A regular meeting of the Carson River Advisory Committee was scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 1, 2006 in the Community Center Sierra Room, 851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada.

**PRESENT:** Vice Chairperson Paul Pugsley

Tom Farrer
Dan Greytak
Mark McCubbin
Randy Pahl
Ernest Rink

STAFF: Roger Moellendorf, Parks and Recreation Department Director

Juan Guzman, Open Space Manager

Vern Krahn, Park Planner

Lee Plemel, Planning and Community Development Principal Planner

Kathleen King, Recording Secretary

**NOTE:** A recording of these proceedings, the committee's agenda materials, and any written comments or documentation provided to the recording secretary during the meeting are public record, on file in the Clerk-Recorder's Office. These materials are available for review during regular business hours.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL (5:32:28) - Vice Chairperson Pugsley called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. Roll was called; a quorum was present. Chairperson Zimmerman was absent. Vice Chairperson Pugsley welcomed Member Rink. Mr. Krahn provided background information on Member Rink's appointment.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS (5:34:34) - None.

- 1. ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES (5:34:54) None.
- **2. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA** (5:35:13) None.
- 3. AGENDA ITEMS:

3-A. ACTION TO RECOMMEND TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION AND BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ADOPTION OF THE UNIFIED PATHWAYS MASTER PLAN, FORMERLY KNOWN PUBLICLY AS THE UNIFIED TRAILS MASTER PLAN AND WILL REPLACE THE FOLLOWING: CARSON CITY BICYCLE SYSTEM PLAN, PEDESTRIAN PLAN, AND EAGLE VALLEY TRAIL SYSTEM PLAN (5:35:47) - Mr. Krahn provided an overview of his presentation, and advised of having made the same presentation to a joint meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Planning Commission, and to the Open Space Advisory Committee. He narrated a PowerPoint presentation, which included review of the consolidation of the trails plan, the bicycle system plan, and the pedestrian plan; the purpose of the Unified Pathways Master Plan ("UPMP"), its relationship to other plans, its strengths, and the plan itself. He reviewed off-street trails policies in conjunction with the draft master plan map displayed in the meeting room. He reviewed the action plan and implementation strategies.

Member Greytak commented that paving a trail in a flood way or a wetland would be inconsistent with sound, scientific, environmental stewardship. He suggested relocating proposed trails or creating "spurs that take you to a place and bring you back out." He further suggested that continuous trails through habitat are probably not the best thing for natural parks. He noted that public education may be necessary in that natural parks don't have the same amenities as Mills Park. He further noted there was no reference to the Carson River Master Plan element in the UPMP, and that the Carson River Master Plan element does not propose paved trails. He expressed support for access and a variety of trail types, but noted the importance of limiting access to non-continuous use.

Member McCubbin expressed concern over the draft map in that it did not clearly differentiate between proposed and existing trails. He expressed the belief that residents at the south end of the River in Carson City "pay a heavy price putting up with off-road vehicles." He expressed concern over the number of offstreet trails indicated for the south end of the River. He noted that the Carson River Master Plan element designates the south end of the River as an area which should be left natural. He suggested that any trail proposed for near the Wright property should instead be indicated across Prison property. He expressed the opinion the proposed trail should be deleted in order to avoid confusion. He suggested that sidewalks in Carson City should be done before expanding out to build trails. Mr. Krahn acknowledged that the sidewalk inventory demonstrated a need for improvement. Mr. Guzman explained the various funding sources available for sidewalks and trails. Mr. Krahn agreed that the south end of the River in Carson City is a problem area. He reviewed property owners in the area, including the State Prison, various residents, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. He advised that establishing connectivity into Douglas County will be a challenge. Mr. Guzman advised of a general principle, adopted following the Open Space Advisory Committee meeting, that trails will be proposed for public land adjacent to private land, wherever possible. If there is no option, however, proposed trails will be indicated across private land. Mr. Guzman explained that solid lines, on the map, represent existing trails; dashed lines represent proposed trails. He reviewed the map, and discussion took place with regard to the same.

