

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Carson City Open Space Advisory Committee
Monday, March 16, 2015 ● 6:00 PM
Community Center Sierra Room
851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada

Board Members

Chair – Bruce Scott **Vice Chair – Howard Riedl**
Member – Margie Evans **Member – Laura Fitzsimmons**
Member – Donna Inversin **Member – Alan Welch**
Member – Toby Welborn

Staff

Roger Moellendorf, Parks and Recreation Department Director
Jennifer Mayhew, Deputy District Attorney
Ann Bollinger, Open Space Administrator
Rich Wilkinson, Senior Natural Resources Specialist
Tamar Warren, Deputy Clerk /Recording Secretary

NOTE: A recording of these proceedings, the board’s agenda materials, and any written comments or documentation provided to the recording secretary during the meeting are public record. These materials are on file in the Clerk-Recorder’s Office, and are available for review during regular business hours.

CALL TO ORDER

(5:58:54) – Chairperson Scott called the meeting to order at 5:58 p.m. and welcomed Member Welch to the Committee.

ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

(5:59:31) – Roll was called. A quorum was present.

Attendee Name	Status	Arrived
Bruce Scott	Present	
Howard Riedl	Present	
Margie Evans	Present	
Laura Fitzsimmons	Present	
Donna Inversin	Present	
Alan Welch	Present	
Toby Welborn	Absent	

(6:00:09) – Chairperson Scott acknowledged the new Senior Natural Resources Specialist, Rich Wilkinson, and invited him to introduce himself. Mr. Wilkinson noted that he had lived in the area since the age of five, attending school in Dayton, Nevada and University of Nevada, Reno where he received his “Environmental Resources Science degree”. He also noted that he had been previously employed by Nevada State Parks, and most recently had managed the Dayton Valley Conservation District.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

(6:01:55) – None.

1. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES

(6:02:45) – MOTION: I move to approve the Open Space Advisory Committee meeting minutes for Monday, December 15, 2014 as written.

RESULT:	APPROVED (6-0-0)
MOVER:	Riedl
SECONDER:	Evans
AYES:	Scott, Riedl, Evans, Fitzsimmons, Inversin, Welch
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None
ABSENT:	Welborn

2. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA (6:02:12) – None.

3. MEETING ITEMS

A. FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: TO ELECT A CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON OF THE OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR 2015.

(6:03:20) – Chairperson Scott entertained nominations for the position of Chair and Vice Chair.

(6:03:37) – MOTION: I move to nominate Bruce Scott for the position of Chairperson.

RESULT:	APPROVED (6-0-0)
MOVER:	Riedl
SECONDER:	Evans
AYES:	Scott, Riedl, Evans, Fitzsimmons, Inversin, Welch
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None
ABSENT:	Welborn

(6:03:42) – MOTION: I move to nominate Howard Riedl as Vice Chairperson of the Open Space Advisory Committee for 2015.

RESULT:	APPROVED (6-0-0)
MOVER:	Evans
SECONDER:	Fitzsimmons
AYES:	Scott, Riedl, Evans, Fitzsimmons, Inversin, Welch
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None
ABSENT:	Welborn

B. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ONLY ON THE WETLANDS ENHANCEMENT PROJECT AT THE OLD BUZZY’S RANCH PROPERTY BY MR. JOHN RANLETT WITH DUCKS UNLIMITED.

(6:03:45) – Chairperson Scott introduced the item. Mr. Wilkinson gave background and presented the agenda materials which are incorporated into the record. He also introduced John Ranlett of Ducks Unlimited.

(6:05:40) – Mr. Ranlett presented the Buzzy’s Ranch Wet Meadow Pasture Habitat Enhancement Project Concept, also incorporated into the record. Vice Chair Riedl inquired about the project timeline and was informed that the goal was to begin construction in fall 2015; however, if not possible, 2016 was an option as well. Member Inversin was informed that the fencing on “the lower pass” was to ensure the cows could have access to water with minimal harm to the water. Ms. Bollinger explained that a condition of purchasing the fields was to ensure they remained green, adding that either acquiring water rights or obtaining water from non-potable sources would be looked into.

