

**CARSON CITY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**Minutes of the August 4, 2005 Meeting**

**Page 1**

A meeting of the Carson City Parks and Recreation Commission was scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 4, 2005 in the Community Center Sierra Room, 851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada.

**PRESENT:** Chairperson Tom Keeton

Donna Curtis  
John Felesina  
Charlene Herst  
Michael Hoffman  
Pete Livermore  
John McKenna

**STAFF:**

Roger Moellendorf, Parks and Recreation Department Director  
Scott Fahrenbruch, Parks and Recreation Director of Operations  
Juan Guzman, Open Space Manager  
Vern Krahn, Park Planner  
Walter Sullivan, Planning and Community Development Director  
Lee Plemel, Principal Planner  
Jeff Winston, Consultant  
Kathleen King, Recording Secretary

**NOTE:** A tape recording of these proceedings is on file in the Clerk-Recorder's Office, and is available for review during regular business hours.

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL (1-0007)** - Chairperson Keeton called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Roll was called; a quorum was present. Vice Chairperson DePauw and Commissioner Patton were absent.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS (1-0017)** - Connie Creech, of the Nevada All-State Trail Riders, Inc., read a letter into the record, the original of which she provided to Mr. Moellendorf.

**1. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (1-0061)** - None.

**2. AGENDA ITEMS:**

**2-A. PRESENTATION ONLY REGARDING RESULTS FROM THE PARKS, RECREATION, AND TRAILS MASTER PLAN PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY (1-0067)** - Mr. Moellendorf introduced this item, and advised that a great deal of information and data would be provided to the commissioners. He commented that the survey will prove to be a useful tool for planning purposes, both now and into the future. He requested the commissioners to consider the purpose of the survey and the questions it was intended to answer. Mr. Krahn provided background information on the comprehensive land use master plan, and the presentation made at the joint meeting of the Board of Supervisors and the Planning Commission held in July. He advised that the Board of Supervisors selected scenario 2 as the direction to pursue, while maintaining a strong emphasis on the downtown area. He explained the reasons staff and the consultants were awaiting direction, from the Board of Supervisors, on the comprehensive land use master plan before proceeding with the parks, recreation, and trails master plan.

## **CARSON CITY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

### **Minutes of the August 4, 2005 Meeting**

#### **Page 2**

Mr. Krahn advised that the outcome of the survey was another reason for waiting to proceed on the parks, recreation, and trails master plan. He explained two basic philosophies for using the survey: to test the community on a number of different questions or to develop a plan and test it. Staff and the consultants believed the survey would be a very valuable tool "to help create the balance." Mr. Krahn commended Mr. Winston and Gus Hill, of the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, who tabulated the survey data. He advised that over 3,000 surveys were mailed to registered voters in Carson City. Nine hundred surveys were returned, resulting in a 99% statistically valid survey. Mr. Moellendorf commended Mr. Krahn and Recreation Superintendent Barbara Singer and her staff for compiling the survey data.

Mr. Winston requested the commissioners to list some of the questions they hoped the survey would answer. Commissioner Livermore expressed the hope that the survey would provide information on recreation needs which would, in turn, help to make decisions on how to commit resources. Commissioner Curtis expressed the hope that the survey would indicate preferences for neighborhood or community parks. Commissioner Felesina expressed an interest in how to tie the trail system together. Chairperson Keeton expressed an interest in recreation needs and, in turn, project prioritization. Commissioner Hoffman expressed an interest in addressing recreation needs for Hispanics and other community groups. Commissioner Herst agreed with Commissioner Hoffman, and expressed an interest in project prioritization. Commissioner McKenna expressed more of a concern over the validity of the survey rather than the results.

Mr. Winston noted the recreation center and its amenities, and the City's trail system as other issues which had been extensively discussed in the past. He narrated a PowerPoint presentation, which included demographic trends and regional growth comparisons. He advised that dividing the City into neighborhoods is a concept being built into the comprehensive master plan. This will help organize the needs for various parts of town and more specifically measure the areas in which parks are and are not adequate. Mr. Winston explained the method by which the City was divided, and advised that 30 neighborhoods had been designated. The survey responses were subsequently categorized according to neighborhood, and Mr. Winston reviewed the number of survey responses from each neighborhood. He noted that the surveys were randomly mailed, and reviewed statistical information on the people completing the surveys. He reviewed information regarding the statistical validity of the survey, the survey questions and responses.

