

CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
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A regular meeting of the Carson River Advisory Committee was held on Wednesday, October 7, 1998 in the Community Center Sierra Room, 851 E William St., Carson City, NV at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Chairperson Charles Zimmerman
Vice Chairperson Claire Clift
Mark Kimbrough
Paul Pettersen
Barbara Wright

STAFF: Steve Kastens, Parks and Recreation Director
Vern Krahn, Park Planner
Fran Smith, Recording Secretary
(CRA 10/7/98 1-0000.5)

NOTE - Unless otherwise indicated each item was introduced by Chairperson Zimmerman. Individuals speaking are identified following the heading of each item. A tape recording of these proceedings is on file in the Clerk-Recorder's office. This tape is available for review and inspection during normal business hours.

A. CALL TO ORDER - Chairperson Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. A roll call was taken and a quorum was present although Members Johnson and Piccolo were absent.

B. COMMITTEE ACTION

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes - Member Clift moved to approve the Minutes of the August 5, 1998 meeting. Member Wright seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0-2-0.

Member Clift moved to approve the Minutes of the September 2, 1998 meeting. Member Kimbrough seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0-2-0.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT - None.

D. DISCLOSURES - None.

E. MODIFICATION TO THE AGENDA - None.

F. PUBLIC HEARING

F-1 PRESENTATION FROM STANTECH (JACK SORENSEN) ON THE STATUS OF BRIDGE FEASIBILITY STUDY - (1-0073.5) Mr. Sorensen said they had been hired to handle the study relating to pedestrian crossings, one south of Lloyd's Bridge, one at the Mexican Dam site, and one north of Lloyd's Bridge referred to as the Empire site. He provided copies of information on their progress and preliminary cost estimates. (The secretary did not get copies.) He added they anticipate the final report would be available in a week. He then explained they had determined an alternative for the southern crossing near the Mexican Dam site. He said an objective would be to locate a crossing as far south as possible to take advantage of the BLM properties and make a link that would optimize the hiking trails. He then noted that the cost for the Empire site is preliminary and projected to be approximately \$250,000 and that either the Mexican Dam or the southern sites would be \$475,000 - \$500,000. He then explained that a topographic map needs to be prepared and geo-technical work done. He also provided artistic renderings of the sites being considered.

(1-0162.5) Chairperson Zimmerman then asked for some history on the study and the direction Mr. Sorensen felt it would take. Mr. Kastens said in preparation of the Carson River Master Plan trail systems had been developed with a desire that they have loops. He added in order loop a system anywhere near the river the existing bridges

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would have to be utilized. He said distances between sites is significant and the possibility of smaller loops had been considered. He noted a couple of areas had been identified along the river which could be prime locations for a bridge. One was the Empire site and the other is south of Lloyd's Bridge. Chairperson Zimmerman asked where the project would go once the study is complete and the costs established. Mr. Kastens said they could then look at benefits as they relate to the citywide Master Plan, i.e. would a bridge at Empire be an advantage. If so, then funding to build the bridge could be pursued. He added that the most readily available source would be the Quality of Life trails and path money that has been set aside. Member Kimbrough felt there could also be some grants. Mr. Sorensen said there are some Federal highway ISTEA monies that relate to certain structures and it might be worth looking into. He explained that Stantech could discuss with NDOT what funds or programs could be available. He added they previously met with regulatory agencies in these kinds of issues those being Nevada State Lands and the Corps of Engineers and explained the areas for which they are responsible. Chairperson Zimmerman asked if the study would contain references to funding sources. Mr. Sorensen said they could incorporate the information they have on ISTEA and NDOT. No formal action was taken.

F-2 PRESENTATION FROM CARSON CITY UTILITIES (TOM HOFFERT) REGARDING WATER RIGHTS FOR USE ON THE SILVER SADDLE RANCH - (1-0345.5) Chris Miller, BLM - Mr. Hoffert provided copies of an update on information relating to the three plans the BLM representative and the Committee had talked about at the previous meeting. He explained his information was on water use which he wanted to review for the Committee. He said on August 21, 1997, when the City officially purchased the Silver Saddle Ranch water rights, the Board of Supervisors had directed staff to work with BLM on the overall plan for the ranch. He read from their statement: "City staff will participate with BLM in the overall plan of the ranch. If the plan requires water rights the Water Utility will recommend to the Board that the Utility provide the water rights for the ranch at a cost which will allow the Water Utility to remain whole." He explained this meant that the Water Utility would recoup all the costs they had to outlay for the exact water rights.

