

CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the October 2, 2002 Meeting

Page 1

A regular meeting of the Carson River Advisory Committee was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 2, 2002 in the Community Center Sierra Room, 851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada.

PRESENT: Chairperson Charles Zimmerman
Vice Chairperson Claire Clift
Dan Greytak
Thomas Hall
David Johnson

STAFF: Steve Kastens, Parks and Recreation Director
Vern Krahn, Parks 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 and inspection during regular business hours.

A. CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM (1-0001) - Chairperson Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Roll was called; a quorum was present.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - September 4, 2002 and September 16, 2002 (1-0006) - Member Greytak moved to accept the minutes of September 4, 2002 and September 16, 2002. Member Hall seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS (1-0033) - None.

D. MODIFICATION OF THE AGENDA (1-0038) - None.

E. DISCLOSURES (1-0042) - Member Hall advised of a conversation regarding item F-5, and that he had invited the interested citizens to attend this meeting. He noted that they were not present.

F. PUBLIC MEETING:

F-1. ACTION REGARDING SUPPORT FOR STATEWIDE BALLOT QUESTION #1, A STATEWIDE PARKS, TRAILS, AND OPEN SPACE BALLOT INITIATIVE TO BE VOTED ON IN THE GENERAL ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 5, 2002 (1-0050) - Mr. Kastens reviewed the staff report and advised that the item had been submitted to, and approved by, the Parks and Recreation Commission at their October 1st meeting. He further advised that several other counties in Nevada have reviewed and endorsed the initiative, the most recent being Washoe County. He indicated that the initiative has the potential to maximize Question #18, Quality of Life Parks Capital funding for projects along the River, as well as to assist the Open Space Advisory Committee in their endeavor to acquire lands along the River. He introduced Alicia Reban, Executive Director of the Nevada Land Conservancy, who advised that Question #1 would raise \$200 million in support of clean water, parks, and wildlife throughout Nevada. She further advised that a strong, multi-partisan north/south coalition is developing in support of Question #1, and expressed the hope that the Committee would provide its endorsement. She provided information on the elements of Question #1, available funding, matching requirements, tax implications, sunset provisions, and the method for issuing bonds. She reviewed funding allocations as listed in the agenda materials. Chairperson Zimmerman thanked Ms. Reban for her presentation.

CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the October 2, 2002 Meeting

Page 2

Member Hall expressed support for the goals of Question #1, but expressed a concern with regard to supporting an initiative which circumvents the property tax cap. He indicated that the Question specifically designates \$15 million for projects in northern Nevada as opposed to \$70 million for projects in southern Nevada. He expressed a further concern that the City will not be able to come up with matching funds because of other priorities. Ms. Reban acknowledged that the voters will have many difficult decisions to make in November and that "all of them come with price tags." She advised that Question #1 is the first statewide ballot initiative in support of conservation projects in approximately twelve years. She suggested that additional funding sources may not become available for a long time if Question #1 is not passed. She expressed a concern over the continued availability of such funding sources as the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act.

Discussion took place regarding the possibility of utilizing Question #1 funds to complete phases 2 and 3 of Carson River Park. Vice Chairperson Clift emphasized that Carson River Park should be specifically included in the Committee's endorsement of the initiative. In response to a question regarding the \$10 million allocated for enhancement and restoration of the Carson River, Ms. Reban advised that the funds will be administered by the Division of State Lands. Mr. Kastens explained that Division of State Lands Director Pam Wilcox will create a statewide panel which will review and allocate the \$65.5 million through an application process. Ms. Reban advised that research is being conducted into competitive processes used by other states with similar programs, and Mr. Kastens discussed California's method for administering a similar program. In response to a further question, Ms. Reban advised that the Nevada Land Conservancy is very interested in the \$15 million available for non-profit conservation organizations. Chairperson Zimmerman expressed the understanding that an objective of each of the conservation organizations is to focus private sector funds for conservation efforts and apply for loans and grants. Ms. Reban acknowledged that one of the goals of the Nevada Land Conservancy would be to match Question #1 funds with private, philanthropic funds. She advised that most of the projects undertaken by the Nevada Land Conservancy are done through partnerships with local, state, and federal agencies. She further acknowledged that without private sector funding sources, the matching funds will come from federal, state, or local taxes. Member Hall acknowledged that this was his concern.