Vice Chairperson Pugsley pointed out a bridge proposed for the south end of the River adjacent to Prison property. He expressed the opinion that the path shown on the opposite side of the River was essentially non-existent because there is no access. Mr. Guzman agreed the bridge and the path should be designated as proposed. Vice Chairperson Pugsley inquired as to the purpose for the proposed bridge and for the proposed bridge near the Dombrowski property. Mr. Guzman advised that the bridge proposed for the most southern end is to facilitate access to Douglas County. The other bridge would be to provide access to the opposite side of the River "to move north." Discussion followed, and Mr. Guzman advised that trails will be discussed in public meetings. Vice Chairperson Pugsley suggested the possibility of paving the Mexican Dam trail with connection to Riverview Park. He further suggested indicating trails connecting to Douglas County as proposed since none of them are accessible without bridges. He expressed the opinion that five bridges proposed to cross the Carson River is unrealistic. He suggested indicating three bridges, from a planning perspective, and "what connects to those." In response to a question, he suggested prioritizing the proposed bridge connecting the Empire Ranch Golf Course and the Ambrose-Carson River Natural Area. He further suggested a bridge approximately three-quarters of a mile from Mexican Dam would make sense. He suggested that a third bridge may be appropriate for the canyon, such as reconstructing the Brunswick Bridge. He noted that bridges are expensive and not particularly environmentally sensitive. Mr. Guzman advised the proposed bridges would connect to existing trails. Member Pahl suggested it may be a prioritization issue; to start with three and add others if appropriate. Mr. Krahn explained staff's consideration of dual facilities. Member Greytak referred to The Nature Conservancy parcel and inquired

as to connectivity. Mr. Guzman advised that connectivity exists through the extension of Center and Bigelow Drives. He acknowledged the need for a revision on the map.

Member Pahl agreed with earlier comments that paving trails at the River is contrary to a natural park setting. He suggested the possibility of paving portions of the trail only. Mr. Krahn provided background information on the proposal, and agreed with concerns over flooding issues. He noted that the Empire Ranch Golf Course has concrete paths within a flood plain which "seem to do okay." He agreed that asphalt in a flood zone is not a good idea. Parks and Recreation Department Director Roger Moellendorf has indicated concrete paths may be easier to maintain, based on his experience.

Member Farrer inquired as to how far handicapped access would extend. He suggested limiting it to access to the River. Mr. Krahn explained access provided at Carson River Park. He discussed the importance of balancing the natural resource with providing sufficient public access. Mr. Moellendorf advised of having experience with both concrete and boardwalk pathways along rivers, and that concrete pathways hold up better in flood conditions than asphalt. In addition, concrete pathways are low maintenance and provide a high degree of access to people with mobility issues. Mr. Moellendorf advised that concrete pathways are a nice amenity, on a limited basis, to provide opportunities for the general public. Boardwalks also work well but are high maintenance and fairly expensive to build. Vice Chairperson Pugsley opened this item to public comment.

(6:42:50) Dave Morgan, a resident of South Gentry Lane, advised that none of his neighbors want a path behind their homes. He discussed the law enforcement issue associated with off-road vehicles in the area, and expressed concern over policies to extend trails and increase use. He suggested considering the cumulative effect on other City services. He expressed the opinion that a trail behind the residences will create "a moon scape with high erosion, … a lot of noise, a lot of frustration, a lot of calls for service for law enforcement …" He expressed support for connectivity, and the opinion that "mature adults need to recognize when it's too late." He reiterated there are broader policies to consider when creating density in an area. He commended the policies associated with connectivity and recreational opportunities, but suggested that dominant impacts translate to the need to "start pulling stuff back in." He requested that the proposed trail be removed from the draft map.

Mr. Krahn advised that staff had made another attempt to balance the trail situation behind the residences on South Gentry Lane. He advised that many equestrians utilize the pedestrian corridors through the subdivisions to bring their horses to Prison Hill.

(6:48:01) Mr. Morgan offered to provide video demonstrating that motorcycles and equestrians should not mix. He expressed the opinion there is no balance between high and low impact uses. He advised that the neighbors are supportive of low impact uses. He noted that issues associated with dirt bikes in the urban interface are not distinct to Carson City.

Vice Chairperson Pugsley called for additional comment and, when none was forthcoming, entertained a motion. Mr. Krahn requested that the motion be specific to requested revisions. Mr. Guzman reviewed the committee's input, as follows: reduce the number of bridges; designate trails on public land, wherever possible; revisions to proposed trail designations, particularly where there are no bridge connections; and consider alternatives to asphalt paving for limited stretches of trail. Member Farrer agreed the committee should be concerned about off-road vehicle use in the southern portion of the River. **Vice Chairperson** 

Pugsley passed the gavel to Member Greytak, and moved that the committee approve the draft pathways plan, as presented, with recommendations to staff to consider a review or changes relative to the multiplicity of trails in the southeast area of the City, and the possibility of reducing the number; perhaps reducing the number of bridges proposed, in general, across the River; that consideration be given to trails on both sides, but that future planning will need to take into account the nature and use of those trails; that consideration be given to eliminating any use of motorized, off-road vehicles adjacent to residential areas; that consideration be given to plans and alternatives for additional paved areas that permit access to the River, including along the Mexican Ditch alignment as compared to through Riverview Park or the use of raised, wooden deck pathways that would provide easier access; to ensure consistency with the Carson River Master Plan; to ensure consistencies in marking trails as proposed versus as being in place, particularly those that extend from the proposed bridges that may be reduced; to consider concrete pathways to accommodate individuals with disabilities; and, if possible, to move suggested path lines to public property versus private property, consistent with indicating a general alignment. Member Pahl seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0. Acting Chairperson Greytak returned the gavel to Vice Chairperson Pugsley, who recessed the meeting at 7:01 p.m.

