

CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the May 2, 2001 Meeting

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A regular meeting of the Carson River Advisory Committee was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 2, 2001 in the City Hall Capitol Conference Room, 201 North Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada.

PRESENT: Chairperson Charles Zimmerman
Vice Chairperson Claire Clift
Thomas Hall
Kevin Walsh
Barbara Wright

STAFF: Vern Krahn, Park Planner
John Warpeha, Carson River Intern
Kathleen King, Recording Secretary
(CRAC 05/02/01)

NOTE: Unless indicated otherwise, each item was introduced by Chairperson Zimmerman. 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, ROLL CALL, DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM (1-0001) - Chairperson Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Roll was called; a quorum was present. Vice Chairperson Clift arrived at 6:03 p.m. Members Johnson and Pettersen were absent.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - APRIL 4, 2001 (1-0006) - Member Hall moved to approve the minutes. Member Walsh seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0-3-0.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS (1-0026) - None.

D. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA (1-0031) - None.

E. DISCLOSURES (1-0032) - None.

F. PUBLIC HEARING

F-1. PRESENTATION BY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT STAFF REGARDING THE FINAL DRAFT TO CHAPTER 3 OF THE CARSON RIVER MASTER PLAN RESOURCE INVENTORY SECTION (1-0038) - Mr. Krahn provided background information on this item. Mr. Warpeha distributed and reviewed the revisions to chapter 3 of the Carson River Master Plan element. He responded to questions regarding the listed habitat types, the mapping data, the origin of the American beaver and the cause of the increase in population, the overstory of cottonwoods which is preventing new growth, gaps in the information, the trout stocked by the Nevada Division of Wildlife, comparisons between the northern section of the River and the rest of the River corridor, the source and age of the aerial photography, and the effect of squatters on River habitat. Following discussion, Member Walsh acknowledged that he would recommend evaluating the effect of squatters on wildlife habitat in the context of possible changes.

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Mr. Krahn advised that the draft document is open for public comment. Dan Jacquet, of the Bureau of Land Management, has offered to make copies of the draft for review and comment by the contributors. Chairperson Zimmerman suggested that the contributing individuals and the Committee members provide comments and revisions prior to the next meeting and then allow the public to review the revised document. Discussion took place with regard to the same, and Mr. Krahn expressed a preference for finalizing the document prior to Mr. Warpeha's departure in September. Chairperson Zimmerman suggested setting a deadline for comments from the Committee and contributing individuals by the June meeting. Further discussion took place regarding rescheduling the June meeting, an appropriate deadline for comments, and establishing a working group to review the comments provided by the Committee members and the contributors. Consensus of the Committee was to establish a working group comprised of Chairperson Zimmerman, Member Pettersen, and Mr. Warpeha.

Additional discussion took place regarding whether or not the issue of squatters should be included in the draft, and Chairperson Zimmerman suggested adding a comment in the section which addresses the effects of mining and logging on the River. Mr. Krahn suggested that Member Walsh visit the subject areas with Mr. Warpeha. Chairperson Zimmerman requested that Member Walsh provide suggested language as well. Mr. Warpeha provided his e-mail address for comments and suggested revisions. Chairperson Zimmerman suggested that a method for measuring changes and effects to habitat and wildlife populations should be included in the recommendations section. Discussion took place with regard to the same, and Chairperson Zimmerman requested that Mr. Warpeha, Jane Schmidt of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Paul Pugsley of the Upper Carson River Coordinated Resources Management Program, meet and develop a method for monitoring the habitats over time.

Mr. Warpeha reported that the willow stakes he planted are beginning to bud. Following discussion, Mr. Krahn advised that the June meeting would be rescheduled to the second or third week in order to distribute the draft, get comments, and meet with the working group. The draft will be submitted for public comment following the June Committee meeting and resubmitted in final form to the Committee at its August meeting. In response to a question, Mr. Krahn advised that Mr. Warpeha's last day is September 15th. Chairperson Zimmerman thanked Mr. Warpeha for his excellent work. Supervisor Williamson commented that the draft represents valuable information, and thanked Mr. Warpeha.

F-2. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING A MAY 19, 2001 COMMITTEE RAFT TRIP WITH THE WESTERN NEVADA RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY ON THE CARSON RIVER (1-1478) - Mr. Warpeha referred to the raft and boat tour flyer distributed prior to the start of the meeting and reviewed the same. In response to a question, Vice Chairperson Clift described the rafts her family can make available for the tour. Discussion took place with regard to current River conditions. Mr. Warpeha requested that anyone with an available raft or canoe contact him. No formal action was taken.

