

CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the March 23, 2009 Meeting

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A regular meeting of the Carson River Advisory Committee was scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Monday, March 23, 2009 in the Community Center Sierra Room, 851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada.

PRESENT: Chairperson Randy Pahl
Vice Chairperson Paul Pugsley
Member Bradley Kosch
Member Lacy Sheck

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

CALL TO ORDER (1-0054) - Chairperson Pahl called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM (1-0055) - Roll was called; a quorum was present. Members Greytak, McCubbin, and Rink were absent. Chairperson Pahl introduced Bradley Kosch as a new member to the Carson River Advisory Committee.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS (1-0060) - None.

1. ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES (1-0060) - Vice Chairperson Pugsley moved to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2009 meeting. Member Sheck seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

2. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA (1-0072) - None.

3. AGENDA ITEMS:

3-A. ACTION TO ACCEPT AND RECOMMEND TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION AND BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ACCEPTANCE OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE "SILVER SADDLE RANCH AND CARSON RIVER CHARRETTE SUMMARY, CREATING A COMMUNITY VISION," REGARDING THE PLANNING VISION FOR PUBLIC RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE OPPORTUNITIES ON THE SILVER SADDLE RANCH, PRISON HILL RECREATION AREA, AND ALONG THE CARSON RIVER (1-0075) - Juan Guzman reviewed the staff report which is incorporated into the record. He introduced Nancy Santos of Friends of Silver Saddle Ranch (FSSR), and Dan Jacquet of BLM. Mr. Guzman gave background information regarding an agreement among Carson

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City, BLM and FSSR on managing Silver Saddle Ranch. He explained that through the Federal Lands Bill, certain areas of Carson City would be transferred to the federal government and certain areas along the Carson River would be transferred to Carson City. The public's general consensus was that the land be used for passive recreation. FSSR had obtained a grant through the National Parks Service and began a joint partnership among FSSR, BLM, Carson City and the National Parks Service.

(1-0160) Dan Jacquet emphasized that as a community process, the realization occurred that a new plan was not needed only the ability to bring the existing plans together and summarized. Mr. Guzman mentioned that the National Parks Service representative was very effective in managing the energies of the participants in producing a matrix that was incorporated into the Charrette with all the elements and plans. Topics of discussion included natural resources and existing conditions; trails and passive recreation; and the Silver Saddle Ranch/Prison Hill area.

(1-0257) Mr. Guzman reviewed a set of maps and diagrams which he displayed for the members advising that natural resources, water management and treatment of the river were the vision basics. The project area spans US 50 to the north, south along Carson River to Golden Eagle Road and bound by South Edmonds and Fairview Drive to the west and Deer Run Road, Pinion Hills Road and Mexican Dam Road to the east. He said that two ideas came about as to the treatment of the river - use it as a living entity and "don't love it to death". Morgan Mill and Carson River were established as the two project areas with Carson River being in the planning stage and Morgan Mill as an area where the present habitat is good enough that no projects were needed. The group also dealt with water management concepts, effluent issues and the treatment of wildlife. Ms. Santos commented on the vegetation habitat and invasive plant species. Wildlife, plants, and the river corridor are the base maps for everything else.

(1-0375) Mr. Guzman advised that there is no off road vehicle use outside the south end of Prison Hill. An issue that arose was signage and the best way to identify different access areas. In trying to manage the fields, BLM installed fencing along an area of homes. Hiking and equestrian trails would be combined.

In response to a question, Mr. Guzman replied that the Lands Bill passed the Senate, is in the House this week, and he expects it to pass. In response to another question, Mr. Guzman replied that BLM will retain 40 acres at the east end of Koontz to build hot shot barracks for forest service personnel. BLM does not need permission from Carson City, but heard the public's comments at a hearing with the Planning Commission.

Regarding the Silver Saddle Ranch, Mr. Guzman explained that the main finding was that it be treated as a historic place. "We want you to feel you're in the 30's and are in a genuine legitimate ranch." He stated that FSSR will help manage the lands and anticipates partnering with the BLM. In response to a question, Mr. Guzman replied that every drop of effluent counts and it is important to utilize sewage treatment opportunities.

