

APPENDIX 9.6

SUMMARY OF FOCUS GROUP COMMENTS

AQUATIC FACILITY

- ☒ Programs held in aquatic facility include:
 - Senior's Program
 - Wet Sweat
 - Sports Therapy
 - Tot Pool
 - Master Swim
 - Tiger Sharks
 - Summer league
 - High school swim team
- ☒ Most programs are growing but are limited by the size of facility or times they are able to use it
- ☒ Many programs are run by instructors who have contracts with pool facility
- ☒ The City offers lessons, open lap swim
- ☒ Pool supports surrounding communities
- ☒ There is a waiting list for summer programs offered at the aquatic center
- ☒ Douglas has a water "fun" pool

Needs:

- ☒ Additional parking during swim meets
- ☒ Larger locker room for ladies
- ☒ Community could use combination fun/lap pool offsite (25 meter laps): pool has to be "fun" to attract more people, needs to have 0 depth area, could alleviate pressures on lap swim at current facility
- ☒ Reserve land in master plan for future pool site

COMMUNITY CENTER

- ☒ 1500 hours of programming per month for sports in Community Center
- ☒ City community center has been subsidizing schools (schools didn't have to build auditoriums)
- ☒ Only have 1 gym-spread over lots of programs
- ☒ WNCC has no performance space
- ☒ Carson High school has no performance space
- ☒ Middle schools have no performance spaces
- ☒ Some elementary schools have multi-purpose rooms that can handle performances (100-200 people)
- ☒ Community Center Theater seats 784
- ☒ Brewery Arts Center (BAC) has black box, performance hall (300 seats)
- ☒ Theater was used 265 days in 2003 (including set construction)
- ☒ Carson City has a reputation for good theater

Facility is used by:

- ☒ Elementary music programs
- ☒ College commencement
- ☒ College musical theater
- ☒ High School Choir
- ☒ High School Band
- ☒ High School Cheerleading
- ☒ High School Drama
- ☒ All State Music Festival
- ☒ Community Band
- ☒ Dance Spirit
- ☒ Carson City Symphony

Needs:

- ❏ More room to stage act changes
- ❏ Medium sized theater, perhaps it could be owned by college
- ❏ Loading area for sets (Sierra room)
- ❏ Backstage area (perhaps convert gym)
- ❏ New cover for orchestra pit
- ❏ Balcony could be added to theater to add 300 seats
- ❏ Could accommodate road shows
- ❏ Could accommodate commencement
- ❏ Additional parking
- ❏ Relocate the gym to create additional room for theater

DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

- ❏ School enrollment is decreasing---facilities and programs are also decreasing
- ❏ Empty nesters have more dogs
- ❏ Adult / senior population is growing---expand adult sports program, create opportunities for sports viewing
- ❏ Hispanic population will increase from 20% to 30%
- ❏ Hispanic community is growing and may be moving up in the economic class
- ❏ The cost of housing in Carson City is increasing rapidly and changing the dynamics of the City

DESIGN GUIDELINES

- ❏ Avoid tree removal whenever possible (especially for transportation projects)
- ❏ Determine acceptable street trees
- ❏ Create Gateway concepts
- ❏ Add trees to older parking lots
- ❏ Take advantage of street tree program
- ❏ Create design standards for potential industrial park at gateway
- ❏ Encourage eyes on the park concept
- ❏ Create downtown near freeway
- ❏ Encourage infill development

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- ❏ Tournaments:
- ❏ Softball tournaments offset cost residents pay to play
- ❏ Additional fields may be needed to increase tournament play
- ❏ Create off season events to improve winter economy
- ❏ Babe Ruth Baseball tournaments
- ❏ Sponsor tennis tournaments
- ❏ Hockey tournaments are limited because only one rink exists
- ❏ Soccer tournaments (adult and AYSO) ---tournaments are somewhat limited by existing facilities
- ❏ Expand gun club to accommodate tournaments, develop it to serve as a regional facility

RECREATIONAL PACKAGES:

- ❏ Promote corporate events with package deals in Carson City
- ❏ Promote recreational packages
- ❏ Create comprehensive recreation brochure for Carson City