Mr. Winston pointed out that the survey was a way of reaching a broader population rather than just focus on special interest groups. He acknowledged that the survey was imperfect, but suggested themes were beginning to emerge. Commissioner Livermore discussed public transportation as a factor in providing access to parks and recreation facilities.

In response to a question regarding age demographics, Mr. Winston advised there were clues in the survey responses, particularly the repetitive indication of the importance of bike and walking paths and other passive recreation. He suggested there were multi-generational aspects to the question in terms of grandchildren "and other kinds of things," and that these survey responses warrant a closer look at the City's demographics. He acknowledged a changing trend in age demographics, but pointed out that the communities surrounding Carson City are also maturing and that property values are increasing. He suggested that Carson City may not be "the most expensive place to live in the end."

## CARSON CITY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

### Minutes of the August 4, 2005 Meeting

#### Page 3

(1-1290) David Smith, on behalf of the Carson City Racquetball Association, expressed appreciation for the results of the survey which indicated that racquetball ranked nearly as high as basketball in some areas. He expressed an interest in agenda item 2-C, and requested copies of the materials to be provided to the commissioners. Mr. Krahn advised that the materials would be available on the Envision Carson City website by next week.

In response to a question, Mr. Moellendorf advised that this item would be revisited at the August 16<sup>th</sup> commission meeting.

(1-1324) Rob Potter, a Carson City resident, expressed concern with regard to the indication, on a bike route map, of trails crossing his family's property. Commissioner Livermore advised that the bike route map to which Mr. Potter referred had not been officially adopted as a City map. Mr. Potter expressed a further concern that "there are people confused by that."

Chairperson Keeton recessed the meeting at 6:51 p.m. and reconvened at 6:57 p.m.

**2-B. PRESENTATION ONLY REGARDING THE PRELIMINARY DRAFT OF THE UNIFIED TRAILS MASTER PLAN (1-1379)** - Mr. Krahn provided background information on the Eagle Valley Trails Plan, the Bicycle System Plan, and the consultants' scope of work. Mr. Winston reviewed the August 4, 2005 memo entitled "Outline of Presentation on Unified Trails Plan" which was distributed to the commissioners and staff prior to the start of the meeting. He displayed and described conceptual renderings of the proposed loop systems, trail connections, and trail types. In response to a question, Mr. Winston pointed out a representation of the linear path along the freeway bypass. He pointed out trail heads which have been designated as pedestrian, vehicular, and equestrian. He acknowledged that amenities, such as play equipment, benches, signage, trash receptacles, restrooms, will be considered for trail head design. He pointed out and described the conceptual overpass / underpass crossings, and the looped systems with "overlapping uses." He reviewed the On-Going Challenges portion of the Outline.

Commissioner Livermore commended Mr. Winston on the unique vision presented in the Outline. He suggested that including trails and pathways in capital improvement projects is a major policy decision to which the community would need to commit. He commented on the benefit of Question #18, but suggested the survey results indicated the community's willingness to contribute additional resources. He commented that the recently-published U.S. Forest Service Landscape Analysis will provide many partnership opportunities for stretching funding resources. He expressed appreciation for the "every garage is a trail head" concept, and suggested adopting it as a slogan. In response to a question, Mr. Krahn provided a status report on the signage program at Riverview park. Commissioner Livermore commented that implementation of the signage program was a significant upgrade to the value of trail systems in the community.

Commissioner McKenna expressed the opinion that trails should be composed of dirt. Once a hard surface is added, the designation changes to a sidewalk or road. He expressed the opinion that a track of dirt with brush cleared off "serves fine as a trail all over the west." He suggested more trails could be built more quickly with this mindset as opposed to the requirements necessary to pave something and then "make it look natural." He expressed a preference for the western side of Carson City to have a complete off-road

## **CARSON CITY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

### **Minutes of the August 4, 2005 Meeting**

#### **Page 4**

bicycle path setup because of the economic development potential. He advised of a Tahoe Rim Trail maintenance project which took place last Saturday, July 30<sup>th</sup> in which 60 people participated. The next day, a ride was scheduled. He commented on the popularity of mountain biking.

