

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
MARCH 11, 1975

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The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m.

Senator Floyd R. Lamb was in the Chair.

PRESENT: Senator Floyd R. Lamb, Chairman
Senator James I. Gibson, Vice-Chairman
Senator William J. Raggio
Senator B. Mahlon Brown
Senator Warren L. Monroe
Senator Clifton Young
Senator Lee E. Walker

OTHERS: Howard Barrett, Budget Director
Ron Sparks, Fiscal Analyst
Brindon Riley, Press
Eric Cronkhite, Division of State Parks
Bill Wood, Division of State Parks
John Richardson, Division of State Parks
Benson Gibson, Executive Director of Nevada
Indians
Elmo DeRicco, Department of Conservation
Roland Westergard, State Engineer

DIVISION OF STATE PARKS

Mr. Eric Cronkhite said the new positions were for the following:

- a) One Typist - Central Office, Carson City
- b) One-half Typist - Clearcreek Office
- c) Ranger - Red Rock and Valley of Fire
- d) Trademan - Red Rock
- e) General Mechanic - Red Rock

In response to Senator Walker, Mr. Cronkhite said that 75 to 80 people are hired throughout the year as seasonals, and most of these are college students. Senator Young asked what the seasonals were paid. Mr. Bill Wood said:

- a) Park Aids \$3.00 per hour
- b) Rangers \$3.43 per hour
- c) Lifeguards \$3.43 per hour

Senator Lamb asked about Communications. Mr. Cronkhite said phones were installed at Valley of Fire.

Senator Raggio asked if Valley of Fire had lost its appeal since visitation has declined. Mr. Cronkhite said he felt the decline was due to the energy crisis. Mr. Elmo DeRicco said that people became negative towards the large crowds that usually attend the facility.

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Senator Young asked if the Division had a road count at Lake Tahoe. Mr. Cronkhite said yes, at Cave Rock, Sand Harbor, and Hidden Beach.

Senator Raggio and Senator Lamb asked about the increase in rent. Mr. Howard Barrett replied that the Budget Office relied on Buildings and Grounds to account for the space of each agency; however, no attention was paid to the new positions, so the office is going back over these with Peggy Glover, and will present new rent figures.

STATE PARK PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

In response to Senator Lamb, Mr. Cronkhite remarked that land acquisition comes under park improvement, and that this budget is strictly for the operational planning of parks now under management.

Senator Raggio asked about the appropriations for Planning and Engineering. Mr. Cronkhite said this appropriation was for a total master plan, but now there are plans budgeted for each project. Mr. Barrett said that this expenditure has been transferred to Consulting/Contract Services under the Parks Capital Improvement Program.

Senator Young and Senator Raggio asked about the Bicycle Path project. Mr. Cronkhite said that \$250,000 was allocated, but only \$20,000 was spent by the City of Sparks. Mr. John Richardson said that the Division receives applications with a commission approved plan and maps; however, the main problem has been securing the right-of-way over private property.

Mr. Elmo DeRicco said to Senator Raggio that funding is allocated in portions of completion, and that the Park Advisory Commission makes these allocation recommendations directly to the Governor.

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Mr. Cronkhite said that in order to meet federal requirements, this program must be updated, (Nevada has received more than \$11 million federal funds up-to-date).

Senator Raggio asked how long is the current eligibility period. Mr. Cronkhite said it is for twenty-four months.

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Senator Brown said he would like a complete breakdown on where and how much of the \$11 million was spent.

Senator Young asked if it was really necessary to have a completely new plan in order to be federally eligible. Mr. Cronkhite said that available data can be used, but essentially a totally new plan is required.

Senator Gibson asked that a letter be furnished to the Committee listing the exact federal requirements involved.

PARK HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

Mr. Cronkhite said this program is connected with SB 164.

Senator Lamb mentioned a letter from Mr. Ed Johnson concerning Fort Churchill. Mr. Cronkhite said that Mr. Johnson felt the park did not represent the Indian viewpoint, but the Park Division is requesting their opinion for the graphic story which will accompany the artifact display.

Senator Young requested information concerning the Piper's Opera House in Virginia City. Mr. Cronkhite said he could provide a list of the applications and decisions made.

SB 164

Mr. Cronkhite said this \$110,000 will be used for hiring consultants to update the historic preservation plans.

Senator Gibson noted that the bill uses the wording, "update", but the Division implied that a totally new plan must be constructed. Mr. Cronkhite said the 1965 Plan granted a five-year eligibility only.

Senator Monroe noted that community plans in the past have not been accepted, because they weren't included in this original 1965 plan.

Senator Lamb said that the Committee will consider SB 164 on the basis that an entirely "new" plan is not needed. Mr. Cronkhite remarked that the outside consultant being hired for this new project, has gotten other states eligible, and that although the Division has the expertise, they don't have the staff time necessary.

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VIRGINIA AND TRUCKEE RAILROAD

Mr. Cronkhite said that two locomotives have been acquired, and are now housed at Promontory, Utah.