THEATER

- ☒ Theater productions draw crowds from Reno
- ☒ Reno Hilton promotes Carson City shows
- ☒ The recreation department can start to create revenue generating programs, these revenues could then be used to support other programs (theater)
- ☒ Economic benefit of arts---arts council report****

PARKS:

- ☒ Residential taxes need to be at least \$3000/house to fund neighborhood park, City only charges \$1000
- ☒ Snack bar at softball fields generates lots of money through sale of alcohol
- ☒ Traveling youth sports programs are becoming more popular
- ☒ Costs of operating new recreation facility could be deferred with monthly membership fee, facility could allow for tournaments

OPEN SPACE

- ☒ Existing Conditions:
- ☒ Carson City has been really visionary in preserving open space
- ☒ Open space is part of Carson City's unique character

Issues:

- ☒ Open space will need to serve more of a need than protecting view sheds
- ☒ City needs a plan for open space and how it serves the community

Needs:

- ☒ Use open space to define gateway into Carson City
- ☒ Define an urban growth boundary
- ☒ Promote infill development
- ☒ Define the purpose of preserving open space (parks, prevent hillside development, etc.)
- ☒ Purchase strategic BLM land for permanent open space
- ☒ Create some commercial use along Carson River (near railroad track)
- ☒ Designate access areas to Carson River
- ☒ Create minimum flow policy for Carson River
- ☒ Preserve Horse Creek Ranch from recreational impacts

PARKS

Existing Conditions:

- ☒ The city has more natural parks than most communities
- ☒ The city has a great skeleton of a parks and trails system, it just needs a plan for future connections and ties (especially with open space)
- ☒ City may be providing neighborhood park need through other amenities (trails, etc.)
- ☒ Carson City has a large amount of vacant land within city---can remedy parks and recreation problems

Issues:

- ☒ Carson City does not have an adequate amount of neighborhood parks---resources are always directed towards sports complexes
- ☒ Neighborhood parks don't have a voice ---the people using these parks are not well represented at meetings---the City has had several requests for neighborhood parks
- ☒ Funding for neighborhood parks is lacking

- ☒ Should Carson City be more parks oriented? (buy lots of land to convert to parks?)
- ☒ No dog parks in west or north part of town
- ☒ Lakeview and Timberline have no neighborhood parks

Needs:

- ☒ Create management plan for Carson River Park
- ☒ Evaluate how commercial growth could be used to fund new parkland
- ☒ Set standards for park types
- ☒ Look into creating regional parks
- ☒ Rethink the role/character of neighborhood parks
- ☒ Create more dog friendly areas
- ☒ Decrease restrictions for activities that can occur in parks
- ☒ Evaluate safety concerns at some parks (Riverview)

Considerations:

- ☒ Blackwell's Pond Park and Steinheimer could become dog parks
- ☒ Could create park next to WNCC
- ☒ Could construct parks next to schools that have vacant land
- ☒ Use schools as parks if access is permitted
- ☒ Bonda Meadows could be City regional park

POTENTIAL PARTNERSHIPS

- ☒ Partnership between college, school district, and community center could be used to construct a new theater space at high school/college
- ☒ Legislative dollars are better spent building a joint use facility
- ☒ City subsidizes activities and programs in school district and college
- ☒ Programs/facilities could be shared between school district and WNCC for intramurals
 - Could be run through City
 - Basketball
 - Indoor soccer
- ☒ Hotels, restaurants, tourist attractions could be tied to sports tournaments

WNCC

- ☒ City could use classrooms
- ☒ Could create indoor recreation facility
- ☒ Could expand arts program with another theater
- ☒ City/WNCC partnership possibilities
 - Adult soccer
 - Adult baseball
 - Men's flag football

SCHOOL DISTRICT

- ☒ City and school share facilities after needs of owner are met
 - School uses swimming pool/golf course, tennis courts, theater
 - City uses schools' gyms, fields
- ☒ Indoor school gyms are available for organized city leagues
- ☒ The school district needs to become a bigger partner with the recreation department
- ☒ The city needs to suggest ways that partnerships with schools can be expanded, that facilities can be used (City can maintain school lands, school district can open facilities and bring facilities up to standards)

