

**CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes of the November 3, 1999 Meeting**  
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A regular meeting of the Carson River Advisory Committee was held at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 3, 1999 in the Community Center Sierra Room, 851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada.

**PRESENT:** Chairperson Charles Zimmerman  
Vice Chairperson Claire Clift  
David Johnson  
Paul Pettersen  
Kevin Walsh  
Barbara Wright

**STAFF:** Steve Kastens, Parks and Recreation Director  
Vern Krahn, Parks Planner  
Kathleen King, Recording Secretary  
(CRAC 11/03/99; Tape 1-0001)

**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. ROLL CALL, DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM (1-0002)** - Chairperson Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Roll call was taken; a quorum was present.

**B. COMMITTEE ACTION**

**1. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO APPROVE MEETING MINUTES (1-0006)** - With regard to the October 6, 1999 minutes, Vice Chairperson Clift moved to accept them as presented. Member Pettersen seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

**C. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS (1-0019)** - Mark Kimbrough requested assistance from the Committee with regard to future projects to benefit school groups. He proposed projects to be addressed by groups such as the Southwest Gas Employee Volunteer Team, including construction of an amphitheater and a small footpath bridge. Several Earth Day projects have been proposed by the high school, two junior high schools and two grade schools. He advised that student groups, ranging in age from grade school to high school, have been visiting the Ambrose-Carson River Nature Area on a regular basis. Member Johnson offered to meet with Mr. Kimbrough to discuss the proposed projects.

**D. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA (1-0106)** - None.

**E. DISCLOSURES (1-0109)** - None.

**F. PUBLIC HEARING**

**F-1. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING AN UPDATE ON THE PROGRESS OF THE SILVER SADDLE RANCH PLANNING EFFORT (1-0113)** - Chris Miller, of the Bureau of Land Management ("BLM"), reported that the last internal team meeting took place today, and comments were received on the proposed plan and alternatives. The environmental assessments will begin soon and the plan will then be submitted to the BLM Main Office for review prior to the public hearing process, scheduled for early spring. The proposed plan will additionally be sent out to those on the mailing list, and an open house will be hosted by the BLM. Last week, BLM staff hiked a proposed trail which would connect the Silver Saddle side of Prison Hill with the west side of Prison Hill. A trails map has subsequently been submitted. An additional hiking trip took place with a Pine Nut Mountain Trails Association representative to visit the OHV staging area on the east side. There are two proposed areas, one off Sedge Road and one in the Silver

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Saddle boundary which leads past the power line road and connects into the Pine Nut Mountains. The area will be safe, with sufficient ingress and egress, parking, and the users will not need to be concerned with flash floods. Connector trails which lead nowhere will be closed. Ms. Miller further reported that the haying contract is finished for the year, and that grazing has been implemented to clear away the dead material before winter snows. This should help in preparing the field for next spring. A meeting with the external team is scheduled for November 18, 1999 at 5:30 p.m. at the BLM Field Office off of Morgan Mill Road to review the plan. Ms. Miller responded to questions with regard to burning the hay fields, and advised that burning may be done in the irrigation ditches. BLM and Natural Resources Conservation Service ("NRCS") scientists have advised that grazing is the best option at this point. Concerns exist with regard to the possibility of out-of-control fire, and damage to the land. With regard to the Silver Saddle Ranch external team, Ms. Miller advised that Mr. Kimbrough has continued to attend the meetings, as well as Member Walsh, who has been the Pine Nut Mountain Trails Association representative. Member Walsh indicated he would be willing to serve as the Committee liaison to the external team meetings. In response to a question by Member Walsh, Ms. Miller explained that the BLM is working to include mountain bikes, as well as foot traffic, for the trail alignment between the Silver Saddle Ranch and Prison Hill. She also discussed equestrian use for the east and west sides of the River, and the Mexican Ditch trail. Discussion ensued with regard to leash regulations for Carson River Park, Riverview Park, and Fuji Park. Mr. Kastens advised that leashes would technically be required in Carson River Park. Any deviation would be to allow pets to be without leashes on the east side of the River, and maintain leash regulations on the west side as it will have more activity and has a more sensitive riparian area. Discussion ensued with regard to the frequent use by pet owners of the east side of Carson River Park, the Ambrose-Carson River Nature Area, and Riverview Park. Mr. Kastens encouraged the BLM to continue to utilize the grazing technique for the Silver Saddle Ranch hay field, as this is what the public had indicated they would like to see. Ms. Miller expressed her appreciation for the external team's effort in implementing the grazing technique. Chairperson Zimmerman thanked Ms. Miller for her presentation. No formal action was taken.

**F-2. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING AN UPDATE ON MAILING LISTS AND INFORMATION PACKETS FOR CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS ON RESOURCE EVALUATION AND NOXIOUS WEED MITIGATION (1-0294)** - Mr. Krahn reported on a conversation with Jane Schmidt, of the NRCS, who advised that Scott Royal, of Information Services, has been unable to complete revisions to the maps due to his current workload. Ms. Schmidt will provide an update on this matter as soon as the maps are available. With regard to the draft letter discussed at the last meeting, Mr. Krahn advised that staff had received no comments or revisions and the letter will, therefore, be finalized. No formal action was taken.

