

CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the February 2, 2005 Meeting

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A regular meeting of the Carson River Advisory Committee was scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 2, 2005 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
Keith Wills

STAFF: Roger Moellendorf, Parks and Recreation Department Director
Walter Sullivan, Planning and Community Development Department Director
Kathleen King, Recording Secretary

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

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL (1-0007) - Chairperson Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 5:39 p.m. Roll was called; a quorum was present. Member Pahl was absent.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS (1-0024) - None.

1. ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES - November 3, 2004 (1-0027) - Member Farrer moved to approve the minutes. Vice Chairperson Pugsley seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

2. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (1-0034) - Vice Chairperson Pugsley suggested combining items 3-G and 3-H. Chairperson Zimmerman advised that Genie Azad would not be attending the meeting and, therefore, deferred item 3-C.

3. AGENDA ITEMS:

3-A. ACTION ON ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2005 (1-0038) - Vice Chairperson Pugsley nominated Chuck Zimmerman as chairman. Member Farrer seconded the nomination. Vice Chairperson Pugsley moved to close nominations for chairperson. Member Farrer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0-1, Chairperson Zimmerman abstaining. Member Greytak nominated Paul Pugsley for vice chair. Member Farrer seconded the nomination. Nomination carried 6-0.

3-B. DISCUSSION ONLY REGARDING A CABLE TELEVISION FRANCHISE AGREEMENT REVIEW PROCESS (1-0063) - Mr. Sullivan reviewed the staff report and the Cable Communications Workshop brochure included in the agenda materials. He encouraged the Committee members to attend the workshops and provide input. In response to a question, he discussed potential changes and improvements to televised meeting broadcasts, including the format of the Sierra Room and methods by which to communicate information to the public during meetings. In response to a further question, Mr. Sullivan advised that any citizen could attend any of the scheduled workshops. He reviewed the workshop schedule as outlined in the brochure, and anticipated that the same information would be presented at each workshop.

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In response to a further question, Mr. Sullivan advised that the City allocates approximately \$100,000 annually toward operation of the Cable Access Television Foundation. The upcoming negotiations will require the franchisee to take responsibility for more of the operational costs and broadcast improvements. Member Farrer expressed the opinion that the franchisee should provide the services in exchange for being awarded the contract. Vice Chairperson Pugsley reviewed provisions of the franchise code. In response to a question, Mr. Sullivan advised that City personnel, as well as Buske Group representatives, will be present at the workshops. He suggested that questions regarding cable franchise fees could be addressed during the workshops. Chairperson Zimmerman thanked Mr. Sullivan for his presentation.

3-C. UPDATE ONLY REGARDING THE CARSON RIVER COALITION'S AND THE CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY DISTRICT'S CURRENT PROJECTS, ACTIVITIES, AND ISSUES WITHIN THE CARSON RIVER WATERSHED, INCLUDING CARSON CITY, THAT WOULD ASSIST THE COMMITTEE IN ESTABLISHING ITS GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR 2005 (1-0239) - Deferred.

3-D. UPDATE ONLY REGARDING AN ACTIVITY REPORT ON THE UPPER CARSON RIVER MANAGEMENT PLAN THAT WOULD ASSIST THE COMMITTEE IN ESTABLISHING ITS GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR 2005 (1-0244) - Vice Chairperson Pugsley advised that he would provide this report in his capacity as Carson Valley Conservation District Watershed Coordinator for Carson City and Douglas County. He discussed development of small wetlands to be located on primary return ditches in the Carson Valley to improve the quality of excess irrigation water (tail water). He explained that in a flood irrigation situation, excess water applied to fields either returns to the irrigation system to be used by the next downstream user, or returns directly to the River. As the tail water flows across fields, it picks up heat and nutrients. By flowing the tail water through a small wetland, 12" to 24" deep with plant material, some of the sediment and nutrients will be removed and the water will be cooled before returning to the River.

