

CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the April 2, 2008 Meeting

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A regular meeting of the Carson River Advisory Committee was scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 2, 2008 in the Community Center Sierra Room, 851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada.

PRESENT: Chairperson Randy Pahl
Vice Chairperson Paul Pugsley
Dan Greytak
Mark McCubbin
Ernie Rink
Lacy Sheck

STAFF: Roger Moellendorf, Parks and Recreation Department Director
Scott Fahrenbruch, Parks and Recreation Director of Operations
Juan Guzman, Open Space / Property Manager
Vern Krahn, 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 (5:33:44) - Chairperson Pahl called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. Roll was called; a quorum was present. Member Farrer was absent.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS (5:34:04) - None.

1. ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES - February 6, 2008 (5:34:13) - Vice Chairperson Pugsley moved to approve the minutes, as written. Member McCubbin seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

2. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA (5:34:38; 7:18:58) - At Mr. Krahn's request, Chairperson Pahl modified the agenda to address item 3-F prior to item 3-E.

3. AGENDA ITEMS:

3-A. ACTION TO PROVIDE COMMENTS AND RECOMMEND TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION AND BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CONCEPTUAL APPROVAL OF THE CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY DISTRICT'S REGIONAL FLOOD PLAIN MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE CARSON RIVER (5:34:49) - Chairperson Pahl introduced this item. Ed James, of the Carson Water Subconservancy District ("CWSD"), provided background information on the regional flood plain management plan. He discussed the public process associated with the plan, and noted the importance of input. Genie Azad narrated presentation of the regional flood plain management plan. She reviewed the public meeting schedule, and discussed the importance of public participation.

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Chairperson Pahl thanked Mr. James and Ms. Azad for their presentation. In response to a question, Mr. James advised that the “draft draft plan” was approved by the CWSD Board to move forward into the public process. He reiterated the importance of public input prior to presenting the plan to planning commissions, county commissions, and boards of supervisors along the watershed. In response to a further question, he advised that Ms. Azad had presented the plan to the Dayton Valley and Carson Valley Conservation Districts, to many ranchers and homeowners. Mr. James expressed the hope that other private property owners will participate in the upcoming public process. He advised that input thus far has indicated an understanding that property owners along the River “could be the first ones flooded out” without a plan in place. Property owners along the River understand the importance of protecting the flood plain. Mr. James advised that no one has expressed support for channelizing the River.

In response to a question, Vice Chairperson Pugsley advised of having provided comments at a meeting of the Carson Valley Conservation District (“CVCD”) on Tuesday, April 1st. He noted that Carson City is already in the process of adopting most of the actions proposed in the regional management plan. He expressed support for adopting the plan “as an umbrella … which would fill a slot in a master plan” in that the suggested actions become follow up items. He provided an overview of discussion which took place at the April 1st CVCD meeting. Ms. Azad advised that the property owners who attended the April 1st CVCD meeting were very supportive of the CWSD’s holistic approach.

In response to a question, Mr. James discussed the goal to develop a regional plan that the entire watershed “can live with and adopt.” Chairperson Pahl expressed the opinion that the regional plan would be useful and valuable even if every involved county didn’t adopt it. Mr. James discussed the goal to accomplish cooperation along the entire watershed. If Douglas County continues to allow construction in the flood plain, Carson City will be the recipient of increased flooding “so areas that once did not flood could flood in the future.” Mr. James noted the regional impact translating to the need for a regional plan.

Member Greytak expressed support for the regional management plan. Mr. James advised that Carson City still has undeveloped river properties which, if developed, could impact the flood plain and downstream communities. In response to a question, Ms. Azad advised that the executive summary and suggested actions, which were included in the agenda materials, are on the CWSD website. She anticipated the regional management plan would be posted within the next week, and provided the CWSD web address. She acknowledged that the feedback sheet could be provided to the CWSD following this meeting. She discussed the importance of documenting comments and input.

Chairperson Pahl called for additional committee member questions or comments and for public comment. When none was forthcoming, he entertained a motion. **Member Greytak moved to recommend to the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors approval in concept of the Carson Water Subconservancy District’s Regional Floodplain Management Plan for the Carson River. Member McCubbin seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.**

Chairperson Pahl thanked Mr. James and Ms. Azad. Ms. Azad invited the committee members and the public to the regional flood plain management plan workshops. At Vice Chairperson Pugsley’s request, she reiterated the date, time, and location for the Carson City workshop.