In response to a question, Mr. Kastens advised that the motion passed by the Parks and Recreation Commission was the same as that which was included in the staff report as "Recommended Action." Member Greytak commented that acquisition is a good thing, but pointed out there is no indication of funding for program administration. In response to a question, Ms. Reban advised that careful consideration has been given to the ramifications of operations and maintenance for capital improvements. Vice Chairperson Clift pointed out that all property owners will be taxed alike, and inquired as to whether the distribution of funds will be based on a per capita residency. Ms. Reban advised that southern Nevada will receive approximately 40% of the funding and that the balance will be subject to the competitive grant process. Mr. Kastens advised that one of the Parks and Recreation Commissioners pointed out that 70% of the population lives in southern Nevada. In response to an additional question, Mr. Kastens reviewed the list of funding allocations, and advised that the \$65.5 million will only be available to communities which have approved open space plans. He expressed the understanding that Washoe County and Carson City are the only two communities in the State which have approved open space plans. In response to a question, Ms. Reban advised that Division of State Lands Director Pam Wilcox will develop the administration structure for the program. In response to a further question, she advised that the panel representing various agencies, with some local input, will "have the final say." Mr. Kastens advised that the Nevada Division of Wildlife, the Division of State Lands, and the State Parks Department have been the agencies represented at the meetings scheduled to develop the governing body. Ms. Reban advised that the agency representatives are very concerned with establishing a

CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the October 2, 2002 Meeting

Page 3

fair and equitable process. Vice Chairperson Clift commented that the details of the process would be important to the Carson River Advisory Committee. She inquired as to whether Carson City will have a panel representative, and Mr. Kastens advised that staff will pursue the question. He suggested that since the Carson River passes through Carson City and Douglas and Lyon Counties, there will most likely be some representation. He advised that Ms. Wilcox is open to input, and suggested strongly urging that a Carson City representative be considered for participation on the panel. Vice Chairperson Clift agreed with Member Greytak's concerns regarding administrative costs, and suggested that one such cost will be the panel. She expressed a concern that if Question #1 passes, the agencies involved in serving on the panel will not receive any additional funding. In response to a question, Ms. Reban advised that Governor Guinn endorsed Question #1 only a few weeks ago, but no specific discussion has taken place regarding administrative costs. She will work with Mr. Kastens to communicate the Committee's concerns to Ms. Wilcox.

(1-0482) Paul Pugsley, of the Carson Valley Conservation District ("CVCD"), advised he has closely followed the development of Question #1. He further advised of a \$5 million restoration grant for Carson City awarded by the Army Corps of Engineers which requires a 35% match. Question #1 could serve as a primary source for the matching funds. The CVCD is desperately seeking a matching funds source to keep the grant in place. The Army Corps has proposed deeded land as a matching source; however, there are not many land owners along the River who are interested. Mr. Pugsley advised that the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farmland Protection Program is another significant source of funding which Nevada has been unable to utilize. The Farmland Protection Program utilizes conservation easements and requires a 50% match of non-federal funds. Carson City's Open Space Program would qualify as would any county or state general fund. The difficulty is that the State has to develop a program which identifies the matching fund sources. Question #1 funding would provide the opportunity to develop the Farmland Protection Program statewide. Mr. Pugsley agreed that Question #1 will mean utilization of additional tax dollars. He pointed out that the Farmland Protection Program and the Army Corps of Engineers program have already been funded using tax dollars, but the City may not be able to take advantage of them without the required matching funds. Mr. Pugsley advised that the \$10 million allocation for restoration along the Carson River is intended to be overseen by the county supervisors in Carson City, Churchill County, Douglas County, and Lyon County. He advised that the Indian tribes are not eligible for Question #1 grant funding. Mr. Pugsley responded to questions regarding the time table and elements of the Army Corps grant. He commented that \$10 million specifically allocated to the Carson River, relative to the land owners on the Carson River, is a good deal. Chairperson Zimmerman thanked Mr. Pugsley for his comments.

