is allocated for open space trails. Mr. Keith discussed plans for next year's Fleet Feet Sports winter race series.

Ms. Bollinger estimated 80 runners registered for the 5K race, an additional 10 to 15 runners participated, and another 10 to 15 people participated as spectators. She and Mr. Guzman narrated displayed slides. Ms. Bollinger described a bronze plaque, installed Thursday, June 11th, acknowledging the funding partners and other community organizations which donated time toward the bridge project. She emphasized that the entire bridge project "cost the Open Space [Program] nothing." Mr. Guzman thanked Ms. Bollinger. Chairperson Hartman reiterated appreciation to Mr. Keith.

1. ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES - May 13, 2009 (6:08:52) - Member Riedl moved to approve the minutes. Member Scott seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

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2. MODIFICATION TO THE AGENDA (6:10:00) - None.

3. AGENDA ITEMS:

3-A. ACTION TO APPROVE A PROPOSAL BY DAVID REESE TO FULFILL HIS OBLIGATIONS TOWARDS AN EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT CONSISTING OF A SIGNAGE PROGRAM ON ASH CANYON TRAIL TO ENHANCE ACCESS INFORMATION AND FACILITATE INTERPRETATION OF THE RESOURCES (6:10:25) - Mr. Guzman introduced this item and Eagle Scout candidate David Reese, who reviewed the proposal included in the agenda materials. In response to a question, Mr. Guzman advised that designing a standardized sign will be part of Mr. Reese's project. Mr. Guzman referred to a picture, included in the agenda materials, depicting Parks and Recreation Department standard signage at the Saliman Road linear trail. He advised of having encouraged Mr. Reese to use this as a reference. Member Lincoln encouraged Mr. Reese to also consider, as a reference, the Goni Canyon Trail signs designed by Lynn Zonge.

Chairperson Hartman commended Mr. Reese's project. Mr. Guzman discussed an additional component of the project to create a corresponding brochure / map "that we can hand out when people ask" about trails. In response to a question, Mr. Reese discussed the intent to "cover as much of the cost" as possible. He will work with SignPro, a representative of which offered the possibility of a reduced price for the signs. In addition, he will seek sponsors for each sign and he advised of having been informed of the possibility of Open Space Program funding. Member Scott suggested that Mr. Reese consult with Parks Department representatives, who have "probably learned an awful lot about signs in the public arena." He suggested Parks Department representatives may have information to minimize the "vulnerability" of the signs to vandalism and destruction. Member Scott commended the proposal in consideration of other trails on open space property.

Member Riedl expressed an interest in the previously-mentioned brochure, and the hope that it could be included on the City's website. In response to a question, Mr. Reese described the project time table. Chairperson Hartman entertained a motion. **Member Scott moved to approve the proposal, as presented. Vice Chairperson Jacquet seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.** Mr. Reese thanked the committee.

3-B. ACTION TO APPROVE A REQUEST BY KAREN JOOST TO EXTEND THE TIME FOR THE COMPLETION OF A LAND ACQUISITION TRANSACTION, DONATION OF PERMANENT ROAD ACCESS EASEMENT, AND FUTURE CONSIDERATION OF ADDITIONAL LAND ACQUISITION WITHIN A PORTION OF APN 007-101-51, LOCATED IMMEDIATELY WEST OF THE WELLINGTON CRESCENT SUBDIVISION (6:21:07) - Mr. Guzman introduced this item, reviewed the agenda report, and responded to questions of clarification. Chairperson Hartman entertained a motion. **Member Scott moved to approve the request by Karen Joost to continue the time for the completion of the land acquisition transaction, donation of a permanent road access easement, and future consideration of additional land acquisition within a portion of APN 7-101-51. Member Riedl seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.**

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3-C. ACTION TO ACCEPT AND RECOMMEND THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ACCEPT INSTALLATION OF LEGACY PROJECT OFFICIAL SIGNS AT APNs 007-091-26 AND 007-031-04, LOCATED AT THE CREST OF THE CARSON RANGE TERMINUS OF ASH CANYON TRAIL (6:23:47) - Mr. Guzman introduced this item and reviewed the agenda report. (6:25:00) Nevada Division of Forestry Administrator Pete Anderson introduced NDF Conservation Staff Specialist John Watermolen, and provided background information on the Legacy Project signs. Mr. Anderson commended Mr. Guzman, Ms. Bollinger, and Parks Department staff “for all the hard work that’s gone into securing this acquisition.” Mr. Anderson provided background information on the U.S. Forest Service Legacy Program. Mr. Watermolen displayed an official sign and read the language into the record. He advised that four signs, two for each parcel, will be installed “leading in from the Ash Canyon Trail and also from Lake Tahoe State Park.”

