

CARSON CITY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the January 3, 2006 Meeting

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A regular meeting of the Carson City Parks and Recreation Commission was scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 3, 2006 in the Community Center Sierra Room, 851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada.

PRESENT: Chairperson Donna Curtis
Vice Chairperson Michael Hoffman
Greg Davis
John Felesina
Charlene Herst
Tom Keeton
Pete Livermore
John McKenna

STAFF: Roger Moellendorf, Parks and Recreation Department Director
Scott Fahrenbruch, Parks and Recreation Director of Operations
Barbara Singer, Recreation Superintendent
Vern Krahn, Park Planner
Kathleen King, Recording Secretary

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

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL (5:32:43) - Chairperson Keeton called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. Roll was called; a quorum was present. Commissioner Patton was absent.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (5:33:29) - None.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS (5:33:39) - None.

1. ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES - November 1, 2005; November 15, 2005; and December 6, 2005 (5:34:05) - Commissioner Livermore moved to approve the December 6, 2005 and November 15, 2005 minutes, as submitted. Commissioner Hoffman seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0. Commissioner Livermore moved to approve the November 1, 2005 minutes, as presented. Commissioner Hoffman seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0. [Commissioner McKenna arrived at 5:35 p.m.]

2. AGENDA ITEMS:

2-A. INTRODUCTION OF GREG DAVIS, THE NEWLY APPOINTED MEMBER TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION (5:35:12) - Chairperson Keeton introduced and welcomed Commissioner Davis. Commissioner Davis looked forward to accomplishing the commission's goals. Chairperson Keeton commented on Commissioner Davis' exceptional background, and expressed the opinion he would be a great addition to the commission.

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2-B. ACTION REGARDING THE ELECTION OF COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON FOR 2006 (5:36:25) - Chairperson Keeton inquired as to the commissioners' interest in serving as chair or vice chair. He advised he would be happy to serve another year as chairman. Commissioner Curtis discussed her interest in serving as chair. Chairperson Keeton entertained nominations. Commissioner Herst nominated Donna Curtis as chair. Commissioner Livermore seconded the nomination. Commissioner Felesina nominated Tom Keeton. Commissioner Hoffman seconded the nomination. Commissioner Curtis discussed her experience and qualifications. In response to a question, Chairperson Keeton advised he would like to see through to completion the commission's pending projects in which he has been deeply involved. He called for a show of hands in favor of Commissioner Curtis. Five commissioners indicated their support of Commissioner Curtis, and Chairperson Keeton passed the gavel. Commissioner McKenna expressed appreciation to Chairperson Keeton for his hard work over the past two-plus years.

Chairperson-elect Curtis called for nominations for vice chair. Commissioner Livermore nominated Mike Hoffman as vice chair. Commissioner Keeton seconded the nomination. Chairperson-elect Curtis nominated Charlene Herst as vice chair. Commissioner Hoffman seconded the nomination. Chairperson-elect Curtis called for a show of hands in favor of Commissioner Hoffman, and counted four. She called for a show of hands in favor of Commissioner Herst, and counted three. She noted that Commissioner Hoffman had been elected to the position of vice chair.

2-C. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ONLY REGARDING DEVELOPMENT COSTS, INFRASTRUCTURE, AND NEIGHBORHOOD IMPACTS REGARDING PROPOSED LOCATIONS FOR THE NEW RECREATION CENTER (1-0173) - Mr. Moellendorf reviewed the staff report, and noted that location is only one facet of the recreation center project. Metcalf Builders, Inc. Vice President of Pre-Construction Services Ken Rose introduced himself for the record, and provided background information on Parks Department staff's request for an objective evaluation of the five proposed recreation center sites. (5:51:28) He reviewed the Evaluation Criteria portion of the Site Evaluation Report, which was distributed to the commissioners and staff prior to the start of the meeting. With regard to Mills Park, he noted that a great deal of criteria had already been analyzed and that it was very difficult to separate out "in an apples to apples comparison." He further noted that Mills Park is the only developed site of the five. Edmonds Sports Complex has some development in the form of playing fields. JohnD Winters Centennial Park is also partially developed but without buildings. Mr. Rose reviewed the specific site evaluations and graphics, which included utilities, access, site work, neighborhood impacts, and future growth, as outlined in the Site Evaluation Report. He advised that the Site Evaluation Report represented a tool for the commission to make its own observations and recommendations.

