

CARSON CITY OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the May 13, 2009 Meeting

Page 1

A meeting of the Carson City Open Space Advisory Committee was scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 13, 2009 in the Community Center Sierra Room, 851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada.

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

STAFF: Larry Werner, City Manager
Roger Moellendorf, Parks and Recreation Department Director
Juan Guzman, Open Space Manager
Ann Bollinger, Open Space Coordinator
Andrew Burnham, Public Works Department Director
Stacey Giomi, Fire Chief
Nick Providenti, Finance Department Director
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 (1:34:30) - Chairperson Hartman called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m. A quorum was present; Vice Chairperson Jacquet and Member Fischer were absent.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS (1:34:55) - None.

1. ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES - April 27, 2009 (1:34:59) - Member Riedl moved to approve the minutes. Member Scott seconded the motion, and noted his suggestion, at the April 27th meeting, to leave the sheep on U.S. Forest Service property, in accordance with the agreement, even if it meant trespassing. Chairperson Hartman called for a vote on the pending motion; motion carried 5-0.

2. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA (1:35:45) - None.

3. AGENDA ITEMS

3-A. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS APPROVAL OF THE OPEN SPACE DIVISION'S TENTATIVE 2009 / 2010 ANNUAL BUDGET (1:35:48) - Mr. Guzman introduced and provided background information on this item, and introduced Mr. Werner, Mr. Burnham, Mr. Providenti, and Fire Chief Giomi. Mr. Guzman reviewed the staff report.

CARSON CITY OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the May 13, 2009 Meeting

Page 2

Chairperson Hartman referred to that portion of the staff report delineating Open Space projects which have benefitted other City functions. He noted the Joost project which solves a "City problem in the Wellington access issue," the initial establishment of the GIS system, etc. He expressed concern that "this has been pretty much a one-way street ...," and noted this as the basis for the committee's objection to the internal service charges. He expressed the hope that Mr. Providenti would be able to present information on the "revenue side of the equation."

Mr. Providenti anticipated the revenue estimate to be between 12 and 13 percent below what was originally budgeted. Discussion followed. In response to a question, Mr. Moellendorf reviewed the "variety of salaries" allocated to the Open Space Program. Mr. Guzman's and Ms. Bollinger's salaries, as Open Space Manager and Natural Resources Specialist, respectively, are 100 percent allocated from the Open Space Program budget. Mr. Moellendorf reviewed other salaries which are allocated, on a smaller percentage basis, from the Open Space Program budget, including the Parks and Recreation Department Director, the Park Planner, the Management Assistant, and the Park Rangers. He explained the method by which the percentages are determined. Mr. Guzman and Mr. Providenti responded to questions regarding the car allowance line item. In response to a further question, Mr. Providenti explained the fleet fund and the method by which each City vehicle is assigned a vehicle equivalent unit and charged accordingly. Discussion followed.

Chairperson Hartman advised of the committee's continuous request for budget figures early in the year in order to have sufficient time for review and discussion. Mr. Providenti advised that the budget is usually not finalized until mid-March / early April. Chairperson Hartman expressed understanding for waiting as long as possible for the revenue figures, but suggested that the project-related expenses should be known. Mr. Moellendorf acknowledged very little change in the last two years to the Open Space Program budget. He noted the only significant change this year was the internal service charges. Mr. Providenti advised that internal service charges will be presented to the Board of Supervisors for approval in January. In reference to Chairperson Hartman's comments, at the April committee meeting with regard to reducing the number of committee meetings in the future, Mr. Moellendorf advised that Open Space staff will work closely with Finance Department staff in the hopes of reducing internal service charges. Mr. Providenti explained that the internal service charges are based on history. Chairperson Hartman reiterated the intent to reduce the number of annual meetings. He expressed the belief that, unless there is a specific issue, there is no reason for a deputy district attorney to attend the committee meetings. In response to a comment, Chairperson Hartman requested Mr. Guzman to agendaize the Open Space Program budget for review at every committee meeting. Member Scott expressed understanding for the increases in salaries and benefits, but concern over the Open Space Program budget being used for overhead. The ability to have input to said overhead charges, in consideration of reducing the number of annual meetings and requesting the deputy district attorney to attend on an as-needed basis, is important.

