

CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the February 1, 2006 Meeting

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A regular meeting of the Carson River Advisory Committee was scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 1, 2006 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: Roger Moellendorf, Parks and Recreation Department Director
Vern Krahm, Park Planner
Lee Plemel, Planning and Community Development Principal Planner
Kathleen King, Recording Secretary

NOTE: A recording of these proceedings is available, in the Clerk-Recorder's Office, for review during regular business hours.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL (5:30:12) - Chairperson Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Roll was called; a quorum was present.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS (5:30:30) - None.

1. ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES - August 3, 2005; October 10, 2005; November 2, 2005; November 21, 2005 (5:30:50) - Member Farrer moved to approve the minutes. Vice Chairperson Pugsley seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

2. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (5:31:36) - None.

3. AGENDA ITEMS:

3-A. ACTION TO ELECT CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON (5:31:44) - Chairperson Zimmerman called for nominations. Vice Chairperson Pugsley nominated Chuck Zimmerman as chair. Member Farrer seconded the nomination. Nomination carried 5-0-1, Chairperson Zimmerman abstaining. Chairperson Zimmerman entertained nominations for vice chair. Member Greytak nominated Paul Pugsley as vice chair. Member McCubbin seconded the nomination. Nomination carried 5-0-1, Vice Chairperson Pugsley abstaining.

3-B. ACTION TO RECOMMEND TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION AND THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ADOPTION OF THE CARSON CITY COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN (5:33:40) - Mr. Plemel provided background information on this item and reviewed the agenda materials. He advised that comments and input would continue to be incorporated into the draft plan up to the point it is presented for adoption by the Board of Supervisors. He narrated a PowerPoint presentation, which included review and discussion of the relationship of the master plan to other plans, a chapter outline and overview, and an overview of the comprehensive land use map. Chairperson Zimmerman thanked Mr. Plemel for his presentation.

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Member McCubbin expressed concern over the Schulz Ranch development and its potential impacts to the southern end of the River. In response to a question, Mr. Krahn discussed the pathways and walkway systems incorporated into the internal design of the Schulz Ranch development. He advised of a concern, on the part of staff, that the development not be landlocked. He further advised of a variety of trails which provide access to the River, under the current trails plan, and that the unified pathways master plan provides for further refinement. He advised there are no current plans for additional parks at the southern end of town. Three bridge crossings have been identified, in the unified pathways master plan, for the south end of the River. No other improvements are planned along the river to the point of Carson River Park.

Mr. Plemel advised that the Schulz Ranch development did not solve any current access restrictions or issues. For the community's benefit, accesses and plans to improve existing access have been identified. Member McCubbin expressed concern there are no public accesses to the River, and suggested the inevitability of conflict. Mr. Krahn listed various other accesses to the River, including Carson River Park, Silver Saddle, Riverview Park, the Ambrose-Carson River Natural Area, Morgan Mill Road. He advised of discussions with State Prison officials regarding public access. He anticipates opportunities to present projects in conjunction with the V&T Railroad property and conservation easements on the Bently property. Vice Chairperson Pugsley discussed difficulties associated with access to the River due the fact that most of the property is in Douglas County or owned by the State Prison. He discussed the intent of The Nature Conservancy representatives to establish access to the River. Discussion followed.

Vice Chairperson Pugsley commended staff on the usable master plan document to provide direction and guidance to the elected officials in making decisions. Chairperson Zimmerman entertained a motion. **Member Pahl moved to recommend to the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors to adopt the master plan. Vice Chairperson Pugsley seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-1.**

3-C. ACTION REGARDING A REQUEST TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO FUND AN UPDATE OF THE CARSON RIVER MASTER PLAN ELEMENT TO THE CARSON CITY COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN IN FISCAL YEAR 2006/2007 (6:17:44) - Mr. Krahn suggested considering the possibility of updating the Carson River Master Plan element following adoption of the comprehensive master plan. Vice Chairperson Pugsley concurred with revising the master plan element. He discussed the need for the master plan element to address management of public resources on the River. Chairperson Zimmerman expressed the opinion that the committee members represent sufficient expertise to begin making revisions as opposed to hiring a consultant. Whether or not the committee members have the time available would need to be determined. Mr. Krahn agreed and discussed the public process in which the revisions would be made. He advised the update could be listed as one of the committee's goals in the work plan to be presented to the Board of Supervisors. He suggested the project could be accomplished over a six to twelve month period of time.

Member McCubbin expressed an interest in more emphasis on the southern end of the River. He expressed concern over the large increase in population in Carson City and Douglas County which "puts a lot of pressure on the River." He advised there are very few areas for the public to enjoy the River without intruding on private property. Mr. Krahn agreed this would be a good topic to explore with the public. Member Greytak referred to the Habitat Management chapter in the master plan element, and expressed concern over adequate volunteer and staff support for updating the master plan element. Mr. Krahn suggested developing a scope of work prior to approaching the Board of Supervisors with a funding request.