Vice Chairperson Clift moved that the Carson River Advisory Committee support Statewide Ballot Question #1, a statewide parks, trails, and open space ballot initiative to be voted on in the general election on November 5, 2002, with the understanding that the term "enhance" used in the \$10 million specific to the Carson River Corridor be interpreted to include the completion of phases 2 and 3 of Carson River Park. Member Johnson seconded the motion, and suggested the possibility of endorsing the Question separately from the concern regarding enhancement being extended to phases 2 and 3 of Carson River Park. Vice Chairperson Clift expressed a preference for leaving the motion as stated to communicate the importance of completing Carson River Park as a part of the Committee's support of the initiative. She expressed the opinion that completion of Carson River Park is very important to the citizens of Carson City, and that a developed area is needed on the River for people to concentrate passive recreational activities. She suggested that Question #1 funding may be the only mechanism available for completing the park. Member Greytak advised of a reference to "recreational trails, urban parks and habitat" as part of the \$65.5 million allocation. Member Johnson commented that he is as dedicated to completing Carson River Park as Vice Chairperson Clift, but reiterated his concern with regard to including both

CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the October 2, 2002 Meeting

Page 4

objectives in one motion. Vice Chairperson Clift pointed out that the \$65.5 million will only be available through a competitive grant process, and emphasized her desire to leave the motion as stated.

(1-0745) C.K. Baily expressed support for the ballot initiative.

Chairperson Zimmerman called for a vote on the pending motion; **motion carried 4-1.**

F-2. PRESENTATION ONLY REGARDING THE CARSON FLY FISHING CLUB'S TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM PROGRAM (1-0765) - Mr. Baily circulated photographs and plaques for review by the Committee members. Mr. Krahn provided background information on this item and referred to the Carson River award presented to the Carson Fly Fishing Club for its Trout in the Classroom Program. Chairperson Zimmerman requested Mr. Baily to read the poem on one of the plaques into the record. Mr. Baily advised that the poem, "To the Carson River We Go" was written by a third grade class at Edith Fritsch Elementary School and is set to the tune of "To Grandmother's House We Go." He *sang* the poem into the record.

Mr. Baily referred to the September 24, 2002 letter from Dave Conklin, President of the Carson Fly Fishing Club, which was included in the agenda materials, and thanked the Committee for the Carson River award. He read the goal of the Trout in the Classroom Program into the record; provided background information on its development and implementation in Nevada; discussed the involvement of Trout Buddies, teachers, and other volunteers; and reviewed the short and long-term benefits of the program. He displayed the curriculum used in the Oregon Trout in the Classroom Program, and referred to the photographs included in the agenda materials. Mr. Baily invited the Committee and public to volunteer. He reviewed the list of program supporters, discussed the costs associated with the program, and provided statistical information on the success of the program.

Member Hall commented that the program is a wonderful way for kids to establish interest in the outdoors. Mr. Baily noted that the program instills the importance of caring for habitat and wildlife. He discussed his goal of generating interest in the sport of fishing. He expressed appreciation to Mr. Kastens and the Nevada Division of Wildlife for advocating urban fisheries in Carson City. Chairperson Zimmerman thanked Mr. Baily for his presentation and the involvement of the Carson Fly Fishing Club in this program.

F-3. DISCUSSION AND UPDATE ONLY REGARDING THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT'S PLANNING EFFORTS AND IMPLEMENTATION PROJECTS AT THE SILVER SADDLE RANCH (1-1071) - Mr. Krahn introduced Chris Miller, of the BLM, and provided background information on this item. Ms. Miller distributed a report to the Committee members and staff from Mike Bailey, Manager of the Silver Saddle Ranch, and reviewed the same. She expressed appreciation for the volunteer support during the Carson River Work Day. Chairperson Zimmerman thanked Ms. Miller for her presentation.

F-4. ACTION TO PROVIDE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AND THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT WITH RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE PRELIMINARY ISSUES IDENTIFIED AS PART OF THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT PINENUT MOUNTAINS PLAN UPDATE (1-1200) - Mr. Kastens reviewed the staff report. Member Hall moved to recommend to the Bureau of Land Management and the Board of Supervisors to treat the Pinenut Mountains Plan Amendment the same way that the urban interface plan has been treated in reference to mineral development. Member Johnson seconded the motion. Chairperson Zimmerman called for discussion

CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the October 2, 2002 Meeting