Commissioner McKenna expressed an interest in Mr. Rose's personal opinion. Mr. Rose advised of having played a lot of soccer in the past. He expressed concern over continuing to use Mills Park as open space. As a licensed architect, he expressed the opinion that the arena at Mills Park seems to be out of place. The possibility of relocating it to another area could make Mills Park much more useful in the future. Mr. Rose advised that choosing to locate the recreation center at Mills Park will require difficult choices to be made. He suggested that regionalizing facilities by locating the recreation center at the Edmonds Sports Complex seems to be "pretty dramatic." He noted that the Edmonds Sports Complex is already well used, well recognized, and "probably needs additional facilities to keep its importance in the community." He expressed the opinion that a facility at the Edmonds Sports Complex has the potential to be "national-

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class.” The topography at the Edmonds Sports Complex lends itself to a “very unique and useful facility.” Mr. Rose expressed the opinion that the Arrowhead / Goni location would be “a difficult site ... and somewhat out of the way.” The JohnD Winters Centennial Park location “might make sense but it’s on the wrong side of the street. ... And there’s no way to get there other than by car.” In response to a question, Mr. Rose expressed the opinion that golf courses, equestrian facilities, soccer / baseball fields are appropriately located near airport facilities. He responded to questions regarding the differences in cost estimates for parking at each of the proposed sites.

In reference to the Edmonds Sports Complex site, Commissioner Felesina expressed concern over doing away with the BMX track. He suggested there should be sufficient space at the Edmonds Sports Complex to accommodate the BMX track in another location. He further suggested that site preparation for a new recreation center could include sculpting a new BMX track. Mr. Rose acknowledged the possibility of cost savings in sculpting the BMX track concurrent with recreation center site preparation. He noted this would be beyond the consultant’s scope of work, and suggested a design consultant would be able to provide more specific information. Commissioner Livermore discussed one of the purposes of the existing Community Center to serve as an evacuation center when necessary. He noted the issue of having to consider adding amenities to a facility into the future. In consideration of the five proposed locations, he expressed the opinion there are only two which could serve as community evacuation centers and which already have associated amenities that would not require long-term financial commitments by the City. Mr. Rose suggested considering that putting a building “out in the middle of nowhere” requires additional amenities into the future. He noted that without neighborhood support of a facility, there is no incentive for people to not use their vehicles. Commissioner Livermore suggested there are already efficiencies associated with Mills Park, the Edmonds Sports Complex, and JohnD Winters Centennial Park. Mr. Rose noted one of the attractions of the Edmonds Sports Complex is the existing play fields. A structure would facilitate the other half of the recreation component. Mr. Rose noted there may be a synergy with the proposed WNCC site which gives it “a little different character.”

Chairperson Curtis provided direction with regard to public comment, and opened this item. (6:16:58) WNCC Vice President of Institutional Development Helaine Jesse advised of having discussed with City staff the possibility of a recreation center on WNCC property. She further advised that WNCC President Dr. Carol Lucey has submitted the proposal, as WNCC’s number one capital construction project, to the Nevada System of Higher Education for the 2007 biennium. She acknowledged “pros and cons” associated with the proposed WNCC site, but advised that WNCC would like to submit a request for a “dollar for dollar match up to \$10 million.” She noted that any project would require approval by the University of Nevada Board of Regents. She further noted that joint-use facilities represent an efficient use of tax revenues, and referred to WNCC’s history of joint use with the Carson City School District in the form of the Carson High School high tech center. She discussed multi-modal access to the WNCC site via the V&T bike path, the JAC bus stop, and adjacent residential areas. She advised WNCC is very interested in the possibility and will be supportive of whatever location is chosen. She suggested the WNCC site for a smaller, future recreation center if another location is chosen for the subject recreation center. She noted the developing baseball stadium and WNCC’s interest in developing soccer fields. She further noted the existing joint use agreement with the City, and expressed an interest in maintaining the partnership.

