

CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the August 1, 2007 Meeting

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A regular meeting of the Carson River Advisory Committee was scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 1, 2007 in the Community Center Sierra Room, 851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada.

PRESENT: Acting Chairperson Dan Greytak

Tom Farrer

Mark McCubbin

Randy Pahl

Ernie Rink

STAFF: Vern Krahn, Park Planner

Ann Bollinger, Open Space Assistant

Kathleen King, Recording Secretary

NOTE: A recording of these proceedings, the committee's agenda materials, and any written comments or documentation provided to the recording secretary during the meeting are public record, on file in the Clerk-Recorder's Office. These materials are available for review during regular business hours.

CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM (5:33:53) - Acting Chairperson Greytak called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. Roll was called; a quorum was present. Chairperson Zimmerman and Vice Chairperson Pugsley were absent.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS (5:34:20) - None.

1. ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES - June 6, 2007 (5:34:34) - Member Pahl moved to approve the minutes. Member Farrer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

2. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA (5:35:07) - None.

3. AGENDA ITEMS:

3-A. PRESENTATION ONLY REGARDING CARSON CITY'S EFFLUENT WATER MASTER PLAN AS IT RELATES TO POTENTIAL IMPACTS TO THE CARSON RIVER (5:35:29) - Acting Chairperson Greytak introduced this item. Mr. Krahn provided an overview of this item, and introduced Public Works Operations Manager Ken Arnold. Mr. Arnold provided background information on development of the effluent water master plan. He anticipates that a discharge permit application will be submitted to the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection ("NDEP") in October 2007. He discussed effluent use throughout the City, and advised that there is currently a balance between the amount of effluent produced and the demand. Effluent water users have recently been asked to "trim down their use."

With regard to the Andersen and Jarrard properties, Mr. Arnold advised that staff is considering the possibility of capturing spring water seasonally in addition to the effluent irrigation. He further advised that an effluent line to the Silver Saddle Ranch has been designed, funding has been annually maintained in the City's budget for the project, and the necessary permits have been obtained. He advised that the project was part of the wetlands mitigation requirement associated with the freeway.

Member Farrer expressed the opinion that effluent is a resource which should be used, but concern over the quality of the effluent and the possibility of groundwater and River contamination. Mr. Arnold

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explained that any re-use site is designated by permit with monitoring through NDEP. A tailwater system is required. Tissue and water samples are routinely taken and analyzed to ensure that vegetation is taking up the water. Mr. Arnold advised that the topography of the Andersen Ranch actually slopes toward the wetlands and not toward the River. Any tailwater will be required to be captured "and brought back in." Mr. Arnold assured the committee members that effluent irrigation is "under scrutiny of NDEP, via a permit and a lot of monitoring, a lot of sampling, a lot of care on the City's part to make sure it's okay." Mr. Krahn advised that all the City sports complexes are irrigated with effluent water with the same precautions as described by Mr. Arnold. Member Farrer reiterated his support of the use of effluent water as a resource, and his concern regarding its effect on the environment. Mr. Arnold advised that City officials are in full agreement with ensuring the safe use of effluent water for irrigation.

In response to a question, Mr. Arnold expressed the understanding that irrigation practices for the Andersen property are currently being studied by a consultant. The same methods of irrigation which have been used are anticipated to continue to be used. Acting Chairperson Greytak pointed out that flood irrigation is a different practice than the sprinkler systems used in other areas. In response to a question, Mr. Arnold advised that the effluent line will follow Fifth Street to River Road and down to the Silver Saddle Ranch. In response to a further question, he advised that the Mexican Ditch is being considered because of downstream users below the project site. He advised that these users will not be without the water. "The issue is recognized and is part of the planning process." Mr. Krahn acknowledged that the City will retain its water rights on the Mexican Ditch for Riverview Park. He explained that as the reclaimed water line irrigates the Silver Saddle Ranch and the Andersen property, Riverview Park will also receive the appropriate allocation of water rights for maintenance of the wetlands and wildlife habitat. He acknowledged there are water rights on the ranch at the end of Hells Bells Road. Acting Chairperson Greytak noted the difficulty of using effluent irrigation to maintain the "vegetative strip along the Mexican Ditch on the trail. If you dry that up, it'll change the character." Mr. Arnold expressed the understanding that the Mexican Ditch will still be used for water delivery. In response to a question, he advised that denitrification measures will be implemented in conjunction with improvements planned for the near future.

In response to a question, Mr. Krahn discussed the City's water rights on the Mexican Ditch in conjunction with Riverview Park irrigation. Member Pahl advised that effluent irrigation wouldn't work at Riverview Park because of public access issues. Mr. Arnold responded to questions regarding the Brunswick Reservoir. He acknowledged that the water currently being used from the Brunswick Reservoir is that which was stored over the past winter. Acting Chairperson Greytak called for public comment and, when none was forthcoming, thanked Mr. Arnold for his attendance and presentation.

3-B. UPDATE AND DISCUSSION ONLY REGARDING QUESTION #1, CONSERVATION AND RESOURCE PROTECTION GRANT PROGRAM, CARSON RIVER CORRIDOR FUNDS (5:57:16) - Acting Chairperson Greytak introduced this item. Mr. Krahn introduced Question #1 Conservation Resource Protection Grant Program, Grants and Projects Analyst Jon Paul Kiel, and provided an overview of the purpose of this item. Mr. Kiel narrated a PowerPoint presentation, copies of which were included in the agenda materials. Mr. Krahn advised that the City will be submitting applications for round 8 of the Question #1 grant program. In response to a question, Mr. Kiel reviewed the status of Lyon County's river projects.

Mr. Krahn thanked Mr. Kiel for his attendance and presentation. He expressed appreciation for the working relationship between City staff and Question #1 grant program staff. Acting Chairperson Greytak concurred.