## 3-B. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ONLY REGARDING THE DRAFT CARSON RIVER AQUATIC TRAIL PLAN FROM MEXICAN DAM TO DAYTON VALLEY STATE PARK

(7:08:56) - Vice Chairperson Pugsley reconvened the meeting at 7:08 p.m. He noted that Member McCubbin had left the meeting and that a quorum was still present. Mr. Krahn reviewed the staff report and introduced Resource Concepts, Inc. Hydrologist / Fluvial Geomorphologist Lynn Zonge. Ms. Zonge narrated a SlideShow presentation, which included review of the trail boundaries; access points; hydrographs; proposed improvements to Mexican Dam, Anderson Dam, and Ophir Dam; and take out points. She advised that the trail map will include as much information as possible, and still be simple enough for the general public to identify such things as dams, rapids, put in / take out points, picnic areas, and class I, II, and III rapids. She narrated a topographic version of the map which included public and private property designations.

Considering the cost of the Mexican Dam, Member Pahl noted that the plan didn't indicate an access point above the dam. Mr. Krahn noted that Cradlebaugh Bridge is a good put in point, but also noted adjacent State Prison and private property. He further noted a concern over attracting people into a residential area upstream of the Mexican Dam. He suggested this may be a topic for an additional study. Vice Chairperson Pugsley advised The Nature Conservancy is considering a put in / take out trail head off Heybourne Road in Douglas County which would be close to the old V&T rail crossing downstream of Cradlebaugh and upstream of the Prison. The Nature Conservancy will be applying for Question #1 funding. The Nature Conservancy's plans are to establish a put in at Riverfork Ranch, just upstream of Genoa Lane.

In response to a question, Ms. Zonge advised that "you can't ... direct people to run a dam." She noted problems associated with the Mexican Dam in that there is a cliff on one side and private property on the other. She offered to delete any reference to portage, and indicate the dam as a class VI water. In response to a question, she anticipated the dam could be classified as a II or III, depending upon the water level, after improvements. In response to a further question, she advised that the plan will describe existing structures and proposed improvements. The map will hopefully be published in the Recreation Division's *Discover Us*. Ms. Zonge acknowledged the map is intended to serve as a guide for existing conditions.

In response to a question, Ms. Zonge advised that the Carson River Road bridge is fine. She responded to additional questions regarding the proposed portage location. Member Greytak expressed concern over high water conditions and whether or not the Andersens may wish to use the dam in the future. He responded to questions regarding his experience running this section of the River. Discussion took place regarding Bureau of Indian Affairs land. Mr. Krahn advised of having received a letter, earlier in the day from the Bureau of Indian Affairs expressing a desire to participate in the planning process.

Member Rink suggested installing signage at Morgan Mill Road to designate it as a take out point. He expressed concern over dangerous conditions associated with the steps, and suggested installing a concrete ramp and removing the steps. Mr. Krahn agreed, and suggested other amenities which would be helpful during the busy season. Discussion followed, and Vice Chairperson Pugsley opened this item to public comment.

(7:41:16) Sandy Gregory advised she and her husband have owned ten acres at Mexican Dam for approximately twelve years. Mr. Guzman pointed out the property on a displayed map. Ms. Gregory discussed issues of trespassing, littering, etc. She advised her family is in the process of establishing water rights. She expressed opposition to the proposed project and to "manipulating Mexican Dam very much ... because of the issues ... up river." She expressed concern over sediment associated with the Leviathan Mine, and the hope that studies would be conducted prior to beginning any proposed improvements to the Mexican Dam. She expressed understanding for providing public access, but advised that most people do not respect private property rights. In response to a question, she advised of being opposed to the proposal because of the passage location indicated around Mexican Dam. In response to a further question, she expressed doubt that people would comply with portaging on the other side of the River. She expressed support for designating the Mexican Dam as a class VI water. Member Greytak suggested that providing a safe portage point on the other side of the River may alleviate the trespassing problem. In response to a question, Ms. Gregory advised this would not make her feel more comfortable. She advised her family does not reside on the property, and reiterated adamant opposition to the proposal.

