

## **CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **Minutes of the June 1, 2009 Meeting**

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A regular meeting of the Carson River Advisory Committee was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Monday, June 1, 2009 in the Community Center Sierra Room, 851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada.

**PRESENT:** Chairperson Randy Pahl  
Vice Chairperson Paul Pugsley  
Member Mark McCubbin  
Member Ernie Rink

**STAFF:** Roger Moellendorf, Parks and Recreation Department Director  
Vern Krahn, Park Planner  
Jano Barnhurst, 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 is a public record, on file in the Clerk-Recorder's Office. These materials are available during regular business hours.

**CALL TO ORDER** (6:00:40) - Chairperson Pahl called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM** (6:00:45) - Roll was called; a quorum was present. Members Greytak, Kosch and Sheck were absent. Mr. Krahn noted that they are excused as they notified the CRAC of their absence.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS ON NON-AGENIZED ITEMS** (6:01:02) - Chairperson Pahl introduced the item and invited the public to approach. Rob Scanland lives on the Carson River and thanked the CRAC for giving it a voice in the community. He stated that his vocation has involved Nevada rivers and has witnessed many things occurring on the Carson River; one of which is a continuing invasive weed problem. Tall whitetop has made its way to the river from Lloyd's Bridge to Deer Run Bridge and he encouraged the CRAC to do whatever possible to attack the infestations. He expressed concern about the impact on the riparian corridor and cottonwood trees which are being cut down at an alarming rate. A good canopy of cottonwoods existed two to three years ago but none remains. The area has been grazed to the point that it is just big patches of riverbank which is stripped of cottonwood vegetation impacting water temperature and bank stabilization. He mentioned that some time ago, Member Pugsley was involved in wrapping trees and the ones remaining are those that were wrapped. Tiny to huge trees are all being impacted and he recently saw a 150 year old tree being destroyed by beavers. In response to a question, he replied that all cottonwoods on the River have been impacted. There used to be a beaver lodge every couple of miles from upper Alpine County to Brunswick Canyon, but now they're at least every mile and their populations are escalating. There's a huge dam and lodge at Lloyd's Bridge and all the trees there are being impacted. There's another lodge at Mexican Dam and an area south of the River there has been stripped. In response to a question, Mr. Scanland replied that Kiwanis will be doing a river cleanup in September and he would be glad to take the Members out to some impacted areas that need wrapping.

**1. ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES** (6:07:22) - Member Rink moved to approve the

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**minutes of the March 23, 2009 meeting. Vice Chairperson Pugsley seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.**

**2. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA (6:07:37) - None.**

**3. AGENDA ITEMS:**

**3-A. ACTION FOR THE CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND CARSON CITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO JOINTLY PLAN, ORGANIZE, AND SPONSOR THE CARSON RIVER WORK AND EDUCATION DAY (AKA: RIVERFEST 2009) ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2009.** (6:07:40) - Mr. Krahn advised that since March, they have been working with the Chamber of Commerce (COC) on monthly cleanups in different areas of the community including Lone Mountain Park, the linear path and slopes along the freeway corridor east of Home Depot, and the Mexican Ditch and Moffett Open Space. Greater Nevada Credit Union, Carson Nugget, Home Depot, Wal-Mart and other businesses have participated in and been supportive of these events. The COC is interested in being involved in the River cleanup in October and is willing to help the CRAC with their work day. Kiwanis will be having their cleanup in September. If the CRAC is interested in a joint venture with the COC, Mr. Krahn will set up a meeting in the next couple of weeks. He said it could present a challenge because 30-50 people per cleanup attend which is a substantial group to have on the River. Chairperson Pahl commented that he would like to ensure there's enough work for everyone so people aren't stepping over each other. Mr. Krahn commented that at the last couple of cleanups, the Carson Nugget did an outstanding job by providing coffee and pastries, and depending on what businesses become involved, there may be other opportunities to help. Chairperson Pahl commented that the last three work days involved wrapping, painting, tree and bush planting, and wondered if that's the direction they would want to go. It was discussed that previous Riverfests were at Riverview Park, Silver Saddle Ranch and Lloyd's Bridge. Mr. Krahn advised that they haven't been to Ambrose or Morgan Mill and if the group is big enough they could concentrate on two areas. Vice Chairperson Pugsley commented that Morgan Mill would require going downstream to the bridge to access the willow gallery by USGS. In response to a question, Mr. Scanland replied that there were about 150-200 people at last year's Kiwanis event which focused on river cleanup. They've had great support from junior ROTC and the Boy Scouts and the City provides trash pickups. It could be combined with Riverfest as a cleanup and another event. Vice Chairperson Pugsley stated he worked with Kiwanis to do tree wrapping which could be considered for an activity. In response to a question, Mr. Scanland replied that when grant funding was lost, the Kiwanis focused on cleanup and away from habitat restoration. In response to a comment, Mr. Krahn indicated that he will arrange a meeting with the COC and a few members of the CRAC.