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3-B. ACTION TO RECOMMEND TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION AND BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ADOPTION OF THE CARSON RIVER PARK MASTER PLAN, INCLUDING THE PHASE II CONCEPTUAL SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN (6:07:10) - Chairperson Pahl introduced this item. Mr. Krahn reviewed the pertinent agenda materials, some of which had been distributed to the committee members and staff prior to the start of the meeting. He introduced Ryan Hansen, of Hansen Landscape Architects, and Leslie Burnside and Ralph Wenziger, of Wood Rodgers, and reviewed their respective scopes of work associated with the project. He reviewed the staff report.

(6:13:24) Ryan Hansen provided background information on the conceptual site development plan, developed in conjunction with the technical advisory committee. He reviewed details of the conceptual site development plan, which was displayed in the meeting room and included in the agenda materials. Mr. Krahn thanked Mr. Hansen, and provided additional background information on the conceptual design. He advised of a \$7,500 allocation to the project budget by the CWSR.

Member Greytak advised that the Friends of Silver Saddle Ranch ("FOSSR") are supportive of the project. He noted the "low-impact development principles" incorporated into the design. In response to a question, Mr. Krahn advised that Mr. Guzman and Open Space Coordinator Ann Bollinger had been involved in the design process. He further advised that the project will dovetail into the Silver Saddle Ranch charrette process, which is the subject of item 3-D. He reviewed the design time table, anticipates the project will be submitted to the bid process in the winter of 08 / 09, with construction to begin in the spring of 2009.

Chairperson Pahl expressed support for the design. Vice Chairperson Pugsley suggested converting the "field side" berm into a ditch in consideration of irrigation and flood water management. He expressed concern that the berm would "trap water to the south." Using the displayed drawing, Mr. Wenziger reviewed the route of the existing fence and pointed out a small berm "maybe 6 to 8 inches tall" under the fence. He described the flow of flood waters across the field to the river. He explained the purpose for retaining the 6 to 8 inch berm to prevent pasture flooding from entering the park. He expressed the opinion that a ditch would prevent the haying contractor from flooding the pasture for irrigation purposes. He responded to questions of clarification. Ms. Burnside noted that the subject design leaves the existing flow patterns. She suggested that a ditch would require an additional 12 inches of fence, and noted that fencing would be one of the "more expensive items" in consideration of budget constraints. Member Greytak suggested that, in the future, the berm would be more efficient at keeping effluent water out of the park.

In response to a question regarding the proposed orchard, Mr. Krahn advised that parks crews will be responsible for maintaining the park. He clarified that the rural design and location of the park will not require high maintenance. He advised that Mr. Fahrenbruch had been involved in the design process, as a member of the technical advisory committee. Another variety of tree may be considered as well. Mr. Krahn responded to additional questions regarding irrigation.

Chairperson Pahl thanked Mr. Krahn and the consultants for their presentations. He entertained additional questions or comments of the committee members and, when none were forthcoming, entertained a motion. **Member Rink moved to recommend to the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors adoption of the Carson River Park Master Plan, including the phase II conceptual site development plan. Vice Chairperson Pugsley seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.**

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3-C. ACTION TO RECOMMEND TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION AND BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ADOPTION OF THE MORGAN MILL ROAD RIVER ACCESS AREA'S CONCEPTUAL SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN (6:38:55) - Chairperson Pahl introduced this item. Mr. Krahn reviewed the staff report and the pertinent agenda materials. (6:46:15) Mr. Hansen reviewed the conceptual design, which was displayed in the meeting room and included in the agenda materials. Mr. Krahn reviewed the project cost estimates and the available budget. He advised that staff is working with the consultants and the technical advisory committee to further "refine the numbers." He further advised that the project will be done in two phases. He reviewed the design and bidding time table for both phases.

Chairperson Pahl advised that an NDEP permit will be required for the project, and suggested meeting with a NDEP representative. Mr. Krahn advised that a Nevada Division of State Lands permit will also be needed. He discussed the need to complete the master plan process, and the design to be presented to the Planning Commission as part of the special use permit process. In response to a question, Vice Chairperson Pugsley discussed the issue of dewatering the channel, and suggested asking Resource Concepts, Inc. for the dewatering plan as soon as possible. He explained the method by which the boulders depicted in the drawing will be added to the river. In response to a question, Mr. Hansen pointed out a drainage on the displayed drawing. Vice Chairperson Pugsley acknowledged there are fish in the Carson River; that the Nevada Department of Wildlife ("NDOW") also periodically plants fish in the river. Mr. Krahn explained that NDOW has designated the Carson River as a "put and take" fishery.

