

**CARSON CITY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**Minutes of the February 21, 2012 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, February 21, 2012, in the Community Center Sierra Room, 851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada.

**PRESENT:** Chairperson Steve Lasco  
Vice Chairperson Molly Walt  
Commissioner Chuck Adams  
Commissioner Janice Brod  
Commissioner Donna Curtis  
Commissioner Brett Long  
Commissioner Sean Lehmann  
Commissioner Todd Westergard

**STAFF:** Roger Moellendorf, Parks and Recreation Department Director  
Tina Russom, Deputy District Attorney  
Juan Guzman, Open Space Manager  
Vern Krahn, Park Planner  
Tamar Warren, Recording Secretary

**NOTE:** A recording of these proceedings, the Commission's agenda materials, and any written comments or documentation provided to the recording secretary during the meeting, are part of the public record. These materials are available for review, in the Clerk's Office, during regular business hours.

**CALL TO ORDER (5:32:22)** – Chairperson Lasco called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

**ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM (5:32:33)** – Roll was called; a quorum was present. Vice Chairperson Walt and Commissioner Westergard arrived at 5:36 p.m. Commissioner Wilson was absent.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS (5:32:58)** – Chairperson Lasco entertained citizen comments; however none were forthcoming.

**1. ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES (5:33:05)** – Chairperson Lasco introduced the item. **Commissioner Brod moved to approve the minutes of the December 6, 2011 meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Curtis. Motion carried 6-0.**

**2. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA (5:33:29)** – There were no modifications to the agenda.

**3. STAFF UPDATES - DISCUSSION ONLY - NO DELIBERATION**

**A. INTRODUCTION OF BRETT LONG, THE NEW PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSIONER. (5:33:56)** – Chairperson Lasco introduced the item and reported that several commissioners had been reappointed, and Commissioner Long was a new appointee, and asked him to introduce himself. Commissioner Long explained that he had been a resident for the past eleven years, and noted his interests “that utilized the areas that Parks and Rec provide”.

**B. UPDATE REGARDING THE PURCHASE OF THE BENTLY PROPERTY. (5:35:14)** – Chairperson Lasco introduced the item. Mr. Guzman delivered a presentation describing the fee title acquisition of 497 acres, in the northwest area of Highway 395. He also noted that a cultural resources inventory, to be reviewed by the State Office of Historic Preservation (SHPO), would be conducted. Mr. Guzman added that a two-phased environmental review was completed, and the second phase, with actual soil samples, was approved by the Nevada Department of Environmental Protection for public recreation. He also outlined some of the challenges associated with the land becoming City property, such as enforcing the no shooting policy. Mr. Guzman explained that motorized access will continue on the Bently property until V&T requires access for building tracks; however, he did not know when that would

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take place. In response to a question by Commissioner Curtis, Mr. Guzman clarified that there was one more piece of land, between the Bently property and Lyon County, requiring a future acquisition in order to obtain motorized access from Lyon County to the Bently Property, adding that the landowner wished to sell the entire property that spanned two counties as one piece, and ordinances would not allow funds to be used for land purchases outside Carson City. Mr. Guzman also noted that the V&T had obtained easements on the BLM lands between Lyon County and Carson City, except one area. In response to Commissioner Brod's question, Mr. Guzman explained that a ranger would be in the area, however, his job was not to confront those breaking the law but to escalate the issue to law enforcement. Mr. Moellendorf explained that this property received a grant because it fell into the outdoor and passive recreation potential. Commissioner Walt received confirmation that a large portion of the time and money from Open Space would be dedicated towards the maintenance of the properties and trails. She also congratulated Mr. Guzman on the acquisition. Chairperson Lasco entertained public comments; however, none were forthcoming. He also congratulated Open Space for a job well done.

**C. UPDATE REGARDING THE KINGS CANYON TO ASH CANYON TRAIL PROJECT. (5:57:46)**

– Chairperson Lasco introduced the item. Mr. Guzman explained that on February 27<sup>th</sup>, at 6 p.m. the US Forest Service would accept public testimony regarding this project. He also presented a map, incorporated into the record, highlighting the proposed trail, the land owned by the City, and the land owned by the US Forest Service. He also presented a Staff Report, incorporated into the record, the project details and the public comment form and process. Mr. Guzman anticipated that the trail would be built “through Muscle Powered” and that they would be “the main body of maintenance as well”. He also believed that if they found additional funding sources through grants, they would open it up for motorized access, adding that they City had granted \$5,000 for equipment, and another \$10,000 was also set aside. Commissioner Lehmann wondered about the private land owners agreeing to have trails go through the land. Mr. Guzman responded that he had written to the land owners but had not heard back. Mr. Guzman also elaborated that some of the private lands were former mining areas, and Commissioner Westergard added that some were grazing lands. Mr. Moellendorf reminded everyone that another public meeting was held on February 13<sup>th</sup> as well, and Mr. Guzman commented that 70 people had attended the hearing, most of them in favor of the trails. Commissioner Brod noted that “Bikes Belong” was another potential source of funding. Chairperson Lasco entertained public comments; however none were forthcoming.