In response to a question, Mr. Winston advised that, insofar as possible, it is an objective of the Unified Trails Plan to integrate trails plans of adjoining agencies. He advised that staff and the consultants envision a link trail which would traverse county boundaries. He agreed with Commissioner McKenna that extraordinary trail systems become economic development assets. He named the Tahoe Rim Trail as an example, and described a trail system in Colorado which traverses three counties. Commissioner Curtis agreed with Commissioner McKenna's comments, and expressed a preference for implementing the Unified Trails Plan and later developing standards. With regard to the definition of transportation, she advised that the use of TEA-21 funds does not require trails to be paved. She suggested securing as much funding as possible, and expressed a preference for more discussion on "what is transportation." She expressed the hope that the bike and pedestrian plan will be incorporated into the Unified Trails Plan before it's finalized. She noted the importance of project prioritization and funding.

Commissioner Herst expressed agreement with Commissioner McKenna regarding the importance of economic development. She suggested that focusing on trail connectivity will equate to more tourism dollars. Commissioner Felesina expressed appreciation for the Outline, particularly inclusion of the bypass. Commissioner Hoffman advised of having attended three of the public workshops, including the Saturday trails workshop. He discussed the importance of not "loving the River to death," and advised of discussions regarding paths along the River which "left the River for a while" in order to preserve the riparian area. He agreed that hard surfaces are needed along the River, and commented that Carson City "is way ahead of the curve on this." He advised that Carson City has the smallest portion of the River but 60% of the access.

Chairperson Keeton expressed the hope that there will be a truly unified plan. He acknowledged the City has no control over State or federal agencies. He expressed the hope that the City will be in the position to begin to prioritize projects. He agreed that some hard surface is needed along the River for handicapped access. He further agreed with Commissioner McKenna that dirt makes better trails than paving. He agreed with expanding trail heads to accommodate horse trailers. He suggested that new developments may need to include bridle paths as part of the parks system. He opened this item to public comment.

(1-2455) Beth Scott, President of the Carson City Equestrian Alliance, advised that the Alliance networks with other equestrian organizations with mutual ideology and concerns. With regard to multi-use trails, she agreed that no one should be categorically excluded from using trails. She advised that a sizeable percentage of equestrians are also mountain bikers and off-road vehicle users. She expressed the opinion that not everyone can share the same trail under every circumstance. With regard to design, she expressed concern with regard to consideration of travel speeds, safety, site distances, line of sight, trail widths, drop off factors, startle factors, trail grades, surfaces, traction, escape routes. She suggested the possibility of needing to slightly separate traffic in certain circumstances. She discussed the issue of historic trails, and advised of the need to designate, on the maps, the American Discovery Trail, the California Overland Trail, the Pony Express Trail. She advised that historic trails are designated in the Douglas County Trails Plan. She advised that the alternative trail design proposed by the equestrians is opportunity-based. She explained the reasons for the proposed alternative trail design, including safety issues, historic trail routes, and equestrian linkages. She noted that since horses require water, it would be ideal to travel along a route

## **CARSON CITY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

### **Minutes of the August 4, 2005 Meeting**

#### **Page 5**

which had water or travel from “point A which has water to point B which has water.” Mr. Moellendorf acknowledged that the Unified Trails Plan would be agendaized for the August 16<sup>th</sup> commission meeting. In response to a question, Ms. Scott advised of a local expert who could provide information on the exact location of historic trails. Chairperson Keeton requested Ms. Scott and the Equestrian Alliance to prioritize their requests and provide the information to Mr. Winston and/or staff.

(1-2669) Rich Wantorski offered to take the commissioners on a tour of any trails in which they may be interested. He discussed the Schulz Ranch development, and advised that the developers will be using the equestrian trails in the area as a selling point. He volunteered his time and expressed support for the Unified Trails Plan.

