

**CARSON CITY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**Minutes of the December 4, 2001 Meeting**

**Page 1**

A regular meeting of the Carson City Parks and Recreation Commission was scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 4, 2001 in the Community Center Sierra Room, 851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada.

**PRESENT:** Chairperson Glen Martel  
Vice Chairperson Jim Dunn  
Larry Osborne  
Jon Plank  
John Simms  
Stacie Wilke  
Charles Wright

**STAFF:** Steve Kastens, Parks and Recreation Director  
Vern Krahn, Parks Planner  
Barbara Singer, Recreation Superintendent  
Kathleen King, Recording Secretary

**NOTE:** Unless indicated otherwise, each item was introduced by Chairperson Martel. 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 (1-0001)** - Chairperson Martel called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Roll was called; a quorum was present. Commissioners Cabrera and Elverum were absent. Commissioner Wilke arrived at 5:33 p.m.

**ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES - OCTOBER 2, 2001 (1-0007)** - Vice Chairperson Dunn moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Simms seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS (1-0014)** - None.

**AGENDA ITEMS:**

**1. DISCUSSION ONLY ON CONCEPTUAL PLAN TO CONVERT THE PONY EXPRESS PAVILION IN MILLS PARK INTO THE NEW COMMUNITY GYMNASIUM AND CONSTRUCT A NEW FACILITY AT THE NORTHRIDGE DRIVE AND LOMPA LANE SITE FOR ROLLER HOCKEY AND OTHER USES (1-0018)** - Mr. Kastens reviewed the staff report and provided an overview of the Quality of Life Initiative with regard to the community gymnasium. He reviewed the space available in the existing facility and uses of the various rooms and the main gymnasium. He provided information regarding growth since 1996 of the athletic and youth programs currently housed at the Community Center. He discussed the possibility of youth volleyball and adult soccer programs, and advised that school district facilities are becoming less available due to the increase of school-sponsored athletic programs.

Mr. Kastens provided background information on the Pony Express Pavilion, its intended and current uses, and the available square footage. He advised that Palmer & Lauder Engineering was consulted with regard to assessing the feasibility of enclosing the Pavilion. The assessment revealed that the existing structure

## CARSON CITY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

### Minutes of the December 4, 2001 Meeting

#### Page 2

only supports the roof, and that the most feasible approach would be to construct a "building inside a building." Mr. Kastens commented that constructing a 30,000 square foot facility would be more expensive than starting with the existing structure. He advised that Palmer & Lauder provided a very preliminary estimate of \$3.5 million. The original gymnasium budget outlined in the Quality of Life Initiative is approximately \$1.2 million.

Mr. Kastens discussed possibilities for accommodating and/or relocating the existing users. Commissioner Simms expressed support for the idea but suggested getting responses from the user groups first. Mr. Kastens agreed and advised that the purpose for agendaizing discussion of this item was to get input from the Commissioners and any interested citizens. He noted that the item was the subject of a front page story in both the Nevada *Appeal* and the Carson/Douglas section of the Reno *Gazette-Journal*. He further noted that David Morgan included it in his December 3<sup>rd</sup> news broadcast. He assured the Commissioners that he would not agendaize this item for action until adequate public testimony is received. Commissioner Plank expressed support for the idea and commented that alternative sites for the existing users will need to be secured. He expressed support, from a customer's point of view, for relocating the Farmer's Market to the Mills Park picnic pavilions. In response to a question, Mr. Kastens indicated that the next step will be to "wait awhile" for the response from the citizens and users. If the response is not overwhelmingly negative, Mr. Kastens indicated that he will begin to develop answers to questions regarding costs, alternative user sites, etc. He solicited additional questions and comments from the Commissioners and indicated that he will pursue answers in order to develop a comprehensive proposal.

In response to a question, Ms. Singer advised of a conversation regarding this proposal with Kathy Blankenship of the Boys and Girls Club. Ms. Singer further advised of her position as Program Chairman for the Boys and Girls Club Governing Board and indicated that she would be working closely with Ms. Blankenship if this plan is pursued. Ms. Singer indicated that Ms. Blankenship was not personally opposed to the proposal. Commissioner Osborne expressed an interest in the opinions of the Boys and Girls Club Governing Board members. He discussed his interest in having a gymnasium next to the Boys and Girls Club, and expressed a concern regarding so many community facilities in one location. He concurred with Commissioner Simms' comments regarding the importance of receiving input from the Pavilion "stakeholders." Ms. Singer assured the Commissioners that City staff will work with all the Pavilion user groups. She pointed out that the Recreation Division is one of the user groups and discussed the benefits to Recreation Division programs of enclosing the Pavilion. Vice Chairperson Dunn expressed support for the concept, and commented on the need for additional facilities. He discussed the importance of offering new programs and "keeping up with the trends."

(1-0565) Renee Mayo, representing the Sierra In-Line Hockey Association, expressed support for the concept and discussed problems associated with the existing facility. She expressed a preference for the association remaining in connection with the City rather than a private organization. She expressed appreciation for the City's support and contributions to the Hockey Association. She solicited input from the Commissioners with regard to a vacant building that doesn't have support posts in the floor. She committed to working with the City and to "getting the word out" to the Hockey Association.

Chairperson Martel called for additional public comment and, when none was provided, closed public testimony. Chairperson Martel expressed agreement with the comments of Commissioners Simms and Osborne, and commented on the importance of receiving input from the users. Mr. Kastens reiterated the request for questions and input from the Commissioners and the citizens.