Senator Raggio asked about the Acquisition/Capital Improvements, Mr. Cronkhite said this will be a housing museum to keep the equipment from deteriorating.

PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Mr. Cronkhite said an appropriation of \$1,600,000 is requested for the following projects:

- A) Beaver Dam:
Horsemen' facilities - \$80,000

Senator Gibson asked for a breakdown of how the \$80,000 will be spent.

- B) Berlin - Ichthyosaur:
Gravel Roads\$25,000
Enclose Fossil House..... 18,000
Campground Ramadas..... 18,000
Stabilize Buildings..... 75,000

Senator Lamb asked what is being built at Beaver Dam for \$80,000 that will attract anyone. Mr. John Richardson said he would provide a breakdown on this for the Committee.

- C) Cathedral Gorge:
Trailer Dump Station - \$15,000

Senator Raggio asked how many of the parks will have Trailer Dumps when all are completed. Mr. Cronkhite said aside from Cathedral Gorge, there will be one at Fort Churchill, Lake Lahontan, Valley of Fire, and Echo Canyon.

- D) Echo Canyon:
Fish Cleaning Station.....\$20,000
Picnic and Campground Ramadas 80,000

Mr. Benson Gibson remarked from the audience that it is time that use is made of Indian historians, and that these historians are allowed to participate in documentation of history. Mr. Gibson said the whiteman's viewpoint is all that has been shown before. Mr. Cronkhite said he would like to repeat,

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that if the history accounts have been slanted, the Park Division would like this corrected and an unbiased version presented.

E) Fort Churchill:
 Visitor Center Exhibits - \$50,000

Senator Brown asked about federal money being available for this project. Mr. DeRicco said this particular interpretation is not eligible for federal funding.

Senator Young asked if prison labor could be used to restore Fort Churchill. Mr. DeRicco said this would require cost-sharing and a staffing increase.

F) Kershaw Ryan:
 Trailer Dump Station - \$15,000

G) Lahontan Reservoir:
 Sewer Treatment.....\$290,000
 Trailer Dump 17,000
 Day Use Area..... 202,000
 Campground..... 197,000
 Road and Utilities..... 154,000
 Boating Facilities..... 200,000 (Gas Tax 50% - 50%)

Senator Raggio mentioned that this area has the highest use percentage wise than any other State Park.

Senator Gibson asked what the Boating Facilities will be. Mr. Richardson said this is for the launching ramps, motor docks, pump tank, trash, signs, access to ramp area, etc.

Senator Young asked if it was wise to invest in this area when under litigation. Mr. DeRicco responded that regardless, Lahontan still has recreational use. Mr. Roland Westergard said the hearings on Lahontan are scheduled for April 21, and he agreed with Senator Young that development should be held during a pending lawsuit.

H) Lake Tahoe:
 Spooner Lake.....\$200,000
 Day Use
 Sand Harbor..... 162,000 (Gas Tax)
 Wave Suppressor
 Cave Rock..... 250,000 (Gas Tax)
 Utilities, Sewer
 Ramp, Parking Improvements
 Shore Stabilization
 Comfort Stations

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Senator Young asked if the wave suppressor would change the natural condition of the Lake. Mr. Cronkhite said rocks off the bottom of the lake will be placed in piles. Mr. Richardson said an outside consultant said this is necessary, and the entire project will have to be through T.R.P.A.

- I) Mormon Station:
 - Visitor Center - \$ 50,000
 - Exhibits
 - Group Use - 120,000
 - Area

- J) Red Rock:
 - Comfort Stations.....\$ 5,000
 - Day Use Facilities..... 20,000
 - Pine Creek Road..... 15,000
 - Improvements

- K) Rye Patch:
 - Campground - \$130,000

- L) Spring Valley:
 - Boat Dock - \$ 25,000
 - Fish Cleaning - 20,000 (Gas Tax)

- M) Valley of Fire:
 - Paint Visitor Center - \$25,000
 - Horsemen's Facility - 75,000

- N) Washoe Lake:
 - Shop and Yard -\$ 80,000
 - Group Use Area - 100,000
 - Horsemen's Facility - 60,000
 - Roads and Utilities - 156,000

HISTORIC MARKER PROGRAM

Cost Summary:

Construction.....	\$11,500
Maintenance.....	<u>8,500</u>
Total.....	\$20,000

(193 Markers installed)

Senator Raggio asked about the Consultant/Contractual Services. Mr. Cronkhite replied that the amount shown is 20% of project cost for surveying.

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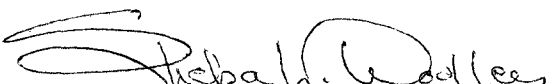
SB 102

Senator Gibson remarked that he and Senator Lamb had no knowledge of this bill, and yet were criticized as having a negative viewpoint on the Park Advisory Commission.

Mr. Dericco said that this bill was a result of the need for a land acquisition expert, and that there is now someone available in the Parks Division, and the bill is not necessary.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:


SHEBA L. WOOLLEY, SECRETARY

APPROVED:

FLOYD R. LAMB, CHAIRMAN