F-3. DISCUSSION REGARDING AN ACTIVITY REPORT ON THE UPPER CARSON RIVER MANAGEMENT PLAN, WHICH WILL INCLUDE AN UPDATE ON THE MEXICAN DAM, AND TRAIL CONSTRUCTION AT THE AMBROSE-CARSON RIVER NATURAL AREA (1-1604) - Mr. Krahn read a handwritten note from Paul Pugsley into the record. Mr. Krahn advised that Mr. Pugsley assisted City staff in acquiring the permit from the Army Corps of Engineers for the phase 1B improvements at Carson River Park. In response to a question, Mr. Krahn listed the required permits.

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F-4. UPDATE REGARDING THE CARSON RIVER CANYON (NORTHERN SECTION OF THE CARSON RIVER), SPECIFICALLY ISSUES OF PRIVATE PROPERTY OWNERSHIP, CHARACTER, AND LAND USE (1-1654) - Member Walsh advised of conversations with an employee of Tim Bertagnolli and with Officer Tom Casey, who oversees the Sheriff's Mounted Patrol Unit. He distributed copies of a letter addressed to Officer Casey, and relayed a portion of their conversation. Officer Casey has agreed to work with Member Walsh and private property owners to establish a police presence in the area. Member Walsh referred to the map attached to the letter and indicated the areas of concern. He stated that the Serpa and Bertagnolli properties seem to be the most problematic as far as undesirable activities. He indicated he is making progress, and expressed appreciation for Officer Casey's involvement. In response to a question, Member Walsh explained why the property owners are unable to get squatters to leave their property. Discussion took place with regard to the same, and Vice Chairperson Clift commended Member Walsh on his efforts.

F-5. UPDATE REGARDING STATUS OF JUNK CARS NEAR DEER RUN ROAD BRIDGE (1-1804) - Member Walsh advised that the cars have been removed. He provided information on the process, and discussed the involvement of Little John's Wrecking Yard. Vice Chairperson Clift suggested nominating Little John's for an award. David Morgan, of Nevada Video Productions, acknowledged that he had taped footage of the cars being removed. He advised that the owner of Little John's will store the cars at the wrecking yard until the Department of Motor Vehicles and Public Safety clears the titles. The cars will then be crushed and sent to Salt Lake City. Member Walsh agreed with the suggestion of recognizing Little John's. He commented that the Bureau of Land Management was instrumental in coordinating the removal project with the National Guard. Member Walsh advised of a report that tires have recently been dumped in the same location. He will contact the BLM regarding removal. He committed to keeping the Committee up to date with regard to efforts to remove cars in other areas of the River corridor. Chairperson Zimmerman thanked Member Walsh and Vice Chairperson Clift commended him on his efforts.

F-6. UPDATE REGARDING COMPLETION OF CARSON RIVER PARK, PHASE I, SITE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (1-1911) - Mr. Krahn advised that all the permits necessary to complete the project have been obtained. He explained the Contracts Department process to issue new agreements, and indicated that "if things go well," the project will be out to bid by the end of the week. In response to a question, he advised that the bid period will most likely be for two weeks. Once the bids have been received, Mr. Krahn will contact the members of the working group to review the same. Mr. Krahn advised that the District Attorney's office is in the process of reviewing the agreements.

F-7. DISCUSSION REGARDING FUTURE ITEMS FOR THE CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (1-1961) - Mr. Krahn advised he would agendize discussion and possible action on the award nominations and publication of the same. Discussion took place regarding the cost of the awards. Mr. Krahn indicated that items F-1, F-2, F-3, and F-4 will be reagendized. Chairperson Zimmerman requested Mr. Krahn to agendize an item regarding goals prioritization. Vice Chairperson Clift requested a status report on the Ambrose-Carson River Natural Area, and a follow-up report on the trail project being done by the high school students. Chairperson Zimmerman suggested agendizing a report by the State Trapper.

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G. ADJOURNMENT (1-2145) - Vice Chairperson Clift moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Member Wright seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

The Minutes of the May 2, 2001 meeting of the Carson River Advisory Committee are so approved this _____ day of June, 2001.

CHARLES ZIMMERMAN, Chairperson