(1-2768) Mark Kimbrough provided background information on his experience as a charter member of the Carson River Advisory Committee, his 30 years with the Nevada State Parks system, his service on the State Bicycle Board, as current Executive Director of the Tahoe Rim Trail Association, as a charter member of the Sierra Front Recreation Coalition, and as a member of the Planning Commission. He complimented Mr. Krahn on his efforts at “getting the right people at the meetings,” and advised that the public has had ample opportunity to provide input. He expressed appreciation for the opportunity of the Planning Commission to work with the Parks and Recreation Commission. He pointed out there was no trail along the Carson River from Deer Run Road along the V&T Railway grade. He advised that only 2% of the State has riparian areas, and expressed concern with regard to locking up “one of the most beautiful sections” of the River. He advised that the Carson River Advisory Committee developed a plan which indicates trails on one side of the River in order to protect the riparian habitat on the other side. He noted that the trails plan proposes trails on the side of the River which was designated for riparian protection. He expressed the hope that connectivity opportunities would never be eliminated. He advised of having discussed the situation with Mayor Teixeira and Supervisor Williamson. Mayor Teixeira committed to explain the importance of trails to the V&T Railway Commission; that “trains and people can get along and it’s proven across the country.” He advised that the American River Trail has adjacent railway. He acknowledged the importance of the V&T Railway to the City’s economy, and expressed the hope that the commission will support adjacent trails. He discussed the criminal elements in certain areas of the River corridor, and expressed the hope that more attention will be given to addressing the situation. He committed to working with staff and the commission on design elements to propose to the Railway Commission. With regard to historic trails, he advised there are 6 to 7 mill sites in the area and proposed interpretive signage.

Mr. Krahn advised that V&T Railway Commission Project Engineer Ken Dorr provided a recent presentation to the Open Space Advisory Committee which included a commitment to address trail issues in the area. He further advised there are opportunities, through Question #18 and Question #1, to fund trail projects. He assured the commission that Mr. Dorr and the Railway Commission are very aware of the situation, and willing to work with staff.

(1-2983) Dale Ryan, representing the National Pony Express Association and the California Overland Trail Association, requested that historic trails in the area be depicted in the Unified Trails Plan. He advised that Congress designated the trails as part of the National Trails System in 1992. He discussed the annual Pony Express re-enactment. He described a portion of the American Discovery Trail route which traverses in and out of the northern boundary of Washoe County. He advised that the American Discovery Trail is 6,000 miles long and stretches from coast to coast. He requested that the American Discovery Trail also be included in the maps of the Unified Trails Plan. He acknowledged that a portion of the American

## **CARSON CITY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

### **Minutes of the August 4, 2005 Meeting**

#### **Page 6**

Discovery Trail is in Carson City. In response to a question, Mr. Ryan requested that the trails be designated on the maps and be made traversable. He explained that, in many cases, the routes would utilize public roadways. He advised of having worked with the Nevada Department of Transportation on freeway crossings near the Pinion Plaza and the southern interchange. Mr. Ryan responded to additional questions of clarification.

(1-3095) Brian Doyal, representing the Pine Nut Mountains Trails Association (“PNMTA”), described trail maintenance and clean up projects done by the PNMTA this year. He expressed concerns with regard to excluding motorized vehicles from any trail and closing trails. He advised that many OHV users are from outside Carson City, and that a great deal of revenue is generated for the City by OHV users during the autumn and spring. He advised that Lyon and Douglas Counties are promoting OHV activities.

Commissioner Livermore expressed support for multi-use trails. He requested staff and the consultants to remember that the eastern slope of the Sierras provides for wildlife habitat which is managed by the Nevada Department of Wildlife and, therefore, accessibility is necessary. In response to a question, Mr. Winston pointed out trail routes on which motorized vehicles would be allowed. Mr. Doyal responded to questions regarding the BLM’s preference to designate trails on the east side of town as “existing roads only.” He advised that the PNMTA is supportive of this for the most part. He explained the BLM’s method for trails designation. In response to a question, Mr. Winston pointed out west side trails for which motorized vehicles are designated. Mr. Doyal commented that speed is a big factor. He advised that “most people don’t want to go fast on a little, tiny road that’s got plenty of people on it. They want challenge. Whatever we can do to get challenge into these things without speed is going to make everybody happier.”

