

MINUTES

Assembly

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE - NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE - 57th SESSION

March 13, 1973

Meeting called to order by Chairman Mello at 8:05 AM in the Ways and Means Committee Room.

Present: Chairman Mello, Vice-Chairman Schofield, Messrs. Dreyer, Robinson, Capurro, Howard, Smith, Prince and Hafen.

Also Present: John Dolan, Randy Webb, Ron Sparks and Jean Ross.

Motion to accept the Minutes of the meeting of March 8, 1973, made by Mr. Howard. Second by Mr. Smith. Motion passed.

Mr. Eric Cronkhite directed his opening remarks to A.B. 238. Would like the Committee to reconsider this bill which gives authority to the State Park System to pay travel per diem expenses for an ad hoc committee. Under the requirements criteria of the Preservation Act the Nevada Historical Preservation Committee was appointed by the Governor. When a committee is appointed on a state-wide basis it should not be left to those who can afford to pay their own way and their own travel per diem expenses. This bill would authorize the payment of these expenses. The operations budget provides for \$1,500 to pay for the per diem expenses. It is in the budget under the Historic Preservation budget, page 468.

State Parks Capital Improvements, page 570:

Eagle Valley: Appropriation of \$113,000, one-half Federal funds. Proposal to increase camping facilities. On peak weekends there are upwards of 200 families using the area; present facilities accommodate 40 families. Would involve 815 acres, excellent possibilities for upstream recreational activities.

Lahontan: \$360,000 appropriation, one-half Federal funds. Area presently has no facilities at all, few outhouses or sanitation facilities. Used by approximately 200,000 people last year.

Discussion followed relative to the fees charges by the State Park System: \$2.00 per night for camping; \$1.00 day use charge; \$15.00 annual camping fee; \$10.00 day use fee, annual. Usually no fees are charged during the winter months except in some areas in Clark County. Mr. Howard asked if the State Parks System has the authority to charge a fine for not paying fees. Mr. Cronkhite stated that it definitely does not and would like any documentation that has been made available to Mr. Howard.

Lake Tahoe: Appropriation of \$274,000, \$72,000 of this amount to be Federal funds. This calls for the completion of the Sand Harbor beach area; lifeguard towers, sanitation facilities, dressing facilities, etc. Mr. Capurro raised the question of having a type of shuttle service between Incline and the Sand Harbor area to relieve the congestion of cars parked on the highway and pedestrians

on the roadways. Mr. Cronkhite stated that there had been a number of other problems in that area not only with traffic and pedestrian congestion but with drug problems, camping overnight and the ever present danger of fire.

Red Rock Canyon: Development of primarily the north end of the park. Total appropriation of \$440,000, State funds \$100,000. Proposed costs are as follows: utilities \$116,000; Red Springs group use unit \$165,000; Pine Creek picnic area \$59,000; Blue Diamond service unit \$240,000. Have been working on project for twelve years. Actually, the utilities portion of the appropriation is for a maintenance station to do repair work. They do have underground electricity and water. It also includes line expansion costs for electricity.

Valley of Fire: Appropriation of \$500,000, one half Federal funds. Must install a desalination plant because the Health Department says the water is too salty. Expenditures as follows: utilities \$171,000; campground and access roads \$222,000; protection of petrified logs \$6,500; riding and hiking trails \$4,200; visitor information facility, access and parking \$58,000. Have found that the amount of visitors to the area has increased in the summer time, approximately 205,000 visitors last year.

There are 183 historic markers which cost \$10,000 for the biennium to continue the marker program. This program utilizes community participation. Vandalism rate is not considered that great, the part of the marker to be found most susceptible to vandalism is the State seal. Have found that the greatest incidence of vandalism occurs at Christmas time.

In 1970 the State approved a \$5 million bond issue. During the past biennium State Parks have had \$2 million at their disposal. They bought 815 acres at Eagle Valley, 8 miles of shoreline in Washoe Valley and purchased a total of 3,600 acres. In the 1973-75 biennium they have \$3 million in bond money available to them but the Governor requested that they hold this and use general fund money now to avoid getting involved with interest payments. The Governor felt that the economy of the State was such that a general fund appropriation was in order.

Cathedral Gorge was shown as an example of what the State Parks' can offer to the public.

Arrow Canyon: Located in Northern Moapa and backs up into some open meadowland. Has a reservoir and geological interest.

Beaver Dam State Park: This is out of Caliente and roads are not paved but are improved. There is scenic, geologic, horseback riding, hiking and stream related activities available.

Belmont: This is a ghost town and represents old architecture in the old townsite. Off the highway from Tonopah, 12 miles off the highway off Route 8A. Stabilization and preservation of the area.

Bitter Ridge - Whitney Pockets: This is in northern Clark County. The formations are similar to those in the Valley of Fire. There are petroglyphs, too, but this park will never be a large, fully developed park such as Lake Tahoe.

Buffington Pockets: This is similar to Valley of Fire, is a very small area, and will not require immediate maintenance or attention.

Bristol: This is in Lincoln County five miles off highway 93 out of Pioche. There are three charcoal ovens worthy of preservation, which are still reasonably intact and in good shape.

Cathedral Gorge: Acquisition of land north of the present park. There is Cold Springs, which was an old pony express station, and that will be another small roadside park.

Colorado River: Acquisition of land on the Utah-Arizona border to permit access to the Colorado River.

Echo Canyon: Considerable discussion involved regarding the purchase by the State of certain lands in the center of the present park site. It seems that the State has been for a number of years buying this land, but in fact, has never purchased any of the land. The main portion of the park was acquired from Lincoln County. The latest appraisal shows the land at an appraised value of \$42,000 for 240 acres. Mr. Gimmel, the owner of the land, is asking \$350-\$400 per acre.

Fort Churchill: Acquisition of land along the Carson River.

Kershaw Ryan: East of Caliente. Purchase of private land in Lincoln County.

Keyhole Canyon: They will acquire a small site in Southern Clark County off highway 95. This area gets a fair amount of rock climbers and will be a small site.

Knob Hill: This is in the same area and toward Nelson. The interesting features are huge rounded boulders. These are piles on each other for quite a number of acres and are a short walk from the road. There is a real good view overlooking Lake Mojave.

Lee Canyon: This is a ski area offering the only snow skiing near Las Vegas. Other facilities are four hours or more away. Present operators are making sufficient money to pay for operation of the area but not for capital improvements. Propose to acquire area and turn the operation of it over to Clark County. Present operators have a special use permit from the Forest Service.

Spring Mountain: There are a number of BLM recreation sites high up in the mountains. This will have a great deal of climatic relief through small individual sites and will offer summer camping to Clark County.

Virgin Peak Mountains: Summer camping area and with a good number of trees.

Included in the \$3 million acquisition cost is \$100,000 for costs incidental to acquisition; appraisal costs, attorney fees, etc.

Mr. Cronkhite also pointed out that the costs apportioned to acquisition of Federal lands is exact. In the purchase of privately held land the exact acquisition cost is not known at this time.

Mr. Cronkhite also explained the various improvements that would be implemented with the Park Division's portion of the motor boat fuel tax. Improvements would be to: Davis Dam, Lahonton, Rye Patch, Lake Tahoe, Cave Lake.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10.