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Mr. Krahn advised of preliminary conversations with BLM representatives, who have indicated an interest in more City involvement at the Silver Saddle Ranch and the Ambrose-Carson River Natural Area. Consideration has been given to managing City and federal properties along the River as one unit. Mr. Krahn referred to the Silver Saddle Ranch Master Plan, and suggested the possibility of including Prison Hill, Riverview Park, some of the properties under consideration for purchase by the Open Space Program, etc. He noted certain areas which should be managed for little or no public access and others which are well loved by the public.

Mr. Krahn inquired as to the committee's interest in updating the Carson River Master Plan element. **Vice Chairperson Pugsley moved to consider updating the Carson River Master Plan element, within the scope of the Carson River Master Plan element; that staff be tasked with trying to determine what support it can lend and, if necessary, incorporate that into a funding request to the Board of Supervisors. Member Pahl seconded the motion.** Mr. Moellendorf requested clarification of the motion. Vice Chairperson Pugsley discussed concerns over agenda item E in relation to the task of reviewing and potentially revising the Carson River Master Plan element. Even as the committee accepts the volunteer aspect of revising the master plan element, it will impose an additional responsibility on staff. Vice Chairperson Pugsley explained the motion suggested that staff consider funding requirements for the project. Mr. Moellendorf suggested it would be difficult to make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to fund an update of the master plan element before there is any determination as to associated cost. He agreed that a determination of available staff time would need to be explored.

Member Farrer suggested an update would represent a "Herculean effort," particularly if parks and recreation and other related committee interests are incorporated. He inquired as to the possibility of a joint effort between this committee and other related advisory committees. Mr. Moellendorf suggested everyone needs to be reacquainted with the existing plan to determine whether it needs to be updated and, if so, which portions. He suggested this as a first step. Member Farrer suggested the Planning Commission should also be involved. Mr. Krahn agreed that other committees, as well as the public, will be involved in the process and that "it will take a while."

Mr. Moellendorf suggested considering a certain amount of "master plan fatigue" at this point, but clarified this was not a reason not to proceed. Member Farrer expressed an interest in contributing to the process, and the opinion that the committee shouldn't be tasked with the entire update. In light of the discussion, **Vice Chairperson Pugsley withdrew his motion, and Member Pahl withdrew his second.** Member Greytak suggested continuing this item to discuss further in conjunction with the committee's annual goals. Member Pahl agreed with the suggestion to review the plan and determine certain areas to be revised. Mr. Krahn commented that the Carson River Master Plan element is a good plan which has been used to provide input to the parks and recreation master plan and the comprehensive master plan. He suggested there may be "holes to plug." Chairperson Zimmerman expressed the opinion the master plan is probably "98% applicable to fit in with the current comprehensive master plan." He noted the plan is very generic without much specificity. He suggested the possibility of revising chapters, addressing land use, property management, recreation access, etc. in the form of addenda.

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3-D. ACTION REGARDING THE CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE ORGANIZING, SCHEDULING, AND SPONSORING A CARSON RIVER WORK DAY EVENT WITHIN CARSON CITY FOR 2006 (6:43:54) - Mr. Krahn provided background information on this item. Member Greytak suggested considering flood damage on City property as a possible project. He expressed an interest in organizing a work day with emphasis on an environmental project. Chairperson Zimmerman suggested including a hands-on project as one of the committee's annual goals.

(6:47:46) Western Nevada Resource Conservation and Development Council Coordinator Dan Kaffer provided background information on Carson River Work Days, including an overview of funding sources and a history of projects accomplished over the last several years. He expressed an interest in the Carson River Work Day "having its own identity again" separate from clean up days sponsored by community organizations. He advised of funds available for a work day, and requested matching sources in the form of funding, staff / volunteer time, or materials. He offered staff support as well.

Vice Chairperson Pugsley discussed Julie Koop's high school class activities in the Ambrose-Carson River Natural Area. He offered to inquire as to Ms. Koop's interest in coordinating a volunteer day. He advised that the City has storm water management funding available for projects, and offered to check into this as well. Mr. Kaffer advised that Question #1 is an additional funding source for restoration projects along the River. Mr. Krahn advised that the next Question #1 application deadline is March 31, 2006.

Chairperson Zimmerman inquired as to the possibility of utilizing available funding to hire an intern. Discussion took place with regard to the same, and with regard to maximizing grant funding with matching resources. Vice Chairperson Pugsley suggested reagendaizing this item for further discussion at the March committee meeting. Mr. Krahn requested the committee members to consider possible projects. Mr. Kaffer encouraged coordination with as many different organizations as possible.

3-E. DISCUSSION ONLY REGARDING REDUCING THE LEVEL OF CITY STAFF SUPPORT FOR THE COMMITTEE'S PUBLIC MEETINGS AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING THE POSSIBILITY OF COMBINING THE CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE WITH THE OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND/OR THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION (7:03:02) - Mr. Moellendorf provided background information on this item, and advised of the recommendation to reduce staff support to this committee and to the Shade Tree Council. He explained the committee would be encouraged to become more self-sufficient and to consider its direction into the future. The responsibility for deciding agenda items would be left to the chairperson, working closely with staff to ensure that agendas comply with Open Meeting Law requirements. Staff may not routinely attend regular committee meetings and would only provide staff reports for staff-generated items. Mr. Moellendorf anticipates an increased workload once the master plan is adopted. He requested input from the committee members.

