

CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
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A regular meeting of the Carson River Advisory Committee was held at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 1, 1999 at the Community Center Sierra Room, 851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada.

PRESENT: Chairperson Charles Zimmerman
Vice Chairperson Claire Clift
David Johnson
Paul Pettersen
Kevin Walsh
Barbara Wright

STAFF: Steve Kastens, Parks and Recreation Director
Vern Krahn, Parks Planner
Juan Guzman, Senior Planner, Community Development
Kathleen King, Recording Secretary
(CRAC 09/01/99; 1-0001)

NOTE: Unless indicated otherwise, each item was introduced by Chairperson Zimmerman. A tape recording of these proceedings is on file in the Clerk-Recorder's Office and is available for review and inspection during regular business hours.

A. ROLL CALL, DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM (1-0005) - Chairperson Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Roll call was taken; a quorum was present. Member Johnson arrived at 6:03 p.m. Member Piccolo was absent.

B. COMMITTEE ACTION

1. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO APPROVE MEETING MINUTES (1-0010) - Vice Chairperson Clift moved to approve the August 4, 1999 minutes as presented. Member Pettersen seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0-2-0.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS (1-0023) - None.

D. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA (1-0028; 1-1075) - At the request of Mr. Krahn, Chairperson Zimmerman modified the agenda to address item F-5 following item F-2.

E. DISCLOSURES (1-0031) - None.

F. PUBLIC HEARING

F-1. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING AN UPDATE ON MAILING LISTS AND INFORMATION PACKETS FOR CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS ON RESOURCE EVALUATION AND TOXIC WEED MITIGATION (1-0037) - Jane Schmidt, of the Natural Resources Conservation Service ("NRCS"), advised of a meeting with the subcommittee to review the maps and mailing lists. Consensus was to develop two mailing lists, as follows: One will include all property owners with property which "touches" the River; the other will include viewshed property owners within the River corridor. The initial mailing will be informational and will be sent to property owners on both mailing lists. The second mailing will include a postcard to the viewshed property owners requesting that they indicate whether or not they wish to remain on the mailing list. Property owners with property touching the River will continue to receive all mailings. Ms. Schmidt discussed the proposed length of the letter, its content, and suggested including the Committee's mission statement. She requested the Committee members submit information they would like to have included in the letter prior to Friday, September 10. The letter will then be drafted and sent to the Committee members for review and feedback. Ms. Schmidt

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estimated that the letter will be ready to be mailed by the end of the month. Chairperson Zimmerman requested that a brief discussion of current projects, such as Carson River Park and the bank stabilization project, be included. Member Johnson provided the list of projects discussed at the May 8, 1999 workshop meeting. Ms. Schmidt advised that the weed booklet will be mailed, under separate cover, at the book rate. Additionally, she will prepare a news release for review by the Committee prior to publishing. Ms. Schmidt then provided an update on recruitment of the wildlife biologist, as follows: 33 applications have been received, interviews will take place Friday, September 10, and a decision will be made shortly thereafter. Depending upon the current residency of the candidate selected, it may be some time before the person is actually "on board." With regard to the noxious weed project, Ms. Schmidt discussed a meeting which took place this afternoon between representatives from several different agencies. A grant in the amount of \$41,000 has been received from the State Environmental Protection Agency. Of that amount, \$13,000 will be allocated to Carson City for purchasing supplies, equipment, etc. The Nevada Cooperative Extension also received funding from the Nevada State Legislature and will be focusing on producing educational materials. Ms. Schmidt explained that the materials for the weed information booklet were donated by the Bureau of Land Management ("BLM"). With regard to the purpose for the \$13,000 grant allocation, Ms. Schmidt explained that the NRCS will be locating a demonstration area in Carson City to address the problem of Tall White Top, and assisting the local effort in eradicating the weed. An enclosure will be included with the weed booklet explaining the problem, the reason for concern, efforts to eradicate the problem, who to contact, how to identify the weed, etc. Ms. Schmidt explained that the Streets Department has compiled a map of Tall White Top locations which is currently being added to and utilized. The City GIS department has offered to coordinate the mapping effort among City staff. The information compiled will, in turn, be incorporated into a State data base which NRCS will administer. Ms. Schmidt acknowledged that private property owners along the River are being relied upon to report occurrences of Tall White Top. Chairperson Zimmerman thanked Ms. Schmidt for her presentation. Mr. Krahn advised he had provided the map to Scott Royal at the GIS Service the day after the subcommittee meeting. Discussion ensued with regard to coordination of efforts between the Storm Drainage and Streets Department staff, the Cooperative Extension office providing information to residents living along drainageways, and the possibility of enclosing information in utility billings. No formal action was taken.