Member Greytak and Mr. Krahn provided background information on the project design elements. In response to a question, Mr. Krahn advised that such things as pervious concrete will be considered as the design phase progresses. Chairperson Pahl thanked Mr. Krahn, and called for additional questions or comments from the committee members. When none were forthcoming, he entertained a motion. **Member McCubbin moved to recommend that the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors adopt the Morgan Mill Road River Access Area's conceptual site development plan. Member Rink seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.** Chairperson Pahl thanked Mr. Hansen.

3-D. ACTION TO RECOMMEND TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION AND BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION DEVELOPING A COMMUNITY VISION FOR SILVER SADDLE RANCH AND THE CARSON RIVER, USING A COMMUNITY DESIGN CHARRETTE PROCESS HOSTED BY THE FRIENDS OF SILVER SADDLE RANCH, A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION; THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE; THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, CARSON CITY FIELD OFFICE; AND CARSON CITY, TO PROVIDE FOR GENERAL PARAMETERS FOR THE PROCESS, DESIRED OUTCOMES, AND PARTNERSHIPS ENGAGED IN THE PLANNING PROCESS (7:07:20) - Chairperson Pahl introduced this item. Mr. Guzman reviewed the staff report in conjunction with a displayed map, and provided an update on pertinent open space acquisitions. In response to a question, he explained the purpose for the resolution. Chairperson Pahl called for questions or comments of the committee members and, when none were forthcoming, entertained a motion. Member Greytak emphasized the importance of citizen and user participation in the charrette process. **Vice Chairperson Pugsley moved to adopt the resolution, as presented. Member McCubbin seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.** Chairperson Pahl thanked Mr. Guzman.

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3-E. ACTION TO PROVIDE COMMENTS TO THE CARSON AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (“CAMPO”) REGARDING EVALUATION OF A POTENTIAL NEW ROADWAY WHICH CROSSES THE CARSON RIVER CONNECTING DOUGLAS COUNTY TO SOUTHERN CARSON CITY (7:41:00) - Chairperson Pahl introduced this item. Mr. Krahn advised of having presented this item, together with Transportation Manager Patrick Pittenger, at the April 1st Parks and Recreation Commission meeting. He provided an overview of the pertinent agenda materials, background information on the CAMPO, and reviewed the staff report and the attachments. He noted the potential impacts of the potential new roadway to the Edmonds Sports Complex, as delineated in Exhibit A to the staff report. He further noted that traffic demands and projected growth will require improvements to US Highway 395 even if the potential new roadway could move forward. He advised of the opportunity to provide a resolution to the CAMPO within the time frames associated with this item.

In light of a bridge proposed as part of the project, Vice Chairperson Pugsley expressed concern over environmentally sensitive wetlands in the Carson River basin. He noted that the roadway would be proposed for the Kirman Field, a conservation easement owned by The Nature Conservancy. He advised that a private property owner “wants to save this specific route, this Heybourne alignment, to run the V&T into ... Minden the way it used to.” He advised that “the bridge across that needs to be a causeway so something along the lines of what they’re doing across Galena Creek.” He referred to the presentation made, as part of item 3-A, with regard to protecting the flood plain. He advised that attempting to create “something that, in fact, acts as a dam there” would be a downstream hazard to Carson City. He discussed the need for a second bridge across the River into Carson Valley. He advised that the Cradlebaugh Bridge is “woefully inadequate as far as passing water.” Member McCubbin agreed, and noted that Cradlebaugh Bridge has been under water twice in the last 28 years. Vice Chairperson Pugsley suggested a more logical alignment, relative to the River, would be at the old McTarnahan Bridge “because the River is naturally being constrained at that particular point.” Member McCubbin described the proposed location as a “ridiculous place to put the road,” and noted the astronomical cost associated with building a highway over the marshland.