**F-3. DISCUSSION AND STATUS REPORT REGARDING THE ENGINEERING DESIGN ON THE STREAM BANK STABILIZATION AND EROSION CONTROL PROJECT; THE MEXICAN DAM ROAD PROJECT; AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SEDIMENT BASIN IN THE BORROW PIT ON THE EAST SIDE OF LLOYDS BRIDGE (1-0328)** - Mr. Krahn reported that he and Mr. Piper had toured the west side of Carson River Park, Riverview Park, and the canoe portage area to determine an appropriate location for harvesting willow material. Mr. Piper determined that the canoe portage area was the best location because of the quality and height of the willows, and ease of access. Mr. Krahn described a slue off to the west toward the golf course, which Mr. Piper plans to access with the Nevada Division of Forestry ("NDF") crews. A ten-foot swath will be cut on both sides of the slue, which will continue until approximately 300 bundles are accumulated. This method will protect the riverbank and the slue from stripping. The NDF crews are scheduled to harvest the willows on November 12, 1999. Carson City Parks Department staff will transport the willows to Carson River Park, and set them in the water until the excavation project is started. Mr. Krahn further reported that the Streets Department has been working with the BLM regarding a source for the rock. Transportation of the rock would be the only cost involved. The Streets Department has targeted the week of November 15, 1999 to start their portion of the project. Mr. Krahn reviewed the details, and advised that the project should be completed in approximately a week. In response to a question by Member Johnson, Mr. Krahn advised that the road work in the gravel pit

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area will be postponed due to the cost of the materials. If the rock can be obtained at no cost, the road work may be completed sooner; however, staff cannot commit to completing this portion of the project at this time.

**F-4. DISCUSSION AND STATUS REPORT REGARDING THE CONSTRUCTION ON THE CARSON RIVER PARK PHASE I IMPROVEMENTS (1-0413)** - Mr. Krahn referred the Committee members to the schedule developed by Paragon Associates, Inc., distributed prior to the start of the meeting. He reviewed the schedule, and discussion ensued with regard to present use of the park. Mr. Krahn commented that the parking lot is large enough to accommodate heavy use of the park, and that staff is pleased with its early completion. He explained the "Drop Dead Date", and advised that Paragon is approximately a week ahead of schedule at this time. Member Johnson requested that this item be reagendaized for a status report at the next monthly meeting.

**F-5. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING VOLUNTEER PROJECTS BY SOUTHWEST GAS AND OTHER BUSINESSES FOR THE CARSON RIVER, INCLUDING CANOE PORTAGE AT MORGAN MILL ROAD, AT THE EAST END OF EMPIRE RANCH GOLF COURSE AND ADJACENT TO THE CARSON RIVER (1-0484)** - Member Johnson had nothing to report. He hopes to coordinate a volunteer project between now and the end of the year. He will meet with Mark Kimbrough to discuss his proposals for volunteer projects. He requested input from the Committee with regard to the priority of the canoe portage project. Vice Chairperson Clift expressed the opinion that this is a project to pursue, especially once the portage at Carson River Park is installed. With regard to prioritizing it, she believed that Southwest Gas would be focusing on their Christmas project at this time, based on the information provided by their Employee Volunteer Team representatives at the August 4, 1999 meeting. She suggested that the work needed at the Ambrose-Carson River Nature Area be prioritized for the spring as the River will be too high at that time to address the portage area. Member Johnson suggested that the Committee make a trip to the River to view it at the high water mark. Mr. Krahn advised he had explained the details of the canoe portage project to Mr. Piper, who indicated the proposed location was a good one. Mr. Piper offered to cut a path while he is harvesting willows. Discussion ensued with regard to the same, and Vice Chairperson Clift suggested, since a natural path exists, asking Mr. Piper to clear about 12 feet. Mr. Krahn will provide maps to Member Johnson as distributed at the last meeting. No formal action was taken.

**F-6. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING THE PROCESS OF SELECTING A NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER, REVISION OF THE RESOLUTION OUTLINING COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS, AND RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP (1-0584)** - Chairperson Zimmerman advised he had placed this item on the agenda because of the lack of interest in the vacant position. Member Wright expressed her opposition to changing the land ownership requirements for the position. She suggested changing the requirements for the type of land ownership, and taking further steps to advertise the position. Discussion ensued with regard to the availability of cable television in the Pinion Hills area, and the difference between property ownership within the River "corridor" and adjacent to the River. Member Wright clarified that her suggestion was to change the requirement to include property that is not necessarily touching the River, and to ensure that the Pinion Hills residents are made aware of the vacancy. Member Walsh respectfully dissented with Member Wright's position. He advised of a conversation with Personnel Department staff, who informed him they had received no applications for the vacant position. He suggested that the position be opened up to a broader representation of the community, and explained this would not preclude any property owner from applying for the position. He suggested that property ownership could weigh in an applicant's favor and that extra consideration be given that person, all other things equal. He believes there are no risks to River property owners because the Committee has no authority to condemn property, and laws exist to protect the rights of property owners. As the River is a public resource, Member Walsh expressed his opinion in favor of "opening up the position and doing away with the requirement of property ownership." Member Wright disagreed and stated that the Committee has no right to change the composition of the Committee as determined by the Board of Supervisors. Chairperson Zimmerman clarified that the Committee has no