In response to a series of questions, Mr. Providenti advised that Finance Department staff provides the revenue figures and, other than the fire suppression and the internal service charges, the committee can recommend allocation of its own budget. In consideration of the internal service charges, he explained the necessity this year, to more thoroughly capture all the costs and allocate them accordingly. "In the past, the monies weren't as tight so we didn't really feel that we ... had to do such a good job of capturing the costs. ... Basically, what was happening in the past is that the general fund was subsidizing the costs of this department." Mr. Providenti advised that estimates are factored into the internal service charges, but "they are legitimate costs of how much you folks are using City services." Since the Open Space Program

CARSON CITY OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the May 13, 2009 Meeting

Page 3

has its own revenue source, “we don’t feel that the general fund should be subsidizing ...” In response to a further question, he discussed the difficulties associated with attempting to quantify the benefits listed in the staff report. He advised that said benefits don’t “help the general fund per se. It might be helping the storm water ...” He acknowledged the purpose of the City’s general fund to “take care of the public health, welfare, and safety of this community.” Chairperson Hartman noted that the Quality of Life Open Space revenues are to be dedicated solely to open space. He further noted the committee had long ago recognized the “fuzzy line on some of these things, particularly with parks and recreation.” He expressed the opinion that the Open Space ordinance is very clear and that there is a “very good argument” that the community understood the general fund obligation and the purpose for the Open Space Program revenues. He expressed concern over the Open Space Program “going down the same road” as the California State Lottery. “We’re not here to build agency people and programs.” Mr. Providenti reiterated that general fund revenues have “ended up helping with open space.” He and Chairperson Hartman agreed that the Board of Supervisors will have to make a policy decision. Member Scott noted the difficulties associated with a “450 percent adjustment in one year.” Mr. Werner advised that the Board of Supervisors had already decided the District Attorney’s Office will represent all City agencies. The District Attorney decides whether or not a deputy will attend the advisory committee meetings. In response to a comment, Mr. Werner advised that the District Attorney’s staff spends a fairly extensive amount of time on the Open Space Program. Discussion followed, and Mr. Werner advised that the District Attorney’s staff time should have been charged to the Open Space Program from the beginning.

Chairperson Hartman advised the Joost project, “by and large ... solves the issue that was the City’s obligation for access through Wellington [Crescent].” Mr. Werner advised he never considered the Wellington Crescent access to be a City issue. In response to a comment, he further advised that the agreement indicates “when there was an alternative access found, then their easement would go away.” It was not the City’s responsibility to find an alternative access. Mr. Werner advised of having discussed the matter with Scott Heaton and other Wellington Crescent property owners. He reiterated there was no obligation on the part of the City to identify an alternate access. He expressed appreciation to the Open Space Advisory Committee “because it does solve a problem, but it’s not a requirement of the City.” Chairperson Hartman advised that the Joost project will be re-evaluated on “the basis that there is no City participation ... because it goes all the way back to the issues of ... GIS or storm drainage.” These are the areas where the Open Space Advisory Committee considers a joint benefit “and there’s not been anyone stepping up from the City’s side.” Chairperson Hartman expressed understanding for the City’s financial situation, but reiterated that “no one’s given us any credit for having done that.” Mr. Werner expressed the opinion that the committee has “done a tremendous job” and that “everybody has recognized that, but there’s also the reality of a cost to doing that business. And, right now, we’re saying that there’s a share that the Open Space committee ... needs to pay.” Mr. Werner acknowledged that the issue can be revisited at the May 18th Board of Supervisors meeting.

In response to a previous question, Mr. Guzman discussed the reasons for increasing the travel and training line item. He reiterated that the committee can make recommendations as to the amounts budgeted to said line item. Member Lincoln expressed the opinion that the travel and training budget should be decreased. Mr. Werner reminded the committee members that budget recommendations are referred to him and he, in turn, establishes the budget that is presented to the Board of Supervisors. He assured the committee that he will consider their recommendations and work together with staff in developing the budget that is eventually presented to the Board of Supervisors for approval. In response to a comment, he reiterated that the City Manager develops the budget.

