

CARSON CITY SHADE TREE COUNCIL
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A regular meeting of the Carson City Shade Tree Council was scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 24, 2003 in the City Hall Capitol Conference Room, 201 North Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada.

PRESENT: Chairperson Jean Bondiett
Vice Chairperson Carole Brewer
Shirley Faiella
Craig Hartman
Lee Ann Keever
Roy Trenoweth

STAFF: Vern Krahn, Parks Planner
Sandy Tschumperlin, Administrative Assistant
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 and inspection during regular business hours.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL (1-0008) - Chairperson Bondiett called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. Roll was called; a quorum was present. Member Young was absent.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS (1-0014; 2060) - Donna DePauw noted that the Shade Tree Council had not yet made a request for Residential Construction Tax funding.

1. ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES - March 27, 2003 (1-0018) - Ms. King noted a revision to page 4 of the minutes. Member Trenoweth moved to approve the minutes, as amended. Member Hartman seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

2. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (1-0043) - Mr. Krahn advised of receiving a telephone call earlier in the day from a member of the public, who requested the opportunity to comment on agenda items 3-C and 3-E.

3. AGENDA ITEMS:

3-A. WELCOME NEW MEMBER TO THE SHADE TREE COUNCIL (1-0056) - Chairperson Bondiett welcomed Member Keever, who acknowledged she had been sworn in and provided a name tag.

3-B. ACTION ON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT STAFF'S AND COUNCIL'S SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES FOR ANNUALLY SUBMITTING THE TREE CITY USA APPLICATION AND RECERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS (1-0073) - Ms. Tschumperlin introduced herself and provided historic information on the Tree City USA certification. She discussed the Growth Award which was applied for and received in 2000. She reviewed the March 4th memo included in the agenda materials, and advised that preparing the Tree City USA application takes approximately 40 hours each year. Ms. Tschumperlin distributed a sample Tree City USA application and discussed Management Assistant Sharon Wood's involvement in preparing color photographs to include in the application packet. Ms. Tschumperlin reviewed the contents of the application packet, and discussed

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development of the Community Forestry Expenditures document. She reviewed ways the Council members can assist in compiling volunteer hours, articles, and photographs to include as part of the application. She responded to questions regarding application and submittal deadlines. Mr. Krahn discussed the purpose of this agenda item, and advised that the City has been designated as a Tree City USA for 2002. Discussion took place with regard to tracking volunteer hours for non-Council events and activities, and the method by which to provide information to Ms. Tschumperlin. The Council members thanked Ms. Tschumperlin for her presentation and for her diligence in overseeing the annual application process. No formal action was taken.

3-C. ACTION TO RECOMMEND TO THE PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR AN EXEMPTION TO SECTION 3.10.6, PLANT MATERIAL, OF DIVISION 3, LANDSCAPING, OF THE DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS IN ORDER TO PLANT COTTONWOODS AND WILLOWS AS PART OF THE EAGLE CREEK URBAN RIPARIAN FOREST RESTORATION PROJECT. THIS PROJECT IS PART OF THE OPEN SPACE PROGRAM'S REHABILITATION EFFORTS FROM BUTTI WAY INCLUDING THE MOFFAT OPEN SPACE PROPERTY AND EXTENDING TO THE CARSON RIVER TO RESTORE THE CREEK AND CONTROL NOXIOUS WEEDS (1-0487) - Mr. Krahn introduced Stewardship Forester Jenny Scanland, of the Nevada Division of Forestry, and referred to the staff report and attachments included in the agenda materials. Mr. Krahn read Section 3.10.6 into the record, and advised that the Development Standards were adopted by the Board of Supervisors approximately two years ago. Ms. Scanland discussed her responsibilities as Stewardship Forester and provided background information on development of the rehabilitation project. In response to a question, Mr. Krahn described the portion of the Creek on which the project is proposed to be implemented. He advised that, at the time the Moffat Open Space Property was purchased, Open Space Manager Juan Guzman was tasked with including in the management plan a project to restore Eagle Creek. Ms. Scanland discussed development of the funding strategies, and commented that the Eagle Creek project represents an opportunity unlike any other in Carson City. There is presently no other creek or river which is unimpeded by structures, and future funding to complete the project appears to be secure.