PUBLIC COMMENT

(6:23:32) – Doug Martin, Chairperson of the Carson City Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife (CCABMW), introduced himself and noted that he was on the board of directors for Stillwater Farms, a member of the Canvasback Gun Club, a cattle operator at Stillwater Farms, and the owner of a retriever. Mr. Martin noted that he had been in discussions with the City regarding the use of the property by the Sierra Nevada Retriever Club. He also noted that from a waterfowl perspective, the water was not being used wisely, suggesting that shallow water management was good for both cattle and waterfowl. Mr. Martin indicated that he supported the project and invited both staff and the Committee to involve him personally or the CCABMW.

C. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ONLY REGARDING A RESEARCH PROJECT BY STUDENTS IN THE WILDERNESS ETHICS CLASS AT SIERRA NEVADA COLLEGE ON THE CARSON RIVER CANYON OPEN SPACE.

(6:28:55) – Chairperson Scott introduced the item. Ms. Bollinger gave background and introduced Mark Kimbrough, a project volunteer, who presented the additional agenda materials, incorporated into the record.

(6:34:32) – Mr. Kimbrough also showed a student video summarizing their experiences and observations. He believed that the students had broken several rules; however, they had introduced a new perspective. Member Inversin added that the students were concerned about “dumping” and illegal OHV use. Mr. Kimbrough suggested that there was a great need to do OHV projects. Chairperson Scott advised Ms. Bollinger to explore grant opportunities with OHV projects. Member Inversin explained that they were invited to speak at Carson High School and noted that one of the classes will develop an information fact sheet to be used at trailheads.

There were no additional public comments.

D. FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: TO SUPPORT THE EFFORTS OF THE EAGLE VALLEY TRAILS COMMITTEE.

(6:46:18) – Chairperson Scott introduced the item and Ms. Bollinger gave background on the Eagle Valley Trails Committee (EVTC), incorporated into the record.

(6:47:42) – Jeff Potter, a member of EVTC and a Board Member of Muscle Powered, introduced himself and presented the agenda materials which are incorporated into the record. He also noted that EVTC was working with all groups such as hikers, bikers, equestrians, and motorized equipment users. Mr. Potter explained that Muscle Powered would be responsible for trail maintenance, and thanked Member Welborn for mapping the trails.

(6:52:22) – Mr. Kimbrough discussed the coordination efforts with different agencies and noted that the item was agendaized for possible action in this meeting. He also gave the timelines for obtaining public feedback and receiving approval from private property owners when designating trail lines, adding that this was “just an inventory” project for now.

(6:57:05) – Member Inversin noted that she would abstain from voting.

There were no additional public comments.

(6:57:47) – MOTION: I move to support the efforts of the Eagle Valley Trails Committee, and I additionally move that we give them a round of thanks for all the work they have been doing.

RESULT:	APPROVED (5-0-1)
MOVER:	Evans
SECONDER:	Fitzsimmons
AYES:	Scott, Riedl, Evans, Fitzsimmons, Welch
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	Inversin
ABSENT:	Welborn

E. FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: TO RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS THE TRANSMITTAL OF A LETTER TO THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT PROVIDING COMMENTS ON THE CARSON CITY DISTRICT DRAFT RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT.

(6:58:40) – Chairperson Scott introduced the item.

(6:58:59) – Ms. Bollinger presented the agenda items which are incorporated into the record. She also noted that the proposed letter would address the highlighted topics in the agenda packet.

(7:15:05) – Member Evans suggested further clarification in the vegetation section. Ms. Bollinger noted that the comment period had been extended until the end of April. Chairperson Scott explained that tonight’s discussion and action would be to direct Staff on finalizing the comments and getting them to the Board of Supervisors.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

(7:17:15) – Mr. Kimbrough iterated the complexity and size of the document, and clarified that Alternative E was the preferred choice. He also gave examples of necessary OHV staging areas, which were not designated at this point, and gave examples of where they could be placed. He also suggested working with BLM to resolve watershed issue. Mr. Kimbrough noted that he would give his input to Ms. Bollinger for inclusion in the letter. Member Evans expressed concern over BLM’s follow-through and cited the example of the very limited or

improper weed treatments by BLM. Member Inversin wished to include all Mr. Kimbrough’s comments in the letter.

