

MINUTES
Joint Meeting
Carson City Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC)
Carson City Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC)
Tuesday, June 21, 2021 ● 5:30 PM
Community Center Robert “Bob” Crowell Board Room
851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada

PRC Members

Chair – Kurt Meyer	Vice Chair – Lea Cartwright
Commissioner – Lisa Schuette	Commissioner – Stacie Wilke-McCulloch
Commissioner – Lee-Ann Keever	Commissioner – Dave Whitefield
Commissioner – Janice Caldwell	

OSAC Members

Chair – Alan Welch	Vice Chair – Donna Inversin
Member – Susan Martinovich	Member – Mark Kimbrough
Member – Mary Berge	Member – Robert Ghiglieri

Staff

Jennifer Budge, Parks and Recreation Department Director
Lyndsey Boyer, Open Space Manager
Dirk Goering, Senior Transportation Planner
Ben Johnson, Deputy District Attorney
Tamar Warren, Senior Public Meetings Clerk
Minutes by: Danielle Howard, Public Meetings Clerk

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.

An audio recording of this meeting is available on www.CarsonCity.org/minutes.

1. CALL TO ORDER

(5:33:30) – PRC Chairperson Meyer called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

(5:33:42) – Roll was called, and a quorum was present.

PRC Attendee Name	Status	Arrived
Chairperson Kurt Meyer	Present	
Vice Chairperson Lea Cartwright	Absent	
Commissioner Lisa Schuette	Present	
Commissioner Stacie Wilke-McCulloch	Present	

Commissioner Lee-Ann Keever	Present	
Commissioner Dave Whitefield	Present	
Commissioner Janice Caldwell	Present	

OSAC Attendee Name	Status	Arrived
Chairperson Alan Welch	Present	
Vice Chairperson Donna Inversin	Present	
Member Susan Martinovich	Present	
Member Mark Kimbrough	Present	
Member Mary Bergee	Present	
Member Robert Ghiglieri	Present	

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

(5:34:36) – PRC Chairperson Meyer noted that public comments would be limited to three minutes. Ms. Boyer introduced the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Senior Natural Resource Specialist Georgia Vasey and provided an overview of Ms. Vasey’s background.

(5:36:21) – PRC Chairperson Meyer entertained public comments. Kevin “CK” Bailly introduced himself as a resident of Carson City and thanked all of Staff with the Parks and Recreation Department as well as Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) staff for the restoration and resetting of the floating Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) platform at Bailly Fishing Pond. He wished to thank Paramount Iron and Handrail, Inc., Newt Concrete Construction, and Connolly Crane Service for their assistance and “the right price.” He provided some brief background on how the referenced platform had been damaged by 60 miles per hour (mph) winds before having been restored and reset. Mr. Bailly complimented the work done for the project and thanked Ms. Budge, Carson City Parks Superintendent Dave Navarro, Jr., Carson City Parks Operations Manager Dan Kastens, Carson City Park Maintenance Worker Bill Anderson, Carson City Parks Operations Coordinator John Doran, and NDOW Biologist Chris Burkhard.

(5:40:51) – Homa Woodrum introduced herself as a new dog owner and stated that she was grateful for the City’s parks and open spaces, as the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting shutdown had brought into perspective the importance of these areas to bring the community together. Regarding agenda item #8, she mentioned that she had reviewed the online materials and participated in the survey for dog use in Carson City’s parks, trails, and open spaces, and she had noticed a trend relating to leash laws and access to the related spaces. She commented about the “wonderful, welcoming community” when using the trails and parks with her dog and stated that she felt “more of a part of Carson City than I ever did before.” Ms. Woodrum acknowledged the difficulties for the PRC and the OSAC due to the competing interests and concerns for each agenda item and wished that the enjoyment she and others get out of “our spaces” would be taken into consideration with any action item.

(5:42:19) – Betsey Crumrine introduced herself as a City resident near Sonoma Park and as a new dog owner, and she believed that, since she had been frequenting Sonoma Park with her puppy, the park made it safer for people to socialize their new dogs with other dogs. She was concerned about how some questions were framed after having taken the survey for dog use in the City’s parks, trails, and open spaces that someone was trying to institute a leash law in City trails and parks, and she did not believe that was the right solution. She referenced the American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) and how many children were injured while playing soccer, yet the solution was not to prohibit AYSO soccer; the solution was to deal with the people that were the problem. Ms. Crumrine did not

wish to close the parks, especially the dog parks, due to a once in a while incident, and she stated that it would be a big loss to close the parks and to impose leash laws on trails.

(5:44:38) – Mary Siders introduced herself as a City resident and an owner of a rescue dog, which she had taken to obedience training and noted that the dog is “very well behaved.” She commented that “you don’t have problem dogs; you have problem people, that is people who don’t take care of their dog, they’re not responsible, they don’t pick up the dog poo, that’s not the dog’s fault,” and she referenced her own dog’s behavior. Ms. Siders echoed Ms. Crumrine’s sentiments regarding imposing leash laws and preferred what the sign at Riverview Park says regarding how owners must be in control of their dogs otherwise the dogs must be on leashes.

(5:46:08) – Kimberly Burchiel introduced herself as a dog owner and stated that she has taken her dogs “all over” the City’s open spaces and dog parks. She agreed with Ms. Crumrine’s and Ms. Siders’ comments regarding leash laws, and, though she acknowledged that there are some wildlife that need to be protected at certain times of the year in some open spaces, she also hoped that leash laws would not be enacted on the open spaces. She requested that Sonoma Park not be divided into two halves, which she had heard may be a possibility, as “the beauty of Sonoma Park is how big it is,” and all of the dogs varying in size interact well with each other. Ms. Burchiel also suggested using one of the spaces downtown, such as the compound that used to be a children’s home, for a small dog park. She thanked the PRC and the OSAC for their time to listen to all the public commenters and for the dog use in City parks, trails, an open spaces survey.