Commissioner McKenna expressed the opinion that no user was being barred or their use reduced. He suggested that the subject presentation was to provide a “good overview of what might happen and then get down to specific planning.” He further suggested keeping in mind that “we all need to have input into these uses.” He reiterated that the off-road people were not in jeopardy of losing trails or being treated any differently than equestrians or hikers. Mr. Doyal commented on the importance of multi-use trails and the “we can all play together attitude.”

(1-3341) Beth Scott advised there are quite a few areas where equestrians are very unlikely to go because of the need for water accessibility. She suggested there are many dry areas where OHV users could have more freedom without having to be concerned over speed and sight distance issues. Further consideration will most likely provide “everybody what they need.” Ms. Scott advised that she and Mr. Ryan met with representatives of the National Park Service, the Federal Highways Administration, and NDOT to discuss historic trails in Carson City. She further advised that the annual Pony Express re-enactment has been worked out with regard to routes and crossings. One issue which remains unresolved with the National Park Service is the actual route of the Pony Express Trail, part of which is still evident in southern Carson City. Ms. Scott described the actual route, and advised that, in some cases, the Pony Express Trail and the California Overland Trail cross private and Tribal lands. She expressed the hope that alternative routes can be worked around these areas as part of the Unified Trails Plan, in order to have a contiguous route from the point at which the trails enter Carson City to the point at which they leave.

(1-3450) Bruce Scott echoed many of the previous comments. He commented that multiple use trails are important and “something we all have to work with.” With regard to planning and implementation, he discussed the economic development element and suggested the possibility of the Convention and Visitors

**CARSON CITY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**Minutes of the August 4, 2005 Meeting**

**Page 7**

Bureau as a funding source. As a member of the Open Space Advisory Committee (“OSAC”), he extended the offer to coordinate with the commission and provide assistance within the OSAC’s purview. Mr. Krahn noted the OSAC mission to consider vistas and hillsides. In response to a question, Mr. Scott advised that trail reclamation would be an element for the OSAC to consider. He commented that roads and trails tend to go in the paths of least resistance, and not necessarily in the best location for the resource.

(1-3570) Ann Macquarie, of Muscle Powered, discussed the importance of coordinating the bicycle, pedestrian, and trails plans. She expressed a preference for implementing the plans as one document, and expressed support for continuing the trail along the freeway.

(1-3607) Rob Potter located his family’s property on the displayed map, and discussed zoning on either side of Ormsby Boulevard. He pointed out proposed and existing trails on the displayed map, and advised that the existing trail is on his family’s property. He described the boundaries and locations of his family’s property, and discussed the possibility of the Open Space Program purchasing one of the parcels.

(2-0079) Mark Kimbrough offered to “be the spokesman” for neighborhood 25 since there were no survey responses returned. He advised that Mr. Doyal is a new resident of neighborhood 25.

Chairperson Keeton closed public comment, and thanked Mr. Winston for his presentation. Mr. Krahn advised that the informational materials which are the subject of this item would be posted to the Envision Carson City website in the near future.

Chairperson Keeton recessed the meeting at 8:36 p.m. and reconvened at 8:40 p.m.

**2-C. PRESENTATION ONLY REGARDING A REPORT ON THE TOUR OF COLORADO RECREATION CENTERS (2-0108)**- Mr. Moellendorf provided background information on this item, and Commissioner Livermore narrated slides of the recreation centers visited by the commissioners and staff. He provided copies of the slide presentation to the commissioners. He expressed appreciation for the opportunity to have participated in the tour. Commissioner Herst expressed appreciation for the opportunity to have participated in the tour. She discussed the variety of recreation centers visited, and reviewed the following highlights: The staff at every center indicated an insufficient amount of parking at certain times of the day or year; leisure pools generate revenue; all but one recreation center had a walking track; every recreation center but one had racquetball courts and the staff of that one center had future plans for a racquetball court; another revenue generator is rooms for parties, aerobics, yoga, dance classes, etc.; most center representatives indicated there was not a lot of competition with private fitness centers. Commissioner Herst discussed the importance of design aesthetics and ways to generate funding such as selling bricks, tiles, etc. She advised each recreation center approached staffing differently. Commissioner Hoffman thanked staff for the opportunity to have participated, and expressed appreciation for the professional manner of the staff of each of the recreation centers visited. He noted the importance of children’s play areas, children’s pools, party areas in every recreation center. He advised that the recreation centers recovered approximately 70% of their operating costs through these types of amenities. He discussed the importance of family-oriented amenities and parking. He advised that most centers only had two racquetball courts and that the center representatives indicated this was sufficient. With regard to climbing walls, the recreation center representatives indicated advertising was the biggest shortcoming. Commissioner Hoffman expressed the opinion that racquetball and a climbing wall are important elements if funding is available.