**3-B. ACTION FOR THE CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO ASSUME A LEAD ROLE IN APPLYING FOR A QUESTION-1 GRANT AND ASSISTING STAFF TO PURSUE MATCHING FUNDS TO DEVELOP A HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN FOR CARSON CITY PROPERTIES ALONG THE CARSON RIVER.** (6:19:16) - Mr. Krahn reviewed the staff report which is incorporated into the record. Chairperson Pahl advised that State Parks along with the Carson Water Sub-Conservancy District are applying for \$150,000 in Round 10 of the Q-1 funds. Because

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of budget concerns, bond sales have been delayed and it may not be until Fall 2009 that action is taken on the applications. Due to the delay, the CRAC has time to pursue the application. Round 11 may be next Spring or early Summer. There have been two rounds a year but because they are near the end of the money, they may not be doing them back to back. CRAC could dovetail with State Parks' project but they may have different goals. Until CRAC is able to discuss details, he is unsure what the habitat conservation plan should look like or what issues to address. Mr. Krahn commented that he, Mr. Guzman and Ms. Bollinger met with the Nature Conservancy who has been working with State Parks on the application trying to emphasize a plan to protect or enhance essential habitat for bio-diversity which is a criteria used in the Q-1 program. It also has the aspect of protecting or enhancing wildlife habitat for endangered species. It would be a great prototype and save a lot of effort. Chairperson Pahl agreed that the application is a great starting point. Mr. Krahn mentioned that the maintenance staff needs a plan that is understandable so they can get started. As far as managing the park and open space properties correctly, he suggested a couple of work days a year with Kiwanis to see if they want to take on some of these projects vs. just a cleanup. There could be enough projects scheduled for the next two to three years through this process to get people out on the river accomplishing things. In response to a comment, Mr. Krahn stated that guidance for land management is a starting point and gives Mr. Fahrenbruch an opportunity to review the grant application and make necessary changes. He does an incredible job with parks and trails but would welcome help with riparian and natural areas. Chairperson Pahl suggested having not only work day projects but potential projects in case funding becomes available. Mr. Krahn commented that Q-1 will hopefully keep going for awhile and there is some money left in the Carson River budget, so CRAC could try to find grant money to match it. When they first started working with Q-1 monies, CRAC felt that it should be used for habitat improvements but instead it has gone for open space acquisitions and recreational projects, and this would be a way to move forward with that. Vice Chairperson Pugsley commented that those priorities were to acquire the Jerard Ranch and restoration from Lloyd's Bridge to Deer Run Road Bridge. At the time, CRAC thought there was Army Corp money to match with Q-1 money and were looking at a \$1 million effort. The Army Corp then got drafted to Iraq so the possibility was lost. He suggested adjusting the application with a goal of establishing habitat management plans as a result of habitat review. The river is a precious resource and better ways should be established to manage it instead of doing nothing. **Vice Chairperson Pugsley moved to consider assuming a lead role in applying for a Question 1 grant and assisting staff to pursue matching funds to develop a habitat conservation plan for the Carson City properties along the Carson River. Member McCubbin seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.** In response to a question, Mr. Krahn replied that he will schedule a meeting in the next few weeks with Jenny Scanland, Jeannie Azad, and Ann Beck to ask for their assistance.

**3-C. ACTION REGARDING A POSSIBLE STRATEGY CHANGE IN PRESENTING THE CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S WORK PLAN AND GOALS FOR 2009/2010 TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS (6:33:36)** - Mr. Moellendorf reviewed the staff report which is incorporated into the record. He said that Congress has passed the Federal Lands Bill which is one of the things that staff will be working on, will be time consuming, and is a lot of information for the Board of Supervisors (BOS) to digest. He and Mr. Krahn feel there is a closer connection with the Federal Lands Bill and the Silver Saddle Charrette than with the CRAC's goals. In order to get their work plan and goals

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to the BOS in a timely manner, he recommended separating them from the Charrette and scheduling it at the next available BOS meeting as it won't be holding back their goals and objectives. If they still want to partner them together, it's unknown when they will go before the BOS but could possibly be August or September. Chairperson Pahl opined that CRAC's plan and goals are linked to the Charrette and guided them in some of their goals so it would be valuable to present them together. There is no immediate need to have the plan approved, but it is important to have a discussion with the BOS. Mr. Moellendorf commented that some of their goals are multi year goals, are not time sensitive and may make sense to package all of the issues together. Vice Chairperson Pugsley seconded Chairperson Pahl's thought in keeping it with the Charrette because it is the most significant public input that relates to the River and there's synergy tying them together in a presentation to the BOS. Bringing them to the BOS at one time makes a more significant meeting impact for them. **Vice Chairperson Pugsley moved to continue with the Committee's original work plan and goals presentation strategy going to the Board of Supervisors, at the same time frame or in conjunction with the presentation to the Board of the Silver Saddle Charrette and if possible to also incorporate the review of the public lands bill at the same time. Member Rink seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.**