(5:49:27) – Todd Burchiel introduced himself as a nearly 30-year City resident along with Ms. Burchiel and noted that they live in the neighborhood near Sonoma Park. He echoed the previous comments made regarding potential leash laws and emphasized that one of the appealing aspects of Carson City is the freedom with dogs. He stated that their dog was trained to walk next to a bike without a leash and that their current dog is a therapy dog (as well as their first dog) and mentioned that he is a retired schoolteacher. Mr. Burchiel stated that it was a “blessing” to have the space and freedom for the dog to run and play, and he disagreed with potential changes to Sonoma Park. He added that it was his understanding that the Park Ranger at Sonoma Park has indicated that there are “very few problems” at the park, and those problems are “policed” by park users. He also wished to keep the City dog friendly.

(5:51:58) – John Barrette introduced himself and noted that he was also commenting in regards to agenda item #8. He was opposed to restrictive leash laws and was “vehemently opposed to” dividing Sonoma Park. He commented that he and his wife go to every park and open space with his dog and loved “this place.” He echoed Ms. Siders’ comment about there being problem people instead of problem dogs, as the dogs take on the ideas of their owners. Mr. Barrette pointed out that the horses’ waste from equestrians is left on open spaces while he believed that most people pick up their dogs’ waste. He believed that open spaces should be kept as pristine as possible and wished to see a sign like the one put up by the equestrians at the Hobart Creek Reservoir Trail. He thanked the PRC and the OSAC for their service and noted that both put in a lot of time.

(5:54:13) – Michael Drew introduced himself as a dog owner and City resident, and he was thankful that the PRC and the OSAC were listening to the public talk as well as for Sonoma Park. He stated that, in his “42 years on Earth,” he had never taken the opportunity to come to public meetings other than this meeting due to how passionate he is about the matter regarding Sonoma Park, which he called great and agreed that users police the park and that the dogs are “awesome.” Mr. Drew commented that the park was a wide-open space for dogs, which he indicated are family members, to meet other dogs and to have that outlet that they need. He added that fellow park users have also become an extension of other users’ families.

(5:55:36) – Jean Barrette introduced herself and echoed Mr. Barrette’s sentiments regarding the equestrians, as the horse waste had become a burden and a problem for public health when more people have been using the trails, such as the Riverview Park Loop, after the COVID-19 shutdown. She echoed comments made by previous public commenters regarding socializing dogs and dog owners and believed that dividing Sonoma Park would be an awkward and “messy thing to do” due to the relationships created at the park. She commented that few people use Fuji Park and that Fuji Park is not “a very friendly” dog park. Ms. Barrette agreed with Ms. Crumrine’s observation about how the questions were framed on the survey and suggested not using the survey for developing policy.

(5:58:02) – Chris Martinovich introduced himself as a Carson City Public Works Department Transportation/Traffic Engineer and noted that he was commenting on agenda item #8, as a City resident and on a personal capacity, on behalf of two organizations. He stated that, as a director of a Carriage Square homeowners association board located near Carriage Square Park on the west side of the City, dogs and other pets should continue to be restricted in Carriage Square Park, as it is common to see children and large groups of people using the grassy areas of the park, and allowing dogs in the park even on a leash increases the potential for conflict and to watch where one steps. He acknowledged that while it is sometimes difficult to enforce dog restrictions, he asserted that such restrictions are best for this neighborhood park. He encouraged the PRC to make that recommendation to the Carson City Board of Supervisors (BOS). As Carson City Railroad Association (CCRA) President, Mr. Martinovich wished to relay the Association’s stance to maintain the existing restrictions that limit pet use in Mills Park. He explained that Mills Park is different in that it is set up for many events and is used for large groups multiple times of the year, and there were concerns about potential conflicts, including with the train and dogs jumping on and off of the train.

(6:00:27) – Sarah Lemire introduced herself as a newer City resident and was in favor of redoing Carriage Square Park. She agreed with Mr. Martinovich about dog restrictions at Carriage Square Park and for the train at Mills Park. She noted that the proposed parks that the City wishes to keep and/or have redone are in large complexes where there are ballparks and fields, and she pointed out that those parks are seemingly only used during an event. Ms. Lemire commented about how Sunset Park is the only park between Carriage Square Park and [Fuji Park], and it is used “by everyone” because it is for small children. She added that the woodchips at Sunset Park are “filthy,” and the park has not been improved in three years. She inquired about whether a park was going to be added in the new development that would be going in the open space, and she was informed that there was supposed to be a “people park” only without dog use. She also commented that she did not trust dogs that were off-leash due to having been bitten by a dog as a child, and she was uncomfortable around dogs she did not personally know. PRC Chairperson Meyer advised Ms. Lemire to email or call Ms. Budge if she had any questions.

(6:04:11) – Maxine Nietz introduced herself as a City resident adjacent to the proposed Andersen Ranch Estates project and stated that there are depressions for detention basins, but no park being planned for the project. With 204 more homes proposed for the neighborhood of Monte Vista Park, she wanted to ensure that the playground equipment is maintained and kept in the location because “we’re going to need it more than we need it today.” Ms. Nietz indicated that a trail was not listed anywhere near the Mountain Street Trailhead on the official online Parks and Recreation trail map and, therefore, did not understand the purpose of the trailhead other than to provide parking for the business next door. She suggested turning the trailhead into a park with some benches and playground equipment in order to serve the neighborhood.