**CARSON CITY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**Minutes of the August 4, 2005 Meeting**

**Page 8**

Mr. Moellendorf expressed appreciation for the attendance of the commissioners and staff, and commented that the tour was very worthwhile. He complimented the staff of the Colorado recreation centers, and reiterated the importance of including a leisure pool in the recreation center design.

(2-0717) David Smith expressed appreciation for the time spent by the commissioners on these issues. With regard to racquetball, he advised of having conducted Internet research on racquetball in the City of Denver. He had not realized the commissioners and staff were visiting facilities other than in the City of Denver. He advised that the commissioners and staff did not have the benefit of knowing how many privately owned clubs have racquetball. He advised that the City of Denver has approximately ten times the size and population of Carson City, and that in the entire City of Denver there are 28 racquetball courts which have a web presence. He suggested this would translate to 2.8 courts “that we know about” for the size and population of Carson City. He advised that most racquetball facilities in the City of Denver have two courts. The Denver Athletic Club has fourteen courts, seven for racquetball and seven for squash. Mr. Smith advised of having spoken with several people at Denver University, which has a racquetball team, and that people tend to practice at the smaller clubs but participate in tournaments in the larger clubs. He advised that Littleton, Colorado has a private facility with six racquetball courts and two squash courts. He noted that the Carson City Racquetball Association has requested six racquetball courts because there are no privately owned courts in the area. Tournament play will be difficult without an adequate number of courts. Mr. Smith suggested that two courts “will only frustrate the users. There’s not enough courts to be able to handle the number of users ... that live in Carson City.” Four courts will facilitate league play but not tournament play; six courts would serve the community well and provide for both.

Chairperson Keeton thanked the commissioners and staff for their participation in the tour. In response to a question, Mr. Moellendorf advised that various options will be considered at the September 6<sup>th</sup> commission meeting. He referred to the master plan adoption schedule included in the agenda materials. Commissioner Livermore commended Aquatic Supervisor Kurt Meyer on the operation of the Aquatic Facility. He advised of having spoken to Mr. Meyer about the possibility of a leisure pool, and suggested that the other commissioners visit the Aquatic Facility in the near future. He suggested that a family dressing room would be a very important element to include in the new recreation center or to enhance the existing Aquatic Facility.

(1-0868) David Smith advised there will be times when racquetball courts will be empty.

**3. NON-ACTION ITEMS:**

**STATUS REPORTS AND COMMENTS FROM STAFF (1-0905)** - Mr. Moellendorf distributed, to the commissioners and staff, a letter from JohnD Winters and copies of editorial articles from the July 27<sup>th</sup> edition of the *Nevada Appeal*. He advised of three downtown concerts scheduled for the weekend and encouraged the commissioners’ and public attendance.

**STATUS REPORTS, COMMENTS, AND CONCERNS FROM COMMISSIONERS (2-0890)** - Commissioner Herst distributed, to the commissioners and staff, a “Safe Routes to School” article from America Bikes. (1-0942) Chairperson Keeton expressed a preference to always have agenda materials provided during the meeting rather than following.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS** - Deferred.

**CARSON CITY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**Minutes of the August 4, 2005 Meeting**

**Page 9**

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM STAFF** (1-0875) - Mr. Moellendorf distributed, to the commissioners and staff, the lists of future agenda items.

**4. ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT** (2-945) - Commissioner Livermore moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:29 p.m. Commissioner Hoffman seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

The Minutes of the August 4, 2005 meeting of the Carson City Parks and Recreation Commission are so approved this 6<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2005.

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THOMAS N. KEETON, Chair