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3-C. UPDATE ONLY REGARDING THE PROJECT STATUS OF THE FOLLOWING

QUESTION #1 - CARSON RIVER CORRIDOR PROJECTS: (A) MEXICAN DITCH TRAIL BRIDGE(S) AND CARSON RIVER ROAD PEDESTRIAN CROSSING PROJECT; (B) MORGAN MILL ROAD RIVER ACCESS AREA SITE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT - PHASE 1; (C) CARSON RIVER PARK PROJECT - PHASE 2 (6:17:31) - Acting Chairperson Greytak introduced and Mr. Krahn provided an overview of this item. Ms. Bollinger narrated a SlideShow presentation of the Mexican Ditch Bridge(s) Project. She thanked Muscle Powered President Anne Macquarie for her assistance in developing and presenting the grant applications. She oriented the committee members to the location of the project, using a displayed map. She explained that the project includes a replacement bridge, a new bridge, and road signage with pavement parking, and provided details on the three project components. In response to a question, Mr. Krahn provided an overview of the project. He advised that the bridges will not be engineered to handle heavy vehicles; they will be primarily designated for pedestrian, equestrian, and bicycle use. In response to a further question, he advised that project details, particularly with regard to access, have yet to be designed. Ms. Bollinger reviewed the project time table, available funding, and project cost estimates. She advised of a Question #1 grant program requirement to notify area residents, and read into the record a supportive quote from an area resident.

Ms. Bollinger narrated a SlideShow presentation of the Morgan Mill Road River Access Area Site Improvement Project - Phase 1, including an overview of the implementation schedule, project cost estimates, and available and anticipated funding. In response to a question, Mr. Krahn reviewed the request for proposal process which was submitted approximately one year ago. In response to a further question, he advised that additional consideration will be given to an alternative to using asphalt for the parking area. Acting Chairperson Greytak discussed the importance of developing projects in sensitive areas "in the most benign way and capture that water that falls on it rather than shoot it back into the River." In response to a further question, Mr. Krahn discussed funding opportunities for the remaining cost of the project.

Ms. Bollinger narrated a SlideShow presentation of the Carson River Park Project - Phase 2, including the implementation and cost schedule. Mr. Krahn reviewed amenities and landscape being considered as part of the project. He advised of the intent to keep the Morgan Mill Road River Access Area and the Carson River Park projects at the same level of development. He reviewed available and potential funding for the project. In response to a question, Mr. Krahn advised that Carson River Park is identified in the parks and recreation master plan element as a natural park. In response to a further question, he advised that the playground equipment was considered because there are no neighborhood parks in the area. He explained Bureau of Land Management representatives' reservations regarding the appropriateness of traditional playground equipment on the Silver Saddle Ranch property. Subsequent consideration has been given to climbing boulders, a boulder climbing wall, or other amenities more appropriate to the historic character of the ranch. In response to a further question, Mr. Krahn explained the method by which the park will be irrigated. Acting Chairperson Greytak suggested utilizing effluent water to irrigate the field, and discussion followed. Acting Chairperson Greytak called for public comment and, when none was forthcoming, thanked Ms. Bollinger and Mr. Krahn for their presentation.

3-D. UPDATE AND POSSIBLE ACTION FOR THE CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO PLAN, ORGANIZE, AND SPONSOR A CARSON RIVER WORK DAY ON OCTOBER 20, 2007 (6:53:27) - Acting Chairperson Greytak introduced this item, and Mr. Krahn provided background information. Jacob Flansberg narrated a PowerPoint presentation on his plan for the Carson River work day. Mr. Krahn commended Mr. Flansberg on identifying the three core components

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of the project, i.e., removal of chicken wire and painting sand on trees, installing additional waste bag stations, and planting willows. Mr. Krahn requested input of the committee members in that the next committee meeting won't be scheduled until the first week in October.

Member Rink advised of having discussed the logistics of the work day, including how to inform the neighbors, how to get people to the work site, the method by which to accomplish garbage pick up, etc. Member Pahl expressed concern over keeping 200 to 300 people busy during the work day, and discussion followed. Mr. Krahn reviewed various preparatory activities which should be done well prior to the work day. In response to a question, he advised that a source for the paint has not yet been identified. Member Pahl encouraged Mr. Flansberg to plant willows as near as possible to the River. Member Rink advised that Vice Chairperson Pugsley will be providing direction with regard to the willow planting.

Acting Chairperson Greytak commended Mr. Flansberg's project, and invited interested citizens to participate in the work day. He described his experience in applying sandy paint through a garden sprayer. He suggested that "good quality paint" would be easier to work with. He thanked Mr. Flansberg and encouraged his project.

4. NON-ACTION ITEMS:

STATUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM STAFF (7:10:35) - Mr. Krahn reviewed direction from District Attorney's staff requiring specific itemization of status reports on future agendas.

MEMBERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION (7:12:51; 7:13:46) - Member Pahl requested information with regard to methods by which the City is identifying invasive noxious weeds along the Carson River. Mr. Krahn advised of weed control funding which has been made available to the City through a Carson Water Subconservancy District grant. In addition, the City has funding designated for tall white top control. Mr. Krahn suggested that a Public Works Department representative could be invited to the October meeting to discuss the method by which invasive noxious weeds are identified and controlled. Member Pahl encouraged the general public to report the locations of invasive noxious weeds. Mr. Krahn provided his and Parks and Recreation Director of Operations Scott Fahrenbruch's contact information.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (7:13:06) - None.

6. ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT (7:16:55) - Member McCubbin moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 p.m. Member Farrer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

The Minutes of the August 1, 2007 Carson River Advisory Committee meeting are so approved this 3rd day of October, 2007.

CHARLES ZIMMERMAN, Chair