(6:06:09) – Fran Hunter introduced herself as a City resident since 1961 as well as a resident in the Sonoma area since 1985. She enjoyed Sonoma Park because of its size and was not in favor of adding fencing to divide the area, as people would have a difficult time monitoring the small dogs, the big dogs, and children. She commented that

she had never noticed any problems at Sonoma Park, and she had first taken her dog on a leash to the park before allowing him to run around off-leash at the park. Ms. Hunter echoed the stance of previous public comments in favor of maintaining the current state of Sonoma Park and stated that her only complaint was that some people do not pick up after themselves. She also proposed signage stating that people must fill in the holes that their dogs are responsible for having dug up. Regarding most of the local dog parks Ms. Hunter had visited, she stated that because little dogs are similar to “little kids,” there must be some kind of containment because they could run out into the street, and none of those parks were fenced. She was in favor of adding some other parks that are fenced in like Sonoma Park.

(6:09:22) – Chris Lashley introduced himself as a dog owner and was not in favor of dividing Sonoma Park, as it would result in the users also being divided when the users socialize with one another. He echoed what Mr. Burchiel stated about park users self-policing, and he believed that the leash laws should be based on whether the owner of the dog is able to control his/her dog. Mr. Lashley commented that many people cannot make it out to the “high country” to take their dog out for exercise, so they can take their dog to Sonoma Park, and he reiterated previous comments about how “if the dog is out of control, that’s because the owner is out of control.” He stated that dogs that are aggressive tend to develop their aggression from having been on-leash due to “leash aggression.”

(6:11:28) Ryan Espinoza introduced himself and stated that he used Sonoma Park with his dogs, one that he allows off-leash and the other he keeps on-leash for the time being. He noted that children run up and down Sonoma Park, and dividing the park would take half of their play area away. He echoed the sentiments of Ms. Siders and Mr. Burchiel.

(6:12:53) – Buddy Ray introduced himself as a resident on Elm Street and stated that he thought of his three little dogs as his own children, and he was concerned about a child causing a dog to bite or attack him/her. He explained that he only visits Sonoma Park and Fuji Park because of both areas having fences that make them safe for his dogs and noted that his \small dogs run around with others’ dogs without any issue. He repeated Ms. Siders’ comment and stated that he and some others pick up the dog waste at Sonoma Park. Mr. Ray commented that the Parks and Recreation Department needs to visit the park because there are large circles of dry grass caused by how the sprinkler heads rise from the ground, and two trees had died in the last year as a result of the lawn not being watered. He also commended the Park Ranger and the sanitation workers at Sonoma Park.

(6:16:33) – Robyn Orloff introduced herself and commended the PRC and the OSAC for considering agenda item #8. She commented that she loves Fuji Park because the dirt at the park makes it easier to pick up waste. She acknowledged that there are some areas that may need to be considered for some restrictions and referenced how Washoe Lake has some prohibition during the nesting season. Ms. Orloff was concerned about the possibility of leash laws in open spaces, as she is a runner and runs with her dogs on the open spaces. She commented that the dogs interfering with the natural resources is “a pretty small footprint” compared to what happens in the off-highway vehicle (OHV) area, for which she wished to see a consideration of natural resources to the same extent as the discussion concerning dog restrictions. She suggested a more natural area similar to the one at the Dayton dog park to provide another opportunity for the dogs. She also thanked the City “for all of our opportunities.”

(6:19:34) – Rachel Maiello introduced herself as a longtime City resident and Nevada native, and she was commenting regarding reducing the playgrounds from 18 to 13 in Carson City. She stated that, having two children herself, “it’s great to have parks, and we need lots of options for parks,” and she noted that many new children would be added to the City’s population due to the ongoing construction of new developments. She stated that

there would be no place to take one's children in the section of town with the Andersen Ranch Estates if Monte Vista Park and Sunset Park are removed, and many parents have limited time, so taking the children and the dog to the same location is an easier option.

(6:21:27) – Pam Christensen introduced herself as a City resident since 1997 and a mother to two twin boys, and she commented about how difficult it is for her to find a park, including near her previous residence on Darla Way. She complimented all of the local parks and stated that she visits Sonoma Park every day for her dogs. She also echoed previous public comments regarding Sonoma Park and there not being enough parks. Ms. Christensen did not believe there were enough “kid parks.”

(6:24:22) – Cody Ehlers introduced himself and stated that he had moved to Carson City from Clark County in 2018. He commented that he likes to take his dogs, one being 120 pounds and the other being 20 pounds, to Sonoma Park, and dividing the park for small dogs and large dogs would be “incredibly detrimental” to Mr. Ehlers. He complimented Fuji Park and wished to have Sonoma Park expanded with the children's area to provide more of a play area. He also suggested adding a water pad for the dogs and the children at Sonoma Park as well as another water spigot for the dogs due to there currently being only one spigot at the park, which can make it difficult for some of the older visitors to get water for their dogs.

(6:26:15) – Gregory Reed introduced himself and commented in support of Sunset Park because he visits the park to play catch with his son and would like future generations to be able to play at the park. He added that he is a City resident off of Lexington Avenue.

(6:27:36) – Morgan S. introduced himself as a yearlong City resident, having been a Reno resident since 2011, and stated that he began taking his five-year-old black lab to Sonoma Park, where he has been becoming “a lot better with socializing with all sorts of different dogs.” He added that it was “reciprocal” for the other animals that had socialized with Mr. S.'s dogs, improving their behavior, and Mr. S had made new friends and met potential coworkers in the process. He was in favor of “expanding any functionality at Sonoma” and noted that he was not “really a big fan of kind of segregating.” He pointed out that one area of the park is really shaded while the other area does not have very much shade.

(6:30:30) – Pat Anderson introduced himself as a City resident and was commenting in regards to agenda item #7, as the proposed concept of the [Mountain Street] Trailhead was that it would be a “launching point into the great [Lake] Tahoe trail system.” He stated that the Trailhead was seemingly being altered into more of a neighborhood park and/or walking pathway, and as such, there was no restroom incorporated into the design. He acknowledged that the concern was that restrooms would attract homeless, although Mr. Anderson believed that the homeless also deserved a place to go to the bathroom. Mr. Anderson stated that if restrooms were not going to be added to the Trailhead, it needed to be renamed because a trailhead has restrooms. He noted some discrepancies in some of the Conditions of Approval outlined in the agenda materials and some of the language used in the maps themselves, which he wished would be discussed at some point. PRC Chairperson Meyer informed Mr. Anderson that the Andersen Ranch Estate materials were conceptual plans, and “[Ms. Budge's] door is always open to the public and any concepts or possible things you might see that were overlooked.”