Mr. Rose discussed benefits associated with locating the recreation center at the WNCC site. He noted that the land between Combs Canyon Road and the V&T trail is most likely not suitable for buildings, but that drainage locations are perfect for outdoor recreation facilities. Ms. Jesse acknowledged that the offer could

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include land plus funding to construct fields, etc. She further acknowledged that the subject site is owned by WNCC. An adjacent parcel to the northeast is owned by the Division of State Lands. WNCC representatives would request the Division of State Lands to relocate an existing drainage system in order to accommodate the recreation center on WNCC property. In response to a further question, Ms. Jesse advised that the Murphy Drive parcel was not considered because of being retained for observatory purposes. Commissioner Livermore discussed the possibility of including a field house and leisure pool in the design. In response to a question, Ms. Jesse advised that the proposal would be presented to the 2007 Legislature so it could be approximately 2-3 years before construction would be completed.

In reference to the proposed WNCC site, Mr. Moellendorf referred to the Site Evaluation Report and pointed out the Division of State Lands property using the schematic drawing and the aerial photograph. In response to an earlier question, he advised that a leisure pool is figured into each one of the project drawings with the exception of the Mills Park site. Chairperson Curtis thanked Ms. Jesse.

(6:28:14) Jon Nowlin suggested that parking at Mills Park will have to be addressed whether or not the recreation center is constructed at Mills Park or at another site. He inquired as to whether those costs had been deducted from the estimated cost of locating the recreation center at Mills Park. With regard to the Edmonds Sports Complex site, he advised that access is an existing problem and the opinion that it will worsen once the freeway is completed. None of the residents to the west of the freeway will have pedestrian access to South Edmonds. Mr. Nowlin suggested that locating the recreation center at the Edmonds Sports Complex and expanding its use will worsen existing traffic problems on South Edmonds Drive. He advised that the parking lot does not presently sustain additional use during soccer tournaments. He inquired as to whether large soccer tournaments and the recreation center could be accommodated at the same time. He suggested that access to South Edmonds needs to be seriously considered. He found the proposal presented by Ms. Jesse "extremely interesting," and agreed that there is synergy associated with utilizing the WNCC site. He suggested the key to the proposal is co-use. He expressed the opinion that using the site, given WNCC's expansion into sports activities, would require considerably more space than the proposed 60,000-square-foot facility. In response to a question, Mr. Rose discussed differences in the cost estimates between the Lumos & Associates parking study and the Site Evaluation Report.

(6:34:02) BMX Track Operator Mary Leaming expressed support for the new recreation center. She requested that sufficient notice be provided if moving the track is contemplated in order to not lose a racing season. She expressed a willingness to relocate the BMX track, but reiterated the importance of sufficient notice. In response to a comment, she expressed a preference for the track to be completed prior to beginning construction on a recreation center. BMX events are scheduled throughout the year.

Commissioner Davis inquired as to the feasibility of constructing the new recreation center without impacting the BMX track. Mr. Rose explained that the recreation facility will require additional parking, and suggested there should be some degree of separation between the BMX track and the recreation center. Mr. Moellendorf advised that if the decision is made to construct the recreation center at the Edmonds Sports Complex, Parks Department staff would be committed to replacing the BMX track in a timely fashion so as not to disrupt the racing season. In response to a question, Ms. Leaming advised that the BMX track was designed and is maintained by BMX participants.

