

CARSON CITY OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the April 6, 1998 Meeting

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A regular meeting of the Carson City Open Space Advisory Committee was held on Monday, April 6, 1998 in the City Hall Capitol Conference Room, 201 No. Carson St., Carson City, NV at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Chairperson Steve Hartman
Vice Chairperson Deborah Uhart
Mike Fischer
Don Quilici
Bruce Scott

STAFF: Steve Kastens, Parks and Recreation Director
Vern Krahn, Park Planner
Fran Smith, Recording Secretary
(OSAC 4/6/98 1-0000.5)

NOTE - Unless otherwise indicated each item was introduced by Chairperson Hartman. Individuals speaking are identified following the heading of each item. A tape recording of these proceedings is on file in the Clerk-Recorder's office. This tape is available for review and inspection during normal business hours.

A. CALL TO ORDER - Chairperson Hartman called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. A roll call was taken and a quorum was present although Members Henry and Williamson were absent and Vice Chairperson Uhart did not arrive until 6:15 p.m.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Member Quilici moved to approve the Minutes of the March 9 and 16, 1998 meetings with two typographical errors corrected. Member Fischer seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0-3-0.

C. MODIFICATION OF AGENDA - None.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT - None.

E. DISCLOSURES - None.

F. PUBLIC HEARINGS

F-1 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING AN UPDATE ON PROGRESS OF PUBLIC SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE AND COSTS RELATED THERETO - (1-0030.5) Mr. Krahn provided copies of the draft survey. He said he, Messrs. Sullivan and Guzman, Members Scott and Williamson, Mr. Jacquet and Mr. Schleicher had participated with Mr. Winston via a conference call to discuss concerns the concerns some of the Members had expressed at the previous meeting. Member Scott said they had discussed how to get the point across that the questionnaire on the one hand informs people but on the other hand does not just ask questions. He added he had been critical about repeating a questionnaire they had at the public meetings because at that time Members had the opportunity to explain some things. He felt at this meeting the Members should talk about the different types of open space so that the public would have a sense of what they were being asked and would not confuse this with Parks Department issues as an example.

(1-0063.5) He felt the point should be made that there is not a lot of money for acquisitions and priorities should be established because some of the land is publicly owned and does not have potential for purchase and others could be on the brink of development. He noted they had talked about other types of uses for open space and cited flood control, watershed management or water retention basins as examples. Mr. Krahn said after the call Mr. Winston had sent the new version of the questionnaire. He added his direction to staff had been to test run it with family, friends, etc. He had a binder containing the results which he provided for review by the Committee. He expressed the hope that the Committee could study the questionnaire, make changes, approve it and give it to staff so they can process it and send it out. Mr. Schleicher asked the Committee to keep in mind some general concepts he and Mr. Winston would like to see included. One was do the questions and responses give the consultant the means to prioritize the use of the tax funds. The next was is there enough direction or clarification of the language

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in the bond issue because if bonding is involved more acreage could be acquired but the money would be tied up in repaying the bond.

(1-0179.5) At this point Chairperson Hartman said it was not tied to the map. He expressed a concern if the public does not get the map they will not be able to make educated choices. Member Fischer commented on its importance and said when the Committee first started he had no idea about the areas and felt a majority of the public does not really know what the Committee is talking about and needs to be educated. Member Scott said he would like the Committee to consider interspersing some of the narrative with some of the questions because he did not want the public to rush past it to get to the questions. Mr. Krahn said he and Mr. Winston had discussed the narrative and Mr. Winston had expressed a concern that putting it in with the questions might make it look like the public was being led. Member Scott reiterated his feeling that the public would skip through the narrative and felt the map could be integrated in such a way that they could understand what is being presented. Member Fischer mentioned Question 1 and the reference to the Parks sales tax measure. He did not feel that should be included because the survey is about open space and not parks issues. Member Quilici suggested altering the question by asking in general how the public feels about open space and stay away from the tax issue. He felt that could be indicative as far as the responses to the questions that followed. Member Fischer commented if the response to Question 1 was that the public strongly opposed open space then he would question the validity of responses to the other questions. He explained that during the campaign there had been those who opposed it. Vice Chairperson Uhart expressed her belief that there should not be any question which does not give the Committee direction. Discussion ensued and it was agreed to eliminate Question 1.