**D. UPDATE REGARDING THE LAKEVIEW PARK TRAILHEAD AND CARSON RIVER PARK PHASE 2 PROJECTS. (6:17:22)**

– Chairperson Lasco introduced the item. Mr. Krahn shared several newspaper articles, incorporated into the record, and announced the opening of the Lakeview Park Trailhead and Phase 2 of the Carson River Park project, noting that the picnic benches had just arrived and were being installed. He added that a ribbon-cutting ceremony was planned for spring 2012. Mr. Krahn thanked the Public Works Department and the Nevada All-State Trail Riders for their assistance in completing the Lakeview Park Trailhead. He also added that the re-vegetation and a kiosk were the only items left to complete that project. Chairperson Lasco entertained public comments; however none were forthcoming.

**4. MEETING ITEMS**

**A. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION TO ELEC A CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION. (6:20:08)**

– Chairperson Lasco introduced the item. Mr. Moellendorf reminded the Commission that, according to their bylaws, a Chair and Vice Chair must be elected during the first meeting of the year. Chairperson Lasco suggested nominations were in order, and noted that each term was for one year. **Commissioner Westergard nominated Vice Chairperson Walt for the position of Chairperson. Commissioner Adams seconded the nomination. Commissioner Brod nominated Commissioner Lehmann for the position of Chairperson. Commissioner Curtis seconded the nomination.** Commissioner Long explained that because this was his first meeting with the Commission, he would abstain from voting for both positions, as he did not know the nominees well enough. Chairperson Lasco entertained Commissioner comments. Commissioner Curtis believed that it would be inappropriate for a member of the Board of Supervisors or the School Board to serve as a chair of a citizens' committee, and noted Vice Chairperson Walt's busy schedule. She was also concerned that this Commission had not been as active

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as it had been in the past. Commissioner Westergard suggested that Commissioner Curtis' issues would need to be addressed via the by-laws. Commissioner Brod noted that "Steve and Molly have both done a great job", adding that it was her personal opinion that "it was nice to rotate officers", and Commissioners Lehmann and Westergard expressed their agreement. Vice Chairperson Walt explained that members of the Board of Supervisors were on commissions because of a State Statute requirement, adding that "anything beyond that is our personal choice". She also noted that the City was re-evaluating the Commissions and the City Manager was looking into several factors such as term limits, successions, etc. She appreciated the fact that some perceived her as "too busy"; however, she would accept the nomination, calling her attendance "very good". Chairperson Lasco explained that he also believed in rotations, and called for a vote, since there were no other nominations. **Commissioner Westergard moved to close the nominations. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Adams. Chairperson Lasco called for a vote in favor of Vice Chairperson Walt's nomination as Chair. Motion failed 3-4-1. Chairperson Lasco called for a vote in favor of Commissioner Lehmann as Chair. Motion carried 4-3-1.** Chairperson Lasco congratulated Commissioner Lehman.

(6:31:31) – Chairperson Lasco entertained nominations for the position of Vice Chair. **Commissioner Adams nominated Commissioner Westergard for the position of Vice Chair. The nomination was seconded by Vice Chairperson Walt. Commissioner Lehmann nominated Commissioner Brod for the position of Vice Chair. The nomination was seconded by Commissioner Curtis.** Chairperson Lasco called for additional discussion, and when none were forthcoming, a vote. **Commissioner Brod was elected to the position of Vice Chair by a vote of 4-3-1.** Chairperson Lasco entertained public comments; however, none were forthcoming.

**B. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY AND A REVIEW OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION BYLAWS.** (6:32:54) – Chairperson Lasco introduced the item. Mr. Moellendorf thanked Chairperson Lasco and Vice Chairperson Walt for serving on the Commission and believed that they "both did a great job". He also presented a Staff Report, incorporated into the record, comprising of the Commission's by-laws, and solicited the Commissioners' input. He explained that the Commission could not vote on the proposed changes at this time. Commissioner Westergard suggested waiting for the upcoming changes from the Board of Supervisors and the City Manager prior to voting on the by-laws. Commissioners suggested several changes and sought input from Ms. Russom and Mr. Moellendorf. Discussion also ensued regarding the Open Meeting Law, and Ms. Russom ensured that all commissions were subject to that Law. Mr. Moellendorf agreed to incorporate the suggested changes and return them to the March meeting for a vote.