**CARSON CITY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**Minutes of the December 4, 2001 Meeting**

**Page 3**

**2. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON ALLOCATING \$75,000 FROM THE PARK BOND FUND FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF PERMANENT PARKING ON HIGHWAY 50 EAST ADJACENT TO MILLS PARK (1-0646)** - Mr. Kastens reviewed the staff report and provided an overview of the parking plan. Commissioner Plank discussed the possibility of allocating redevelopment funding for this project. Chairperson Martel expressed support for moving forward with the project. Commissioner Osborne concurred and discussed the need to ensure matching funds are available. Commissioner Wilke discussed safety concerns which would be addressed by completion of this project. Commissioner Plank pointed out that the Carson City Convention and Visitors Bureau funded relocation of the bicycle path and advised that this portion of the project has been completed. **Commissioner Simms moved that the Parks and Recreation Commission recommend to the Board of Supervisors that \$75,000 from the Park Bond fund be allocated to the construction of the parking lot on Highway 50 East adjacent to Mills Park contingent on the Board of Supervisors matching the \$75,000 or making up the remaining expense of the project. Commissioner Osborne seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.**

**3. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON ALLOCATING \$25,000 FROM THE PARK BOND FUND FOR THE PURCHASE OF DASHER BOARDS AT THE PONY EXPRESS PAVILION (1-0825)** - Mr. Kastens reviewed the staff report, and discussed cooperative efforts between Parks staff and representatives of the Hockey Association to research dasher board systems. Commissioner Simms expressed support for the allocation and discussed the importance of safety at the roller hockey rink. He expressed the opinion that if the dasher boards are not replaced soon, the roller hockey program will most likely not be able to continue. He noted that the new dasher boards could be relocated to a new facility, and suggested that the Commissioners visit the rink to view the existing dasher boards. He commended City staff and the Hockey Association members on their efforts in making the hockey rink viable. Commissioner Plank concurred and provided background information on development of the Hockey Association. In response to a question, Mr. Kastens advised that approximately \$62,000 was originally allocated toward this purchase. He advised that the Hockey Association raised \$5,000 and has expressed a willingness to raise additional funding. **Commissioner Wright moved to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that \$25,000 from the Park Bond fund be allocated for the purchase of dasher boards at the Pony Express Pavilion. Commissioner Simms seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.**

**4. STATUS REPORT ON THE PARKS AND RECREATION STRATEGIC MASTER PLAN (1-0952)** - Mr. Krahn reviewed the staff report and the attached survey. Mr. Kastens advised that Jeff Winston will be developing a cost estimate for the master plan. Chairperson Martel commented that this project is off to a good start, and discussed Mr. Winston's beneficial input to the process. Mr. Kastens advised that School District, BLM, WNCC, and U.S. Forest Service representatives were very supportive of the process.

**5. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON THE WAIVER OF REFUNDABLE CLEANING DEPOSITS FOR PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES (1-1126)** - Mr. Kastens reviewed the staff report. Commissioner Plank provided background information on this item and solicited comments from the Commissioners. Commissioner Osborne expressed support for continuing to require deposits. In response to a question, Mr. Kastens discussed the time frame in which deposits are returned to eligible renters. In response to a further question, he provided information regarding deposit amounts. He discussed staff concerns regarding repairs and cleaning, and advised of a policy implemented a couple years ago to double cleaning deposits for renters who opt not to get their deposit back. Chairperson Martel expressed support for continuing to require deposits. Commissioner Osborne discussed the difference

**CARSON CITY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**Minutes of the December 4, 2001 Meeting**

**Page 4**

between user fees and cleaning deposits. **Commissioner Osborne moved that the Parks and Recreation Commission strongly recommend to the Board of Supervisors that they not grant waivers for the refundable cleaning deposits for parks and recreation facilities. Commissioner Wright seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.** (1-1302) Commissioner Plank thanked the Commissioners for their support.

**GENERAL DISCUSSION**

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS** (1-1274) - Mr. Kastens advised that the CIP process will be agendized for the next meeting. He referred to discussion during last year's CIP process regarding possible modification of the process. Chairperson Martel and Commissioners Simms and Osborne volunteered to meet with staff and discuss the process.

**COMMENTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS** (1-1307) - Commissioner Simms expressed a concern regarding the dirt lot on the west side of the Community Center. Mr. Kastens advised that the lot will be included in the CIP process. Commissioner Simms expressed a preference for addressing the dirt lot in addition to the Highway 50 parking. Discussion took place with regard to the same. (1-1433) Commissioner Simms expressed appreciation for Parks Superintendent Scott Fahrenbruch's efforts in addressing concerns expressed by members of the Little League Baseball Program.

**STATUS REPORTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS** (1-1266) - None.

**COMMENTS AND STATUS REPORTS FROM STAFF** (1-1306) - None.

**STATUS REPORT ON QUESTION #18, RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION TAX, AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT** (1-1375) - Mr. Krahn advised that Mills Park is in the final construction stage. All major construction and the hydroseeding was done prior to the last storm. Punch list items remain to be completed. Mr. Krahn further reported that the bike path project is complete, and discussed the possibility of a ribbon cutting ceremony. He discussed the Veteran's Memorial rededication ceremony at Mills Park, and invited the Commissioners to visit the memorial. Commissioner Wilke expressed appreciation for the work done on the bike path adjacent to Rattlesnake Hill. Mr. Krahn advised that the Utilities Department is considering construction of a bike path around the east and south sides of the reclaimed water facility. (1-1457) Mr. Krahn advised that landscaping for the T-Ball parking lot is complete and in the punch list stage.

**ADJOURNMENT** (1-1475) - Commissioner Wilke moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 p.m. Commissioner Simms seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

The Minutes of the December 4, 2001 meeting of the Carson City Parks and Recreation Commission are so approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of December, 2001.

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GLEN MARTEL, Chairperson