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(1-0648) Mr. Jacquet commented that the public process was to inform the development of the Lands Bill. Similarities, findings and the general vision for these lands can be found in the Bill. It was negotiated that Prison Hill, Silver Saddle Ranch and the Ambrose area would have a conservation easement to ensure that the visions and planning would be carried out. The United States is reserving a conservation easement that reflects the Lands Bill that reflects this summary. In essence, if the Board of Supervisors wanted to turn Silver Saddle Ranch into an amusement park, the conservation easement would be an impediment to doing so.

Mr. Krahn commented that it was amazing how the community turned out. To see the vision and be part of the process was outstanding and the management team needed that particular acknowledgment.

(1-0713) Member Pugsley commented on the outstanding job of summarizing the immense amount of planning. He was impressed with the way it was pulled all together and presented effectively in 10 maps. It's a very effective way to present a massive amount of data.

(1-0741) Ms. Santos commented that the grant was obtained through the National Parks Service and this couldn't have been accomplished without their assistance.

Chairperson Pahl commented that the summary was very easy to go through and the presentation is wonderful. In response to a question, it was determined that Stan Zuber from the Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife was involved in the process. In response to another question, Mr. Guzman replied that a resolution was obtained from that Board endorsing the effort.

Chairperson Pahl then entertained a motion. **Vice Chairperson Pugsley moved to accept and recommend to the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors acceptance of the recommendations as outlined specifically in the “Creating a Community Vision” and the “Moving Towards the Future” presentations presented within the Charrette documents and summary. Member Sheck seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.**

3-B. ACTION TO RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS APPROVAL OF THE CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE’S “WORK PLAN” FOR 2009/2010 - (1-0794) Chairperson Pahl discussed the possibility of pursuing some Question #1 (Q-1) money for the habitat conservation plan as that was a recommendation in the Charette document. He had spoken with John Paul Kiel who advised that there is \$1.1 million available. He said Round 10 ends in March and there will be another round in September. There is a 95 percent grant, 5 percent match that can come from staff time, volunteers, etc. There is an application expected from State Parks by the Fort Churchill area, and it was suggested that CRAC try to dovetail with that.

In response to a question, Chairperson Pahl replied that the Fort Churchill application is expected in this round. Mr. Moellendorf commented that this would create an opportunity to review it and

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prepare the application for the September Round. He stated that the money can be used to develop a plan to protect or enhance an endangered species wildlife habitat, other species that need special protection, or protect or enhance essential habitat for bio-diversity.

Mr. Guzman noted the need for a certain sum of money that would be matched. Chairperson Pahl commented that Mr. Kiel did not mention money but that aerial imagery was done a few years ago to which Carson City contributed and that is a match itself. Member Kosch commented that calculations for reaches were just done for Carson Valley and the reach for Carson City was a match worth \$20,000-\$25,000.

Mr. Guzman commented that a scope of work would be developed which gets into a bid process. A request for technical expertise can also be used to analyze technical qualifications of different firms. Mr. Jacquet commented on the need for detail and to get in the river and focus on the health of the specific riparian habitat. He observed a slow degradation of the riparian zone in terms of cottonwood expansion and recommended moving ahead with that type of conservation planning. Ms. Santos agreed saying there are ways to go about using the riparian corridor as the emphasis and for diversity. Chairperson Pahl commented on the need for people from Open Space, CRAC, and FSSR to work together to compile a scope of work for an RFP or RFQ as it wasn't appropriate for this Committee to do it alone.

Mr. Krahn advised that before going to an RFP or RFQ, to make sure that money is available which requires a lot of people putting in time responding to requests. He advised that he and Mr. Guzman have made a couple of runs at that money in the past to no avail. He said it would be good to focus on the vision for this habitat conservation plan and work with State Lands to fine tune it to fit within their criteria.

Mr. Guzman commented that something to enhance the obligation is obtaining money from Q-1 to purchase some of the lands which is an extension of something already worthy of funding. Ms. Santos noted the importance of the approach and suggested utilizing the Migratory Bird Act as "the impetus."