CARSON CITY OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the May 13, 2009 Meeting

Page 4

Member Riedl expressed understanding for the difficult economic times, and advised of having recently reviewed the Open Space ordinance. He read into the record a pertinent portion of Section 13.06, providing for the Open Space Advisory Committee to have oversight of the administration and expenditure of funds from the open space division of the Quality of Life special revenue fund, established by Carson City Municipal Code 21.07. He discussed the importance of utilizing staff as a resource, and expressed the opinion that training should continue. He expressed reluctance to “meddle in the intricacies of the budget” and “cutting things to thin.” He expressed concern, however, that the “budget process is being done unto the advisory committee ... in direct conflict with the ordinance ...”

In response to a previous question, Mr. Guzman provided background information on the increase in the contractual service line item. He advised of approximately twelve contractors, whose services are utilized only as necessary. In reference to the district attorney charges, Member Scott advised of having heard no concerns expressed over the counsel provided the committee. “There’s no desire to hire outside counsel.” Member Scott expressed an interest in managing the internal service charges as much as possible. Mr. Werner acknowledged that the committee should discuss deputy district attorney meeting attendance with District Attorney Neil Rombardo. Mr. Werner advised that Mr. Rombardo has expressed a preference for his deputies to attend advisory committee meetings to ensure their understanding of potential legal issues. Mr. Werner expressed understanding for finding the balance. Member Scott advised of a high turnover of deputy district attorneys over the past year, and questioned the continuity issue. Mr. Werner encouraged a discussion with Mr. Rombardo. He clarified that Mr. Rombardo has no interest in the method by which District Attorney’s Office charges are allocated. It is the City Manager’s and Finance Department Director’s responsibility to ensure the costs are covered as part of a balanced budget. Mr. Moellendorf advised that the same question had been posed in reference to the Parks and Recreation Commission. He noted the complexity of Open Space Program issues which are more effectively addressed by District Attorney’s Office staff directly. Member Scott acknowledged the increments of time outside committee meetings incurred by Open Space Program “activities.” He suggested that reducing the number of annual meetings is one way to manage the resulting internal service charges. He noted the comments were also relative to the Clerk’s Office staff. Chairperson Hartman expressed the opinion that the committee members “have more than a passing knowledge of issues” and when counsel is necessary. He advised that the committee members are “also heavily involved in directing those lawyers because they don’t know those issues.” He advised he will talk with Mr. Rombardo.

Mr. Guzman noted that the GIS Division is part of the Public Works Department “and their bread and butter” is keeping track of utility lines and systems. He reviewed the function of the GIS Division pertinent to the Open Space Program. He advised that Open Space is one of the heavier users of GIS Division services, and expressed appreciation for GIS Division staff’s assistance and excellent work product. He expressed agreement that the Open Space Advisory Committee was instrumental in promoting development of the GIS Division, but advised that the Assessor was working to develop a GIS System at the same time. He offered to quantify the associated costs. Mr. Burnham estimated the costs at \$24,000 per year for GIS Division services associated with the Quality of Life fund. He estimated that the Public Works Department pays approximately two-thirds to three-quarters the cost of the GIS Division. He noted that the Public Works Department pays a little over \$3 million in internal service charges to the general fund. In response to a question, Ms. Bollinger and Mr. Guzman reviewed projects for which they have used GIS Division services. In response to a previous comment, Mr. Guzman advised that Open Space activities “happen faster than [the GIS Division] can update maps.”

CARSON CITY OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the May 13, 2009 Meeting

Page 5

Member Riedl noted the 450 percent increase in internal service charges to the Open Space Program since last year. In response to a question, Mr. Providenti advised that other departments' internal service charges increased quite a bit due to the District Attorney's Office charges which hadn't been previously allocated. He explained the method by which the internal service charges are calculated. Mr. Moellendorf noted the 2010 spreadsheets included in the agenda materials, and that the large increases in internal service charges are attributable to the District Attorney and the Clerk's Offices which hadn't been charged in the past. Chairperson Hartman suggested formatting the budget materials consistently in order to ensure readability, and discussion ensued.