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Chairperson Curtis called for additional public comment; however, none was forthcoming. In response to a question, Mr. Moellendorf advised that amenities will be included for consideration once a recommendation is presented to the commission. Commissioner McKenna expressed concern over staff presenting a recommendation, and a preference for a decision matrix instead. He noted that “this is one minor part of a community-wide discussion.” He suggested deciding upon how to make the decision, getting the factors needed to fill the matrix, and then making a decision. Mr. Moellendorf agreed that the suggestion may somewhat speed up the process. He noted that WNCC’s offer added an element to consider. (6:41:53) In response to a question, Ms. Jesse advised that the City would have access to funds once appropriated by the Legislature. Discussion followed, and Mr. Rose advised that some cooperation from the Division of State Lands would be required to make the proposal viable. He offered to expand the Site Evaluation Matrix to include other evaluation criteria. Chairperson Curtis thanked Mr. Rose.

2-D. DISCUSSION AND PRESENTATION ONLY REGARDING THE NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION’S AESTHETIC TREATMENTS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF BASIC COMPONENTS FOR CARSON CITY’S “ULTIMATE” LANDSCAPE DESIGN CONCEPTS FOR THE CARSON CITY FREEWAY - PHASE 1 PROJECT (NORTHERN LEG) (6:46:37) - At Mr. Krahn’s request, Chairperson Curtis recessed the meeting at 6:47 p.m. and reconvened at 6:53 p.m. Mr. Krahn reviewed the staff report and introduced Tom Stille of Interpretive Gardens. Mr. Stille provided background information on development of the bio-regional revegetation / landscape design concept. Mr. Krahn narrated a SlideShow presentation, including discussion of the freeway phases and construction time table; a description of the locations of the freeway interchanges and neighborhood gateways; review of the aesthetic treatment concepts, including slopes, boulders and palettes, bridges and color treatments, sound wall patterns, stamped concrete, and revegetation treatments. He narrated conceptual and actual photographs of the project, and discussed utilization of the water quality basins as community amenities. Mr. Fahrenbruch provided background information on discussions regarding maintenance of the freeway landscape.

As part of the SlideShow presentation, Mr. Stille and Mr. Krahn discussed soil selection, slope grading techniques, erosion control measures, and the seed mixes. Mr. Krahn advised that all the cut slopes presently have approximately 15 percent coverage and all the fill slopes have approximately 30 percent coverage from the seeds which were applied. He and Mr. Stille discussed slope stabilization provided by the erosion control measures. Mr. Krahn commended NDOT Project Manager Jim Gallegos on his participation in the project.

Commissioner McKenna inquired as to whether any consideration had been given to keeping wildlife away from the freeway slopes. Mr. Krahn advised that NDOT controls slope access with chain link fences. In response to a previous comment, Mr. Stille acknowledged that rabbit brush is very allergenic. He noted that it is a “wonderful pioneer specie,” and expressed the opinion it would have been impossible to keep it from growing on the freeway slopes. With regard to wildlife, he suggested birds may be attracted to some of the vegetation, and advised that the overriding concern was what would grow on the 2:1 slopes. He suggested that any vegetation which proves to be problematic could be removed in the future. In response to a question, Mr. Fahrenbruch advised that irrigation is planned for the gateways but there is no irrigation on the NDOT rights-of-way. Mr. Krahn explained that NDOT had installed irrigation sleeves, electrical drops, and water caps for all the interchanges and gateways.

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In response to a question, Mr. Krahn advised that most of the interchanges are comprised of 3-4 acres. Each of the neighborhood gateways are comprised of approximately one acre. Mr. Krahn estimated 16 to 17 acres of potential landscape as currently planned. He acknowledged approximately 21 acres for the southern leg of the freeway, and that the freeway landscape will represent one of the largest park maintenance responsibilities. Mr. Fahrenbruch advised that a determination had not yet been made with regard to using potable or reclaimed water. Higher maintenance costs may be associated with irrigation components depending upon which type of water is used. Staff continues to research costs. To reduce maintenance costs, the irrigation system will be connected to the City's centralized irrigation control system.