Vice Chairperson Pugsley acknowledged he had been referring to a possible extension of Vicky Lane. Mr. Krahn related details of a conversation with Mr. Pittenger. He agreed with Member McCubbin’s comments regarding exorbitant costs associated with building a two-lane road in the middle of a flood plain. He clarified that Douglas County did not ask for the Vicky Lane extension to be modeled, just the Heybourne Road alignment. Member McCubbin pointed out that the land “all the way down Vicky is already public ... they wouldn’t have to buy a thing. They wouldn’t have to get an easement. You’ve got a better position for a ... bridge.” Member McCubbin expressed the belief that the Highway 395 master plan “actually runs along Pole Line Road behind Hot Springs.” Vice Chairperson Pugsley reiterated the requirement for a causeway to protect the flood plain. “...not a raised berm running through the valley. You are building piers and putting a span across probably two miles. ... And, again, you’ve got the same foot problems for each one of those piers because it’s not crossing the River that’s the issue. It’s crossing that flood way and flood plain that’s the issue.” Vice Chairperson Pugsley noted that even though much of it isn’t within the boundaries of Carson City, “Carson City needs to be adamant that that flood plain is not imposed on.” From a River function standpoint, Chairperson Pahl noted that constructing a traditional bridge translates to “yet one more place where the River is fixed. It’s not allowed to do its thing. We’ve got plenty of those already.” Mr. Krahn referred to earlier comments regarding the downstream ramifications of the proposed alignment. He referred to Exhibit A to the staff report, and noted the regional implications associated with the proposed Heybourne alignment. Member McCubbin suggested considering the volume of traffic that

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the proposed Heybourne alignment would “put into that neighborhood at that point.” He suggested that two lanes may not be sufficient. Vice Chairperson Pugsley anticipated heavy usage of the proposed alignment.

In response to a question, Mr. Krahn referred to RTC / CAMPO Chairperson Shelly Aldean’s comments at the April 1st Parks and Recreation Commission meeting. He noted the location of the Edmonds Sports Complex in relation to the proposed Heybourne alignment, as depicted on Exhibit A to the staff report. He noted the constraints of Bureau of Indian Affairs land and the Edmonds Sports Complex in relation to the proposed alignment. He advised that RTC / CAMPO Chairperson Aldean had emphasized the alignment was placed on the map for modeling purposes only. There is no specific alignment designated or funding to pursue the same. Mr. Krahn reviewed the action taken by the Parks and Recreation Commission, at their April 1st meeting, to indicate no adverse impact to the Edmonds Sports Complex. Vice Chairperson Pugsley suggested this committee’s concern would be “the manner in which the River is crossed and that it’s a very unfortunate location to attempt a bridge.” He reiterated that any attempt at a bridge would require a “very long span with no adverse impact to the flood plain.” He reiterated the suggestion that the span would be “on the order of two miles.”

Mr. Krahn advised that Mr. Pittenger had offered to meet with committee members to answer questions and assist in drafting a resolution. Member Greytak inquired as to whether the CAMPO has the opportunity to consider an alternative scenario. Mr. Krahn suggested Mr. Pittenger would be better able to provide an answer. He expressed the understanding that NDOT had considered several alignments as part of the Highway 395 Corridor Study. The Heybourne alignment is the one Douglas County requested the CAMPO to model and study. Member Greytak suggested that the committee’s comments could be forwarded to the CAMPO, “but if they’re not going to look at another alternative, then ... we just have to emphasize that ... we don’t want to see any negative impacts. Adverse impacts are not going to be accepted. And the planning must be consistent with the regional flood plain management plan.”

Vice Chairperson Pugsley suggested that the Heybourne alignment wouldn’t be constructed “in the life of this” committee. In response to a question, Mr. Krahn advised that the Highway 395 Corridor Study is complete. CAMPO is in the process of developing its regional transportation plan. Mr. Pittenger is going through the public process. Mr. Krahn suggested the possibility of scheduling a special committee meeting, if necessary, to accommodate getting the committee’s comments or resolution to the CAMPO within the required time frame. He reviewed the committee’s options to meet with Mr. Pittenger or to provide comments as part of an action at this meeting. Chairperson Pahl expressed support for developing a resolution to memorialize the points made during discussion of this item. Vice Chairperson Pugsley expressed a preference to focus solely on the bridge and develop a resolution that defines “some of the significant parameters of what we think that bridge should look like.” In response to a question, Mr. Moellendorf provided background information on the origins and purpose of modeling the proposed alignment. He suggested that staff could develop a proposed resolution, based on the discussion, for review by the committee at the next meeting. Vice Chairperson Pugsley advised that the committee was “looking for a resolution that conveys this concern about no adverse impact crossing the River.” Mr. Moellendorf advised this was very similar to the Parks and Recreation Commission’s resolution to ensure no adverse impact to the Edmonds Sports Complex. Chairperson Pahl suggested the possibility of a joint meeting between this committee and the CAMPO. “It’s one thing to have a resolution. It’s ... another thing to understand ... more of the reasoning behind it.” Chairperson Pahl noted the complexity of rivers and flood plains. Mr. Moellendorf agreed it would be a “healthy conversation.”