Chairperson Zimmerman advised of having attended a meeting, together with Vice Chairperson Pugsley and Parks and Recreation Department staff. He further advised of having suggested combining this committee with another, related committee to maintain some semblance of staff support, which is necessary to the committee's viability. Member Farrer expressed the opinion that combining this committee with the Shade Tree Council and the Parks and Recreation Commission would be "a good fit." He discussed a concern over an unwieldy number of committee members. Discussion followed, and Mr. Moellendorf advised that some research would be needed regarding whether or not combining committees is feasible.

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(7:15:01) Mr. Kaffer provided historic information on the formation of this committee. He advised that, in part, the Quality of Life Initiative was pursued and the Open Space Advisory Committee was formed because of the priorities of this committee to purchase properties along the River, and to protect areas in Carson City along streams, riparian zones, drainages, and the River itself. He discussed the importance of continuing to prioritize protection and conservation of the River environment. He expressed the hope that any combination of committees would include representatives of the River, its restoration, conservation, water quality, habitat, recreation, wildlife, etc. Chairperson Zimmerman thanked Mr. Kaffer for his comments and past support.

Mr. Moellendorf also thanked Mr. Kaffer, and discussed the possibility of this committee becoming more independent. Mr. Krahn listed GROW, the Youth Sports Association, and the Clear Creek Watershed Coalition as examples of stand-alone committees which have been very effective in the community. Vice Chairperson Pugsley suggested taking the opportunity to become more independent and considering the possibility of combining with another committee over a period of time. He noted this committee has had very little interface with the Board of Supervisors, and suggested becoming more independent would drive more contact. He agreed that research should be conducted into how the committee was formed.

Mr. Moellendorf advised that no decision was required at this meeting, and agreed that reduction of staff involvement could be phased. He responded to questions regarding likely interaction with the Board of Supervisors if the committee was to become a private, non-profit organization. Member Farrer discussed concerns over the committee's "tie to the City" as a private, non-profit organization. Member Pahl expressed a preference for combining with another committee which has a formal connection to the City. Mr. Moellendorf clarified staff's intent to not reduce support to the point this committee becomes ineffective. Mr. Krahn expressed appreciation for the committee's effectiveness on the River over the years. Member Greytak expressed concern that private, non-profit organizations can sometimes be adversarial toward the City. Mr. Moellendorf commented on the resource advisory committees represent to City staff. He suggested reducing staff's involvement but maintaining the relationship, and then considering other options in the future. Chairperson Zimmerman advised the committee would work together with staff to implement the request.

3-F. DISCUSSION ONLY REGARDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS' IMPRESSIONS OF THE 2005 CARSON RIVER SYMPOSIUM HELD IN CARSON CITY ON NOVEMBER 4, 2005

(7:33:30) - Mr. Krahn provided background information on this item. Chairperson Zimmerman discussed the water resources focus of the symposium, and expressed the opinion that symposium coordinator Ed James did an excellent job of bringing in a diverse group of speakers who provided good presentations. Vice Chairperson Pugsley commented on the growing awareness that fresh water resources in the Carson River basin are limited, and will be progressively difficult to find. It will behoove every community on the River to consider utilization of those fresh water resources into the future. Member Greytak discussed the educational value of the symposium, particularly with regard to water rights, the State Water Engineer, the big picture of upstream and downstream impacts, and the importance of coordinating with all users. He expressed the hope that symposiums will continue to be scheduled. Member Pahl discussed his interest in the federal watermaster's presentation, particularly with regard to the inability to adapt to land use changes.

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4. NON-ACTION ITEMS:

STATUS REPORTS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

(7:40:20) - None.

STATUS REPORTS AND COMMENTS FROM STAFF (7:40:35) - Mr. Krahn advised that the vacant committee position had been regularly advertised and that one application was received earlier in the day. He solicited other applications from the general public. He responded to questions regarding criteria for the vacant position. (7:47:03) Mr. Moellendorf responded to questions regarding the Korean War Veterans Memorial and repairs to be made to the trails at Riverview Park due to recent flooding.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS (7:43:46) - Chairperson Zimmerman reviewed the tentative agenda for the March committee meeting. Member Greytak requested a status report on the Aquatic Trail Plan.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM STAFF (7:44:18) - Mr. Krahn reviewed the master plan meeting schedule, and the tentative agenda for the March committee meeting.

5. ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT (7:49:12) - Vice Chairperson Pugsley moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 p.m. Member Pahl seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

The Minutes of the February 1, 2006 Carson River Advisory Committee meeting are so approved this 3rd day of May, 2006.

CHARLES ZIMMERMAN, Chair