Mr. Anderson described the acquisition as “critical,” and noted the area for parking and access which “ties well to Lake Tahoe State Park, and will tie well to all the other activity in Ash Canyon.” He advised that a stewardship plan was developed in conjunction with the official signs, “so we’ll be getting started on that with crews to try to improve forest health ... reduce the fire danger.” He described the project as “the beginning of a great partnership,” and thanked all those involved.

Chairperson Hartman expressed appreciation for Mr. Anderson’s support and assistance over the years. Member Scott echoed the comments, and thanked Mr. Anderson for the NDF’s technical support, advice, “water for sheep and everything else.” In response to a question, Mr. Watermolen advised that the two parcels are now owned by Carson City.

Chairperson Hartman presented Mr. Anderson a framed photograph of rehabilitation treatments following the Waterfall Fire, and thanked him “for all the work he did when we had the Waterfall Fire and the aftermath of that.” A color copy of the photograph was included in the agenda materials as part of item 3-D. The committee members, City staff, and citizens present applauded Mr. Anderson, who expressed appreciation for the gift.

Mr. Anderson noted the subject parcels represent an additional 111 acres “for more sheep grazing.” Chairperson Hartman expressed appreciation for Mr. Anderson’s “sensitivity and approach to the fuels issue.” Member Scott expressed appreciation for NDF staff who are trained and capable of performing environmental clearance work. “That saves tremendous time and red tape, and just eliminated one of the stumbling blocks that seemed to have been thrown up in the process.”

Chairperson Hartman entertained a motion. **Member Scott moved to accept and recommend to the Board of Supervisors acceptance and placement of Legacy Project official signs to be installed at APNs 007-091-26 and 007-031-04 which Carson City has acquired. Vice Chairperson Jacquet seconded the motion.** In response to a question, Mr. Guzman described the fiscal impact as “minimal.” Chairperson Hartman called for a vote on the pending motion; **motion carried 6-0.** He thanked Mr. Anderson and Mr. Watermolen for their attendance and participation.

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3-D. ACTION TO PRESENT TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS A SUMMARY ASSESSMENT OF THE REHABILITATION TREATMENTS APPLIED IN COOPERATION WITH THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE, NEVADA DIVISION OF FORESTRY, NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE, COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE, AND OTHER PARTNERS, FIVE YEARS AFTER THE WATERFALL FIRE (6:31:05) - Mr. Guzman introduced this item and reviewed the agenda report. Member Scott commended the proposal and, in reference to the photograph included in the agenda materials, expressed an interest in a current photograph taken from the same vantage point. He discussed the importance of keeping “the status and the progress in front of the public” in order to avoid memory lapses. Member Riedl advised of having recently biked in the area of the flume trail, and noted the “incredible rehabilitation efforts.” He expressed support for a pictorial depicting “before and five years later, and what was done to create that rehabilitation.”

Mr. Guzman acknowledged he has quite a few photographs of properties managed by the City or under consideration for Open Space Program purchase prior to the Waterfall Fire. Member Scott suggested “our funding partners might be very interested in seeing this kind of report,” and Mr. Guzman assured the committee he will coordinate with them. Chairperson Hartman entertained a motion. **Member Scott moved to authorize staff to produce the subject report for review and approval by the Open Space Advisory Committee prior to Board of Supervisors presentation. Member Lincoln seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.**

3-E. ACTION TO RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS APPROVAL OF THE FUNDING AGREEMENT AND DEED RESTRICTIONS FOR THE FUNDING OF PROPERTIES PURCHASED THROUGH THE QUESTION #1 STATE BOND AND NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE GRANTS PROGRAM, CONSISTING OF THE DESORMIER OPEN SPACE, ANDERSON OPEN SPACE, HUTCHISON OPEN SPACE, AND HORSE CREEK RANCH FEE ACQUISITION AND CONSERVATION EASEMENT TOTALING APPROXIMATELY \$3.684 MILLION (6:36:05) - Mr. Guzman introduced this item, and reviewed the agenda report and the attached materials. In response to a question, he discussed the process of aggregating appraisal costs associated with the Horse Creek Ranch transaction. He acknowledged the deed restriction provisions for the Horse Creek Ranch transaction were negotiated by Deputy District Attorney Thoran Towler, with assistance from Supervisors Williamson and Aldean, with Division of State Lands representatives. The funding agreement and deed restrictions were subsequently adopted, in concept, by the Board of Supervisors. On the advice of the District Attorney’s office, the final provisions of the funding agreement and deed restrictions will be presented to the Board of Supervisors in the near future. Mr. Guzman acknowledged there are no further “enormous funding agreement ... or deed restriction issues for the Horse Creek Ranch.”