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authority to make changes to the composition of the Committee; only recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. (1-0678) Charles Wright requested that the Committee determine the definition of "along the Carson River," as pertaining to property ownership. He advised that once the definition is clarified, he knows of people who would apply for the vacant position. He expressed the opinion that the 3:2 ratio of River property owners and "non-River property owners" be maintained. Member Johnson expressed a concern that restructuring the Committee would somehow eliminate the representation of people "whose lives and property are impacted on a daily basis by the River and the River corridor." He suggested that the Committee consider delineating the area defined by Jane Schmidt and the subcommittee as the area representing eligible applicants. This could be geographically defined on a map and would still be in line with the original intent of the Board of Supervisors for the composition of the Committee. Member Pettersen agreed that the intent of the ratio should be maintained, but opening the Committee up to a broader area of constituency would be appropriate, and that defining the area should be carefully considered. Member Walsh agreed that redefining the property ownership requirement would be a solution to the apparent lack of interest in the vacant position. In his conversation with the Personnel Department staff, he suggested that an advertisement be included in the mailing being coordinated by Ms. Schmidt. Discussion ensued with regard to the same. Mr. Kastens advised that since the opportunity presents itself, the Committee can take advantage of the mailing. However, he cautioned the Committee about utilizing the mailing list to advertise any future vacancy, and discussed possible allegations of discrimination. He advised that discussion and action to identify and define the boundaries of eligibility should be agendaized for the next meeting. Member Wright suggested that the 20-acre requirement be reduced to 10 acres or less, and discussion followed with regard to the same. Mr. Kastens reiterated that the requirements for the number of acres and ownership boundaries would be agendaized for evaluation at the next meeting. Member Johnson requested that, once the map is finalized for the mailing list, the Committee members be contacted to review and refine it so that informed discussion can take place at the December meeting. He volunteered to serve on a subcommittee, and requested two other volunteers. Member Wright pointed out the need for staggering terms, and requested that this be included as an agenda item for the December meeting. She volunteered to serve on the subcommittee. Vice Chairperson Clift suggested that each Committee member develop a list of proposals and submit them to staff. Mr. Kastens concurred and requested the Committee members to submit their lists by November 19, 1999. Staff will compile the lists and ensure that they are included in the December agenda packets. Mr. Kastens will also provide a copy of the resolution to the Committee. Chairperson Zimmerman requested that Supervisor Robin Williamson be included in the subcommittee discussions. (1-0984) Mr. Kimbrough commented on the wisdom of structuring the Committee, at its inception, to benefit the homeowners and landowners as there were very sensitive issues pending in regard to management of the River corridor at that time. Once the master plan was developed, however, the rights of the landowners and homeowners were protected. In addition, the Committee is a body which has authority only to make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. Successful implementation of the master plan is dependent upon participation, funding, and the Committee being active in the community rather than just ruling on specific items submitted by City government. Changing the acreage requirements appears to be a good compromise. Chairperson Zimmerman thanked Mr. Kimbrough for his comments. Member Johnson requested that this item be placed on the agenda for discussion and action at the next meeting. No formal action was taken.

**F-7. DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION ON THE FINDINGS OF THE CARSON RIVER INTEGRATED WATERSHED PLANNING PROCESS MEETING OF OCTOBER 27, 1999** (1-1052) - Mr. Krahn advised that due to a conflict, neither he nor Mr. Kastens were able to attend the meeting. Chairperson Zimmerman attended the meeting and commented on his impression that the purpose of the meeting was to share with a larger audience the results of what the six individual working groups had developed in the sense of a vision statement and guiding principles for the Committee. There was good input and more participation. Overall, the process is moving ahead and, as the opportunity presents itself, any member of the Committee or City staff can attend the meetings and provide updates and information.

**G. INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS** (1-1106) - Mr.

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Krahn explained the purpose of this agenda item to include an opportunity for staff and members of the Committee to communicate functionally and still comply with the requirements of the Open Meeting Law. (1-1162) Mr. Krahn reviewed the agenda to determine items which should be reagendaized for the December meeting. In response to a question by Member Wright, Mr. Krahn advised that the award nomination form had been revised and saved on a diskette which is being retained by the Parks Department. Vice Chairperson Clift requested an updated version of the membership list.

**G-1. CORRESPONDENCE TO COMMITTEE MEMBERS** (1-1141) - Mr. Krahn explained that this item is agendaized for the purpose of distributing materials to the Committee.

**H. ADJOURNMENT** (1-1207) - Member Petterson moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:14 p.m. Vice Chairperson Clift seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

The Minutes of the November 3, 1999 meeting of the Carson River Advisory Committee are so approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of December, 1999.

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CHARLES ZIMMERMAN, Chairperson