

CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the January 7, 2004 Workshop

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A workshop meeting of the Carson River Advisory Committee was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 7, 2004 in the City Hall Capitol Conference Room, 201 North Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada.

PRESENT: Chairperson Charles Zimmerman
Vice Chairperson Paul Pugsley
Tom Farrer
Dan Greytak
Mark McCubbin

STAFF: Steve Kastens, Parks and Recreation Director
Vern Krahn, Park Planner
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 (1-0006) - Chairperson Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. Roll was called; a quorum was present. Member Pahl was absent.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS (1-0014) - None.

1. AGENDA ITEMS FOR WORKSHOP (1-0016) - Chairperson Zimmerman referred to past workshops where a facilitator was present. Mr. Krahn volunteered, and discussion took place regarding the workshop format. Mr. Krahn provided an overview of the agenda and the expanded list of workshop items.

1-A. FUTURE PLANNING/LAND USE ISSUES THAT WILL IMPACT THE CARSON RIVER WITHIN CARSON CITY

UPDATE OF CITY'S COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN; NEW PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT TO THE COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN; UPDATE OF THE BLM'S URBAN INTERFACE PLAN (1-0094) - Mr. Krahn advised that Clarion Associates and Winston Associates had been selected as the consultants for the City's comprehensive master plan and the parks and recreation element. He advised that the comprehensive master plan will incorporate the Bureau of Land Management's Urban Interface Plan. Mr. Kastens advised that the consultants will be making presentations and soliciting input from the Committee as appropriate during the course of the planning process. He further advised that the Committee members are welcome to attend public hearing workshops, but cautioned them against making comments on any matter which has not been previously discussed and acted upon by the Committee. Member Greytak suggested updating the maps included in the Carson River Master Plan element, as appropriate, and Mr. Kastens agreed. Mr. Kastens advised that staff would report back to the Committee following the scoping session with the consultants.

In response to a question, Mr. Kastens discussed the BLM Urban Interface Plan as an issue which seems to be sensitive to the Board of Supervisors. There are several open space areas which have been identified along the Highway 50 East corridor which the Board of Supervisors is concerned may limit the City's commercial growth. He advised of land within the City for which the Board of Supervisors is interested

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in determining the highest and best use. He was unaware of any issues along or related to the River over which anyone has expressed concern with regard to the comprehensive master plan. In response to a question, Mr. Kastens advised that the Storm Water Master Plan will have to be incorporated into the comprehensive master plan.

Mr. Krahn advised that the Planning Commission will serve as the "point committee" for the comprehensive master plan. The Parks and Recreation Commission will serve as the point committee for the parks and recreation element. In response to a question, Mr. Kastens advised that the consultants have indicated a 12-18 month time table for completion of the comprehensive master plan. The scoping portion of the plan is scheduled to be completed within 1-2 months, and the planning process is anticipated to begin in June 2004. Mr. Kastens anticipated that the consultants will be ready to meet with the Committee in the fall of 2004. In response to a question, he discussed Jeff Winston's approach to developing a master plan. Discussion took place regarding the time span the comprehensive master plan will cover. Chairperson Zimmerman expressed the preference that additional trails and recreational elements be the only major changes along the River corridor. Mr. Kastens agreed.

Mr. Kastens advised that Parks and Recreation Department staff is interested in reviewing the Urban Interface Plan in consideration of changing open space designations to recreation and public purpose designations. He discussed the current location of the trap range around which the City's industrial area has been developed. The trap range users have expressed an interest in expanding their facility and uses, which cannot be done at the current location. He responded to questions regarding the process for revising a use designation within the Urban Interface Plan. In response to a further question, Mr. Kastens advised that BLM representatives have acknowledged their willingness to revisit the Urban Interface Plan with the City's assistance.

IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS OF THE BLM'S SILVER SADDLE RANCH AND AMBROSE CARSON RIVER NATURAL AREA/CITY'S PARTNERSHIP (1-0395) - Chris Miller, of the BLM, advised that BLM staff is in the process of completing the Silver Saddle Ranch Master Plan. The picnic area which was originally proposed for an area near the old, white house will most likely be moved to an area south of the large pole barn. She discussed funding issues associated with future development at the Ranch, and fees imposed for use of the Ranch. She advised that \$16,000 has been allocated to the Ranch, which will be used for development of the picnic area, completion of the gravel road, additional wetlands, weed abatement issues, signage at Prison Hill, and trail improvement for forest access. Another agricultural burn is scheduled for April and volunteers are being relied upon for environmental education tours. Ms. Miller noted that the Silver Saddle Ranch is designated for passive recreation, as stated in the master plan.