In consideration of GIS Division internal service charges, Mr. Werner advised that "the total GIS cost is about ... \$450,000," and noted the \$10,000 allocation to the Open Space Program budget. He acknowledged the significant increase "from zero to this," but noted the extremely small percentage of the entire GIS Division budget. Chairperson Hartman discussed the need for the committee to be informed of the utilization of GIS Division services. Mr. Werner explained that "mapping is a small piece." "The big piece ... is the data reduction ..."

Mr. Moellendorf noted that such things as building maintenance costs are not charged to the Quality of Life fund. "It gets too fine and too difficult sometimes to try to determine what is the cost of the custodial work in two offices out of six, and the resulting utility costs as well." In reference to earlier comments, Chairperson Hartman reiterated that "if we get to the point where all we're doing is handling a bunch of overhead, we might as well get rid of all of the staff and just wait for opportunities and buy that dirt because ... we didn't get on this outfit to generate a huge budget. That's not the goal of the game." Mr. Moellendorf summarized the concerns as "how has it come to this point where you have this kind of overhead in your budget." The simple explanation, which he advised of having provided to the Parks and Recreation Commission, is "you develop a program, Quality of Life Program, that included open space and included parks capital." He expressed certainty that no one, at the time, envisioned some of the intricacies involved in those programs. The Open Space Program was established to purchase property, to preserve property, scenic viewsheds, watershed protection, etc. An Open Space Manager, who requires services from the City's general fund, was hired to run the Program. Chairperson Hartman expressed understanding for the progression, and concern over the point at which "more money's being spent on that side of the ledger than we're able to accomplish the goals of the program." Mr. Moellendorf noted that all programs reach a maturation point, and suggested the Open Space Program may be close to that point.

Mr. Providenti acknowledged that District Attorney's and Clerk's Offices internal service charges had not previously been allocated to the Open Space Program. He expressed the belief that GIS Division charges had not been previously allocated either. Member Scott noted the corresponding figures, and suggested the committee needs "an early warning system." Mr. Providenti advised that cost allocation programs will be presented to the Board of Supervisors in early February of each year. In response to a question, Mr. Werner advised that Clerk's Office budget requirements should be addressed with Clerk-Recorder Alan Glover. He provided additional clarification of the cost allocation programs to be presented to the Board of Supervisors.

(2:54:00) Chief Giomi reviewed previously stated opposition, from a fire protection standpoint, to the federal lands bill. "From a fire protection standpoint, the City acquiring land means the City acquiring liability to extinguish fires on that land. And it also means the City being responsible for land management. The same responsibilities that federal agencies have, we ... will shortly have." Chief Giomi reviewed

CARSON CITY OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the May 13, 2009 Meeting

Page 6

historic information on the federal government's significant change "in how they deal with costs of extinguishing fires." He advised of an Office of Management and Budget report, published in 2003 / 04, indicating that the federal government is paying too much of the costs for fighting fires which are the responsibilities of state and local governments. This started a trend, at the federal government level to the local districts - the Carson City District of the Bureau of Land Management and the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest - to change the provisions of their agreements with the local governments and "to scrutinize more closely how costs are allocated on extinguishing wild land fires." This translates to an increase in the local government's obligation for extinguishing wild land fires. Chief Giomi explained that the Waterfall Fire cannot be used as an example of the method by which costs would be allocated "... in that very same place because the conditions that existed then don't exist today." The Linehan fire would represent a much better example.

Chief Giomi advised that the federal government will allocate costs to extinguish wild land fire "as the fire breaks out." Federal regulation and the City's agreements with federal fire protection agencies very clearly state that the federal agencies will not pay to extinguish fires to protect structures nor on land owned by other than the federal government. Chief Giomi reviewed cost allocation examples in accordance with the regulations. He reiterated having made very clear, during development of the federal lands bill, "that there was going to be a cost involved to whoever was the owner of that land ...". Funding has to be set aside for fuels management as well as for extinguishing fires. When the federal lands bill passed, Chief Giomi advised of having approached Mr. Moellendorf and Mr. Guzman to discuss establishing the fire suppression budget. He explained the \$100,000 figure to be set aside to fund fire protection. He clarified "these are not operational funds. These are funds that sit in your account that are only used if there's a fire." Chief Giomi advised that \$100,000 wouldn't nearly cover the costs of a large fire and would be "way more than enough if we have a small fire." He advised that other area fire districts have set aside \$1 million. He discussed the goal to eventually accumulate \$400,000 to \$500,000 within five to seven years. He assured the committee that the money isn't allocated from the Open Space budget to the Fire Department budget. Mr. Werner assured the committee that the Open Space Program budget would not be charged for fire "that we would take care of ourselves." Chief Giomi further clarified that the fund would only be charged for costs charged to the Fire Department relative to open space property. In response to a question, Chief Giomi advised that the City has an emergency fund of approximately \$3.5 million. In addition, the Public Works Department pays approximately \$70,000 annually for fuels management projects on its properties.

