

CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the July 18, 2011 Meeting

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A regular meeting of the Carson River Advisory Committee was scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Monday, July 18, 2011, 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 Ernie Rink
Member Lacey Scheck

STAFF: Juan Guzman, Open Space Manager
Vern Krahn, Park Planner
Ann Bollinger, Natural Resource Specialist
Tamar Warren, 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 part of the public record. These materials are available for review, in the Clerk's Office, during regular business hours.

ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM – Chairperson Pahl called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Roll was called; a quorum was present. Members Greytak and McCubbin were absent.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS – None.

1. ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Member Rink moved to approve the May 16, 2011 meeting minutes. Member Kosch seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

2. MODIFICATION TO THE AGENDA – None

3. AGENDA ITEMS:

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A. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: TO APPROVE AN EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT TO BE CONDUCTED BY CHRISTIAN CURTIS CONSISTING OF THE INSTALLATION OF BAT HABITAT BOXES ALONG THE CARSON RIVER IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE COMMITTEE'S WORKDAY ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2011. (5:34:11) – Chairperson Pahl introduced the item. Mr. Krahn gave a brief background on the project and introduced Christian Curtis. He also stated that he and Vice Chairperson Pugsley had met with him and had identified the areas where bat boxes could be installed. Christian Curtis introduced himself as a member of Boy Scout Troop 145 and working on his Eagle Scout project. Mr. Curtis, assisted by Robert Avilla, distributed a copy of his presentation, a list of supplies with an associated budget of \$111.40, and a pamphlet titled *Flying Denizens of the Night: Bats of Nevada and Southwestern North America*, all of which are incorporated into the record. Mr. Curtis believed that the bats are “desperately needed” in the area to help curb the mosquito population. He explained that each of the five proposed boxes could hold over 100 bats, and that each bat could eat 600 insects in an hour, getting rid of 300,000 insects per hour. He added that he would use stainless steel screws because other types of screws would rust and harm the trees. Mr. Curtis also ensured the Committee that two licensed contractors would hang the boxes from the trees. In response to Chairperson Pahl’s question, Mr. Curtis explained that bats liked heat, therefore the boxes must be exposed to the sun for at least six hours. He also responded to Member Scheck’s question by stating that he had received a book on bats from an adult in his troop, which helped him in building the boxes. Vice Chairperson Pugsley wanted to know what type of bats would be attracted to the box, and Mr. Curtis clarified that the Big and Little Brown Bats would. He also believed that there were five or six different species of bats in the area. He added that the boxes were virtually maintenance-free. **Member Rink moved that the Committee approve an Eagle Scout project to be conducted by Christian Curtis, consisting of the installation of bat boxes along the Carson River, in conjunction with the**

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Committee's Workday on Saturday, September 17, 2011. The motion was seconded by Member Scheck. Motion carried 5-0. Mr. Krahn explained that Mr. Curtis was seeking donations to cover the cost of the project. He also explained that Mr. Curtis' mother believed a donor had offered to fund the entire amount. Vice Chairperson Pugsley also reminded Mr. Curtis to add the cost of the stainless steel screws to his budget, as they would be costlier than his original estimate.

B. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ONLY ON THE CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY DISTRICT'S PROGRESS TO DEVELOP A HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN FOR THE MIDDLE CARSON RIVER. (5:47:29) – Chairperson Pahl introduced the item. Mr. Krahn gave background and introduced Becky Stock, Project Director, Nevada Land Conservancy. Ms. Stock presented the Middle Carson River Conservation Plan, a hard copy of which is incorporated into the record. She discussed the scope of work, key stakeholders, budget, timelines, goals, and objectives. She also discussed problems, priorities, and riparian habitat recommendations. In response to Chairperson Pahl's question, Ms. Stock verified that the estimated completion date would be November, 2011. She also confirmed that they had received most of the comments to date. She also replied to Member Scheck's question, hoping that wood rose and golden current would grow under the trees. Vice Chairperson Pugsley inquired about the beaver management plan and was told tree-wrapping should be included in all budgets. Chairperson Pahl thanked Ms. Stock for her presentation.