(1-0375.5) Mr. Hoffert then referred to Alternative A which is low impact minimum development, 0 - 25 acres, and provided accounting information on costs. Alternative B was to provide recreation and outdoor education emphasis on 80 to 150 acres of irrigated land. He again provided accounting information. He then said it is important to know that when the City purchased the water rights the Water Utility converted them to municipal and industrial use. He added when they go back to irrigation use they would have to work with the State Engineer's office and get them converted back to an irrigation right. He then explained what occurs when conversion back takes place. Vice Chairperson Clift said it was her understanding the Committee was talking about leasing the water on a yearly basis not purchasing the rights. Mr. Kastens said Utilities had done that this year but asked if that was the plan to do that indefinitely. Mr. Hoffert said this was a one time event to get things started and get water on the land. He added that future action would be up to the Committee and BLM. He suggested that a lease/purchase plan be developed to where the City would apply and convert a certain percentage of already converted water back to an irrigation water right. He explained that this kind of an agreement would lower the purchase cost and would eventually have a payoff where the water is permanently dedicated to the land. He added that the ownership would then transfer back from the Utility. Mr. Kastens asked what would happen if there was no purchase or lease/purchase agreement but rather some kind of a deal to just lease the water, i.e. would there be a day in the future where Utility would say they had allocated all the rights to the rest of the City and no longer have water available to lease. Mr. Hoffert said that was not a possibility under the existing management, how they do their audits, and how they forecast water needs. Ms. Miller said BLM cannot purchase purchase water rights. However, she explained the Federal government could be interested in leasing on a yearly basis. Mr. Kastens then said the advantage of a long term lease would be that the availability of water would be assured. Ms. Miller then noted that everyone has expressed a desire that the fields not go fallow because of the weed problem. Member Kimbrough asked Mr Hoffert if he deals with the use of effluent. He said as of August he does and that using it is a viable option although he did not have the costs or availability. He then said they would be working on next years lease as soon as possible because the irrigation season starts April 1. No formal action was taken.

F-3 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING CRAC LETTER TO BLM SUPPORTING SILVER SADDLE RANCH ALTERNATIVE B WITH PROVISIONS - (1-0681.5)

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Chairperson Zimmerman had provided copies of a letter to the Members which could be given to BLM. He noted it included Minutes of the previous meeting where the Committee had voted on Alternative B. (The secretary did not get a copy.) He felt the letter could help Ms. Miller in her effort to develop her plan. Member Kimbrough moved that the Committee approve the letter as written, have Chairperson Zimmerman sign it, and give it to Ms. Miller at this meeting. Member Pettersen seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0-2-0.

F-4 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE MASTER PLAN ALTERNATIVES FOR THE CARSON RIVER PARK, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO - (1-0717.5) Member Clift said the Committee had completed their discussion on this at the previous meeting. She added they had agreed on Alternative D and it was to go to the Parks and Recreation Commission. Mr. Kastens said it was to have been on the agenda for the October 6 meeting of that Commission. However, the plan was not available but would be on the agenda for their November 3 meeting. Mr. Krahn noted that staff is working with Mr. Schock of Stantech on cost estimates and phasing issues. He also said additional paperwork for a contract extension has been initiated with Mr. Schock because he has worked over the hours allocated on this. He noted the item would then go to the Planning Commission and the Board for their consideration. Mr. Krahn said they would then start on getting construction documents together and that it should go to bid in the spring. Member Kimbrough said the Committee did not have cost estimates and wanted to see the figures before the item goes to the Parks and Recreation Commission. Mr. Kastens said staff would get conceptual approval by that Commission, Planning, and the Board and then when they get ready to design and build they would come to the Committee. He felt at that point the Committee would have all the cost figures and could come up with a priority on how it should be built. He said it would then go back to the Parks and Recreation Commission with no other approvals needed. Member Kimbrough said it is the money that drives the plan and cited the possibility of using RCT funding or trails grant money. He added he understood the concept but had not known the budget would be going to those groups at the same time. He expressed the hope that it could come back to the Committee in November for discussion before going to Parks and Recreation. No formal action was taken.