Chairperson Hartman advised that the Open Space Advisory Committee did not advocate the federal lands bill. He further advised of having attended a meeting toward the latter stages of federal lands bill negotiation, during which it was indicated that avoiding potential liability was one of the main reasons for the federal lands bill. He acknowledged the potential liability associated with acquiring the lands through the federal lands bill. He recalled requesting the Board of Supervisors to add language to the federal lands bill identifying a funding source for fuels management. He advised that the Board of Supervisors agreed to add the language and that the committee was subsequently informed that amending the bill was impossible. Chairperson Hartman noted the committee's tenacity over its role in consideration of the Open Space Program budget and Question #18. He explained that the committee considers fire suppression as an "add on" which should be covered as a part of public health, welfare, and safety from the community's perspective. Chairperson Hartman noted that title to the properties acquired as part of the federal lands bill will be taken in the name of Carson City. He expressed the opinion that the committee has never shirked its duty; "we just want to make sure that it's fair." He took issue over the proposed allocation of funds.

CARSON CITY OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the May 13, 2009 Meeting

Page 7

Member Scott inquired as to the method by which the City interfaces with the Sierra Front Fire Protection District and the Nevada Division of Forestry. In response to a question, Chief Giomi advised that the Carson City Sierra Forest Fire Protection District levies a consolidated tax and an ad valorem tax. He explained “that district sits over the top of our Carson City tax rate so the folks that live in that district are taxed for fire protection services by [the City] department and by that organization.” The City doesn’t pay that tax for the land it owns, and this will include properties acquired as part of the federal lands bill. Chief Giomi explained the individual responsibilities of the City and the State in consideration of the Sierra Forest Fire Protection District. In response to a question, he advised that the U.S. Forest Service is responsible for extinguishing fires on their land as long as doing so doesn’t involve threats to structures. In response to a question, Chief Giomi advised there would be no federal benefit to increasing the size of the Sierra Forest Fire Protection District. Member Scott suggested the possibility of generating “some value or some financial efficiency to help with what is going to be the potential for a significant new City-owned land resource that may have fire.” Chief Giomi referred to the recent ballot question which was “soundly defeated.” He acknowledged the general possibility of pursuing Member Scott’s suggestion, but noted the citizens would have to agree to be taxed for that purpose. He advised that the ballot question included a component which would have improved wild land fire protection for the entire community. He further advised there would be no benefit to forming a district of only City or federally-owned property. He reviewed various statutory requirements for creating a separate tax district.

Chairperson Hartman expressed a preference for a creative way to solve “this ... community issue.” Chief Giomi agreed and advised that senior management considers the issue on a constant basis. “We are always looking for ways to improve the delivery of service, ways to right-size ... the way our revenues come in and the way our services go out.” Chief Giomi noted the nearly 6,000 acres of land which the City will acquire through the federal lands bill. He expressed the opinion that if the Open Space Program is going to own land, then the Open Space Program has an obligation to manage that land. He advised that the \$100,000 set aside is part of the management of Open Space Program property. Chairperson Hartman expressed a preference for using the funding to manage fuels. Chief Giomi advised of having considered district and taxing options over the past 3 to 4 years. He assured the committee that the issue will continue to be considered. He agreed with the possibility of expending the funding for fuels management rather than setting it aside for fire suppression. Discussion followed, and Chief Giomi suggested developing a program involving “folks that can work on that land and extinguish fires” and returning to the committee in anticipation of next year’s budget. He advised that saving structures “is really the bottom line. The costs may not change, but if we can save 20 houses ..., then we’ve succeeded.” He offered to return to the committee before the next budget cycle to discuss partnership options. Member Scott expressed appreciation for the discussion, and a preference for this committee to serve as “resource managers not fire managers ... in terms of after the fact.” He expressed support for management in combination with fire protection, and noted the success of fire safe councils in educating citizens about individual responsibility. Chief Giomi agreed, and discussed the concerted effort, in Carson City, which has made a real difference in a short period of time. He expressed appreciation for an earlier comment regarding the costs associated with utilizing aircraft to extinguish fires. “As you manage that land and slow that fire as it gets to the structures, the chances of having to use aircraft there go down and then the costs to us go down ...”