In response to a question, Ms. Santos replied that it would be a good idea to get input in determining a scope of work. Mr. Guzman suggested presenting an initial concept to clarify that more specific things need to be accomplished that most likely won't be discovered until well into the process. Another suggested approach was taking the existing documentation and sending it to consulting companies requesting an outline of a habitat conservation plan and formulate that into something for Q-1. Mr. Guzman suggested finding out how many others are applying in order to ascertain the likelihood of obtaining funding. Another idea would be to approach conceptual river supervisors.

Chairperson Pahl commented that Kevin Hill recommended being as specific as possible in terms of what habitats need protection. Mr. Kiel advised that the plan should include management measures which need to be implemented. These should be living documents that state that the plan

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will be revisited every five years.

Mr. Moellendorf suggested the next logical step would be meeting with Mr. Kiel and those knowledgeable in wildlife biology to come up with ideas for projects. Another possibility would be consulting with the Board to Manage Wildlife. Mr. Guzman suggested coming back every other month with a progress report.

Chairperson Pahl was unsure if it was appropriate to have a working group made up of people from Friends, Open Space and this Committee as this is something near and dear to Dan Greytak's heart.

(1-1115) Vice Chairperson Pugsley suggested including the Audubon Society in the work group. He anticipated the focus to be birds. Other wildlife can be drawn in but birds are the best indicator in a corridor as close to the urban area as it is. He and Member Greytak have been concerned about the "loving it to death" concept pertinent to the river corridor. He expressed support for paths, but suggested the importance of investing a significant effort on determining the best locations for the paths. Hoping to gain more from the report than anything else would be a scientific study determining the impact to passerine birds.

Mr. Guzman advised that The Nature Conservancy was an integral part of the Charrette and Federal Lands Bill. He suggested them as "good partners," and advised that they have applied for Q-1 funding for the conservation easement associated with the Bently property. Mr. Jacquet advised that The Nature Conservancy received funding for acquisition and trails and interpretation at river forks. Vice Chairperson Pugsley advised that no Q-1 funding had been awarded for habitat improvement. Chairperson Pahl suggested that the Committee could build off the grant application being submitted by Nevada State Parks. Mr. Guzman suggested the possibility of emphasizing vegetation rather than wildlife, which would be able to support wildlife and birds. Ms. Santos advised that wetlands bring the most diverse wildlife species. Chairperson Pahl suggested focusing on the cottonwood galleries, willow habitat, or wetlands in the agriculture areas. Vice Chairperson Pugsley advised that increasing passerine birds will require more vegetation. Mr. Jacquet advised that the BLM will be considering species such as beaver as part of the habitat. It's an area to refocus on and suggested being as expansive as possible in considering the plant and animal species along the river. He acknowledged the aquatic community has been tremendously degraded over the last century.

Mr. Krahn considered conservation plans to monitor or establish monitoring mechanisms. Adding a monitoring mechanism to follow up on the base line data will provide good information. Chairperson Pahl suggested the key would be to determine what to measure. He reiterated the suggestion to establish a working group. Mr. Moellendorf advised that staff would review the application and consider forming a work group that would cross several advisory committees, staff, and other agency jurisdictions. He suggested that the CRAC would be a natural lead for the work group. Chairperson Pahl suggested scheduling a meeting with Jon Paul Kiel and Kevin Hill. He thanked Ms. Santos, Mr. Jacquet and Mr. Guzman for their attendance and participation.

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(1-1308) Chairperson Pahl expressed an interest in expanding the CRAC's mission statement to include purview over the entire watershed, not just the river. He expressed concern that the entire watershed may be too broad so as to include fire management to street cleaning. He expressed a willingness to address issues as brought forward by staff. Vice Chairperson Pugsley suggested attempting to make a case directly with the Board of Supervisors (BOS).

(1-1416) Mr. Krahn advised that the April 16th BOS meeting would be the earliest to agendize a joint meeting. Mr. Kosch expressed support for including the entire watershed in consideration of the possibility of restrictions or guidelines. Chairperson Pahl suggested that expanding the Committee's purview would create involvement with the Public Works Department and Streets Division. Mr. Moellendorf advised that the Open Space Advisory Committee shares the concern over the watershed in terms of the lands to be maintained with the potential passage of the Federal Lands Bill. He suggested the hesitation may be that the watershed is larger than the river as it extends beyond state boundaries as well.