Vice Chairperson Pugsley described best management practices being developed to establish alternative methods for watering cattle, which are presently watered via irrigation ditches or River tributaries. He discussed incentives for using ground water as opposed to surface water in order to keep the cattle out of the waterways. Benefits to fresh water include improvement in livestock health and weight gain. It has been demonstrated that cattle prefer fresh water given the option. Stock water wells would have to be drilled, which would raise the issue of water rights. Stock water resources are available in the Carson Valley and possibly in Eagle Valley. Vice Chairperson Pugsley advised that none of the ranchers will choose to use irrigation water for cattle once treated effluent is applied to the agricultural fields. Consideration has been given to asking the ranchers to remove their fresh water use and go to a trough arrangement. Vice Chairperson Pugsley noted that development of the best management practices is timely in terms of protecting the ground beneath watering troughs, freezing concerns during the winter, and other operational issues which will need to be addressed in order to convince ranchers to begin using fresh water.

Vice Chairperson Pugsley reported on a fairly extensive, ongoing water quality monitoring project. He explained that the Nevada Department of Environmental Protection samples the Carson River every other month at a selected number of sites. NDEP representatives have indicated that the number of sampling sites and the sampling frequency has been inadequate. Vice Chairperson Pugsley advised that the number of sampling sites has been expanded from 8 to 17. He will be collecting samples from nine sites during the months that NDEP collects from the other 8, and will be collecting from all 17 sites during the months

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NDEP doesn't sample. Vice Chairperson Pugsley advised that soil sampling will be initiated, particularly for those areas which have been irrigated with effluent water for a number of years. He has selected sites which have been irrigated partly by surface water and partly by effluent water. He explained the watering cycle at the particular sites, and the purpose of the soil sampling project.

Vice Chairperson Pugsley described an erosion control project planned for the drainages from Highway 50 to Clear Creek, and a streambank erosion control and channel clearing project for the East Fork of the Carson River through the stretch of River adjacent to the Carson Valley Golf Course. Question #1 funding has been allocated for the streambank erosion control project. Vice Chairperson Pugsley advised that Douglas County is in the process of purchasing two parcels to create River parks. The first parcel was approved as part of Question #1, Round 1; the second will be submitted as part of Round 2. The two parks will be the first in Douglas County. Vice Chairperson Pugsley described an extensive review of all projects done on the River through Douglas County and Carson City prior to 1997 forward to the present date. The purpose is for monitoring and cataloging. He advised of ongoing vegetative management projects, and of work days scheduled in the Carson Valley, at Clear Creek, and in Carson City.

Member McCubbin inquired as to the possibility of the ranchers transferring water rights as they convert to effluent water. Vice Chairperson Pugsley explained that water rights held through the Alpine Decree are equivalent to property rights. Use of effluent water is given through contract. Vice Chairperson Pugsley advised that it will be very difficult for anyone holding a surface water right to give it up. An owner can choose not to use a surface water right, under the Alpine Decree, and not lose it. Vice Chairperson Pugsley reviewed advantages to the ranchers of using effluent water, including that receiving the water is "pretty assured," unlike the River water right which is dependent upon flows in each year. An additional advantage to the rancher is being able to contract for a consistent water right throughout the growing season irrespective of River flows, without jeopardizing surface water rights. Vice Chairperson Pugsley advised that converting to effluent water use costs approximately \$50,000 per field. The conversion primarily eliminates tail water and provides for required sampling at the edge of the field to ensure effluent water doesn't flow from the field. Vice Chairperson Pugsley advised that certain fields immediately adjacent to the River will present complexities with regard to permitting for effluent use. He anticipates there will be a valid discussion with ranchers, who are currently using surface water, to convert to effluent water. Member McCubbin expressed a concern that using effluent water will create a false sense of excess water and, therefore, fuel excess growth.