Member Riedl expressed appreciation for the possibility of utilizing the \$100,000 for fuels management. He expressed uncertainty that the voters understood they were passing an open space tax for the purpose of fire protection. He advised that the Open Space Master Plan element contains nothing about fire suppression, and expressed the opinion that it is a new consideration which “needs to be vetted with the

CARSON CITY OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the May 13, 2009 Meeting

Page 8

public before we set this money aside.” He expressed surprise that the failed ballot initiative had anything to do with the new federal requirement pertinent to wild land fires. He expressed agreement with the need for the suppression funding in consideration of the “clear and present danger.” He expressed the personal opinion that fire suppression wasn’t an intended use of Open Space Program funds without an associated public process, and suggested “it’s too early” to set aside \$100,000. Chief Giomi expressed the opinion that open space property maintenance includes fire suppression.

Mr. Moellendorf expressed appreciation for Chief Giomi’s very effective explanation of the fire suppression line item. He suggested merging the maintenance / management line item with the fire suppression line item. Chairperson Hartman referred to Member Riedl’s comments, and agreed with agendaing an item for a future committee meeting. He further agreed with pursuing Chief Giomi’s offer to develop a program whereby open space resources are managed in consideration of fire suppression. In response to a comment, Chief Giomi reiterated that the \$100,000 fire suppression set aside will remain in the Open Space Program budget. Barring an “accounting issue,” Chairperson Hartman expressed support for combining the two line items, thereby adding fire suppression funding to the maintenance line item. He noted Chief Giomi’s commitment to work with the committee to develop a program that will further everyone’s interests. Member Scott expressed support for spending \$100,000 for pre-suppression activities as part of open space management. Chief Giomi advised of having spoken with Mr. Providenti and Mr. Werner, and of good ideas which will benefit the Open Space Program as well as the entire community. He cautioned the committee that we will never live in a “non-fire environment.” “All we can hope to do is minimize ... the costs to the humans” living adjacent to open space “and the costs to the local government in terms of damaged resources and finances.”

Mr. Moellendorf acknowledged that the figure reflected in the management and maintenance line item represented a carry over. Mr. Providenti summarized the discussion, as follows: Combine the maintenance / management / suppression account, add \$100,000 to the account in addition to whatever gets carried forward from this fiscal year. Chairperson Hartman suggested earmarking the fire suppression funding. Mr. Providenti then suggested “leaving it the way it is.” **Member Riedl recommended to the Board of Supervisors to set aside \$100,000 of open space funds for fire suppression and ask the City Manager to have public outreach for fire suppression efforts and revenue sources for the future. Member Scott seconded the motion**, with the understanding that if the set-aside is not utilized for fire suppression it may be available for other kinds of fuels reduction or acceptable adjustments to help reduce, in the long-term, the need for fire suppression. **Member Riedl so amended his motion.** Mr. Moellendorf acknowledged that the fire suppression funding will remain as a separate line item in the budget. Member Riedl discussed the importance of addressing the need for fire suppression funding in a public forum due to the possibility that the voters hadn’t fully understood the recent public safety ballot question. Chief Giomi noted that this meeting was in a public forum, as are all of the committee’s meetings. He expressed understanding for Member Riedl’s concerns, and suggested the most effective means of public outreach would be presentations to this committee in regular meetings. He expressed the opinion that the most effective method for public outreach is through “designated bodies that already exist because the public is used to and familiar with those organizations.” Chairperson Hartman expressed support for Chief Giomi’s previous suggestions to develop a creative program which will serve more than one purpose. Chief Giomi suggested inviting representatives of the six fire safe council chapters to attend a presentation at a regular committee meeting. At Member Lincoln’s request, the motion was read back. Chairperson Hartman called for a vote on the pending motion; **motion carried 5-0.**