Vice Chairperson Pugsley noted that the BOS had rarely requested advice from CRAC. The CRAC has sought out issues about which to provide advice. He commented that adding the watershed gives more latitude and potentially gives the BOS more latitude to direct the CRAC. In response to a question, Mr. Krahn advised that the BOS requested this Committee's input on the Aquatic Trail Plan and The Envision Carson City comprehensive master planning process. The BOS requests CRAC input and has CRAC in place to consider river issues and look at different habitat, wildlife or water quality issues. Mr. Krahn advised that this Committee providing their opinions to the BOS is beneficial "in the sense of giving the Board multiple different views, different information..." Vice Chairperson Pugsley noted the Committee's responsibility to provide a venue for public input.

In response to a comment, Mr. Moellendorf noted that the BOS can accept the Committee's advice or decline it. In response to a further comment, he agreed with Vice Chairperson Pugsley's suggestion to go directly to the BOS with the possibility of expanding the Committee's purview to the watershed. Chairperson Pahl noted necessary revisions to the work plan included in the agenda materials.

Chairperson Pahl suggested adding language and support regarding the Charrette. Vice Chairperson Pugsley suggested that the Charrette didn't need to be incorporated. Chairperson Pahl said that the workshop was done to help inform this plan which can be updated. The plan was done before seeing the Charrette. Mr. Krahn suggested an opportunity for other Committee members to meet with Chairperson Pahl to review the draft work plan. Mr. Moellendorf suggested that the Charrette could be worked into one of the existing goals. He also suggested going into more detail of the Charrette and pulling some items out to make them part of this Committee's goals or add a goal to promote and support the findings of the Charrette. Chairperson Pahl clarified his intent to indicate that the Charrette expressed support for a habitat conservation plan. In response to a question, Mr. Krahn anticipates that the Charrette document will be presented to the BOS at the April 16th meeting. Vice Chairperson Pugsley suggested presenting the work plan at the same time. Mr. Krahn advised that

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revisions to the work plan would have to be finalized by April 7th. Discussion took place regarding revisions to the work plan. Vice Chairperson Pugsley confirmed that the purpose is to provide additional background and/or action relative to the Charrette document. Chairperson Pahl commented that Goal #2 is tied into Goal #1. A better goal would be a broad spectrum of the activities done as a Committee. Vice Chairperson Pugsley suggested that it's different because in the natural resource plan, use and access are separate important issues that should be maintained separately. To strategize discussion with the BOS, Goal #2 is the role played today and Goal #1 is needed to play it better. Chairperson Pahl commented that the Committee does more than public access issues.

Member Sheck noted a typographical error at Goal #5. Chairperson Pahl reviewed the Summary of Tentative Activities table included with the work plan. In response to a question, Mr. Krahn suggested that staff and the Committee utilize the activities table internally, and that the Board of Supervisors should not be involved in approving a tentative schedule that may or may not be concurred. Chairperson Pahl expressed agreement.

Chairperson Pahl entertained a motion. **Vice Chairperson Pugsley moved for approval of the work plan for presentation to the Board of Supervisors with additional commentary to be added to incorporate the design Charrette and correction of editorial requirements; with the intent to discuss water quality in the hopes of expanding the Committee's mission statement to include the watershed. Member Kosch seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.**

3-C. ACTION TO SET A DATE FOR THE CARSON RIVER WORK AND EDUCATION DAY, AKA: RIVERFEST 2009 (1-1993) - Chairperson Pahl introduced this item, and Mr. Krahn reviewed the pertinent agenda materials. He commented that last year's Riverfest was a great success and congratulated Dan Greytak for coining the term "Riverfest". Vice Chairperson Pugsley discussed possible dates, and recommended the third Saturday in October. In response to a question, Mr. Krahn reviewed possible community event calendars and discussion took place regarding other scheduled community and river activities. It was the concensus of the Committee to schedule October 17, 2009 as Riverfest 2009.

