

CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the October 3, 2007 Meeting

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A regular meeting of the Carson River Advisory Committee was scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 3, 2007 in the Community Center Sierra Room, 851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada.

PRESENT: Chairperson Charles Zimmerman
Vice Chairperson Paul Pugsley
Tom Farrer
Dan Greytak
Mark McCubbin
Randy Pahl

STAFF: Vern Krahm, Park Planner
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 (5:32:20) - Chairperson Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. Roll was called; a quorum was present. Member Rink was absent.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS (5:32:43) - None.

1. ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES - August 1, 2007 (5:33:04) - Member Greytak moved to approve the minutes. Member McCubbin seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

2. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA (5:33:30) - None.

3. AGENDA ITEMS:

3-A. UPDATE AND DISCUSSION ONLY ON THE CARSON RIVER COALITION'S MISSION AND CURRENT ACTIVITIES ON THE CARSON RIVER (5:33:51) - Chairperson Zimmerman introduced this item. Ed James, of the Carson Water Subconservancy District ("CWSD"), provided background information on the CWSD's origins and purpose. He explained that the Carson River Coalition ("CRC") was formed by the CWSD "to bring multiple entities and different people" to "give a broader perspective of what is occurring on the River." He noted that several of the committee members are also members of the CRC. He listed the purposes of the following CRC working groups: education, regional flood plain management, legislative, regional water system, and water quality. He advised that the CRC has no authority, but reports to the CWSD Board which may fund certain recommended projects. He commended Genie Azad on her coordination of the CRC.

At Member Greytak's request, Mr. James discussed various workshops and symposiums sponsored by the CWSD each year. Topics have included flood plain management and water quality. Mr. James advised that one CRC working group is currently focused on watershed hydrology. He discussed growth concerns in the face of the fully allocated watershed. He advised that litigation has been a great concern as the Pyramid Tribe "has been challenging every water right transfer on the Carson River." Pyramid Tribe representatives have expressed concern over "all these new transfers ... impacting flows in the River which

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then diminishes how much water flows into Lahontan” which in turn may mean diverting more water from the Truckee River. Mr. James advised that Churchill County representatives have been involved, as Churchill County is a member of the CWSD. The purpose of the hydrology working group is to consider the function of the River under the Alpine Decree which allocates all the surface water resources “and then dealing with the ground water resources too.” Mr. James advised of a community education workshop, to be scheduled in the near future, for the purpose of getting input on flood plain management. He discussed the goal to develop a regional plan. “We’re trying to look at the whole flood plain, issues, how do we build with that, how do we protect the resources, the environment ...” He discussed the importance of protecting resources and natural settings.

With respect to flood plain management, Chairperson Zimmerman inquired as to whether the area is in a better position to deal with a flood similar to that which occurred in 1997. Mr. James commented that people seem to have a short memory; areas inundated in the 1997 flood have been built in. He advised that “we’re still better off than those on the Truckee.” The Carson River suffered impact but the magnitude “dollar-wise was probably a hundred times less than what you saw on the Truckee. ... The flood plain worked like it was supposed to.” Repairs were necessary, but “as we build closer and closer” there are greater concerns. Mr. James advised this is one reason for developing the regional flood plain management plan. “We are seeing encroachment ... and as encroachment continues, it’s going to get to the point where ... flooding is going to get worse and worse and the costs are going to go up.” Mr. James advised that some of the most severe flooding in Carson City was from alluvial fans. With regard to the River, he advised opportunities are still available “and we’re trying to protect those.”

Member Pahl recalled a CRC working group which was attempting to develop ordinances, in conjunction with county representatives, to provide more protection. Mr. James advised that Ms. Azad has been coordinating the working group which meets with county representatives. He explained that every county has adopted FEMA’s minimum standards. This does not protect from flooding, however; “it’s just an insurance policy.” The CRC working group is considering ways to preserve the flood plains to ensure future protection. Mr. James expressed the belief that a regional plan will be better able to protect the flood plains. He expressed the hope the plan will be available for public and county review early next spring.

In response to a question, Mr. James provided the web address: cwsd.org, and an overview of information available via the website. Discussion took place regarding the “Lifeline in the Desert” educational map. Mr. James related an example emphasizing the importance of River education. Chairperson Zimmerman thanked Mr. James for his presentation.

3-B. UPDATE AND DISCUSSION ONLY ON CARSON CITY’S EFFORTS CONCERNING NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL ALONG THE CARSON RIVER (5:49:50) - Chairperson Zimmerman introduced this item. University of Nevada Cooperative Extension Weed Coalition Coordinator Margie Evans introduced herself for the record. She advised that much of the CWSD’s efforts are directly related to noxious weed control on the River. She thanked Mr. James and the CWSD, as the primary funding source for noxious weed control in Carson City. She narrated a PowerPoint presentation on noxious weed control along the Carson River.