**C. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: TO APPROVE SCHEDULING A PARKS AND FACILITIES TOUR THIS SPRING.** (6:38:29) – Chairperson Lasco introduced the item. Mr. Moellendorf noted that the Commission had expressed interest in touring the parks, and explained that since the parks system had grown extensively, he suggested a two or three-hour tour. He suggested having this tour on a Saturday and proposed several dates. Several Commissioners expressed interest in having the tour in place of a scheduled Parks and Recreation Commission meeting. Mr. Moellendorf clarified that the tour would have to be posted and open to the public. **Vice Chairperson Walt moved to have the Parks and Facilities tour on Tuesday, May 1, 2012, in place of the regularly-scheduled Parks and Recreation Commission meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lehmann.** Chairperson Lasco entertained public comments, and when none were forthcoming, a vote. **Motion carried 8-0.**

**D. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: TO DETERMINE A POSSIBLE COURSE OF ACTION AND RECOMMENDATION REGARDING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES' "AMERICAN ENERGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE JOBS ACT" TRANSPORTATION BILL.** (6:44:41) – Chairperson Lasco introduced the item. Mr. Moellendorf explained that Commissioner Curtis had requested this agenda item, and presented a Staff Report, incorporated into the record. He noted that two bills were being presented, one in the US House of Representatives and another in the US Senate, regarding transportation enhancement. Mr. Moellendorf read the recommendation of Patrick Pittenger, Transportation Manager, also incorporated into the record, noting that the bills would impact smaller areas such as Carson City, specifically citing that the Nevada Department of Transportation not being obligated to fund pedestrian projects. Commissioner Curtis expressed concern that non-motorized transportation was essential to Carson City and suggested recommending an action to the Board of Supervisors. In response to Commissioner Westergard's question, Mr.

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Moellendorf explained that he did not know where the Nevada delegation stood on this issue. Chairperson Lasco explained the importance of Safe Route to School to Carson City, and Commissioner Lehmann explained that the bike lane on Kings Canyon Road was a good example of the need to advocate Safe Route to School. Chairperson Lasco suggested a creative engineering solution to the problem. Mr. Moellendorf ensured that the bus service would not be jeopardized by these bills, according to Mr. Pittenger. Chairperson Lasco noted that he preferred not to make political recommendations to the Board of Supervisors; however, in this case, he believed this was appropriate to be put to the transportation commissions. **Vice Chairperson Walt moved to recommend that the Commission contact the Board of Supervisors in writing and request that they oppose the proposed bills. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Curtis.** Commissioner Westergard noted that he would abstain, because he was “not educated enough” about it. Commissioner Curtis suggested explaining to the Board of Supervisors that the Commission supported Safe Route to Schools. Commissioner Brod inquired about a timeline. Discussion ensues regarding the impact the Commission’s recommendation would make. Mr. Moellendorf suggested that Staff draft a letter, to be signed by the Commission Chairperson requesting the action proposed in the motion. Chairperson Lasco called for public comments, and when none were forthcoming, a vote. **Motion carried 7-0-1.**

**5. MEMBERS’ ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION.** (7:06:07) – Chairperson Lasco introduced the item. Vice Chairperson Walt inquired about the annual budget and Mr. Moellendorf suggested discussing it in the April meeting. Chairperson Lasco congratulated everyone for a successful season of the ice rink. Vice Chairperson Walt requested an update on the ice rink, and also announced the dates and times of the AYSO registrations. Chairperson Lasco encouraged the Commission to read several articles in the Parks and Recreation Magazine. Commissioner Lehmann reported that the running event at Carson River Park had been successful and announced that the last run would take place at Washoe State Park, at 9 a.m. on March 10, 2012.

**A. REPORT FROM SCHOOL BOARD LIAISON** – Commissioner Wilson was not present to report.

**6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS** (7:09:30) – Commissioner Curtis requested information on Active Net, and Mr. Moellendorf explained that this was new software for the reservations and rentals, and suggested a future presentation. Vice Chairperson Walt praised the online reservations system of the Parks and Recreation Department, calling it “very good and very easy to use”. Commissioner Curtis suggested a goal-setting session, an implementation strategies discussion of the Master Plan, and an Open Meeting Law discussion. Commissioner Walt suggested attending the District Attorney’s annual training of the Open Meeting Law. Ms. Russom suggested reading NRS Chapter 241.

**7. CITIZEN COMMENTS** (7:17:18) – Chairperson Lasco entertained citizen comments; however none were forthcoming. Chairperson Lasco thanked In-Focus magazine for their content.

**8. ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT** (7:18:05) – **Vice Chairperson Walt moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Curtis. The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.**

The Minutes of the February 21, 2012 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting are so approved this 6<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2012.

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STEVE LASCO, Chair