In response to a question, Mr. Fahrenbruch advised of serious concerns, on the part of NDOT representatives, over keeping people out of the area between the fence and the right-of-way. NDOT representatives were supportive of making the freeway slopes visually attractive. Mr. Fahrenbruch advised that community gardens were discussed at one time but dismissed because of liability concerns. In response to a question, he expressed the opinion there may be certain gateways which could be accessible to demonstration gardens by volunteer groups. In response to a question, Mr. Krahn reviewed the process by which this presentation will be made to the Regional Transportation Commission and the Board of Supervisors. From a design standpoint, there will be no further presentations to this commission. Staff will proceed to design development and eventually construction documents.

(7:41:25) GROW President Mary Fischer introduced Marie Bresch and Jan Miller, and acknowledged all the other members of GROW. She discussed a multi-purpose path to be included on the west side of the freeway for much of phase 1. She suggested there may be opportunities for "different things to develop along that path." She thanked Senator Reid for his assistance in securing funding for the phase 1 landscape. Chairperson Curtis thanked Ms. Fischer and GROW for all their efforts. Ms. Fischer commented that NDOT has been "marvelous." She advised that a State landscape plan was developed, with the assistance of Frankie Sue Del Papa, from this process. The plan will provide additional future funding opportunities for Carson City. The plan also provides for all new NDOT construction projects to retain a landscaper. Ms. Fischer expressed appreciation for all the assistance provided by City representatives.

2-E. ACTION TO RECOMMEND TO THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION AND THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS APPROVAL OF THE CITY'S "ULTIMATE" LANDSCAPE DESIGN CONCEPTS FOR THE CARSON CITY FREEWAY - PHASE 2 PROJECT (SOUTHERN LEG) (7:44:41) - Mr. Krahn provided background information on this item, reviewed the staff report, and narrated a SlideShow presentation of the design concepts. Mr. Stille described how the east and west facing slopes of the Sierra Nevada range and Great Basin vegetation were incorporated into the design concept. He discussed temporary and permanent irrigation methods, and pointed out corresponding locations along the freeway corridor. Mr. Krahn responded to questions regarding disposition of the warm spring water on the southeast side of Fifth Street. Commissioner McKenna suggested incorporating the water into the landscape features of the Fifth Street overpass.

Mr. Krahn discussed contour grading proposed for the Fairview interchange, and narrated corresponding slides. He explained that contour grading builds upon rock placement which builds upon talus placement. Mr. Stille described the proposed plant palette, noting the introduction of riparian plants. In response to a question, Mr. Krahn advised that traffic control will be one cost to be incurred as the interchanges are landscaped. In response to a further question, he advised that NDOT is providing a very basic seed mix,

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and erosion control treatment with boulders and some talus. Anything to be added by the City will have to be done at a later time. Mr. Krahn discussed the importance of landscaping each interchange and grade separation well; keeping maintenance costs to a minimum and visually mitigating the freeway. Additional funding can be pursued into the future.

Mr. Krahn narrated slides of the basic seed mix to be provided by NDOT and proposed landscape to be provided by the City at a later time. He acknowledged that structure colors will be the same for phase 2. He reviewed the design concept for the Carson Canyon stretch of the freeway, including descriptions of the proposed contour grading; utilizing the barrier rails as retaining walls; rocks, boulders, and talus; and sound walls. He discussed the involvement of Washoe Tribe representatives in developing sound wall designs for phase 2B of the freeway. At Mr. Krahn's request, Mr. Stille described soil harvesting methods. Mr. Krahn narrated additional slides depicting design concepts for the South Carson Street interchange, and provided a brief overview of the noxious weed abatement plan. He acknowledged NDOT representatives, Mr. Fahrenbruch, Public Works Director Andrew Burnham, GROW representatives, Mr. Stille, and many others for their efforts in developing the design concepts.

Commissioner Livermore commended Parks Department staff and all the volunteers involved in making the "best for Carson City in the long run." He commented that the proposed landscape is "very gorgeous," and advised he "couldn't be more pleased and proud." He expressed the opinion the plan is well thought out and well designed, and the hope that there will be sufficient funding to implement it. He complimented Mr. Krahn, Mr. Fahrenbruch, and everyone involved. Commissioner McKenna expressed a preference for establishing an area to memorialize the contributions of GROW representatives and other volunteers. Mr. Krahn advised that interpretative signage will be installed along the freeway, and suggested this may be a method by which to memorialize volunteer efforts. Chairperson Curtis complimented Mr. Krahn on his presentation and involvement in the process.

