

CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the February 7, 2007 Meeting

Page 1

A regular meeting of the Carson River Advisory Committee was scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 7, 2007 in the Community Center Sierra Room, 851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada.

PRESENT: Vice Chairperson Paul Pugsley

Tom Farrer

Dan Greytak

Mark McCubbin

Randy Pahl

Ernie Rink

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 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 (5:32:36) - Vice Chairperson Pugsley called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. Roll was called; a quorum was present. Chairperson Zimmerman was absent.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS (5:33:19) - None.

1. ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES (5:33:49) - None.

2. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA (5:34:08) - None.

3. AGENDA ITEMS:

3-A. PRESENTATION REGARDING THE ROLE AND PURPOSE OF THE CARSON RIVER REGIONAL RECREATION STEERING COMMITTEE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CARSON RIVER AQUATIC TRAIL MASTER PLAN (5:34:22) - Vice Chairperson Pugsley introduced this item. Mr. Krahn introduced Nevada Commission on Tourism Public Information Officer Chris Chrystal, Supervisor Pete Livermore, and RCI Hydrologist / Fluvial Geomorphologist Lynn Zonge. Mr. Krahn provided an overview of the presentation format. Ms. Zonge and Ms. Chrystal provided background information on the origins of the Carson River Aquatic Trail Master Plan. Ms. Chrystal discussed the involvement of the Nevada Commission on Tourism. She emphasized that the proposal is not similar to the Truckee River White Water Park, which she described as an urban park. The vision for the Carson River is natural, with the goal of eliminating hazards and creating safe public access. Ms. Chrystal discussed integration of the aquatic trail master plan with the V&T Railway. Supervisor Livermore discussed the presentation to the Board of Supervisors by Ms. Zonge and Ms. Chrystal, and the Board's subsequent allocation of funding to the aquatic trail plan. He discussed safety issues to be addressed by the aquatic trail plan and benefits of the plan to the community.

CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the February 7, 2007 Meeting

Page 2

Carson Water Subconservancy District (“CWSD”) Administrator Ed James provided background information on the CWSD’s involvement. He discussed initial concerns over the plan, including water rights, private property issues, etc. which have been subsequently addressed by the plan. Ms. Chrystal provided background information on formation of the steering committee, and listed the members. Vice Chairperson Pugsley thanked the steering committee members for their presentation.

3-B. ACTION TO RECOMMEND TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION AND BOARD OF SUPERVISORS THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO THE ADOPTED UNIFIED PATHWAYS MASTER PLAN: (1) INCORPORATION OF THE CARSON RIVER AQUATIC TRAIL MASTER PLAN; AND (2) ACCEPT TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS, INCLUDING MINOR TEXT AND MAP REVISIONS, ALONG WITH DOCUMENT AND APPENDIX COORDINATION AS IDENTIFIED BY STAFF IN RED TEXT IN THE UNIFIED PATHWAYS MASTER PLAN (5:58:41) - Mr. Krahn introduced this item, and reviewed the staff report. Ms. Zonge expressed appreciation for the opportunity to have worked with Mr. Moellendorf, Mr. Krahn, and the steering committee. She narrated a SlideShow presentation of the master plan.

Member McCubbin inquired as to the possibility of installing signage upstream of the aquatic trail. He expressed concern over private property issues and ensuing conflicts. Mr. Krahn agreed to include this suggestion as part of the consideration for aquatic trail signage. Member Greytak responded to questions regarding river access from BLM property. Vice Chairperson Pugsley suggested addressing with the BLM the possibility of an improvement to the access. Member Greytak agreed, and noted the need to consider opportunities at the Silver Saddle Ranch. In response to a question, Mr. Krahn advised that the unified pathways master plan element (“UPMP”) identifies a bridge crossing at the southern portion of the Silver Saddle Ranch property. Because of the large scale of the pathways plan, the exact alignment is not yet known. Mr. Krahn advised that funding was allocated to a study, several years ago, in order to identify a specific location. He commented that these are the kinds of improvements which make sense to coordinate as close as possible to each other “because it would be nice to be able to come all the way down the Mexican Ditch on the west side of the River, cross over, ... start at the trail head and go off into the Pine Nuts as well as use that as a spot for our entrance point into the River.” He clarified that the purpose of this agenda item is to identify the Aquatic Trail Master Plan as part of the UPMP. Staff will approach BLM representatives, as opportunities arise, to discuss project funding and partnership. Mr. Krahn referred to Carson River Park as a visual example of the amenities envisioned for the aquatic trail. Supervisor Livermore discussed Lyon County’s involvement in the aquatic trail master plan, specifically to develop the take out point at the Santa Maria Ranch. Vice Chairperson Pugsley expressed appreciation for the involvement of Lyon County in the development of the plan.

Vice Chairperson Pugsley called for public comment. (6:21:10) Dan Willis, a Lyon County representative, described plans for development of a parking lot, access, restrooms, and a park facility at the take out point.