- ❏ Combine school maintenance with parks and recreation department (either decrease level of service for recreation department or charge school districts more for service)
- ❏ The City should try to gain better access to existing facilities (schools)
- ❏ School board can set general policy for use of facilities
- ❏ Look into opening school gyms after hours
- ❏ School has land available for a gym, may have funding through a bond process

RECREATION CENTER

Issues:

- ❏ City does not have many facilities for open gym
- ❏ Only have 1 gym-spread over lots of programs
- ❏ Community Center gym is too small, with too many teams, games are too late
- ❏ Winter volleyball was cancelled because of lack of facilities
- ❏ Basketball schedules are inconsistent due to lack of facilities
- ❏ Carson City has a huge lack of indoor recreation facilities ---there are no recreational outlets for teenagers

Considerations:

- ❏ Recreation centers serve as areas for the community to go, they cater to families
- ❏ Pony Pavilion could be the site for a new recreation center
- ❏ State of the art recreation center with membership fees would benefit community
- ❏ Land and money are available for a new recreation facility
- ❏ Need facility with ice rink, inline rink, indoor soccer, basketball courts, weight training
- ❏ New boys and girls club facility could serve as potential location for new recreation center

SPORTS FIELDS

- ❏ The City has more sports complexes than other communities
- ❏ Tennis
- ❏ Carson High School uses City tennis courts
- ❏ WNCC could generate demand for additional tennis courts

GUN CLUB

- ❏ High school has indoor shooting range
- ❏ High school would like to offer program through Gun Club
- ❏ Located next to golf course, shots go onto golf course
- ❏ Facility has regional draw
- ❏ Program is expected to grow rapidly

Needs:

- ❏ Bigger gun club / rifle range facility in new location
 - City has location in mind and is moving forward with the plan
- ❏ Facility would have classrooms, gunsmiths, possibly and indoor range, archery range

SIERRA INLINE HOCKEY

Needs:

- ❏ Improve maintenance of Pony Express Pavilion
 - Indoor hockey rink

CLEAR CREEK BOWMEN

- ❏ Archery range located next to trail---use conflicts
- ❏ Facility has ample room

- ☒ Facility has regional draw

Needs:

- ☒ Camping areas

ADULT SOCCER

- ☒ Program is expected to double over next 5 years

Needs:

- ☒ Lights on soccer fields
 - Indoor soccer wants to use Pony Pavilion for Hispanic league
 - Additional soccer fields

AYSO SOCCER

- ☒ Losing some players to competitive teams

Needs:

- ☒ Improve maintenance of goal area (possibly turf?)

ADULT SOFTBALL

- ☒ Lower fields were multi-use---destroyed outfield areas
- ☒ Outstanding field conditions attract tournament players

Needs:

- ☒ Additional softball fields for tournaments

LITTLE LEAGUE/BABE RUTH BASEBALL

Needs:

- ☒ Improve lighting for little league fields
- ☒ Improve maintenance of little league fields
 - Improve maintenance of Babe Ruth fields

Considerations:

- ☒ WNCC has room to build fields but the amount of land they possess is limited
- ☒ The City could expand Centennial's lower field for joint WNCC/City fields
- ☒ Two multi-use fields could be developed at Centennial
- ☒ Could create soccer field in WNCC detention basin
- ☒ Carson City has a large amount of vacant land within city---can remedy parks and recreation problems
- ☒ Silver Oak park will have outdoor courts when constructed (4 hoops)
- ☒ Ross Gold Park may have basketball courts in future
- ☒ Lower Centennial could accommodate basketball courts

Needs:

- ☒ Additional basketball courts
- ☒ Additional adult sports facilities (flag football, soccer)
- ☒ Increased parking areas for tournaments
- ☒ Improve aesthetics outside of Centennial complex
- ☒ Open gym facility
- ☒ Lights on BMX track
- ☒ Adult baseball facility
- ☒ Junior golf course

TRAILS

Existing Conditions:

- 📌 There is settle trend that trails are replacing neighborhood parks
- 📌 Recreational trends are becoming more individualistic (increased need for trails)
- 📌 Residents love the trails and open space, trails are seen as a means of accessing open space
- 📌 Nevada State park is non-motorized area
- 📌 3/4 of Prison Hill is non-motorized
- 📌 Goni Road area (Duck Hill) is Carson's playground-every use is possible here