CARSON CITY OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the May 13, 2009 Meeting

Page 9

Chairperson Hartman reiterated the request to review the Open Space Program budget earlier in the year. He discussed the intent to reduce the number of annual committee meetings, and advised that he will be speaking with District Attorney Neil Rombardo about the possibility of deputy district attorneys attending committee meetings only upon request. He entertained a motion. **Member Lincoln moved to recommend to the Board of Supervisors approval of the Open Space Division's tentative 2009 / 2010 annual budget with the following comment to be transmitted to the Board of Supervisors: The City must monitor and reassess the internal service charge in a more equitable and fair manner for all City departments. Member Riedl seconded the motion.** Member Scott requested to reaffirm the previous motion with regard to the method by which the fire suppression account will be handled. Mr. Werner assured the committee that both motions will be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors. Member Riedl requested staff to be more proactive in bringing to the committee's attention some of the new budget initiatives or goals "early on in the budget process so that this process is less reactionary." Chairperson Hartman suggested that this issue will be solved by reviewing the monthly / year-to-date budget reports at each committee meeting. He discussed the history of the committee's opportunistic expenditure of Open Space Program funds. He called for a vote on the pending motion. **Motion carried 5-0.**

In response to a comment, Mr. Guzman advised that a great deal of information can be provided to the committee members via e-mail. The only concern would be to avoid any violation of the Nevada Open Meeting law by the committee members communicating amongst themselves. Member Lincoln discussed the importance of quantifying "cost contributions to the City" in consideration of future open space acquisitions. Chairperson Hartman referred to the long-standing understanding of the "fuzzy line" between open space and parks and recreation activities. He discussed the "fuzzy lines" between open space and storm drainage / storm detention. "Properties that have been on our list to consider ... are there only because of their storm drain attributes. We can well live without those because no one's going to develop on them because they're in the middle of a flood way." Chairperson Hartman suggested that, "unless we can see that cooperation, it's going to limit our ability because we're shouldering the entire burden." He reiterated appreciation for Chief Giomi's suggestion to work together on fuels management and fire suppression. He expressed appreciation for the attendance of Mr. Werner, Mr. Burnham, Mr. Providenti, and Chief Giomi in consideration of clearing up some of the budget issues. Mr. Werner acknowledged the joint use of open space and storm drainage, and suggested there hadn't previously been an opportunity "to get there ..." Member Scott also expressed appreciation for the attendance of Mr. Werner, Mr. Burnham, Mr. Providenti, and Chief Giomi. In consideration of adjacent counties, he observed that Carson City has done a very good job of managing its budget and avoiding significant layoffs and major losses in the ability to provide services. Member Lincoln discussed the importance of seriously considering the budget in light of the public's perception. Mr. Guzman related details of an experience which demonstrated that the public is "very aware" of the committee's activities.

4. NON-ACTION ITEMS:

STATUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM STAFF - None.

MEMBERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION - None.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (3:54:59) - Member Scott requested Mr. Guzman to agendize discussion and action to draft a letter to the U.S. Forest Service regarding the fuels reduction project. He expressed frustration over the agreement which "left the City and some of the City's commitments to the

CARSON CITY OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the May 13, 2009 Meeting

Page 10

private owner of the sheep in a difficult position.” He expressed the opinion that the committee needs to convey that the matter could have been handled differently. “Getting an e-mail on Monday to be off the Forest Service lands by Friday, or whatever it was, ... was not professional in the least.” Member Scott expressed disappointment over the manner in which the situation was handled by U.S. Forest Service representatives.

6. ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT (3:56:44) - Member Scott moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:56 p.m. Member Riedl seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

The Minutes of the May 13, 2009 Carson City Open Space Advisory Committee meeting are so approved this 15th day of June, 2009.

STEPHEN D. HARTMAN, Chair