(6:33:56) – Jason Kuchnicki introduced himself and supported keeping the small parks “the way that they are.” He believed it was possible to divide the larger parks to add dog areas, and as a resident near Monte Vista Park, he stated that he has never seen or had a negative encounter, nor has his neighbor.

(6:35:53) – Debbie Hope introduced herself as a City resident since 1992, and she stated that she has been living near the Long Ranch Park since 2001 and has been regularly visiting Long Ranch Park with her dog, having been a dog owner since 2007. She echoed the public comments regarding Sonoma Park, how much value it adds to the community, and how she wished for the park to be kept in its current state. She commented that she and the other visitors of Sonoma Park appreciate everything that the Parks and Recreation Department does for the park.

(6:37:26) – Cindy (inaudible last name) introduced herself, and she wished a sidewalk could be added around the parameter of Sonoma Park, with the center left for the dogs and the children. She echoed the sentiments of the previous public commenters regarding Sonoma Park, and she noted that the park had received compliments from people visiting from the Bay Area in California.

(6:38:52) – Commissioner Kever commented that she has been approached by some members of the Sonoma Park community over the City possibly entering into a partnership with the State over the unofficial dog park at Second Street and Roop Street and to possibly fence it. She clarified that the State currently allows people to let their dogs run in the area with the understanding that permission may be revoked at any time, but if the area is fenced entirely, it may provide an avenue where people can exercise their dogs.

4. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES: OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF APRIL 19, 2021, AND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETINGS OF APRIL 6, 2021.

(6:39:40) – PRC Chairperson Meyer introduced the item, and OSAC Chairperson Welch entertained comments and a motion on the April 19, 2021 OSAC meeting minutes. OSAC Vice Chairperson Inversin indicated that it is a cat rather than a dog that she references on page #5.

(6:40:51) – MOTION: Commissioner Schuette moved to approve the minutes of April 16, 2021 as corrected. OSAC Vice Chairperson Inversin seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0 including Commissioner Schuette’s vote.

(6:41:12) – PRC Chairperson Meyer entertained corrections and a motion to approve the April 6, 2021 PRC meeting minutes.

(6:41:27) – MOTION: Commissioner Caldwell moved to approve the minutes of April 6, 2021 as presented. Commissioner Schuette seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0-0.

5. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY: PRESENTATION ONLY REGARDING THE FOUNDATION FOR CARSON CITY PARKS & RECREATION.

(6:41:39) – PRC Chairperson Meyer introduced the item, and Ms. Budge introduced the Foundation for Carson City Parks and Recreation President David Johnson. Mr. Johnson presented an overview of the Foundation for Carson City Parks and Recreation, including that the Foundation is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization founded in 2015 that is dedicated to improving community members’ experience with Carson City’s parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities. He stated that the mission of the Foundation is to help build better and more diverse parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities as well as improve those that already exist. He added that unincorporated organizations and individuals can come together within the organization to enhance, promote, facilitate, and fund projects in and on Parks and Recreation-administered properties. Mr. Johnson explained how the Foundation acts in a fiduciary capacity for organizations and individuals to manage and protect monies raised for their projects,

and the Foundation provides “a stable place and way of continuing” projects and ensuring that the funds are “expended as originally intended.” Projects facilitated by the Foundation include Centennial Park Facility Improvement Project, the Carson Ridge Disc Golf Association’s efforts to develop Carson Ridge Golf Park, the Cemetery Headstone Project, improvements to the Carson City Rifle and Pistol Range facilities, Ross Gold Park upgrades, Fuji Park and Sonoma Park improvements, an ongoing project to provide “secondary egress” at the Pete Livermore Sports Complex, transitional management of the Carson City Railroad Association funds, improvements to the Bob Boldrick Theater lobby on behalf of the Carson City Chamber of Commerce, and the Pickleball Project. He noted that the Foundation also established and provided seed fund money for a Parks and Recreation program scholarship fund to provide tuition assistance to families that would otherwise struggle to enroll their children in Parks and Recreation programs. Mr. Johnson reported having leased the Wungnema House in Mills Park from the City as a place for small community groups to meet, and it was reopened in May 2021 to non-Foundation users with the hope that the monthly open houses will resume in June 2021. He stated that individuals, organizations, and businesses are recognized by the Foundation for having made notable contributions to the community, and their names are engraved on the Wall of Honor by the entrance of the Marv Teixeira Pavilion. Mr. Johnson presented Friends of the Silver Saddle Ranch (FOSSR) Vice President Mike Drews with the certificate that the FOSSR had earned after being selected for the 2020 Organization of the Year “because of their continuing contributions to Carson City’s quality of life through the promotion of the [Silver Saddle] Ranch as a public resource, their members’ enthusiastic willingness to pitch in and assist with events held at the Ranch by other organizations, in particular the Jazz and Beyond Festival’s Annual Afternoon at Silver Saddle Ranch” as well as their support for the Homestead Holiday event. He also encouraged the public to attend the Jazz and Beyond Festival that will feature the Sagebrush Rebels and Lacy J. Dalton in addition to cowboy poetry and Ranch history at the Silver Saddle Ranch.

(6:53:20) – Mr. Drews wished to extend a “thanks” to the Foundation, the OSAC, and the PRC for helping the FOSSR by including them in planning activities and the assistance with the Jazz and Beyond Festival. He noted that the FOSSR was looking forward to organizing the Homestead Holidays again for 2021 and the collaborative projects at Silver Saddle Ranch.