(6:21:50) Mike Hoffman expressed support for the plan, and requested the committee to forward a recommendation of approval to the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors. He expressed the belief that the aquatic trail master plan represents a “great opportunity” and “the kind of positive recreation we need along the River that’s really going to improve it.” He anticipates that the “positive recreation” will displace the illegal dumping activities which currently take place. He suggested Question #1 funding as a source for vegetation control projects along the River. He expressed the opinion that the aquatic trail master plan represents a “win-win situation ... for Carson City.”

CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the February 7, 2007 Meeting

Page 3

(6:23:02) Great Basin Sports Owner Pat Fried advised she is a commercial outfitter on the east fork of the Carson River. She expressed support for the plan, and discussed the opportunities represented for the residents and for tourism. She suggested giving more consideration to River safety and education in the plan. She offered to provide safety education for children, and rescue training for Fire Department personnel.

Vice Chairperson Pugsley called for additional public comment; however, none was forthcoming. He requested Ms. Zonge and Mr. Krahn to address the possibility of safety education aspects within the plan. Ms. Zonge advised that public outreach education has been addressed by non-profit groups and some of the commercial outfitters on the Truckee River. Once access has been established, "it's a natural use of the River." Ms. Zonge advised that City representatives have discussed with Ms. Fried the possibility of conducting camp programs. Mr. Moellendorf expressed the opinion that the aquatic trail plan would be an ideal place to incorporate safety training topics. He advised that the steering committee had discussed with the City and Lyon County the need to budget funds for search and rescue training for the Fire Department. An additional potential of the aquatic trail plan is to expand recreation programs at the River, and Recreation Superintendent Barbara Singer is excited about the opportunities represented by the plan. Mr. Moellendorf encouraged considering recreation, training, and safety aspects as part of the plan. Mr. Krahn referred to page 10 of 10 and read the implementation actions into the record. Vice Chairperson Pugsley suggested adding language regarding recreation programs at the River.

(6:31:19) In response to a question, Ms. Fried described the "Kids Don't Float" program and Project W.E.T. She discussed an intent to teach children how to use various types of watercraft with the goal of floating the Class 1 section of the River. She acknowledged the existing language of the plan would be adequate to cover her proposal.

Mr. Krahn reviewed the staff report pertinent to the recommended technical corrections to the UPMP. At Member Greytak's request, Mr. Krahn reviewed the recommended technical corrections in conjunction with the displayed map. Vice Chairperson Pugsley referred to Member McCubbin's earlier comments and the committee's action relative to the aquatic trail master plan, and inquired as to what the unified pathways master plan element indicates for the River upstream of the aquatic trail master plan. Mr. Krahn advised that the aquatic trail master plan is not indicated for above or below Mexican Dam downstream to the BLM access point. The aquatic trail master plan does not address needed repairs to the Mexican Dam. In response to a further question, Mr. Krahn advised that no revisions are proposed to the unified pathways master plan element upstream of the BLM access point. He reviewed the provisions of the unified pathways master plan element for a shared bike route facility upstream on what used to be Mexican Dam Road just a bit past the south side of the dam. The proposed multi-use path on the west side will skirt all the private property, and Mr. Krahn described the route in conjunction with the displayed map. He pointed out the Power Line Road, the route of a proposed path which leads to a possible bridge site and into Douglas County. He pointed out the McTarnahan Bridge site and an off-road trail.

In response to a question, Member McCubbin described the route by which people access the River from Douglas County across his property. Member Greytak noted the importance of signage. Mr. Krahn agreed and discussed the importance of public safety on the River. In response to a question, Mr. Moellendorf suggested including in the motion that consideration should be given to safety and regulatory signage upstream of the project area.

CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the February 7, 2007 Meeting

Page 4

In reference to the definitions on the aquatic trail master plan map, Vice Chairperson Pugsley noted that Mexican Dam is not included in the plan. He advised of an original intent to include a statement that Mexican Dam is not passable, but “came to the conclusion that it probably didn’t belong on that map.” Mr. Krahn advised this would be corrected prior to forwarding the map to the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors. Member Rink discussed his initial interest in serving on this committee, noted that the aquatic trail master plan had been presented at his first committee meeting, and expressed support for the aquatic trail master plan. He commended the individuals, agencies, and organizations involved in development of the plan. He commented that designating the take out at the Santa Maria Ranch “made the whole thing.”