F-2. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING THE CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION TO THE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION AND BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CONCERNING THE CARSON CITY OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN (1-0298) - Mr. Guzman distributed a summary of the Open Space Master Plan and reviewed the same, using several maps. He explained the distinction between preserving open space and designating "developable land in desirable areas." Discussion ensued with regard to utilizing eminent domain to acquire property. Member Walsh suggested including the rules of trail etiquette as a way to address potential user conflicts. Chairperson Zimmerman complimented the Open Space Advisory Committee and City staff on the draft master plan. Mr. Guzman advised that the Open Space Advisory Committee will continue the review period until their meeting on September 8. The plan will also be submitted to the Parks and Recreation Commission at their meeting on September 7. Once the plan is approved by the OSAC, it will be submitted to the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Guzman advised that insightful comments had been received from Jay Meierdierck and Mark Kimbrough, and that these will be reviewed and incorporated into the plan. Discussion ensued with regard to the disposition of proceeds from leased agricultural lands, utilizing federal grant money in conjunction with volunteer programs, and fire protection for preservation of viewshed areas. Mr. Krahn advised of conversations with Assistant Fire Chief Steve Mihelic regarding the issue of fire protection. Once the City acquires property, it becomes responsible for fire prevention management. Vice Chairperson Clift moved that the Carson River Advisory Committee support the adoption of the Open Space Master Plan as presented. Member Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0-1-0.

F-3. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING STAFF UPDATE ON THE STREAM BANK STABILIZATION AND EROSION CONTROL PROJECT (1-1570) - Mr. Krahn advised that

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clearance for this project has been received from the Army Corps of Engineers, one branch of the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, and from State Lands. He has been advised that the last permit will be in place by the end of the week. A "project kick off" meeting with Kevin Piper, Chuck Knowlton, and other City staff, is scheduled for the week of September 13th. NRCS will have the design completed for the erosion control and bank stabilization projects by that time. Kevin Piper has estimated late October or early November for the revegetation portion of the project to ensure the willows have gone into a dormant state. Mr. Krahn will distribute copies of the plan to the Committee members once it is completed. No formal action was taken.

F-4. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING STAFF UPDATE ON THE CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENT PROGRESS FOR CARSON RIVER PARK AND THE NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S RIGHT-OF-WAY PROJECT IMPACTS (1-1630) - Mr. Krahn reported that the encroachment permit from NDOT will be received within the next week. The NDOT Surplus Property Committee has recommended that the 60' swath of property, between the City and BLM property, be deemed surplus property. A NDOT district engineer will confirm the recommendation. Rich Shock, of Stantech, submitted the construction documents to the Building Department approximately two weeks ago. Mr. Kastens and Mr. Krahn are completing their final review of the drawings which will be sent back to Mr. Shock for incorporation into the complete package. Mr. Krahn then explained the bidding time table and discussion ensued with regard to the benefits of allowing a longer bid period, the concern of inclement weather, the Purchasing Department's bid noticing process, the ten-day time period within which construction must begin following award of the bid, and the City's process for awarding bids. Committee consensus was to request the Purchasing Department to put the project out to bid on September 9. No formal action was taken.

F-5. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING VOLUNTEER PROJECTS BY SOUTHWEST GAS AND OTHER BUSINESSES FOR THE CARSON RIVER, INCLUDING CANOE PORTAGE AT MORGAN MILL ROAD, AT THE EAST END OF EMPIRE RANCH GOLF COURSE AND ADJACENT TO THE CARSON RIVER (1-1081) - Member Johnson advised of a meeting with Member Piccolo wherein a list of potential projects was developed to be conveyed to the Southwest Gas Employee Volunteer Team ("EVT"). He recommended that an additional list of projects be developed for other volunteer groups. The subcommittee determined the top priority project to be development of the canoe portage. Additionally, they visited the Ambrose-Carson River Natural Area and identified areas where people had apparently been getting around the barriers. While touring the same area with Mr. Kastens at a later date, it was evident people had been breaking through the barriers. Member Johnson discussed additional boundaries which have been breached by vehicular traffic since that time. Thus, the number two priority identified was additional barriers to prevent vehicular access into the Ambrose-Carson River Natural Area. Mr. Kastens acknowledged the Parks and Recreation staff had returned the boulders to their original locations. The third priority identified by the subcommittee was work to be performed on the Silver Saddle Ranch property to block vehicular traffic from accessing the riparian zone. This would be done in conjunction with the BLM. Chris Miller, of the BLM, has determined this to be a feasible project. Member Johnson and Ms. Miller will visit the area to discuss the BLM's direction for the project. Member Johnson has attempted to contact Lee Jones, the Southwest Gas EVT representative, but has been unsuccessful. He pointed out that with regard to the canoe portage, issues such as identification of the City property line and a plan for the project, remain to be determined. Mr. Kastens discussed City requirements for development of the canoe portage, including the possibility of a special use permit depending upon the zoning. Community Development Director Walter Sullivan has advised that part of the parcel is zoned public and part is zoned agricultural. The earliest a special use permit could be obtained would be at the Planning Commission meeting at the end of October. Mr. Kastens pointed out that Southwest Gas indicated they would like to do their project in September so as not to conflict with their Christmas projects. Lacking a plan for the portage, it will be difficult to put a project together for Southwest Gas within the time frame they requested. As the need for additional rock placement at the Ambrose-Carson River Natural Area has been identified, Mr. Kastens suggested this as a project for the Southwest Gas EVT.