(7:3:06) – MOTION: I move to recommend that Staff continue developing the plan for the letter to the Board of Supervisors, [and] to provide the comments that we have discussed for the Draft Resource Management Plan and the Environmental Impact Statement.

(7:36:10) – Member Fitzsimmons received confirmation that Mr. Kimbrough comments would be incorporated into the letter.

RESULT:	APPROVED (6-0-0)
MOVER:	Evans
SECONDER:	Inversin
AYES:	Scott, Riedl, Evans, Fitzsimmons, Inversin, Welch
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None
ABSENT:	Welborn

F. DISCUSSION ONLY REGARDING A PROCESS TO SELECT A PROJECT(S) FOR SUBMISSION TO THE SOUTHERN NEVADA PUBLIC LANDS MANAGEMENT ACT’S PARKS, TRAILS, AND NATURAL AREAS GRANT PROGRAM.

(7:36:34) – Chairperson Scott introduced the item.

(7:36:40) – Mr. Moellendorf presented the Staff Report which is incorporated into the record. He also suggested working with the Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC), OSAC, Staff and members of the public to identify several potential grants. Chairperson Scott received confirmation that phased projects would receive a high priority. Vice Chair Riedl wished to see grants for projects that connect the community to the trails. Chairperson Scott wished to start a dialogue with the PRC and possibly have a joint working group. Mr. Moellendorf noted that bringing service to an underserved community would be well-received, and clarified that funds could not be used for planning.

There were no public comments.

G. FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: TO RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS APPROVAL OF THE FY 2015-2016 BUDGET FOR THE OPEN SPACE PROGRAM.

(7:54:00) – Chairperson Scott introduced the item. Ms. Bollinger presented the 2015-2016 Open Space budget. Vice Chairperson Riedl was informed that the budget had increased by \$50,000, which amounted to less than 10 percent. The possibility of a property manager position residing in Public Works was also discussed.

(8:08:41) MOTION: I move to recommend to the Board of Supervisors approval of the FY 2015-2016 budget for the Open Space Program.

RESULT:	APPROVED (6-0-0)
MOVER:	Inversin
SECONDER:	Riedl
AYES:	Scott, Riedl, Evans, Fitzsimmons, Inversin, Welch
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None
ABSENT:	Welborn

4. NON-ACTION ITEMS

A. REPORTS ONLY - NO ACTION OR DISCUSSION AMONG MEMBERS OR WITH STAFF WILL TAKE PLACE ON THESE ITEMS.

STATUS REPORT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM STAFF.

(8:09:14) – Ms. Bollinger announced that the previous meeting’s recommendation by OSAC for a property exchange with Michael Fagen had been approved by the Board of Supervisors. She also invited the members to The Ambrose Carson River Natural Area on Saturday, March 21, 2015, at 8:30 a.m., to work with 100 high-school students to wrap chicken wire around cottonwood trees.

MEMBERS’ ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION.

(8:10:36) – Member Inversin inquired about the Management Plan and ordinances. Ms. Bollinger noted that with the hiring of Mr. Wilkinson, they would restart the efforts in a month. Member Inversin noted that signs disallowing motorized vehicles were not present in certain areas. Member Fitzsimmons believed that the OSAC input had been given to the ordinances and action had been taken. Mr. Moellendorf offered to look into the minutes to find out. Member Evans praised Mr. Wilkinson and noted her approval for his hiring.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None.

7. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT

(8:15:45) – **MOTION: Member Welch moved to adjourn.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

The Minutes of the March 16, 2015 Carson City Open Space Advisory Committee meeting are so approved this 27th day of April, 2015.

BRUCE SCOTT, Chair