(6:54:34) – Mr. Johnson urged people who supported the Parks and Recreation Department and the “combined missions” to become a member of the Foundation, as Foundation membership applications were available at the meeting. He thanked those present at the meeting and wished to see them at a future open house or at a Foundation meeting as a member. More information about the Foundation for Carson City Parks and Recreation can be viewed by visiting its website at the following link: www.carsoncityparks.org.

(6:55:52) – PRC Chairperson Meyer entertained Commissioner and Member questions, and Mr. Johnson responded to clarifying questions. Member Kimbrough commented that he was excited to learn more about the Foundation and noted that there was an “unbelievable” amount of work for an unpaid staff for a nonprofit, which he applauded. He also stated that he would be much more involved with the Foundation and credited the Foundation for being a major part of Parks and Recreation activities.

(7:00:50) – Commissioner Whitefield thanked Mr. Johnson and the Foundation for the support given for the Pickleball Project.

(7:02:06) – Commissioner Wilke-McCulloch thanked Mr. Johnson for all his hard work, and in response to her inquiry, Mr. Johnson confirmed that the Parks and Recreation Department could work with the Foundation to keep Sunset Park if people were to raise maintenance funds, since that park was being considered for removal.

(7:02:55) – PRC Chairperson Meyer, many years ago during his time running the Carson City Aquatic Facility, recounted how funds used to purchase an automated external defibrillator (AED) in addition to training for Facility staff had come through the Foundation, and the AED eventually helped save a young child’s life after suffering from a medical event during swimming lessons.

6. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING A REQUEST TO SUBMIT A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR CARSON CITY’S FISCAL YEAR 2021 REBUILDING AMERICAN INFRASTRUCTURE WITH SUSTAINABILITY AND EQUITY (“RAISE”) GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE WILLIAM STREET COMPLETE STREETS PROJECT.

(7:05:11) – PRC Chairperson Meyer introduced the item. Mr. Goering presented the Staff Report and accompanying documents, all of which are incorporated into the record.

(7:07:15) – PRC Chairperson Meyer entertained Member and Commissioner questions and comments, and Mr. Goering responded to clarifying questions. Member Kimbrough was pleased to see this item move forward and recommended that Staff “really pound in all of the time and money that was put on Carson Street through town, the effort that was made from this community, I think really be louder ... that this community is seriously committed to improvements of multimodal traffic” in the last paragraph of the letter, “Attachment 2.”

(7:10:15) – Member Martinovich noted that the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant is a very competitive grant and is focused on creating jobs, ensuring safety, advancing racial equity, and addressing barriers to opportunity as well as climate change, environmental justice, and building transformative projects. Because she is employed with a firm that helps departments of transportation (DOTs) across the country to submit applications for the RAISE grant, she pointed out that there was no mention of “equity” and “helps the users of the system,” and there was no explanation for how “this critical project will transform East William Street” in the letter. She advised using words that are being sought after for grant recipients and pointed out where such words and phrases could be applied in the letter.

(7:14:19) – OSAC Vice Chairperson Inversin requested an updated sample letter, including an addition about “getting more cars off the road for the high school,” and Mr. Goering confirmed he could do so with the language Member Martinovich articulated.

(7:16:26) – PRC Chairperson Meyer entertained a motion.

(7:16:31) – MOTION: Commissioner Schuette moved to approve submission of a letter of support from the Parks and Recreation Commission for this grant [with the revisions as discussed]. Commissioner Kever seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0-0.

(7:17:11) – OSAC Chairperson Welch entertained Member comments and a motion.

(7:17:27) – MOTION: Member Ghiglieri moved to approve submission of a letter of support from the Open Space Advisory Committee for this grant with the revisions as discussed. OSAC Vice Chairperson Inversin seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0-0.

7. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE MOUNTAIN STREET TRAILHEAD CONCEPTUAL DESIGN PLAN AS A COMPONENT OF THE ANDERSEN RANCH ESTATES DEVELOPMENT.

(7:17:56) – PRC Chairperson Meyer introduced the item. Ms. Budge referenced the Staff Report and the accompanying documents, all of which are incorporated into the record. Dustin Markham with Lennar Homes and L.A. Studio Nevada Landscape Architect Kelly Du Fresne introduced themselves and responded to clarifying questions along with Ms. Budge.

(7:20:33) – PRC Chairperson Meyer entertained Commissioner questions. In response to Commissioner Schuette’s inquiry, Ms. Budge stated that a majority of residents that attended the Carson City Planning Commission (PC) meeting regarding this matter were opposed to adding a restroom to the Mountain Street Trailhead, and the sentiment was approved by the PC and the BOS, although Ms. Budge was in favor of adding a restroom from a Staff perspective. She believed a kiosk should be provided as a part of the project, as it would be a great location for a map or interpretative information, the developer is getting a residential construction tax credit, and signage is typically incorporated in any Park development. She noted that Staff could help with wording and have a sign plan with formats.

(7:27:13) – Member Ghiglieri commented that Mountain Street during the day is “packed” due to parking for the medical facility, and there would be increased parking when it eventually connects to further trails. He pointed out that the design indicated that there would be no parking on the west side of Mountain Street, which would then create conflict with people parking in front of residences. He suggested planning for five to 10 years in the future. Ms. Budge stated that Staff would be reaching out to the medical facility to educated them and “let them know that this is not their personal parking lot,” while she did also “appreciate the situation they’re in.”

(7:31:29) – Based on Member Kimbrough’s concerns about the pathway, Ms. Budge assured that the City would work with the Homeowners Association (HOA) to ensure adequate signage as well as maintenance standards. Member Kimbrough also supported a kiosk.

(7:34:13) – Referencing Mr. Anderson’s public comment regarding discrepancies in the project materials, Ms. Budge indicated that she could follow up with Mr. Anderson about possible discrepancies in the language, and Mr. Markham believed that the discrepancies were a result of the multiple versions of different maps that had been developed over the course of the long history with the project. He also had reread the Conditions of Approval in the tentative map and noted that they were not as detailed as the previous Conditions.