Ms. Scanland explained that the project involves planting as much native vegetation as possible to stop erosion and fight noxious weeds. The planting will be done only along the Creek so no irrigation will be required. In addition, the proposed planting areas are not adjacent to any existing trails. Ms. Scanland expressed strong support for Carson City's Open Space Program, and discussed the opportunity to conduct reforestation projects on open space parcels being considered for purchase. In response to a question, Ms. Scanland explained the reason for designating cottonwoods and willows in the project to stop soil erosion and hold the creek in place. Willows are the primary soil erosion plant material used in stream bioengineering, cottonwoods are secondary in this area. There are few other species which don't have to be irrigated, are sustainable, and will support wildlife. Ms. Scanland agreed with the provisions of the City's Development Standards to prohibit cottonwoods and willows in urban settings. She noted that the proposed project is in an entirely different setting. Mr. Krahn responded to questions regarding maintenance responsibilities, and read into the record the April 15, 2003 letter to Susan Stead which was included in the agenda materials. In response to a question, Ms. Scanland advised that smaller trees and shrubs will also be used in the project. The cottonwood and willow cuttings will be rooted all the way to the vadose zone, the lowest water table during drought season. In response to a question, Mr. Krahn advised that the purpose of the project is for the willows to overtake the River banks. Ms. Scanland explained that the water table in the area is so narrow the willows will not be able to expand into

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recreational areas. In response to a further question, she advised that planting vegetation does not impact water rights. Ms. Scanland noted that once the willows and cottonwoods are established, they will increase the water flow rather than reduce it. Research has revealed willows and cottonwoods do not “suck up water in a natural system” but expand it to keep the water table higher. Mr. Krahn discussed bank stabilization projects using bioengineering materials in which Parks staff and the Carson River Advisory Committee have participated in the past few years.

In response to a comment, Mr. Krahn reviewed the routes of the Mexican Ditch trail and the Linear Park trail using the Moffat Open Space Property map which was included in the agenda materials. In response to a question, Ms. Scanland advised that geomorphologists and engineers will be hired to determine how to rebuild and restore the channelized portion of Eagle Creek. Mr. Krahn reviewed the project area using the Moffat Property Master Plan which was included in the agenda materials. In response to a question, Ms. Scanland advised that cottonwoods will only be planted on the north side of Eagle Valley Creek away from any existing trails. Member Hartman expressed concern with regard to planting cottonwoods near the footpaths which crisscross the property. Mr. Krahn pointed out the location of a small drainage which will create a buffer between public access and the cottonwood plantings. Ms. Scanland explained that there is a large buffer between where any cottonwoods would be planted and grow to maturity and any existing or planned trails. Member Hartman expressed concern regarding the City’s liability. Mr. Krahn listed various properties throughout the City over which the Parks Department has maintenance responsibility, and referred to the April 15, 2003 letter signed by Parks and Recreation Director Steve Kastens which states that the Parks Department is committed to “long term maintenance” of any trees planted as a part of this project. He advised that the Open Space budget will fund maintenance of the project area. In response to a question, Mr. Krahn advised that any future plan for development of the project area would be subject to a public hearing process. He explained the purpose of open space property.

In response to a comment, Ms. Scanland discussed recent scientific findings which indicate that restored natural systems have more water for longer periods of time than areas with no trees. She advised that Eagle Valley Creek is usually dry by the end of June. Research has shown that a properly functioning riparian area with native vegetation will result in the creek running for a longer period of time, making more water available to wildlife and wildlife habitat. Vice Chairperson Brewer commented that a more detailed planting map would be helpful. Mr. Krahn responded to questions regarding the time table for presenting the request to the Planning and Community Development Director. He offered to arrange a tour of the project area, and discussion took place with regard to the same.