Member McCubbin suggested the possibility of charging OHV users to access the Prison Hill recreation area, and discussion took place with regard to the same. Ms. Miller responded to questions regarding the status and fund raising efforts of the Friends of the Silver Saddle Ranch. Discussion took place regarding grants available to not-for-profit organizations. Ms. Miller advised that BLM staff is looking forward to the wetlands. She commended the City on its partnership with the BLM, and expressed appreciation for the donations of equipment and work crews. Discussion took place regarding the need for blocking access to the Silver Saddle Ranch from the City's property. Mr. Krahn thanked Ms. Miller for her input.

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SNPLMA LAND PURCHASES IN CARSON CITY ALONG THE CARSON RIVER (1-0643)

- Mr. Kastens advised that escrow on the Foerschler property closed as part of the SNPLMA Round 4. Open Space Manager Juan Guzman is working on SNPLMA applications for Round 5 which are due January 9th. At their January 2nd meeting, the Board of Supervisors agreed to all but one of the recommended priorities as submitted by staff and the advisory committees. The Board of Supervisors excluded the Comstock property in the Carson River Canyon after determining that it does not have a great deal of development potential. Mr. Kastens discussed concerns expressed by members of the Board of Supervisors regarding the amount of private land being converted to public land, and the ownership of said land. The Board of Supervisors expressed concerns regarding ultimate ownership of the meadow between Highway 50 and Kings Canyon Road which was included as part of the SNPLMA Round 4 nomination. The Supervisors' concerns centered around the U. S. Forest Service becoming the owner of the property because of their management practices. He reviewed the properties along the River which will be submitted as part of the SNPLMA Round 5 nomination, as follows: Desormier, Bulin/Hollingsworth, and Bently. In response to a question, Ms. Miller advised that the properties will be incorporated into the Silver Saddle Master Plan as an amendment. Mr. Kastens advised that Supervisor Richard Staub, who represents the Jerard family, informed him that they have expressed a willingness to sell their property to the City or to the BLM. With regard to the Silver Saddle Ranch Master Plan amendment, Mr. Krahn advised that the Committee has been considering a portage on the west side of Mexican Dam. He requested that the Bulin/Hollingsworth property, which is adjacent to the dam, be included in the plan amendment as well.

BLM'S PINE NUT MOUNTAIN PLAN (1-0774) - In response to a question, Ms. Miller advised BLM staff hopes to have a draft plan published for public review by the end of February 2004. She discussed revisions to the plan based on the public comment received to date. Mr. Krahn advised that the plan would be agendized for review by the Committee.

BLM'S/CHAD GOURLEY'S GEOMORPHOLOGY STUDY OF THE CARSON RIVER (1-0804) - In response to a question, Vice Chairperson Pugsley advised that the geomorphology study is anticipated to be complete in spring or summer 2004. He discussed the purpose of the geomorphology study. Chairperson Zimmerman referred to Kevin Piper's presentation at the last Committee meeting, and expressed the preference that no additional restoration projects take place in Carson City until a more holistic view of the River is developed such as has been done by Mr. Piper and the Dayton Valley Conservation District. He expressed the opinion that River geomorphology and restoration should be linked and done comprehensively. Vice Chairperson Pugsley responded to questions regarding the scope of the geomorphology study.

CARSON RIVER COALITION ACTIVITIES (1-0960) - Mr. Krahn advised of discussions with Ed James, of the Carson Water Subconservancy District ("CWSD"), who informed him of the possibility of scheduling another Carson River conference. He inquired as to the level of involvement the Committee would want to have in such a conference. Vice Chairperson Pugsley commented that the 1997 flood was the theme of the previous conference. He advised that the lack of a theme is a concern associated with garnering support for another conference. Several ideas have been proposed but none with the drawing power of the previous conference. Chairperson Zimmerman advised of having attended the previous conference and expressed an interest in participating in another conference in some way.

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In response to a question, Vice Chairperson Pugsley provided background information on the survey being conducted by the Carson River Coalition Education Group to determine the main issues on the Carson River. Chairperson Zimmerman advised of having participated in the survey, and commented that the listed issues were difficult to prioritize. Vice Chairperson Pugsley explained that the "Carson River Main Message" survey is a follow up to the Carson River Coalition's watershed map. He advised that the survey responses received are not indicating a main issue; all the issues listed in the survey seem to be of equal importance. He suggested that Steve Lewis of the Douglas County Cooperative Extension Office could provide a presentation on the results of the survey. He provided background information on Mr. Lewis' training and experience.