(7:37:35) – In response to Commissioner Schuette’s question, Mr. Markham confirmed that features could be considered for the detention basin near the Trailhead when there is big enough space and availability.

(7:39:49) – PRC Chairperson Meyer believed “the bigger the kiosk, the better because I think there’s a lot of cool stuff that we can start on that Mountain Street Trailhead.”

(7:40:15) – Member Martinovich requested that the ability to still add a restroom in the future not be precluded, and Ms. Budge indicated that there was a possibility for secondary locations for a restroom in future phases. Commissioner Schuette raised the point that the HOA may also want to add a restroom in the future because of people knocking on doors to use someone’s restroom or use a bush as a restroom, and Mr. Markham noted that the people who would be using the restroom would not be the ones paying to maintain it. Commissioner Keever pointed

out that because of the problem with hikers using people’s yards as a restroom, a restroom was being added to Kings Canyon Trailhead.

(7:45:21) – PRC Chairperson Meyer entertained a motion.

(7:45:43) – MOTION: Commissioner Whitefield moved to approve the Mountain Street Trailhead conceptual design. Commissioner Wilke-McCulloch seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0-0.

(7:46:20) – PRC Chairperson Meyer recessed the meeting and reconvened the meeting at 8:02 p.m.

8. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING RECOMMENDATIONS TO STAFF AND/OR TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CONCERNING A DOG USE POLICY OR ORDINANCE FOR CARSON CITY PARKS AND OPEN SPACE AREAS, INCLUDING A REVIEW OF COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS.

(8:02:29) – PRC Chairperson Meyer introduced the item. Ms. Boyer presented the Staff Report, and she and Ms. Budge referenced the accompanying documents, all of which are incorporated into the record. Ms. Budge thanked Carson City Supervisor Stacey Giomi for his assistance with the dog use in Carson City’s parks, trails, and open spaces survey and clarified that there are no immediate plans to close or divide Sonoma Park, though the park is closed down on a temporary basis for rehabilitation work. She added that Staff look for additional locations where more dog parks can be added in the region. She noted that the Park Rangers and Staff have come across some safety concerns at the parks, including at Sonoma Park where there have been occasional conflicts between dogs and sometimes between dog owners. Ms. Budge pointed out that there are signs at every entrance at Mills Park that indicate there are no pets permitted in the park and referenced the Park Rangers report that noted that there were more than 160 issues with dogs at Mills Park between March 25, 2019 and November 10, 2020, and she wished to discuss this matter with how to manage this problem. She also reported that people seemed generally supportive of dogs off-leash after a certain distance on trails, with the most popular response being 200 feet beyond the trailhead, and she wished to obtain some direction on the matter as well as regarding concerns with specific locations and wildlife.

(8:14:53) – PRC Chairperson Meyer entertained Member and Commissioner discussion and questions, and Ms. Budge and Ms. Boyer responded to clarifying questions. In response to Commissioner Kever’s question regarding people bringing dogs into Mills Park, Ms. Budge stated that Park Rangers have citation authority only through Title 13 through the Carson City Municipal Code (CCMC), which gives them the authority to cite a repeat offender for a misdemeanor citation with an imposed fine of \$500 or less. Ms. Budge advocated for an increase in education opportunities regardless of any changes and noted the many educational methods the Park Rangers have created and provided to the community. She also mentioned there being a section in the CCMC allowing for a person to be expelled from a park.

(8:18:40) – Member Kimbrough commented that people who are told to put a leash on their dog can get very defensive, and citations for dogs off-leash in prohibited areas are “maxing them out.” He stated that, based on his knowledge from having been a Park Ranger, that a person often would refuse to sign the citation without a sheriff present, and the situation could escalate as a result “over such a small point of a dog.” He noted that it is a constitutional right to be on public land; therefore, expelling someone from a park is a “very sensitive issue.” He also commented that in many of these situations, people know they are violating the rules. Ms. Budge indicated that she is a “big proponent of telling someone what they can do versus what they can’t,” and Park Rangers have

fliers with all the dog-friendly parks to indicate to people where they can take their dogs. Commissioner Schuette agreed with Ms. Budge's stance and suggested keeping the same dog-friendly park materials in the Carson City Chamber of Commerce, the Carson City Library, the Visitors Center, City Hall, and stores as well as kiosks. She pointed out that some people traveling through the City with their dog see Mills Park and do not know where any of the other parks are, and there are some instances when people are parked between the signs at Mills Park and do not see the signs. She noted that sometimes on trails, even with "super friendly dogs," there are people who keep their dogs on-leash because their dogs are fearful of other dogs, so there could be helpful tips about being mindful of people who are walking dogs on leashes and might not want another dog running up to them. She added that one of the helpful tips could be about why dogs are not allowed at Mills Park. Commissioner Schuette believed that, being a "dog person" herself and running a nonprofit, a public outreach forum could be used to talk about great places for dogs and where people can and cannot go with their dogs based on wanting dogs to be happy and exercised and children to be safe without conflict.

(8:29:00) – Member Berge commended Staff for all of the education tactics being implemented, but she believed that they may be reaching a small population. She suggested using larger formats such as the commercials that run at the movie theater or running a screen for the concert series at the Brewery Arts Center in order to reach a larger audience. She stated that most people do not pay attention to the "no dogs" or "dogs welcome" signage and proposed considering signage that uses visual representations and is specific.