F-5 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING RECREATIONAL ACCESS ALONG THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE CARSON RIVER, SOUTH OF NEVADA STATE PRISON LANDS - (1-0891.5) Chairperson Zimmerman talked about the presentation by Jane Schmitt of NRCS at the previous meeting relating to how the prison is handling the riparian habitat along that portion of the river. He said it was his understanding that there will be additional improvement on how prison activities are managed with respect to the environmental health of the river at that point. He noted, given the existing situation there, there is still the possibility of a trail connection the Committee had discussed several months ago. He asked if any of the Members would like to serve on a working group who could look at the situation again and perhaps pursue some discussion with BLM in terms of a trail in that area. Member Wright, who lives near there, said she had talked to her neighbors about this and they had objected to a trail coming from the road. She explained their reason for buying there and reiterated their objection to the trail. She suggested putting something about this in the newspaper so that those people could come to a meeting and provide their input. Member Kimbrough said the route has not been established and a map is not developed yet but when they are the public could be invited to come in and discuss it. Member Wright said the residents are upset because of the number of cars that would use the road. Member Kimbrough explained the issues that would have to be studied. Member Wright then said the road is an easement to the tip of all the property out there but it is not controlled by the City but rather is controlled by the Foerschlers, residents of the area. She also said in her case she and Mr. Wright maintain the road on their side of the river. She not think it would right for the public to use it as a trail because she pays on the lease to BLM. She also talked about a sign they had put up regarding the prohibition of shooting within a certain distance of the river but it had been stolen. Member Clift felt the people who would use the trail as a recreational activity would not be the type who would steal signs. Member Wright said people are constantly damaging the road and she has to spend time and money to keep it paved. She did not believe it was possible for people on a fixed income to keep up the road for the rest of the public to use. Member Pettersen felt the Committee needs to come up with an alternate plan and then present it to the public. Member Wright was vehement in saying they would not go through her property. Chairperson Zimmerman said it was his recollection that the trail would stay completely on BLM land. He added he had put this on the agenda so that the Committee could consider access on that portion of the Pine Nuts which is

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not directly along the river. He asked if the Committee wants to embark on this as part of their mission. Member Kimbrough said it is on the Master Plan and noted that the Committee had been very respectful of private property issues. Chairperson Zimmerman said his thought was to re-invigorate the working group who had looked at this previously. He felt that participation by Member Wright would be a help. She then said as far as she was concerned the McTarnahan Bridge site is out because it is private property. Discussion ensued on who could participate in a fact finding effort and Chairperson Zimmerman and Members Clift, Kimbrough and Pettersen said they would. They agreed only three could meet at a time and determined that they could alternate, i.e. if somebody was unable to attend then another would participate. No formal action was taken.

F-6 DISCUSSION OF UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AND ISSUES RELATED TO THE CARSON RIVER - (1-1063.5) Chairperson Zimmerman said the reason for this was his desire to get updates on issues that are concerns at this point and cited private property rights, recreational activities and environmental considerations as examples. He explained that the meeting room would not be available in December and January and asked if there were any of these items the Committee wished to discuss before then or arrange to meet at another location. Member Clift said the Carson River Park plan would be coming up in the December - January timeframe and felt it should be discussed at some point. Member Kimbrough said the study Ms. Schmitt of NCRS had presented on environmental issues could be of help to the Committee in their pursuit of the environmental work on the river. He suggested something could be agendized on that. He also said the Brunswick Bridge could be an issue because the V&T could be coming down the same canyon. Mr. Krahn said there is a possibility that Harvey Brotzman, Engineer for the Regional Transportation Commission, could attend a meeting. He explained that Mr. Brotzman is involved with the RTC transportation plan and has promised an executive summary and photos. He commented that the report on the Brunswick Canyon bridge was expensive and that cost estimates would be available. Member Pettersen emphasized the importance of an environmental review for the river. He felt the Committee could tap into the resources Ms. Schmitt had talked about and follow up on that. Member Kimbrough then commented that the Committee had used the Humboldt River study in their Master Plan and felt it was the weak link in their plan. He had been asked if the Committee was doing environmental work and added that BLM is doing pieces of it, upstream and downstream, and would like the Committee to participate as it relates to their arena. Chairperson Zimmerman said he would agendized a discussion on it for the next meeting. No formal action was taken.