Vice Chairperson Pugsley entertained additional comments or questions. Member Greytak read a portion of the unified pathways master plan element into the record, and expressed concern over constructing “hard structures” and concrete pathways in the hundred-year flood plain areas adjacent to the River. In response to a question, Mr. Krahn discussed access issues for physically challenged people, and the phased approach to most projects. He advised that concrete surfaces tend to withstand flooding conditions better than decomposed granite. Mr. Moellendorf agreed with Mr. Krahn’s comments, and discussed providing hard surface pathways, where appropriate, to accommodate all levels of physical ability. He advised of a great deal of experience constructing concrete pathways along the Green River. He agreed that concrete pathways hold up better than natural, native, decomposed granite pathways. They require less maintenance, hold up much better than asphalt pathways, provide more access, and in some cases provide more resource protection than dirt or decomposed granite pathways. Mr. Moellendorf suggested the key is designating concrete pathways “where appropriate.” He noted the importance of not creating additional improvements to protect existing or new improvements. He acknowledged that portions of Riverview Park are appropriate for concrete pathways. In response to a comment, he noted that use of an area can often be determined by the type of path constructed. He acknowledged that Riverview Park is designated as a natural park, which purpose is for people of all mobility levels to experience. Member Greytak discussed input received regarding paved trails. He expressed concern over usage incompatibilities created by concrete paths in a natural park. Mr. Moellendorf noted the importance of attempting to strike the balance.

Vice Chairperson Pugsley called for additional comments or questions and, when none were forthcoming, entertained a motion. Mr. Krahn reviewed the recommended action outlined in the staff report. Member Greytak expressed support for including in the motion that safety signage should be included in the aquatic trail master plan. Discussion followed, and **Member Pahl moved to recommend to the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors the incorporation of the Carson River Aquatic Trail Master Plan into the adopted Unified Pathways Master Plan, including the following conditions: to provide training and equipment to the Fire Department in order to increase their agency’s rescue capabilities relative to the aquatic trail; to include a reference to the City’s Recreation Division programs as a way to educate; and to accept the technical corrections, as reviewed by Mr. Krahn, including some minor text and map revisions, along with document appendix coordination, as identified by staff. Member Rink seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.**

CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the February 7, 2007 Meeting

Page 5

In response to a question regarding upstream signage, Member Pahl noted the earlier discussion, and commented that details associated with the aquatic trail master plan will be implemented over time. He further noted that the plan addresses safety signage. In response to a question, Member McCubbin suggested that signage would be beneficial at the base of Prison Hill. He expressed concern that other signage would be used for target practice. He agreed with Member Pahl that signage upstream of the aquatic trail master plan will be addressed over the course of time because of other issues in the area.

3-C. ACTION TO SELECT A DATE TO HOLD A JOINT MEETING WITH THE OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION AND PRODUCE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, AS NEEDED, RELATING TO THE CARSON RIVER (7:16:23) - Vice Chairperson Pugsley introduced this item, discussed the significance of past joint meetings, and recommended scheduling a joint meeting. Mr. Krahn reviewed the staff report. Discussion took place with regard to suggested dates, and **Member McCubbin moved to schedule a joint meeting with the Open Space Advisory Committee on March 19, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. Member Farrer seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.**

3-D. DISCUSSION WITH POSSIBLE ACTION TO CONSIDER CHANGING THE CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S BYLAWS TO MEET ON EITHER AN EVERY-OTHER-MONTH BASIS OR ON A QUARTERLY BASIS RATHER THAN A MONTHLY BASIS (7:20:35) - Vice Chairperson Pugsley introduced this item. Mr. Moellendorf explained the purpose of this agenda item, and noted the direction of the City to reduce operating costs without diminishing levels of service. He discussed the amount of staff time devoted to preparing for and attending advisory board, commission, and committee meetings, and advised that it is detracting from staff's ability to focus on planning and project implementation. He noted that this committee held eight meetings over the course of 2005 and 2006, and suggested meeting on an every-other-month basis. He advised that this would assist the Parks and Recreation Department staff in increasing efficiency and effectiveness.

Member Farrer advised that the committee had already agreed to meet every other month with the option of scheduling additional meetings, if necessary. Mr. Moellendorf agreed that additional meetings could be scheduled, if necessary. He referred to the committee's bylaws, which were included in the agenda materials, and reviewed the provision pertinent to amending the bylaws. In response to a question, he advised that this item could be reagendized for the next meeting in order for the committee to take formal action to amend the bylaws. Member Greytak suggested revising the language of Section II, Paragraph A to read, "... bi-monthly or at the call of the chair as business requires ..." He noted the amount of staff time devoted to the comprehensive master planning process over the past couple years, and expressed the hope that staff would be able to begin implementing those plans. Mr. Moellendorf discussed the importance of implementing the projects outlined in the master plans.

4. NON-ACTION ITEMS:

STATUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM STAFF (7:29:20) - None.

CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the February 7, 2007 Meeting

Page 6

MEMBERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION (7:29:40) -

Member Greytak announced the "Past and Future of the Birds and Habitat of an Integrated Clear Creek" program to be presented by the Clear Creek Watershed Council on Tuesday, February 13th at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Center Bonanza Room. He provided background information on the qualifications and experience of the program presenter, Jim Eidel. He invited everyone to attend.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (7:31:39) - Previously covered.

6. ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT (7:32:37) - Member Pahl moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 p.m. Member McCubbin seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

The Minutes of the February 7, 2007 Carson River Advisory Committee meeting are so approved this 4th day of April, 2007

CHARLES ZIMMERMAN, Chair