Current Projects:

- 📌 Pedestrian Master Plan is funded—RFPs being sent out (will address urban gaps, prioritize funding)
- 📌 Bicycle Update is funded
- 📌 Short range transit plan underway (3-5 yr transit plan for Carson City)
- 📌 Clear Creek analysis
- 📌 Pine Nut plan
- 📌 Nevada State parks (Lake Tahoe area trails)
- 📌 Capitol-to-Capitol trail

Issues:

- 📌 Statewide trail issues in Nevada rated losing public access to trails as the #1 issue and creating loops rather than linear trails as the #1 action
- 📌 Fire access is paramount

Needs:

- 📌 County wide plan of trails-motor, non-equestrian, bicycle, foot, sidewalks
- 📌 Carson-Ash Canyon access to Hobart Reservoir (4WD road)
- 📌 Access to Prison Hill from Koontz Lane after Freeway is constructed
- 📌 Designated OHV area
- 📌 Motorcycle area that offers climbing, picnic area, camping
- 📌 Rock crawling park
- 📌 Plan access to river corridors in specific areas
- 📌 Link city to open space and open spaces to one another
- 📌 Non-motorized area
- 📌 Need to knit the community together
- 📌 Off street bike trails to schools
- 📌 Intermediate trails that access open space
- 📌 Expose horses to trail conditions to increase trail safety
- 📌 Connect missing links
- 📌 Connect to BLM and Nevada State parks
- 📌 Take advantage of Fire Service roads
- 📌 Improve roads to allow SUV usage, construct spaced turn-arounds and passing areas
- 📌 Construct additional fire access roads
- 📌 Acknowledge historic roads
- 📌 Create consistent design standards

Signage:

- 📌 Consistent signage
- 📌 Regulatory signage
- 📌 Informational signage- showing entire routes
- 📌 Signs on trail etiquette

Considerations:

- ☒ If restricting activity (motorized vs. nonmotorized), need to provide alternatives
- ☒ Trail breaks can serve as fire protection
- ☒ Trail system could be unique feature of Carson City
- ☒ Take advantage of fire burn area to construct trails
- ☒ Leave parts of river corridors in natural state
- ☒ Natural Resources and Wildlife
- ☒ Seasonal closures could protect wildlife
- ☒ Plant in Goni area
- ☒ Owl
- ☒ Goshawk
- ☒ Bald Eagle along River
- ☒ Protect riparian areas

Potential Trails:

- ☒ Consider a loop over to Snow Valley Peak
- ☒ Kings Canyon-parallel trail?
- ☒ Mitigate trail through Anderson Ranch, possibly move trail to Mexican Dam road
- ☒ Bike paths near aquatic center could be used for triathlons
- ☒ Sierra Rim Trail
- ☒ V&T railroad route and trail
- ☒ Ash Canyon (access to Hobart reservoir, gateway to mountain biking, proposed campground at Hobart res.) possible loop trail
- ☒ Trails could connect to State Facilities
- ☒ Bike route 6 : ends on Deer run road—possible off road connection?
- ☒ Green belt on western side of city
- ☒ Urban interface trails, especially loop trails

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS

- ☒ Robert's House
- ☒ Museum and park (garden)

Needs:

- ☒ Expand Robert's House park to the east

LATCH KEY

- ☒ Before and after school program
- ☒ Heavily utilized

Needs:

- ☒ Small pavilions not adequate for latch Key
- ☒ New facility for summer camp

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

Needs:

- ☒ New facility, the program is in the process of planning new facility, location already selected
- ☒ Transportation during school year

UN COOPERATIVE EXTENSION-4H

Needs:

- ☒ Areas where animals are welcome (horses, dogs, etc.)

LIBRARY

- ☒ In the process of constructing outside reading area

Needs:

- ☒ Additional computers
- ☒ Library should be integrated with more city programs
- ☒ Library could be located in community center

CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF NEVADA

- ☒ One of two museums in state
- ☒ Impossible to expand on existing site

Additional Needs:

- ☒ Open air community amphitheater
- ☒ Optional spaces for inclement weather
- ☒ Horse Program
- ☒ State Fair