F-7 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING A PLAN FOR A VIDEO AND BROCHURE FOR THE COMMITTEE WITH FUNDS FROM THE FOREST STEWARDSHIP GRANT (1-1273.5) Member Kimbrough said he has not been able to work out all the issues on the video. However, he had been able to get a comprehensive bird list for the river from a professional. He said it can be used for education and promotion of their resource plan. He had hoped to get this funded via a grant but the the stewardship had not considered it part of the grant. He expressed the hope that \$600 could be found in the budget to pay for the list. Mr. Kastens said there is not a budget per se but felt between he and Community Development they could find the money for the list. Member Kimbrough then commented that the brochure project was delayed until some of the issues can be resolved with the stewardship and that he hoped to have some information in a couple of weeks. No formal action was taken.

F-8 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING RESULTS OF THE OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S SURVEY - (1-1329.5) Mr. Krahn had provided copies of an executive summary of the tabulated information. He then reviewed the things which relate to the pervue of the Committee. Member Kimbrough asked if Open Space had started putting anything together dealing with some of the issues and priorities. Mr. Krahn said they had looked into what lands are protected by the Federal government or the City, what lands are limited in their developmental ability, and what has previously been indicated as open space in the City. He then said they have started to identify certain pieces of land that appear to be important in the overall scheme of the open space plan. He also commented that Open Space is hoping to have a draft document out for public comment in the next month or so and that they plan to have public hearings after that. No formal action was taken.

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G. Internal Communications and Administrative Matters (Non-Action)

G-1 Committee Member Comments Including:

A. Report on Carson River Celebration Week Activities - (1-1593.5) Member Kimbrough said he had taken two junior high school groups out there, one was a science club from Eagle Valley and the other was from Carson Junior High and that they had wrapped some trees. He said the celebration had been well advertised and that film maker Dave Morgan had been there photographing activities.

B. Update Regarding the Symms Trails Grant for Sedge Road - (1-1619.5) Member Kimbrough said there was nothing new on this but would let the Committee know when there is something.

C. Discussion on Completing the Plans for Carson River Access Off of Deer Run Road - (1-1625.5) Member Kimbrough said everybody had heard that the road had not been built quite right but it is working fine. He expressed the hope that the Committee could name it at some point.

He also said he is working on getting a group of teachers and some of the school district people together to work on an environmental education program.

He commented there is an opportunity for a grant which he is working on and that it is due in November.

Chairperson Zimmerman said Ms. Schmitt had sent him information on a bio-engineering workshop for land owners and resource professionals to be held November 2 - 4 in the Carson Nugget conference room. He added it is to be sponsored by NDF and that there will be speakers from USDA, the Corps of {Engineers, private companies, Douglas County, Nevada State Lands, and {NRCS. He said it is about how to make stream banks stable using plants.

G-2 Staff Comments - None.

G-3 Agenda Items for the Next CRAC Meeting on November 4, 1998 - (1-1673.5) Chairperson Zimmerman noted as previously discussed there is a possibility that Mr. Brotzman would be at that meeting and, if so, he should have information on the Brunswick Canyon Bridge.

He said there would also be a presentation from Steve Lawrence from USGS on water quality in the river.

He expressed the hope that they could also get Ms. Schmitt to come back for a discussion on the resource analysis.

He said a report on Carson River Park would be agendized if it is available.

Member Clift asked that an item on naming the Carson River access be put on that agenda.

H. ADJOURNMENT - There being no further business Member Kimbrough moved to adjourn. Member Pettersen seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0-2-0. Chairperson Zimmerman adjourned the meeting at 7:48 p.m.

The Minutes of the October 7, 1998 meeting of the Carson River Advisory Committee

ARE SO APPROVED ___11/4___, 1998

/s/ Claire Clift, Vice Chair__

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Charles Zimmerman, Chairperson