Page 5

of the motion and public comment and, when none was forthcoming, called for a vote on the pending motion. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Member Johnson moved to recommend to the Board of Supervisors and the Bureau of Land Management to support the use of off road vehicles on existing, designated trails with the understanding that the concept of any kind of new access would be dealt with at a later time through the Parks and Recreation Department and the Bureau of Land Management. Member Greytak seconded the motion. Chairperson Zimmerman called for questions or comments regarding the motion and, when none was forthcoming, called for a vote on the pending motion. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Vice Chairperson Clift moved to recommend to the Board of Supervisors and the Bureau of Land Management that the Pinenut Mountains are considered a visual and scenic resource; the scenic quality is usually best preserved by the careful management of activities to minimize scarring and visual impacts such as mines and road cuts; the Pinenut Mountains are a valuable recreation resource for Carson City and surrounding counties and policies must be developed to enhance and provide for recreational opportunities while protecting and minimizing impacts to scenic resources; Carson City and the Bureau of Land Management must continue to explore opportunities to jointly manage facilities and properties wherever possible. Member Johnson seconded the motion. Chairperson Zimmerman called for questions or comments from the Committee members or the audience and, when none was forthcoming, called for a vote on the pending motion. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Member Greytak moved to recommend that Carson City's position should be to encourage the Bureau of Land Management to actively manage fire fuels in order to avoid the possibility of catastrophic events and to recommend adoption of this position by the Board of Supervisors. Member Hall seconded the motion. Chairperson Zimmerman called for questions, comments, or discussion on the motion and, when none was forthcoming, called for a vote on the pending motion. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Member Hall moved to recommend that, in the land acquisition by the Bureau of Land Management, the City recommends allowing access for the V&T Railroad. Vice Chairperson Clift seconded the motion. Chairperson Zimmerman called for questions, comments, or discussion and, when none was forthcoming, called for a vote on the pending motion. **Motion carried 5-0.**

(1-1322) Tom Quigley inquired as to whether the Pinenut Mountains Plan Amendment also encompasses the Urban Interface Plan for the Ambrose area. Mr. Kastens advised that the two plans are related but the amendment applies only to the Pinenut Mountains Plan. Tom Crawford, of the BLM, explained that the two plans are separate but related because the boundaries of the Pinenut Mountains planning area encompass some of the Urban Interface Plan area. Decisions made as part of the Urban Interface Plan will be carried forward in the Pinenut Plan. Mr. Kastens advised that Planning and Community Development Department staff and Bureau of Land Management staff are considering review of the Urban Interface Plan in the near future, which will be a more appropriate time to recommend revisions. Mr. Crawford advised that the Pinenut Plan Amendment proposes revisions to Urban Interface Plan decisions made 15-20 years ago on lands associated with the Pinenut planning area. Chris Miller advised that the Ambrose Natural Area Master Plan calls for passive recreation use.

[Chairperson Zimmerman recessed the meeting at 7:24 p.m. and reconvened at 7:27 p.m.]

CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the October 2, 2002 Meeting

Page 6

F-5. ACTION CHANGING THE RESOLUTION FORMALLY ESTABLISHING THE CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S MEMBERSHIP REGARDING LAND OWNERSHIP AND SPECIALTY AREA CRITERIA AND REPLACING THEM WITH A BROADER COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENT (1-1390) - Mr. Krahn advised that the Human Resources Department received an application for the Committee's recreation issues representative. The application will be submitted to the Board of Supervisors at their October 17th meeting. Mr. Krahn reviewed the staff report, referencing the citizen-at-large composition of the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Open Space Advisory Committee.

Member Hall commented that the committees referenced by Mr. Krahn were formed for reasons different than those which formed the Carson River Advisory Committee. He suggested reducing the 20+ acre property owner requirement to 10-acres or 5-acres before completely eliminating it. If, at that point, there is still no interest in the position, the requirement could be eliminated. Member Johnson agreed that the 20+ acre requirement is too restrictive, but suggested there may be many property owners along the River who own less than five acres. He expressed opposition to eliminating property ownership as a representative category. He referred to the mailing list developed in conjunction with Jane Schmidt, of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and suggested considering the property owners listed therein.