(1-0338.5) Chairperson Hartman asked about a timetable to bring the revised survey back. Mr. Krahn said if he and Mr. Schleicher got the Committee's comments after this meeting they could relay them to Mr. Winston and should have the information in a day or so. Member Scott then referred to Question 4 and said a lot of households might not use open space but enjoy it. He suggested adding a Visual Enjoyment category because he felt there is a much broader community than the actual users. Member Fischer suggested changing the names of the categories and cited the senior citizens as an example in that they probably would respond to "walking/hiking" rather than "hiking/walking". He also said not everybody in the community has the ability to get on a mountain bike and go riding in the mountains but felt a lot merely like to ride their bicycles around. Member Scott commented this is a use issue and that preference is also desired. Vice Chairperson Uhart noted there are no questions relating to preferences of the high and middle school age people and felt something in this area should be included relating to their use now and in the future. Mr. Krahn suggested perhaps making presentations at the schools. Chairperson Hartman said he would discuss this with high school principal, Glenn Adair.

(1-0443.5) Member Scott said he had a concern with asking Question 10. He explained his feeling that it should not be asked because the public does not understand the tradeoffs and the Committee does not either at this point. He added his belief that Question 14 is the same type of thing. Member Fischer said Question #18 on the ballot did not contain language in the context as what was being discussed and explained the public response during the campaign. Mr. Kastens commented if the response to Question 14 means that the public wants to control growth then the Committee would have direction as to focus. Chairperson Hartman felt on some of the questions the public does not have the background the Committee has. Mr. Kastens commented since the public has seen Long Ranch, Silver Oak, Northridge, etc. they started to see large areas of land turn to development and felt that had a lot to do with the passage of Question #18. He cited their approval of the Silver Saddle ranch acquisition by BLM as an example. A lengthy discussion ensued pro and con and included possible changes in Questions 2, 4, and 5b, possible deletion of Question 10, a change in Question 12, an addition to Question 17, and a comment by Steve Thomas who felt there should be a question on why people have come to Carson City.

(1-1105.5) The discussion turned to the map. It included possible inclusion of the bypass, linkage of the various areas to each other, and Al Lebalch making a comment on possible deletion of named canyons. Chairperson Hartman then asked about the cost to change the map. Mr. Krahn said once the Committee makes up its mind on what they want to do about the map the changes can be taken to the people who produced it and it should not be a problem. He also estimated it would cost approximately \$2,500 to do the printing of the survey. Member Fischer moved to spend up to \$2,700 and if it is more it needs to come back to the Committee. Vice Chairperson Uhart seconded the motion. Mr. Krahn said they plan to send out 1,500 copies and asked that the figure be revised upward to \$3,000. Member Fischer amended his motion to reflect that and Vice Chairperson Uhart accepted the

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amended motion. Motion carried 5-0-2-0.