In response to a question, Vice Chairperson Pugsley described the location of the two parks in Douglas County. He acknowledged that the ranchers will be expected to drill fresh water wells. He explained that stock water wells are permitted, not unlike residential domestic wells. The Natural Resources Conservation Service, through the Farm Bill, will cost share a stock water well. In response to a further question, Vice Chairperson Pugsley advised that stock water use is small in comparison to irrigation use. The wells will be very shallow, tapping close surface ground water as opposed to deep water. Chairperson Zimmerman thanked Vice Chairperson Pugsley for his report.

3-E. UPDATE ONLY REGARDING CARSON CITY'S CURRENT PROJECTS, ACTIVITIES, AND ISSUES ALONG THE CARSON RIVER, WITHIN CARSON CITY THAT WOULD ASSIST THE COMMITTEE IN ESTABLISHING ITS GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR 2005 (1-0563) - Mr. Moellendorf reviewed the update included in the agenda materials, and discussion took place regarding the listed items. Mr. Moellendorf responded to questions with regard to funding for Carson

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River Park, Phase 2. In response to a question, Vice Chairperson Pugsley suggested that the scope of work for the Morgan Mill Road River Access Area clean up project could be expanded to the trail which encircles the golf course. He suggested activities such as wrapping trees with poultry mesh. At Mr. Moellendorf's request, Vice Chairperson Pugsley provided background information and reviewed details of the proposed Carson River Streambank Stabilization Project. He suggested removing the project from the list because the project area has become well vegetated, and because of the need to conduct a property survey prior to doing any work. He discussed an additional streambank stabilization project, beginning at Lloyd's Bridge and ending at the Deer Run Road bridge, which was to be funded by the Army Corps of Engineers. He advised that the funding has been withdrawn and there is no indication as to if or when it will become available again. In response to a question, Member Greytak discussed the vision for the Carson River Work Days. Chairperson Zimmerman suggested agendaizing additional discussion at the next meeting. Mr. Moellendorf advised of the possibility that a part-time volunteer coordinator position will be added to the Parks Department.

In response to a question, Chairperson Zimmerman advised that the Committee's meeting schedule is currently every two months or as needed. He acknowledged the Committee does not have a set of bylaws. In response to a further question, he advised that Vice Chairperson Pugsley, through his employment, functions as a liaison to the Carson River Coalition, the Carson Water Subconservancy District, and other groups affiliated with the River and its tributaries. He further advised that the Committee members receive agendas of the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Open Space Advisory Committee, and other related advisory committees. He expressed the opinion that the Committee members are well informed with regard to their roles and responsibilities.

Vice Chairperson Pugsley requested staff to add the Riverview Park wetlands to the "Future Areas of Concern" list. Member Greytak requested staff to add the City's re-use water plan, the freeway drainage, and Eagle Valley Creek. Vice Chairperson Pugsley requested staff to agendaize discussion of the possibility of providing an annual report to the Board of Supervisors.

3-F. ACTION TO UPDATE THE CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S MAY 5, 2004 PLANNING GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR THE CARSON RIVER WITHIN CARSON CITY (1-1078) - Mr. Moellendorf referred to the list of planning goals included in the agenda materials, and Chairperson Zimmerman requested input from the Committee members. Member Greytak provided background information on the planning goals, and suggested that since the list was developed less than a year ago, it shouldn't need to be updated. No formal action was taken.

3-G. ACTION REGARDING DEVELOPMENT OF FUTURE PROJECTS FOR THE COMMITTEE; AND 3-H. ACTION TO ASSIGN COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO VARIOUS ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES RELATING TO OTHER RIVER GROUPS, THE COMMITTEE'S VOLUNTEER WORKING GROUPS, COMMITTEE LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS, AND COMMITTEE PROJECTS (1-1136) - In response to a question, Mr. Moellendorf advised that the District Attorney is in the process of reviewing the funding agreement for Carson River Park Phase 2. He anticipates that the project will begin mid- to late-summer of 2005. Following discussion, Member Greytak requested to be involved in the volunteer working group during the design phase. Chairperson Zimmerman and Member Wills also volunteered. In response to a question, Member Greytak advised that the Riparian Habitat Working Group has been awaiting technical reports from the Bureau of Land Management, LIDAR and mapping results, etc. He advised that the group is still interested in developing a habitat plan, and that

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Vice Chairperson Pugsley and Member Paul are members of the working group. Chairperson Zimmerman advised that Members Farrer and Pahl comprise the Education Working Group. Member Farrer volunteered for the Eagle Scout Projects working group.