Discussion took place regarding the provision for two owners representing various geographic areas along the Carson River. Member Hall acknowledged that the 20-acre requirement will have to be changed. Member Greytak agreed with modifying the composition of the Committee to three property owners representing various geographic areas along the Carson River, and eliminating the 20-acre requirement. **Member Johnson moved that the Carson River Advisory Committee recommend to the Board of Supervisors that the language in Resolution 1996-R-59(2) should be changed to read, “2. The Carson River Advisory Committee shall be composed of three property owners representing various geographic areas along the Carson River.” Vice Chairperson Clift seconded the motion.**

(1-1638) Supervisor Robin Williamson requested the Committee to clarify that “along the Carson River” doesn’t mean property adjacent to the River banks. Vice Chairperson Clift referred to the discussion and action reflected in the minutes of the December 1, 1999 meeting which provided an explanation of property along the River. She indicated that the “various geographic areas” language could extend to Carson City proper, if necessary. Member Johnson advised that the discussion referenced the parcel map and mailing list developed in cooperation with Jane Schmidt. Supervisor Williamson acknowledged that the motion, as stated, is suitable for use by the Board of Supervisors. Chairperson Zimmerman called for a vote on the pending motion; **motion carried 5-0.**

In response to a question regarding addressing the remaining representative categories, Chairperson Zimmerman noted that the various categories are implemented by more than one Committee member. He indicated that the categories don’t affect the function of the Committee and suggested leaving them as they are.

F-6. ACTION ON INTRODUCTION OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE BYLAWS REGARDING THE COMMITTEE'S REGULAR MEETINGS, CHANGING FROM “AT LEAST MONTHLY” TO “OCCURRING AT LEAST EVERY TWO MONTHS” (1-1720) - Mr. Krahn reviewed the staff report. Member Johnson expressed a preference for continuing with monthly meetings and allowing the Chairperson to cancel meetings if there is no business to conduct. In response to a question, Mr. Kastens advised that if the Committee is not going to meet on a regular basis, the bylaws should be changed. He noted the few times

CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**Minutes of the October 2, 2002 Meeting****Page 7**

meetings have had to be canceled due to lack of a quorum or business to be addressed. Chairperson Zimmerman suggested that the agenda item was intended to provide flexibility in the meeting schedule. Vice Chairperson Clift expressed agreement with Member Johnson's proposal to leave the meeting schedule as is with the discretion of the Chairman to cancel meetings. Consensus of the Committee was to change the meeting time to 5:30 p.m. No formal action was taken.

F-7. PRESENTATION ONLY ON A BIO-ENGINEERING WORKSHOP ON OCTOBER 22, 23, AND 24, 2002 (1-1875) - Mr. Krahn provided background information on this item. Mr. Pugsley reviewed the workshop agenda and the details of the scheduled projects. Discussion took place with regard to the possibility of closing an access road to the project site. Mr. Pugsley invited the Committee members to participate in the workshop, and Mr. Kastens advised that the Parks Department would pay the registration fee.

F-8. ACTION REGARDING AN ACTIVITY REPORT ON THE UPPER CARSON RIVER MANAGEMENT PLAN, INCLUDING FUTURE PROJECTS AT SILVER SADDLE RANCH/ CARSON RIVER PARK, AND ACROSS FROM THE MORGAN MILL ROAD ACCESS AREA (1-2103) - Mr. Pugsley reported that he has been working with private property owners in the area of Morgan Mill Road. He advised that a Carson River Work Day is scheduled for October 19th to work on the Ambrosetti Pond Creek. Chairperson Zimmerman thanked Mr. Pugsley for his presentation.

G. COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS (1-2185) - None.

H. DISCUSSION REGARDING FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND COMMITTEE MEMBER STATUS REPORTS (1-2186) - In response to a question, Mr. Pugsley reported on the most recent meeting of the Clear Creek Watershed Coalition. He advised that the CVCD is actively seeking a replacement for Laura Lueders, the intern who helped organize the Coalition. Vice Chairperson Clift requested a report on development of the panel to administer Question #1 funding, whether Carson City will be involved, and the term "enhancement." Mr. Kastens referred to the Carson Water Subconservancy District newsletter and read a portion of the same into the record. Chairperson Zimmerman acknowledged that a presentation by City Engineer Larry Werner will be agendized for the next meeting.

I. STATUS REPORTS FROM STAFF (1-2315) - Mr. Krahn referred to the letter from Laura Leuders thanking the Committee for the Carson River Award, and to *The Flow* newsletter of the Carson Water Subconservancy District which were included in the agenda materials. He reviewed the accomplishments of the Carson River Clean Up Day, and thanked the Kiwanis Club and all the volunteers who participated.

J. ADJOURNMENT (1-2335) - Member Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 p.m. Vice Chairperson Clift seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

The Minutes of the October 2, 2002 meeting of the Carson River Advisory Committee are so approved this _____ day of November, 2002.

CHARLES ZIMMERMAN, Chair