Mr. Krahn solicited additional comments and questions from the Committee members regarding future planning and land use issues. Member Greytak requested that the Storm Water Master Plan element be added to the list of considerations. He commented that the Committee should support City Engineer Larry Werner with the public participation requirements and in any other area. Chairperson Zimmerman suggested that the effect of the freeway bypass on the River is another important consideration under the Committee's future planning and land use issues. Discussion took place regarding the drainage facilities associated with freeway bypass construction, and Chairperson Zimmerman requested staff to agendize a presentation. Mr. Kastens suggested that the presentation should be made by NDOT Project Manager Jim Gallegos and City Engineer Larry Werner. Vice Chairperson Pugsley advised of a conversation with Senior Project Manager John Givlin, who informed him that the floodway capacity of Eagle Valley Creek will drop from 12,000 cfs to 8,000 cfs once the detention/retention facilities are constructed.

Member Farrer suggested that there should be a statement of recreation purposes on the River. Mr. Krahn acknowledged that there is a recreation section in the Carson River Master Plan element, and Chairperson Zimmerman suggested that it could be considered for an update. Mr. Kastens advised that recreation purposes may be incorporated as part of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan element.

1-B. FUTURE CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

CARSON RIVER PARK - PHASE 2 (1-1288) - Mr. Krahn advised that staff submitted a CIP request for \$50,000 as matching funds for this project. Mr. Kastens advised that if the request is approved, the funding will be available July 1, 2004. The funding will be matched to Question #1 funding. Mr. Krahn acknowledged that the allocation will finish the picnic area. He further acknowledged that he would like to re-establish the volunteer work group for this project. Mr. Kastens reviewed the CIP process, and advised that a recommendation will be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors after the CIP Committee meets in January. He acknowledged that a decision will be made before July and a working group can be established. Mr. Krahn advised that Kevin Hill, of the Division of State Lands, will be presenting information on the Question #1 process to the Carson River Coalition at their next meeting. If the CIP request is approved, Mr. Krahn anticipates completing the Question #1 application within the next 2-3 months.

Mr. Krahn advised that the Carson River Master Plan was incorporated into the BLM's Silver Saddle Ranch Master Plan. Ms. Miller acknowledged that constructed facilities will have to conform to the historical context of the Ranch.

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CARSON RIVER STREAMBANK STABILIZATION PROJECT (1-1417) - Mr. Krahn advised that this project was prioritized as one of the top four in the Question #1 process. At his request, Vice Chairperson Pugsley discussed the time table anticipated for this project. He advised that it is not realistic to anticipate anything happening within a short time frame. He doesn't anticipate that contracts will be ready until the end of 2004, and the Army Corps of Engineers will not begin developing designs until contracts are finalized. Vice Chairperson Pugsley advised that the Army Corps has conducted feasibility studies and concluded that they will allocate \$5 million to the project. He noted that there is no match requirement, and advised that the CWSD will sign the contract and allocate the funding.

Discussion took place regarding the time table associated with Question #1 funding. Vice Chairperson Pugsley advised that the Division of State Lands is entering into an interlocal agreement with the CWSD requesting them to allocate the \$10 million designated for the Carson River out of the Question #1 bond funds - \$2.5 million to each county through which the River flows. Vice Chairperson Pugsley anticipates that around year five, the CWSD will determine whether or not any of the \$2.5 million allocations should be reallocated.

EAGLE VALLEY CREEK REHABILITATION PROJECT (1-1568) - Vice Chairperson Pugsley advised that he has requested the Army Corps of Engineers to consider this project. They have yet to respond.

CARSON RIVER WORK DAYS (1-1585) - Mr. Krahn inquired as to projects in which the Committee would like to participate. He discussed examples of the Shade Tree Council's Arbor Day Celebration and Fall Tree Care Seminar. He discussed the need to remove tree wrap at Riverview Park which is beginning to girdle the trees because of growth. Mr. Kastens suggested that the Committee members consider project ideas and advise staff in order that the ideas can be agendaized for discussion. Member Greytak discussed the importance of education and public involvement. Chairperson Zimmerman suggested targeting teachers and educators as potential Committee members, and discussion took place regarding the same. Additional discussion took place with regard to protecting the trees at the River, and Mr. Kastens advised that the Nevada Division of Wildlife has an active beaver trapping program on the River.

1-C. COMMITTEE AND STAFF INTERACTION ISSUES

ACTION REGARDING THE FREQUENCY AND STRATEGIC TIMING OF FUTURE CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS (1-1867) - Mr. Krahn provided background information on this item, and Mr. Kastens suggested modifying the meeting schedule so that the Committee would meet semi-monthly or monthly at certain times of the year in association with certain projects. He reviewed the Shade Tree Council's meeting schedule as an example. Chairperson Zimmerman agreed with a semi-monthly meeting schedule which could be modified as necessary. Member Farrer commented that the meetings missed last summer didn't seem to negatively affect the Committee. Chairperson Zimmerman commented that volunteer working groups could serve to fill in the gaps, as necessary.