In response to a question regarding the water quality basins, Mr. Krahn discussed serious concerns over access control by NDOT and the Federal Highways Administration. He expressed the opinion that water quality basins serving as more than a visual amenity will be unlikely. He acknowledged that the area east of Fifth Street to Butti Way will be fenced to control access. In response to a question, he reviewed landscape for the linear path using a displayed map. Chairperson Curtis called for public comment and, when none was forthcoming, entertained a motion. **Commissioner McKenna moved to recommend to the Regional Transportation Commission and to the Board of Supervisors approval of the City's ultimate landscape design concepts for the Carson City Freeway Phase 2 Project, south leg. Vice Chairperson Hoffman seconded the motion. Motion carried 8-0.**

4. NON-ACTION ITEMS:

STATUS REPORTS AND COMMENTS FROM STAFF (8:32:06) - Mr. Moellendorf reviewed the FYI items included in the agenda materials. He referred to the latest edition of the *Discover Us* publication which was distributed to the commissioners prior to the start of the meeting. He commended Ms. Singer and her staff on the new format. He noted the letters commending Mr. Fahrenbruch and his staff received from Gary and Patricia Hunter and the Carson City Historical Society.

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Mr. Moellendorf reported on Parks Division personnel's involvement in assisting Fire Department and Public Works Department personnel during the recent flood event. He commended everyone involved and noted that damage to the City was kept to a bare minimum. Mr. Fahrenbruch reported on the specifics of Parks personnel involvement. He echoed Mr. Moellendorf's comments and advised that every division within the Parks and Recreation Department was involved in the event. He commended the Parks and Recreation Department staff. In response to a question, he advised that the detention basins at Long Ranch Park worked as they were designed to; Long Ranch Park suffered minimal damage. Mr. Fahrenbruch discussed the benefit of deploying inmate work crews.

Mr. Moellendorf reported that, as part of a team effort with the Economic Development and the Public Works Departments, four separate grants were recently submitted to NDOT. Three are for gateway signage, the proposed locations of which he described. The fourth grant is for enhanced fencing along some of the detention ponds near the south interchange of Highways 50 and 395. Mr. Moellendorf described the grant opportunity and its corresponding deadline. He circulated a flyer for the Nevada Recreation and Parks Society Annual Conference scheduled for January 29 through February 1. He advised that registration fees could be paid for up to three commissioners to attend. Chairperson Curtis had expressed a desire to attend, and he requested any other interested commissioners to contact him. (8:43:46) Mr. Moellendorf reported that a second meeting with the Fairgrounds Users Coalition would be held on January 4, 2006.

STATUS REPORTS, COMMENTS, AND CONCERNS FROM COMMISSIONERS (8:30:45)

- Chairperson Curtis suggested listing the FYI items on the agenda as consent items in order that they could be discussed by the commissioners or the public. (8:32:28) Commissioner Herst advised she would be absent from the January 17th commission meeting. (8:43:16) Chairperson Curtis advised that Lee Plemel would be presenting the master plan to the Central Democratic Committee on January 4, 2006.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS (8:44:16) - Commissioner McKenna requested a status report on the auto show at Fuji Park which was approved by the Planning Commission. Chairperson Curtis requested to review the commission's bylaws. Vice Chairperson Hoffman requested to review facility use rates.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM STAFF (8:46:01) - None.

5. ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT (8:46:05) - Vice Chairperson Hoffman moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 p.m. Commissioner Herst seconded the motion. Motion carried 8-0. Chairperson Curtis thanked former Chairperson Keeton for his service to the commission.

The Minutes of the January 3, 2006 meeting of the Carson City Parks and Recreation Commission are so approved this 7th day of February, 2006.

DONNA CURTIS, Chair