(1-1125) In response to a question, Ms. Scanland advised that willows in the project area will provide cuttings for the planting project; the species grows to approximately 10' tall. Donna DePauw discussed the purpose for founding the Shade Tree Council. She expressed a concern over using cottonwoods, requested consideration of additional tree varieties for the project, and discussed maintenance costs associated with cottonwood trees.

(1-1228) Ms. Scanland referred to the application which listed other species, including chokecherry, sand cherry, American Plum, nanking cherry, and serviceberry.

Chairperson Bondiott opened the floor for additional comments from the Council members. Member Hartman and Vice Chairperson Brewer expressed support for touring the property prior to taking action, and discussion took place with regard to the same. Chairperson Bondiott read into the record a portion of

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the letter provided by Consulting Arborist Molly Sinnott which was distributed prior to the start of the meeting. In response to a question, Ms. Scanland reviewed the proposed number of cottonwoods and willows to be planted, and advised that the numbers can be adjusted. In response to a comment, she advised that the proposed tour is a good suggestion and discussed project areas where willows will be the only solution to the erosion problem. Member Trenoweth advised of having seen the project area and expressed support for the recommended exemption. Chairperson Bondieth expressed agreement with Ms. Sinnott's recommendations. She expressed understanding for the concerns over using cottonwoods, but commented that the setting is more rural than urban. In response to a question, Mr. Krahn advised that the Open Space Advisory Committee recommended approval of the project and the request for exemption. Member Kever expressed support for touring the property prior to taking action, and Mr. Krahn responded to questions regarding the open meeting aspect of the tour. Member Faiella expressed support for the recommendations already provided by staff and the consultants. Consensus of the Council was to defer action on this item and schedule a tour of the project area on Thursday, May 22nd. Chairperson Bondieth thanked Ms. Scanland for her presentation.

3-D. ACTION REGARDING THE 2003 ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION (1-1565) - Mr. Krahn reviewed the Update included in the agenda materials. Chairperson Bondieth advised of the contingency plan to hold the celebration inside the clubhouse in the event of inclement weather. She further advised that Tim Rochelle, Nevada Division of Forestry Western Region Forester, will present the Tree City USA certificate. The Board of Directors of the Carson City Municipal Golf Corporation will also be present. Chairperson Bondieth advised that 29 shrubs have been planted as part of the Golf Course Tree Program. She requested the Council members to wear their name tags to the Celebration. Vice Chairperson Brewer requested to be excused from the Celebration in the event of an unexpected work assignment. Chairperson Bondieth responded to questions regarding the roles of the Council members at the Celebration. She commended Mr. Krahn on his efforts in coordinating various Celebration details. No formal action was taken. (1-2985) Discussion took place regarding publicity.

3-E. ACTION REGARDING ESTABLISHING A POLICY FOR THE PURCHASING AND PLANTING OF COMMEMORATIVE AND MEMORIAL TREES WITH SHADE TREE COUNCIL FUNDS (1-1765) - Mr. Krahn provided background information on this item, and reviewed the revised draft policy included in the agenda materials. He advised of Mr. Kastens' direction to delete the word "county" from the first numbered paragraph.

(1-1903) Donna DePauw commented that the policy represents unnecessary bureaucracy. She expressed the opinion that memorial and commemorative trees should be considered on a case-by-case basis and that the Council does not need additional rules and regulations by which to make "good decisions." She suggested the proposed policy represents a waste of City staff time and expressed disappointment over the Council's consideration of it.