The Committee members reviewed the liaison assignments and, in response to a question, Member Greytak volunteered to serve as the Shade Tree Council liaison. Member Farrer advised that he receives the Parks and Recreation Commission agendas periodically, and has attended a few meetings throughout the year. Mr. Moellendorf reviewed the assignments.

In response to a question, Vice Chairperson Pugsley suggested adding work days to the Committee Project Assignments table. Vice Chairperson Pugsley and Member Greytak volunteered for this assignment. Member Farrer provided background information on the Community Council on Youth "Youth at the Table" program. Chairperson Zimmerman recalled that the program coordinators were to provide names of interested students to the Committee, but noted this was never done.

In response to a question, Vice Chairperson Pugsley discussed the \$2.5 million Question #1 allocation for River corridor projects, including streambank stabilization, land acquisition, conservation easements, certain park developments, etc. He advised that the funds will only be available to Carson City for a certain period of time before the Division of State Lands reallocates them to another county along the River. He agreed with an earlier comment by Member Farrer that, since the streambank stabilization project which was to be funded by the Army Corps of Engineers will not be done within the Question #1 time frame, alternative River projects for which Question #1 funding can be used should be explored. He advised that purchasing conservation easements on properties along the River "absorbs a lot of money." He further advised that the streambank stabilization project is still needed; however, a fifty percent match would be required for using the Question #1 funding.

Member Greytak agreed that consideration should be given to how to use the Question #1 funding along the River. He advised that City staff had considered submitting projects for round 2 of the Question #1 allocation process, but decided to wait until project commitments made as part of round 1 can be caught up. He suggested that there is still time to develop projects before the Division of State Lands begins reallocating the funding to other counties. He further suggested taking more of an interest in the City's parks, recreation, and trails master plan, specifically with regard to trails proposed for the River corridor. Mr. Moellendorf related comments regarding trails which were received during recent neighborhood meetings held as part of the master planning process.

In response to a question, Mr. Moellendorf explained the appropriate action to be taken. In response to a question, Member Greytak reiterated an interest in looking into Question #1 project opportunities and volunteered to take the role. Chairperson Zimmerman called for additional suggestions and, when none were forthcoming, entertained a motion. **Vice Chairperson Pugsley moved to approve the assignments, as discussed.** Mr. Moellendorf reviewed the Committee Project Assignments list, as follows: Question #1 projects, work days, and trails oversight. Chairperson Zimmerman volunteered to assist with the Question #1 projects assignment. **Member McCubbin seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.**

3-I. UPDATE ONLY REGARDING THE CARSON RIVER PARK - PHASE 2 PROJECT (1-1690) - Mr. Moellendorf reviewed the agenda materials pertinent to this item.

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4. NON-ACTION ITEMS:

STATUS REPORTS AND COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS (1-1730) - None.

STATUS REPORTS AND COMMENTS FROM STAFF (1-0220) - Mr. Sullivan provided a status report on the Electric Master Plan element, and assured the Committee members that any facilities proposed, as part of the master plan, within the River corridor will be first presented to the Committee.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS (1-1737) - Chairperson Zimmerman noted that the next meeting would be scheduled for April.

5. ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT (1-1760) - Vice Chairperson Pugsley moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 p.m. Member Farrer seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

The Minutes of the February 2, 2005 meeting of the Carson River Advisory Committee are so approved this 2nd day of March, 2005.

CHARLES ZIMMERMAN, Chair