3-D. ACTION TO ASSIST THE CARSON CITY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT AND CARSON CITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO ORGANIZE A CLEAN UP EVENT FOR A CITY PARK, TRAIL, OR OPEN SPACE PROPERTY ALONG THE CARSON RIVER (1-2193) - Chairperson Pahl introduced the item and Mr. Krahn reviewed the agenda materials. He advised that 15-20 cubic yards of trash were cleaned up at the first event at Lone Mountain Park. The Carson City freeway multi-use path and possibly the NDOT slopes, Wal-Mart and Home Depot are scheduled for April. He requested assistance from the Committee in the clean up effort on the river. He advised that the clean ups are scheduled for the second Saturday of each month through October. The Committee may consider the Mexican Ditch trail, river, etc. In response to a question, Mr. Krahn replied that part of the success of Riverfest 2008 was that Greater Nevada Credit Union showed up in force and made a commitment to attend on a

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monthly basis. In response to another question, Mr. Krahn replied that the Kiwanis were still doing their September clean up. He was hoping to do something in late spring or early summer perhaps on the Mexican Ditch trail. Vice Chairperson Pugsley commented that the Mexican Ditch trail, Moffett property, and golf course trail tend to be overlooked by the Kiwanis in addition to Riverview Park, and the eastern portal area. Mr. Moellendorf commented that there have been concerns about trash in the Moffett area associated with the Mexican Ditch, discussions on future uses of volunteer efforts, and the possibility of adopting a trail program. Vice Chairperson Pugsley suggested that someone talk to other banks in town as they encourage their employees to participate in community activities. Chairperson Pahl expressed concern over CRAC's role as he read that the Chamber was coordinating the event. Mr. Krahn advised that he could help with coordination of identifying things to do. He indicated that the Chamber assigned leaders to coordinate three general tasks and group the different projects. Mr. Krahn stated that he needed assistance with coordinating and obtaining permits, field legwork, i.e., identifying necessary tools, signs, vests, etc. Chairperson Pahl and Vice Chairperson Pugsley both expressed their willingness to help. Mr. Krahn stated that he would work on coordinating efforts with the Chamber and CRAC for a May or June clean up.

4. NON-ACTION ITEMS REPORTS ONLY

STATUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM STAFF - None.

4-A. COMPLETION OF THE MEXICAN DITCH TRAIL BRIDGES PROJECT (1-2510) - Mr. Krahn distributed a late addition to the agenda packet and reported that the Mexican Ditch Trail Bridges project is completed. He gave the location of the Mexican Ditch trail and advised that it goes from the Moffett Open Space property to the Silver Saddle Ranch and is now completely open.

MEMBERS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION - None.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (1-2610) - Mr. Krahn advised that the items in the agenda packet may be revised depending on how the presentation goes with the Board of Supervisors. In response to a question, Mr. Moellendorf replied that no specific recommendations came forth regarding the river from the Board of Supervisors' strategic planning session and that the goals they approved are conceptual in nature.

Mr. Krahn suggested forming a management team to apply for a Q-1 application for a conservation management plan and that by June or July there may be more information available. Regarding an RFQ, Vice Chairperson Pugsley suggested going to several consultants who may do a wildlife habitat study and asking their input. He commented that if that was the approach taken, guidance will be needed in the June 1st meeting or time will run out. Chairperson Pahl commented that using that information for the application will run into the September deadline. Vice Chairperson Pugsley said that the most important thing relative to the application is a believable budget.

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Chairperson Pahl commented that item 1B has been on the list of agenda items for awhile. Mr. Krahn commented that it was a collect-all list and may need to be broken into different items. He commented that using the Carson River Silver Saddle Ranch Design Charrette Final Report as a basis for discussions could really work.

Mr. Krahn and Vice Chairperson Pugsley discussed the concern of how to deal with trail issues, the need for conservation on the river, and public access issues. In response to a question, Mr. Krahn advised that Ken Arnold will be discussing the reservoir and NDEP discharge permit.

Chairperson Pahl was interested in a follow up on the Charrette and matrix, and Vice Chairperson Pugsley suggested an update on the Federal Lands Bill.

6. ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT (1-2937) - A motion to adjourn was made by Vice Chairperson Pugsley and seconded by Member Sheck. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairperson Pahl adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

The Minutes of the March 23, 2009 Carson River Advisory Committee meeting are so approved this 1st day of June, 2009.

RANDY PAHL, Chairperson

*Minutes transcribed by Jano Barnhurst April 13, 2009