Chairperson Bondieth expressed support for establishing a policy in order to maintain the integrity of the Council. **Member Trenoweth moved to adopt the draft policy, dated April 18, 2003, entitled Carson City Shade Tree Council's Policy on Purchasing and Planting of Commemorative and Memorial Trees with Shade Tree Council Funds, with the deletion of the word "county" in the first numbered paragraph. Member Kever seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.**

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3-F. ACTION ON 2003 FALL TREE CARE SEMINAR (1-2092) - Mr. Krahn provided background information on this item and discussion took place with regard to establishing a seminar date. **Vice Chairperson Brewer moved to schedule the 2003 Fall Tree Care Seminar for November 19th. Member Trenoweth seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.** Mr. Krahn advised he would check on the availability of the appropriate meeting rooms at the Community Center. Discussion took place regarding the luncheon, and Member Hartman suggested including tree planting as a topic for the seminar. [Vice Chairperson Brewer left the meeting at 7:20 p.m. A quorum was still present.] Chairperson Bondiatt requested Mr. Krahn to agendize discussion and action of the tree care seminar for the May meeting. (1-2648) Discussion took place regarding seminar speakers.

3-G. UPDATE ON STREET TREE PROGRAM (1-2313) - Mr. Krahn referred to the voice mail message transcript included in the agenda materials. He discussed Ms. Sinnott's recent activities in conjunction with Streets Department staff to measure rights-of-way. Three property owners have applied, each of their applications have been determined to meet program criteria, and eight trees will be planted during the spring phase of the program. Ms Sinnott will be meeting with the property owners on Friday, April 25th and Wednesday, April 30th to assess proposed planting sites. Trees will be ordered on May 1st. The Parks Department has an existing contract for tree planting. Chairperson Bondiatt requested Mr. Krahn to arrange for publicity of the plantings. Member Keever offered to assist with publicity efforts.

3-H. ACTION REGARDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF FUTURE PLANNING GOALS AND PROJECTS FOR THE SHADE TREE COUNCIL (1-2416) - Mr. Krahn reviewed and discussed the status of the 2003 Goals included in the agenda materials. No formal action was taken.

4. NON-ACTION ITEMS:

STATUS REPORTS AND COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS (1-2527) - Member Hartman commended Mr. Krahn on the cover letter he drafted for the Nevada Division of Forestry grant application. Member Trenoweth advised of having attended the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting on Tuesday, April 8th and of having watched the Monday, April 21st meeting of the Open Space Advisory Committee. He noted that neither agenda had any Council-related items. Chairperson Bondiatt cautioned Member Keever against speaking on behalf of the Council at any meeting unless previously authorized to do so. She advised Member Keever of the opportunity to serve as Council liaison to other advisory committees. (1-2726) Chairperson Bondiatt advised of having made a presentation to the Board of Supervisors regarding the tree planting program at the Eagle Valley Golf Course. She further advised of having submitted the NDF grant application. She discussed a meeting with Rita Plank and representatives of the SERTOMA Club regarding a Jon Plank memorial golf tournament to be scheduled for Sunday, July 20th. All proceeds will benefit the Eagle Valley Golf Course Tree Program. In response to a question, Chairperson Bondiatt advised she would keep the Council members in mind with regard to volunteer help.

STATUS REPORTS AND COMMENTS FROM STAFF (1-2865) - Mr. Krahn advised that Member Young will most likely be absent for a significant period of time due to an injury. (1-3003) Mr. Krahn reviewed the three Nevada Division of Forestry grant applications submitted by City staff and members of the Council. Mr. Krahn discussed a previous residential construction tax application developed by the Council which provided funding to purchase trees for Ross Gold Park and the Mills Park Arboretum. He advised that there were no allocations last year due to an insufficient amount of residential construction tax funding. Last year's application for funding to purchase trees for other City parks will be resubmitted.

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Mr. Krahn responded to questions regarding the locations of 18-20 trees purchased with residential construction tax funding and planted at Ross Gold Park.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS (1-3108) - Previously covered.

INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (1-3114) - Chairperson BondiETT reviewed the purpose of the volunteer hours sheet with Member Keever.

5. ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT (1-3134) - Member Hartman moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m. Member Trenoweth seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

The Minutes of the April 24, 2003 meeting of the Carson City Shade Tree Council are so approved this 22nd day of May, 2003.

JEAN BONDIETT, Chair