In response to a question, Mr. Guzman advised that both Washoe and Douglas Counties have executed funding agreements. “We are different inasmuch as ... almost all the other jurisdictions requested an advance prior to completing their transactions. We completed our transaction and then we waited because we were in disagreement with the deed restriction. ... We have negotiated the deed restriction such that we feel more comfortable and this is the time we’re bringing it forward.” With regard to the deed restriction provisions, Mr. Guzman acknowledged the satisfaction of both Supervisors Williamson and Aldean.

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Member Scott noted a correction to page 7 of 18 of the Andersen Ranch Fee Title Acquisition Project Summary, included in the agenda materials. Mr. Guzman acknowledged that the figure listed represents funding to be reimbursed to the Open Space Program from Question #1, and that the “people we have purchased from have their money.”

Chairperson Hartman entertained a motion. **Member Riedl moved to recommend to the Board of Supervisors approval of the funding agreement and deed restrictions for the funding of properties purchased through the Question #1, State Bond and Natural Resources Conservation Service grant programs, consisting of the Desormier open space, Andersen open space, Hutchison open space, and Horse Creek Ranch fee acquisition and conservation easement, totaling approximately \$3.684 million.** In response to a question, Mr. Guzman reiterated there are no issues associated with the Horse Creek Ranch transaction for review by the committee. He acknowledged the issues relative to deed restrictions have been worked out in all of their detail, and that Mr. Fagen is satisfied. **Member Scott seconded the motion.** Chairperson Hartman entertained public comment and, when none was forthcoming, called for a vote on the pending motion. **Motion carried 6-0.**

4. NON-ACTION ITEMS

STATUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM STAFF (6:46:57) - Mr. Guzman advised of a proposal by Supervisor Livermore to present a Board of Supervisors resolution opposing placement of the BLM hot shots facility at Koontz Lane. Mr. Guzman further advised that negotiations with the Natural Resources Conservation Service are nearly concluded regarding a project to implement improvements to the Waterfall Fire burn area, in the total amount of \$242,000. “The present project is nearly completed.” Mr. Guzman reported that staff continues to work with Ms. Scully on the open space volunteer program. He advised of an upcoming meeting with Muscle Powered representatives to discuss a “formal relationship” wherein Muscle Powered “will help us with trails in the future.”

With regard to the fuels reduction project, Mr. Guzman reported that a letter had been drafted for signature by City Manager Larry Werner, which was sent to U.S. Forest Service District Ranger Ginny Wilson. He advised that a draft letter, on behalf of the committee, will be agendaized for the next meeting. He further reported that staff is working on a solution, part of which involves “an elaborate field trip ... with all the partners.” NDF has offered to provide transportation in addition to participating. Mr. Guzman discussed the intent of the field trip to assess the current state of the vegetation. Mr. Guzman provided status reports on the Moffat open space trail, the first phase of the improvements project to the eight-acre wetlands area, and property exchange in association with the federal lands bill.

MEMBERS’ ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION (6:54:10) - At Chairperson Hartman’s request, Mr. Guzman agreed to check into the status of the travel and training budget in consideration of Member Green-Preston attending an upcoming conference. Member Green-Preston acknowledged a continued interest in attending the conference. In response to a question, Mr. Guzman advised that Harley-Davidson representatives agreed to partner with the City in managing the wetlands adjacent to their store “by physically helping with clean ups as necessary.”

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Member Scott expressed an interest in reviewing the letter which had been forwarded to U.S. Forest Service District Ranger Ginny Wilson. He discussed the importance of monitoring the fuels situation on the west side, and expressed the opinion that the committee's letter should address the manner in which the USFS notification was provided to the City "given the arrangements that had been made on behalf of the committee and the rancher who was moving the sheep in and out."

Member Riedl advised of having recently attended a State Pedestrian and Bicycle Conference, where a Nevada State Parks representative commented on expectations that the Federal Highway Administration National Recreational Trails Program funding will be "almost double" from last year. Member Riedl encouraged staff to consider eligible projects, noting that Rec-Trails Program funding "helped us build the two bridges" at the Mexican Ditch Trail.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (6:57:26) - Member Green-Preston discussed concerns over the V&T Railway route, and requested staff to agendaize a discussion item to include Fire Chief Stacey Giomi and a Sheriff's Office representative.

6. ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT (6:59:47) - Member Riedl moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:59 p.m. Member Scott seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

The Minutes of the June 15, 2009 Carson City Open Space Advisory Committee meeting are so approved this 28th day of September, 2009.

STEPHEN D. HARTMAN, Chair