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Member Johnson pointed out that Southwest Gas had requested more than one project option. Mr. Krahn discussed potential projects for the west side of the River, such as placing boulders, cleaning snags from the river, and removing trash; and for the east side of the River, such as boulder placement around the top of the borrow pit area. Discussion ensued with regard to the source for the boulders, implementation of the planning process for the portage area as a project for next year, utilizing a volunteer group for development of a plan, determination of property ownership, determination of required permits, and inclusion of the project in the Carson River Master Plan. Member Walsh volunteered his assistance. Chairperson Zimmerman thanked Members Johnson and Piccolo and City staff for spending the time to develop the priority list. He noted that there are opportunities for clean up at various areas along the River during Carson River Day. Member Pettersen moved that the Committee prioritize the Ambrose-Carson River Natural Area improvements and the Silver Saddle Ranch improvements for consideration by Southwest Gas. Member Walsh seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0-1-0.

F-6. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING NOMINATIONS TO ACKNOWLEDGE BUSINESSES, AGENCIES, OR INDIVIDUALS THAT HAVE MADE A CONCERTED EFFORT TO IMPROVE THE RECREATIONAL OR ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS ALONG THE CARSON RIVER (1-2069) - Mr. Krahn reviewed the nomination applications received to date. Committee consensus was to confine the awards to projects and activities done on the River within the Carson City area. Member Wright suggested providing a letter of acknowledgement and appreciation to those individuals and groups which have performed service on the River outside the Carson City area. Discussion regarding the number of awards followed. Committee consensus was that Mr. Kimbrough be presented an award which covers all three categories: education, stewardship and friend. Chairperson Zimmerman pointed out that individuals not presented an award this year could be considered next year. Member Pettersen moved that the Carson River Advisory Committee issue six plaques, as follows: Kay Bennett, Mark Kimbrough, Parks and Recreation/Community Development, Boy Scout Troop 145, Kiwanis Club of Carson City, and Southwest Gas. Member Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0-1-0.

F-7. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING POSSIBLE RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES ALONG THE CARSON RIVER (1-2523) - Member Walsh discussed developing a trail system through the northern area of the River, i.e. Deer Run Bridge to the Lyon County line, a distance of 5.3 miles. He reviewed the ownership map for the area, hiked the area, and took 50 slide photographs. He discovered families camping, partiers, etc., and discussed changing the character of the area by developing recreation. He advised that the terrain is very challenging, and there are historic roads and other areas of historic interest in the area. The area is in need of rehabilitation but has a lot of potential and could be a benefit to Carson City. Member Johnson suggested that Member Walsh discuss possible plans of the Tri-County Railway Commission with Carson City's representative to the Commission. Chairperson Zimmerman thanked Member Walsh for his interest and advised that the Committee would look forward to further reports. He discussed the abandoned vehicles in the area and the need to address this problem. No formal action was taken.

F-8. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING CARSON RIVER DAY ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS, SEPTEMBER 25, 1999 (1-2714) - Chairperson Zimmerman provided an announcement for this event. He encouraged the Committee members and the audience to attend and described the activities for the event, the location, and the time. No formal action was taken.

G. ADJOURNMENT (1-2740) - Member Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 p.m. Vice Chairperson Clift seconded the motion. Mr. Krahn reviewed the agenda for items to include on the October agenda. The motion to adjourn the meeting was voted and carried 6-0-1-0.

The Minutes of the September 1, 1999 Carson River Advisory Committee meeting are so approved this _____ day of October, 1999.

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CHARLES ZIMMERMAN, Chairperson