(8:31:41) – Ms. Budge suggested putting a quick response (QR) code on the Mutt Mitt bag stations so when people put their phones up to the codes, they are provided with all of the dog-friendly areas within the City, and there could be a sponsorship opportunity with the local businesses to offset the costs. She also noted that Staff had identified the following areas of concern: the Kings Canyon Waterfall Trail, the Carson River, the Fulstone Wetlands, the Washoe Wetlands, and Lone Mountain Cemetery. Ms. Budge was adamant about not allowing dogs at the cemetery. Ms. Boyer clarified that the issue at the Kings Canyon Waterfall was not necessarily related to wildlife habitat; the primary concern at the waterfall is water quality because that water source directly feeds the community drinking water, and dog waste is an "incredibly detrimental product as far as our drinking water is concerned." Ms. Boyer indicated that the other issue was, due to the narrowness of the trail, people stepping off of the trail cause widening of the trail and increased erosion and sedimentation into the water, which also impact water quality at that location. She added that "I know the folks that manage the water treatment facility would probably support not having dogs at all at [the Kings Canyon Waterfall]," and she noted that enforcement may be a challenge. In response to Commissioner Keever's question, Ms. Boyer believed that with any new regulations that are implemented, there would need to be a significant education campaign to let people know that there would no longer be dogs allowed at the Kings Canyon Waterfall. Discussion ensued on the matter, and OSAC Vice Chairperson Inversin stated that the *Tahoe Weekly* article about the toxicity of animal, especially dog, waste could be added to the educational materials.

(8:40:48) – Member Martinovich believed that, based on Staff's recommendations and the science, the reason for why dogs are not allowed in specific areas, such as "environmentally sensitive," could be added to signage. She also was in favor of Member Bergee's idea with the signage. She noted that the issue with Mills Park was challenging and proposed a compromise to allow dogs on-leash only so people will at least have control of their dogs. Member Martinovich suggested enforcing "the ability to handle your dog" on trails by using a leash or command, and signs could indicate that requirement and be used consistently at trailheads along with educating the public. OSAC Vice Chairperson Inversin pointed out that there is a wide range of interpretations for having one's dog under voice control, and she believed that people needed to be educated about how "leave no trace" also applies

to dogs and being under control means that the dog is on the trail next to the owner, not chasing the wildlife, running off into the brush, or running up to people. She commented about how people's dogs off-leash jump up on her when she is using a trail and she does not know if they are friendly, nor does she wish to have them jumping up on her or running at her.

(8:46:26) – Commissioner Schuette believed that there was an opportunity for dog owners to be a part of the solution through public outreach, and she was in favor of Member Berge's suggestions, which she added could also address quality of life for people and their pets. She proposed making the 200 feet standard on the trail from the neighborhood instead of the trailhead or to keep dogs on-leash if houses are visible to encourage dog walkers and owners to be more mindful. She agreed with using the term "seasonal closure," as she believed people would understand that dogs need to be on-leash during certain periods when it is a critical time for certain species of wildlife because many pet owners "really care about animals, ... and they would be devastated if their pets interfered ... with ducklings and other birds." Commissioner Schuette referenced the coyote signs that asked owners to keep their dogs on a leash as an example, as people appreciated the signs and adapted for the safety of their pets.

(8:54:08) – PRC Chairperson Meyer noted how complex the item topic is and requested dividing the item between the PRC and the OSAC. Ms. Budge agreed with providing assignments for the PRC and the OSAC, and she had drafted the following proposed action:

"Direct Staff to work with the District Attorney's (DA's) Office to develop a policy document and/or an ordinance recommendation to the Board of Supervisors that includes the following..."

She noted having heard from the discussion on this item that dogs should not be allowed on the Kings Canyon Waterfall Trail, the Fulstone Wetlands, and the Washoe Wetlands and all areas during sheep grazing. Member Ghiglieri supported PRC Chairperson Meyer's request and noted that open spaces are completely different from parks and would have completely different restrictions, though the signage would need to be the same. He also proposed that Staff decide on their top priorities and their biggest concerns with one to two paragraphs for each about "why we think we should be doing this." Ms. Budge agreed that Staff could return with their concerns and suggestions based on their feedback and research. Member Ghiglieri also was in favor of the QR code idea.

(9:00:00) – OSAC Vice Chairperson Inversin wished to see a list of areas that Staff believed needed to be addressed and believed that dogs were a problem in Riverview Park due to the wetland areas with wildlife that dogs interfere with. Ms. Budge believed that the river corridor is "a real valid joint conversation."

(9:01:23) – Commissioner Schuette believed that Staff had enough information from the item's discussion to make recommendations on the item.

(9:02:31) – In response to OSAC Chairperson Welch's question, Ms. Budge stated that Staff could clearly define a trailhead.

(9:06:09) – Based on Ms. Budge's request, Commissioners Keever and Schuette on behalf of the PRC and Members Kimbrough and Ghiglieri on behalf of OSAC volunteered to work with Staff further on the matter. No formal action was taken on this matter.

9. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING A RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGARDING THE DEPARTMENT MEMORIAL POLICY.

(9:09:26) – PRC Chairperson Meyer introduced the item. Ms. Boyer and Ms. Budge presented the Staff Report, which is incorporated into the record. Mr. Johnson referenced the draft Memorials Policy and entertained discussion to consider timeframes for how long an unauthorized memorial is left up before it is removed and for how long the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Department stores an unauthorized memorial before it is disposed of as well as any possible penalty and limitations and/or permit fees for scattering ashes. Ms. Budge also responded to clarifying questions.

(9:17:50) – Member Kimbrough stated that, based on his experience with nonprofits, one way profits can be made that go back to the City is by selling benches that go on public land, which gives the nonprofit the opportunity to gain seed money to match with the “tradeoff” that the money goes back to the community. He suggested that the Foundation for Parks and Recreation could generate revenue through memorials, and he pointed out that he did not see anything about the golf courses in the Policy.

(9:19:38) – Commissioner Caldwell believed that the timeframe for removal depends somewhat on how visible the unauthorized memorial is to the public, and if the Department has a way of notifying the “perpetrator,” the memorial should be stored for a certain number of days unless the person does not come forward to collect the memorial or is unable to be notified, in which case the memorial should be disposed of.