STARTING MEETINGS AT 5:30 P.M. INSTEAD OF 6:00 P.M. (1-1975) - Mr. Krahn provided background information on this item, and consensus of the Committee was to return to the 5:30 p.m. meeting schedule. Chairperson Zimmerman suggested e-mailing agenda materials rather than mailing them or hand delivering them, and Mr. Kastens and Mr. Krahn agreed to look into this possibility.

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FUTURE INTERACTION WITH THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION, THE OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE, AND THE ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE (1-2082) - Mr. Krahn discussed the purpose of this item, and solicited input from the Committee members regarding their desired level of interaction with other advisory boards/commissions/committees. Chairperson Zimmerman suggested that since staff interacts with the related committees, there was no need for any additional interaction with other advisory committees. Discussion took place regarding liaison assignments, and Mr. Krahn suggested agendaizing liaison assignments for the next regular Committee meeting.

1-D. COMMITTEE MEMBERS' ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

FUTURE INTERACTION WITH CARSON RIVER COALITION, THE SUBCONSERVANCY, CARSON VALLEY CONSERVATION DISTRICT, AND OTHER RIVER GROUPS (1-2255) - Mr. Krahn inquired of the Committee the level of information they would like to have with regard to other river groups. Chairperson Zimmerman expressed the opinion that the appropriate amount of information is provided to the Committee through City staff and Vice Chairperson Pugsley's affiliations. Member Farrer discussed being able to fulfill his liaison responsibilities by watching the various advisory committee meetings on CAT-10. Member Greytak discussed the Committee's role to support staff, and Mr. Krahn expressed appreciation for the Committee members' feedback and participation.

DEVELOPMENT OF THREE VOLUNTEER GROUPS TO ASSIST STAFF ON CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND EAGLE SCOUT PROJECTS (1-2372) - Mr. Krahn suggested that, in consideration of the Committee's modified meeting schedule, volunteer working groups may be the most efficient way to address special projects. Discussion took place with regard to the same and with regard to potential projects.

1-E. COMMITTEE'S DESIRE TO REVIEW AND AMEND PLANNING GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR THE CARSON RIVER WITHIN CARSON CITY (1-2555) - Mr. Krahn provided background information on this item, and solicited input from the Committee members. Member Greytak requested Mr. Krahn to include the current list of planning goals and objectives in the next agenda packet. Chairperson Zimmerman commented that the new members would benefit from reviewing the goals and objectives. Vice Chairperson Pugsley suggested that it would be appropriate to agendaize the existing goals and objectives for a future meeting.

Chairperson Zimmerman commented that recreation, education, and enforcement are three areas which currently have no initiative. He commented on the value and results of former Member Kevin Walsh's efforts with regard to enforcement along the River. Member Greytak agreed that Member Walsh's efforts yielded results with regard to enforcement of illegal firearm activity and camping. He suggested interfacing with the Pine Nut Mountains Trails Association regarding the Committee's concerns. Mr. Kastens commented on former Member Walsh's influence in changing the attitudes and practices of off-road vehicle users in the Pine Nuts. Discussion took place regarding potential impacts of the V&T Railroad.

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1-F. COMMITTEE'S INTEREST TO REVIEW AND UPDATE THE CARSON RIVER MASTER PLAN (1-2810) - Vice Chairperson Pugsley suggested that it would be appropriate to review the recreation chapter. Discussion took place regarding the method by which to accomplish revision, and Chairperson Zimmerman suggested agendaizing discussion of this matter for the next meeting. He requested the Committee members to review the master plan in preparation for discussion. He noted that there was nothing included in the master plan regarding education.

1-G. FUTURE AREAS OF CONCERN THAT THE COMMITTEE WANTS CITY STAFF TO MONITOR AND REPORT BACK TO THE COMMITTEE; EXAMPLES INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO: SILVER SADDLE RANCH WETLANDS AND STATEWIDE BOND INITIATIVE QUESTION #1 (1-2969) - Mr. Krahn suggested the Riverview Park Wetlands as an additional example. Member Greytak suggested adding the Mexican Ditch to the list. Ms. Miller suggested adding the dam to the list. Discussion took place regarding Open Space Manager Juan Guzman's activities.

1-H. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (1-3100) - Discussion took place regarding ways to honor Mr. Kastens upon his retirement. Mr. Kastens discussed the anticipated time table for filling his position.

2. ADJOURNMENT (1-3260) - The meeting adjourned by mutual consent.

The Minutes of the January 7, 2004 workshop meeting of the Carson River Advisory Committee are so approved this 3rd day of March, 2004.

CHARLES ZIMMERMAN, Chair