F-2 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING CONSULTANT RECOMMENDATIONS PERTAINING TO THE IMPACT OF THE CARSON CITY FREEWAY BYPASS ON OPEN SPACE, POTENTIAL CONSIDERATIONS ALONG THE BYPASS ROUTE AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO - (1-1445.5) Mr. Schleicher said priorities had been discussed and expressed his feeling that a workshop with all the agencies involved would be the primary consideration at this point. However, he did not want to diminish the importance of being proactive and also that the NDOT design is not yet completely established. He said beside the freeway they are looking at drainage and detention which will be visual especially from gateways. He commented that would be land that would not be available for acquisition. He felt these things need to be followed up on and conversations opened up with NDOT and the Federal Highway Administration. Member Quilici felt if a workshop could be developed the participants could understand where each other stands on these items. Chairperson Hartman mentioned the upcoming budget hearings starting April 27 in the Sierra Room and commented that the workshop would have to be fit in somewhere because of the television coverage in that room. Member Scott felt there are many things with NDOT that need to be considered which could include drainage, roadway design, bicycle paths, etc. which relate to the freeway. He was not sure how they interface and wondered if the first meeting needs to be in the Sierra Room. He felt the Committee could have an orientation meeting rather than wait until the budget hearings are over before a workshop is held. Mr. Krahn emphasized the importance of making the workshop available to the public. Member Scott had previously suggested having a volunteer group from the Committee go to NDOT and request an update on those areas the Committee is involved in. Mr. Schleicher liked that idea and felt it would give them an opportunity to be educated on the decisions NDOT has made and why. Member Quilici took an opposite approach and felt rather than have a small group go to NDOT it would be more feasible to bring the directors from each of the major areas to the workshop. More discussion ensued on a date for the workshop and Mr. Kastens said he would get the workshop scheduled for the first Monday possible. Mr. Schleicher then talked about the butterfly saying it is identified as a sensitive species and there is no protection for it under the Endangered Species Act but added that NDOT and the Fish and Wildlife Service have agreed to minimize impacts on the butterfly habitat. No formal action was taken.

3. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN - (1-1855.5) Member Fischer moved to re-elect Chairperson Hartman. Member Uhart seconded the motion. There being no other candidates Chairperson Hartman was re-elected 5-0-2-0. Member Member Fischer moved to re-elect Member Uhart as Vice Chairperson. Member Quilici seconded the motion. There being no other candidates Vice Chairperson Uhart was re-elected 5-0-2-0.

G. INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (NON-ACTION)

- 1. Consultant Report (Non-Action)** - None.
- 2. Committee Member Reports (Non-Action)** - None.
- 3. Staff Reports (Non-Action)**
 - a. NDOT Photo Simulations and Workshop with Permitting Agencies Overseeing Freeway Bypass Project** - (1-1895.5) - Previously discussed.
 - b. Pine Nut Mountains Proposed Plan Amendment and Environmental Assessment** - (1-1893.5) Mr. Krahn noted the plan amendment which was included in the packet and said the Committee could submit their comments either as individuals or as a group. He added that staff had been directed to respond from their perspective. He also said CRAC would be discussing the plan at their next meeting after which they will respond. Member Scott wanted assurance that this Committee would not be at odds with CRAC and asked for a copy of their Master Plan.

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- c. **Open Space Assignment List from Jeff Winston - (1-2015.5)**
Mr. Krahn said Mr. Winston had everything he needs now to prepare the summary memo for all the focus groups and neighborhood meetings and this should be available in a couple of weeks. He also commented on the wetland maps, a viewshed, and vacant land, etc. which were displayed and said staff would get with Mr. Winston to find out what his priorities are on what he needs.
- d. **Updated Schedule of Presentations to Civic Groups - (1-2063.5)** Copies had been included in the packet.
- e. **Results of Neighborhood Meetings "Red Dot" Survey - (1-2083.5)** These were also included in the packet.
- f. **Setting of Open Space Meeting Dates in April, May and June - (1-2105.5)** Mr. Krahn said regular meetings were scheduled for June 1 and 22 with the workshop at some point before then. Discussion ensued and it was agreed there would not be a meeting on April 13, the workshop would be April 20, a regular meeting would be April 27, no meeting on May 4, and a regular meeting to include Mr. Winston on May 11.

4. **Future Committee Items** - Previously discussed.

H. ADJOURNMENT - There being no further business Member Fischer moved to adjourn. Member Quilici seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0-2-0. Chairperson Hartman adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

The Minutes of the April 6, 1998 meeting of the Carson City Open Space Advisory Committee

ARE SO APPROVED _____, 1998

Steve Hartman, Chairperson