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Chairperson Pahl expressed support for requesting staff to draft a proposed resolution. Mr. Krahn agreed to draft a resolution and provide it for review to both Chairperson Pahl and Vice Chairperson Pugsley. Mr. Krahn thanked the committee members for their input.

3-F. DISCUSSION ONLY REGARDING “HANDS-ON” INVOLVEMENT BY THE CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO ASSIST AND ENHANCE THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT’S MAINTENANCE STAFF EFFORTS WITH DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES ON CITY PROPERTIES ALONG THE CARSON RIVER DUE TO THE CITY’S BUDGET AND STAFF LIMITATIONS (7:19:40)

Mr. Krahn provided background information on this item. Mr. Fahrenbruch welcomed assistance from the committee members, and advised of project ideas. Member Greytak provided additional background information on this item. Mr. Fahrenbruch advised that parks maintenance crews are “way behind on wrapping trees.” He listed general maintenance at Carson River Park, the Ambrose-Carson River Natural Area, and Riverview Park as other ways to provide assistance. He advised that assistance is needed to trim the willows which overgrow trails at Riverview Park. He discussed the need for volunteer project coordination and oversight. In response to a question, he suggested moving forward “as opportunities arise.” He referred to the Girl Scout volunteer project, agendized as item 4-C, as an example of the type of project normally requiring staff support which could be coordinated by a committee member. He and Mr. Krahn discussed the educational opportunities, associated with volunteer projects, which could be enhanced by the involvement of the committee members. In response to a comment, Mr. Fahrenbruch discussed the importance of a Parks and Recreation Department representative being present for the duration of the volunteer project. He suggested a committee member could cover this responsibility.

Member Greytak discussed his experiences working with volunteers on River projects. He expressed a preference for working with smaller groups, and a willingness to assist Parks staff. He discussed the possibility of “selling this” proposal at the charrette. Mr. Fahrenbruch discussed the possibility of developing a resource list of people who would assist with coordinating volunteer projects. Vice Chairperson Pugsley suggested agendizing coordination of volunteer projects for regularly scheduled committee meetings. Discussion followed, and Mr. Fahrenbruch expressed support for Vice Chairperson Pugsley’s suggestion in that it fits with the committee’s purview. Vice Chairperson Pugsley noted the opportunity for long-term commitment in the form of annual projects. Mr. Fahrenbruch expressed appreciation for the ideas presented and the committee members’ willingness to provide assistance. Mr. Krahn noted the interest of three to four committee members, and reviewed the volunteer projects scheduled for April. Chairperson Pahl thanked Mr. Fahrenbruch and Mr. Krahn.

4. NON-ACTION ITEMS:

STATUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM STAFF:

4-A. DISTRIBUTION OF CARSON RIVER AQUATIC TRAIL MAP (8:26:42) - Mr. Krahn provided a status report on the aquatic trail map.

4-B. CARSON RIVER AQUATIC TRAIL RAFT TRIP ON SATURDAY, MAY 3, 2008, SPONSORED BY THE CARSON RIVER REGIONAL RECREATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE AND NEVADA COMMISSION ON TOURISM (8:28:05) - Mr. Krahn reviewed information distributed to the committee members and staff prior to the start of the meeting.

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4-C. GIRL SCOUT COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP PROJECT AT RIVERVIEW PARK ON SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2008 (8:30:28) - Mr. Krahn reviewed project details.

MEMBERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION (8:31:55) -

Member Greytak invited the committee members and any interested citizens to a public meeting of the Carson River Coalition, scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 23rd. He provided an overview of the meeting agenda.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (8:33:41) - Chairperson Pahl referred to the table included in the agenda materials. He entertained requests to add to the table of future agenda items. Vice Chairperson Pugsley requested Mr. Krahn to agendize volunteer projects.

6. ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT (8:35:01) - Vice Chairperson Pugsley moved to adjourn the meeting. Member McCubbin seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

The Minutes of the April 2, 2008 Carson River Advisory Committee meeting are so approved this 4th day of June, 2008.

RANDY PAHL, Chair