Member Pahl thanked Ms. Evans for her presentation. In response to a question, Ms. Evans advised that spraying is the only successful long-term treatment for Russian knapweed and tall white top. She advised of an unsuccessful revegetation project implemented along Eagle Valley Creek. She further advised that

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Open Space Assistant Ann Bollinger has used goats to deal with Russian knapweed “but that’s very expensive.” Representatives of adjacent counties have indicated “the best we can do is to weed whack the plants ... or use goats to keep the plants stressed and then, in August and September, ... spray.” Ms. Evans described the spray as “heavy duty chemical.” Mr. Krahn acknowledged Ms. Evans’ efforts and those of the City Public Works crews. Ms. Evans expressed appreciation for the City partnerships. She responded to questions regarding costs associated with using goats to graze Russian knapweed in Kings Canyon.

In response to a question, Member Greytak described vegetation in the flood control area along Fifth Street. Mr. Krahn discussed efforts by NDOT to revegetate and eradicate noxious weeds in areas associated with freeway construction. In response to a question, Ms. Evans provided her contact information. Chairperson Zimmerman thanked Ms. Evans for her presentation.

3-C. ACTION FOR THE CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO PLAN, ORGANIZE, AND SPONSOR A CARSON RIVER WORK DAY ON OCTOBER 20, 2007 AT RIVERVIEW PARK (6:13:06) - Chairperson Zimmerman introduced this item. Mr. Krahn introduced Jacob Flansberg and provided background information on this item. Mr. Flansberg reviewed details of the work day and the scheduled projects. Mr. Krahn referred to the media release included in the agenda materials, and a public notice developed by Mr. Flansberg which was mailed to approximately 100 property owners in the area. In response to a question, Mr. Flansberg advised that 20 gallons of paint had been donated by Kelly Moore Paints. In addition, the manager of Capitol City Concrete has offered as much sand as is needed for the project. Mr. Flansberg is working to get an additional 30 gallons of paint donated by Sherwin Williams Paints. Member Farrer advised of a source for approximately 20 gallons of paint, and requested direction from Mr. Flansberg as to how to get it delivered. Mr. Flansberg responded to questions regarding donations for lunch, snacks, and water. He advised the event is scheduled to begin at 8:00 a.m. and end at 12:00 p.m. In response to a question, he expressed the hope that between 100 and 125 volunteers would participate in the event.

Member Greytak provided an overview of last year’s successful event, and encouraged public participation. In response to a question, Mr. Flansberg advised that a registration table will be set up at the park entrance. Member Greytak provided direction on how to access Riverview Park. Mr. Krahn discussed arrangements for parking to facilitate the event. Member Greytak discussed the effort invested by Mr. Flansberg in preparing for and coordinating the event. Member Pahl suggested posting notices at the park entrance to further publicize the event. In response to a question, Mr. Flansberg advised that paintbrushes will be used to apply sandy paint to the trees. Mr. Krahn discussed efforts invested in determining the most effective method for applying the sandy paint. Chairperson Zimmerman thanked Mr. Flansberg and Mr. Krahn for their presentation. No formal action was taken.

4. NON-ACTION ITEMS:

STATUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM STAFF (6:25:51) - Mr. Krahn reviewed the “FYI” items included in the agenda materials.

MEMBERS’ ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION (6:30:35) - Member Greytak announced a streambank soil bioengineering technical training workshop scheduled for November 27 through 29. The classroom portion will be held in Carson City on November 27 and 28. Field work is scheduled for November 29th at the Walker River. The workshop is sponsored by the Dayton,

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Mason, and Smith Valley Conservation Districts and will be similar to one held in 2002 on the Carson River. Vice Chairperson Pugsley advised that the workshop instructors are nationally known. He highly recommended both the workshop and the instructors.

(6:35:00) Member Pahl advised that “somebody has moved rocks so you can drive down to the River again” at the Silver Saddle Ranch. He inquired as to the possibility of using bigger rocks or installing steel posts. Member Greytak discussed the importance of keeping vehicles out of the River bed at all times.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (6:33:30) - Mr. Krahn discussed items tentatively scheduled for the December committee meeting.

6. ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT (6:36:22) - Member Pahl moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:36 p.m. Member Farrer seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

The Minutes of the October 3, 2007 Carson River Advisory Committee meeting are so approved this 5th day of December, 2007.

CHARLES ZIMMERMAN, Chair