(9:21:09) – In response to Member Martinovich’s suggestion, Ms. Budge pointed out that plaques are often removed, stolen, or vandalized, and the Department does not have the budget to replace them. Staff also wished to have the donor fully fund these memorials, and Ms. Budge did not wish for every park or open space to look like a cemetery. Member Martinovich agreed with keeping the timeframe prior to removal of memorials short. She also supported “building off of something that’s already there” regarding scattering ashes.

(9:26:07) – OSAC Vice Chairperson Inversin pointed out a grammatical error and suggested that scattering ashes not be allowed in open spaces, noting changes in wind and hikers and bicyclists in open spaces. She recommended five or seven days for the timeframes.

(9:27:38) – In response to Mr. Johnson’s question, Ms. Budge indicated that she preferred one Policy to apply to both parks and open spaces.

(9:28:20) – OSAC Vice Chairperson Inversin believed that the Policy should address people burying their pets on open space land, and Ms. Budge confirmed that that needed to be prohibited.

(9:29:20) – Mr. Johnson advised that, because the Policy was still “a work in progress,” a motion was not necessary, and the revised draft Policy could be brought back before the PRC and the OSAC individually for a recommendation to the BOS.

10. STAFF UPDATES – DISCUSSION ONLY

10.A DIRECTOR’S REPORT: UPDATES REGARDING THE DEPARTMENT’S PROJECTS, PROGRAMS, FACILITIES, AND EVENTS; GRANTS; LEGISLATIVE UPDATE; SEASONAL EMPLOYEE SHORTAGE; BUDGET UPDATE; BOARD DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP IN SEPTEMBER AND BOARD OF SUPERVISOR’S ACTION ITEMS.

(9:32:36) – Ms. Budge presented her report, for which the accompanying document is incorporated into the record, and indicated that there was a significant staff shortage for seasonal staff, which she stated was a national problem

as well as a statewide problem concerning specifically lifeguards. She believed that COVID-19 was a contributor to the shortage. Ms. Budge added that Park Maintenance staff was also short-staffed, with three fulltime vacancies, and were down 20 fulltime equivalent staff as a result of not having the inmates still. She mentioned that there were openings in all areas and encouraged people to apply, as “there are so many fun opportunities, it’s a great way to get outside, get exercise, contribute back, our pay’s fairly competitive ... like our Park Maintenance workers for seasonal is \$12 to \$18 an hour, ... and we do have some fulltime opportunities.” Ms. Budge noted that more than \$3 million were approved by the BOS in 2021 for capital improvement, which is the most that has been approved in approximately 15 to 20 years for the Parks and Recreation Department in an annual basis. She stated that she would send out a list of items approved by the BOS that could be agendized for a future meeting item, or she could be contacted to respond to questions. She mentioned that Senator Cortez Masto introduced federal legislation for technical corrections to the lands bill. She and Ms. Boyer also wished to do some “board development” as a joint group in September 2021.

11. MEMBERS’ ANNOUNCEMENTS – DISCUSSION ONLY

(9:39:16) – PRC Chairperson Meyer entertained Member and Commissioner announcements. Commissioner Keever informed the PRC and the OSAC that there was a dog show at Fuji Park in May 2021, and she had received some complaints from people who were told to leave if they were not a part of the dog show. Ms. Budge stated that she could follow up with the event organizer, and she believed that the incidents could have been due to COVID-19 capacity restrictions.

(9:42:12) – Ms. Budge addressed the issue about a group of three wild dogs roaming the City that had killed a deer at the Lone Mountain Cemetery, which was removed by a Park Ranger, and the Carson City Sheriff’s Office and Carson City Animal Control were on-site for several hours to address the situation. She added that with all of the wildlife at Lone Mountain Cemetery, it was “definitely” an area that Staff wished to remain dog-free. The dogs had not been captured at this point and had moved beyond that location. She wished to thank the Sheriff’s Office and Animal Control for their assistance with the situation.

(9:45:00) – Commissioner Schuette announced that Carson Animal Services Initiative (CASI) would be honoring the rescue dogs of September 11, 2001 (9/11) at Riverview Park on September 11, 2021, which would be an opportunity for dog owners to bring their dogs on-leash for the 5K run or 2K walk, and the Pooch Plunge would take place on September 18, 2021. She was grateful for the use of the pool for the Pooch Plunge and noted that the money goes toward spaying and neutering dogs and cats.

11.A UPDATE FROM THE CARSON CITY SCHOOL BOARD LIAISON

(9:46:30) – Commissioner Wilke-McCulloch announced that the Carson City School Board meeting would be held on June 22, 2021 as well as a 6:00 p.m. workshop to gather input for the plan to reopen the schools in August 2021. A Pioneer Academy was in progress, and there is an online school with Carson City School District teachers teaching for first grade through 12th grade due to some students not coming back because of the COVID-19 pandemic. She stated that there were in-person graduations at both local high schools, and the Carson City Schools Foundation (CCSF) was matching donations to fund the textbooks for the Jumpstart Program, which funding had to be canceled for due to a \$3.9 million deficit in the budget. In response to Ms. Budge’s inquiry, Commissioner Wilke-McCulloch confirmed that discussion on the church property next to the Pete Livermore Sports Complex was agendized for the June 22, 2021 School Board meeting, and she was open to talking with Douglas County about sharing some resources.

12. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – DISCUSSION ONLY

None.

13. PUBLIC COMMENT

(9:50:40) – PRC Chairperson Meyer entertained public comments; however, none were forthcoming.

14. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: TO ADJOURN

(9:50:54) – PRC Chairperson Meyer adjourned the meeting at 9:51 p.m.

The Minutes of the June 21, 2021 Carson City Parks and Recreation Commission and the Carson City Open Space Advisory Committee joint meeting are so approved this 16th day of August, 2021.