C. DISCUSSION ONLY REGARDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR PRISON HILL, SILVER SADDLE RANCH, AND SURROUNDING PUBLIC LANDS ALONG THE CARSON RIVER. (6:04:47) – Chairperson Pahl introduced the item and invited Mr. Guzman and Ms. Bollinger to elaborate. Mr. Guzman introduced Mark Kimbrough, the project consultant. He added that tonight's goal was to receive feedback on Section IV, Management Plan Strategies, and Section V, Event Management, for the Prison Hill, Silver Saddle Ranch and surrounding Carson River lands. Mr. Kimbrough walked the Committee through both Section IV and Section V, incorporated into the record, and stated that this was a "moving and changing document". He explained that the Conservation Plan would be incorporated into this plan "through reference"; further elaborating that it would be an attachment, but in much greater detail. Vice Chairperson Pugsley indicated that the plan specified 80 irrigated acres; however, he felt that the potential 135 acres should be included in the plan. Mr. Guzman stated that water availability was the reason and suggested that a statement such as "if more water were to be made available, we will encompass more (acres)" could be included. He added that the 80 acres were a "BLM restriction under the present permit". Vice Chairperson Pugsley advised that the water was owned by the City, therefore this should be a City restriction. He also requested a stronger statement such as "to be green requires water", and stated that agricultural land use should take priority over events. Many of the commissioners believed the plan was "well done" and Chairperson Pahl thanked Mr. Kimbrough for his efforts.

(7:14:25) – Mr. Guzman invited Nancy Santos, President of Friends of Silver Saddle Ranch to comment. Ms. Santos explained that their wish was to have people visit and experience the Historic Family Ranch Complex. She preferred events that were open to the general public versus private events, where visitors could feel uncomfortable and leave. Mr. Guzman advised that large events such as an Independence Day celebration would require BLM approval in addition to the City's. Ms. Bollinger advised the Committee to submit additional comments that they may have. Mr. Guzman explained that they were working hard to complete a draft within the next 35-40 days to present to appropriate Committees for review. Chairperson Pahl suggested having sufficient time in advance for reviews. Vice Chairperson Pugsley suggested contacting Becky Stock, Project Manager for Nevada Land Conservancy, for input.

D. UPDATE ONLY ON THE CITY'S ON-GOING EFFORTS TO DEMOLISH AND REMOVE BUZZY'S RANCH FARM BUILDINGS. (7:24:58) – Chairperson Pahl introduced the item. Mr. Guzman presented a Staff Report, incorporated into the record. He stated that a consultant, with expertise in historic buildings, had been hired to meet the requirement of the Historic Resources Commission.

E. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: TO PLAN AND ORGANIZE A CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE WORKDAY PROJECT ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2011, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE KIWANIS CLUB OF CARSON CITY'S RIVER CLEANUP. (7:29:43) – Chairperson Pahl introduced the item.

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Mr. Krahn informed the Committee that the planning process was underway. He also stated that Mr. Curtis would be working with them to install the bat houses. Vice Chairperson Pugsley confirmed that financial contributions would be made towards the event. It was agreed to have a meeting with the Kiwanis Club to discuss the event and the T-shirts. Vice Chairperson Pugsley explained that the Committee was also providing tools and wire for wrapping trees. In response to Member Sheck's question, he stated that wiring was more effective than painting, which tended to be "messy".

F. DISCUSSION ONLY ON THE PROGRESS OF THE CARSON RIVER COALITION'S EDUCATION WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP EDUCATIONAL SIGNAGE AND/OR PAMPHLETS REGARDING INAPPROPRIATE MOTORIZED USES IN THE CARSON RIVER. (7:3432) – Chairperson Pahl introduced the item. Mr. Krahn explained that progress has been made and referred to the pamphlets enclosed in the packets, and incorporated into the record. Mr. Krahn explained that the group had invited an outdoor ethics instructor, who introduced the Tread Lightly Program, discussing literature, signage, and other material. He advised sharing the literature with local off road bicycle and ATV dealers as part of the packet. He suggested joining the organization to receive free or discounted brochures. Mr. Krahn explained that the next meeting would include representatives from the Sheriff's and State Lands organizations to discuss enforcement. Member Sheck inquired about licensing ATV as a form of revenue. Limiting off-road access to and from public lands was also discussed.

4. NON-ACTION ITEMS

STATUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM STAFF

A. Mr. Krahn reminded the Committee that he had included several FYI items in the packets, including a tour of the Carson River areas with the Chamber of Commerce Leadership Class. He also updated the committee on the successful aquatic trail rafting trip. Mr. Krahn said he had included *The Flow*, the Carson Water Subconservancy District newsletter, which featured a farewell to Genie Azad. Mr. Krahn added that he was "sad to see her go".

MEMBERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUEST FOR INFORMATION. – None.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS. (7:49:16) – Included in the record. Chairperson Pahl suggested spelling the name of Karen Vargas, Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator, Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW), correctly. Mr. Krahn announced that an NDOW presentation was scheduled for the September 19th meeting.

6. ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT (7:50:39) – Member Sheck moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairperson Pugsley. The meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

The Minutes of the July 18, 2011 Carson River Advisory Committee meeting are so approved this 21st day of November, 2011.

RANDY PAHL, Chair