**3-D. UPDATE ONLY REGARDING THE MORGAN MILL ROAD RIVER ACCESS AREA PROJECT AND CARSON RIVER PARK - PHASE 2 PROJECT.** (6:41:20) - Mr. Krahn advised that the design is completed; City, State Land and NDEP permits are in hand, however, the core permit is still needed. They have moved away from a nationwide 401 permit and will just be receiving a letter of permission from the Corp of Engineers to get into the River. The Reno Army Corp office was supposed to get the letter signed by the Bureau Chief on Friday. If it was signed, everything is in place to move forward with bidding the project; it should be out to bid in the next two weeks and award the project at a BOS meeting in July. Construction on the River can't start until after August 1 because of nesting bird habitat issues so it will be a late Summer/early Fall construction. In response to a question, Mr. Krahn replied he would like to be finished in time to put it to bed before winter. In response to a comment, he replied that they will look at the willow tree in the area of the paved drive, but from an engineering standpoint, it may not be possible to save it.

Regarding the Carson River Park Phase 2 Project, Mr. Krahn commented that they went through a planning process last year, got the special use permit and are moving forward with the design. He explained that because of the budget crisis it will be delayed until next year. The planning effort will be reviewed in the Fall to determine if it's in any better shape for Spring. There were a variety of road easements that have complicated the planning efforts because everything needs an encroachment permit, however all the easements were relinquished at the last Board of Examiners meeting which simplifies the process. Mr. Moellendorf commented that Parks and Recreation has been successful in obtaining grants for the construction of several capital projects, however operations and maintenance isn't as funded so care needs to be taken so that maintenance is not spread too thinly. Morgan Mill is a project with low maintenance requirements and he's challenged staff to develop a report of how to maintain these types of facilities. They are also looking for volunteers that could adopt some areas for cleanup. He cautioned that the worst thing is to build something that can't be maintained but once the economy rejuvenates, some of the projects can be revisited.

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**3-E. UPDATE ONLY REGARDING THE MEXICAN DITCH TRAIL BRIDGES PROJECT'S RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY AND FUN RUN SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 2009.** (6:53:20) - Mr. Krahn advised that Ann Bollinger has been working with Fleet Feet on a fun run set for Saturday, June 13, with a ribbon cutting ceremony at 9:00 and the walk/run at 9:15. Parks worked with State Lands through the grant process so there will also be an unveiling of a partnership plaque identifying their funding partners. The bridges have made a huge difference on the trail and use has gone up significantly. The northern bridge was replaced due to constriction and fatigue and the new bridge connects to the Silver Saddle Ranch. The Parks and Recreation Commission, Open Space Committee and CRAC are all invited to the event. Registration is \$10 at Fleet Feet and it is an opportunity to celebrate a great project that has done a lot for the trail system.

#### **4. NON-ACTION ITEMS REPORTS ONLY:**

**STATUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM STAFF** (6:58:14) - Mr. Krahn advised that he and Mr. Moellendorf are still working with the Carson River Regional Recreational Steering Committee and are very interested in what the aquatic trail and Lyon County are doing. Agendas and minutes from some of their meetings are included in the committee packets. He also advised that National Trails Day is June 6. Mr. Scanland advised that there are more people than ever on the River kayaking, rafting and tubing. Vice Chairperson Pugsley hoped that everyone is sticking to the area from Lloyd's Bridge to Deer Run or Morgan Mill and not attempting Brunswick Canyon. Mr. Krahn advised that the City has free waterproof aquatic trail maps, which includes safety protocol, river layout, put in and take out points and are available at the Parks and Recreation Department, COC, and other City offices. He advised that there is now a portable restroom at Morgan Mill through the rafting season and an area has been cleared to allow more parking and easier access.

#### **MEMBERS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION** (7:02:26) - None.

**5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS** (7:02:36) - Member McCubbin requested that a Fish & Game representative be scheduled to discuss harvesting beavers this Fall. Mr. Krahn commented that the Nevada Division of Wildlife has come in on occasion to discuss the problem and he will try to arrange for someone to discuss potential solutions. It's a sensitive issue from a public safety standpoint as well as from protecting natural resources. Chairperson Pahl asked about moving the meeting time to later in the month and Mr. Moellendorf replied that it needs to be agendized but will see what can be done. Member Greytak has been a very valuable CRAC member who they don't want to lose.

**6. ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT** (7:05:23) - A motion to adjourn was made by Member McCubbin at 7:05 p.m., seconded by Vice Chairperson Pugsley and carried unanimously.

The Minutes of the June 1, 2009 Carson River Advisory Committee meeting are so approved this 27<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2009.

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RANDY PAHL, Chairperson