Vice Chairperson Pugsley called for additional public comment. When none was forthcoming, he noted this was a discussion-only item.

3-C. UPDATE ONLY REGARDING THE PROGRESS OF THE V&T RAILROAD CONSTRUCTION PROJECT IN RELATION TO THE CARSON RIVER CANYON (7:47:18) - Mr. Krahn provided background information on this item, and reviewed the staff report. He reviewed the proposed alignment, using a topographic map which was included in the agenda materials. He advised the project is moving forward into the design phase. Mr. Guzman advised of public testimony regarding the importance of preserving pedestrian access on the Carson City side of the canyon.

In response to a question, Mr. Krahn advised he would check into whether Bertagnolli trucks will be required to cross the railroad tracks. In response to a further question, he advised of the understanding that the entire project, down to the terminal site, is anticipated to be complete by 2010. Vice Chairperson Pugsley thanked staff for their presentation.

3-D. ACTION TO RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS APPROVAL OF A CONTRACT PROPOSAL BY LUMOS & ASSOCIATES FOR THE PRELIMINARY DESIGN AND ROUTE SELECTION FOR A TRAIL SYSTEM TO BE CONSTRUCTED EAST OF DEER RUN ROAD BRIDGE, CARSON RIVER CANYON, IN THE VICINITY OF THE V&T TRAIL ROUTE (7:53:43) - Mr. Krahn reviewed the staff report and the attached exhibits. (8:01:19) Lumos & Associates Project Manager Georgia Turner reviewed the scope of work which was included in the agenda materials.

In response to a question, Mr. Krahn read into the record language from the Unified Pathways Master Plan as related to prioritization of this project. In response to a further question, he advised that staff and the consultants will work with private land owners throughout the process. Mr. Guzman advised that Mr. Bertagnolli and Mr. Serpa have expressed an interest in discussing the potential of an easement. Mr. Bently is very supportive of the V&T Railway project, and Mr. Guzman anticipates he will also be supportive of the subject project. Formal negotiations have not yet been initiated. In response to a further question, Mr. Guzman advised there is quite a bit of information available with regard to mercury tailings. More information is needed. The goal is to not disturb areas with mercury tailings. University of Nevada Reno representatives have conducted some studies. Nevada Department of Environmental Protection representatives have been invited to provide information to the Open Space Advisory Committee. One of Lumos & Associates' tasks is to determine the process for obtaining review and approval from NDEP. In response to a question, Mr. Guzman advised that the Open Space Program will be asked to fund the study. Question #1 funding will be requested for construction. Mr. Krahn advised that this item will be agendized for presentation to the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Open Space Advisory Committee, and eventually the Board of Supervisors.

Vice Chairperson Pugsley commented that the study is timely, and called for public comment. When none was forthcoming, he entertained a motion. **Member Pahl moved to recommend to the Board of Supervisors approval of the contract proposal by Lumos for the preliminary design route selection for a trail in the Carson Canyon near the V&T. Member Farrer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.** Vice Chairperson Pugsley called for volunteers to serve on the technical advisory committee. Members Pahl and Farrer volunteered.

3-E. ACTION TO RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS NOMINATION OF THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS FOR THE NEXT CYCLE OF THE QUESTION #1 STATE GRANTS PROGRAM: BUZZY'S RANCH (ANDERSEN AND JARRARD PROPERTIES) LOCATED AT CARSON RIVER ROAD AND RECREATION ENHANCEMENT OF THE MEXICAN DAM LOCATED ON THE CARSON RIVER - MIDDLE REACH (8:20:43) - Mr. Guzman reviewed the staff report, and advised he had begun the process of engaging the services of Appraiser Lynn Norberg. In addition, he has been in contact with Laura Crane of The Nature Conservancy, Terra Firma, Ducks Unlimited, and Mike Ford of the American Land Conservancy to assist with the transaction. He advised that the Nevada Department of Wildlife has also expressed an interest. He discussed the success in obtaining grant awards for projects, and the difficulties in completing the transactions. The difficulties are usually associated with the timing of appraisals.

He referred to item 3-C, and Ms. Gregory's public testimony. He expressed the belief that "a plan is better than no plan," and that bringing City resources to a project would facilitate improvements to recreational misuse of an area. He expressed the belief that the potential for injury or continued abuse of private

property is greater without a plan than with a plan. A plan provides opportunity for more enforcement. The Open Space Program is evolving from the role of acquiring properties to actively managing them. This will mean additional park rangers and the ability to enforce laws and regulations more strictly. Mr. Guzman advised that the Open Space Advisory Committee took action to recommend to the Board of Supervisors nomination of the two projects which are the subject of this agenda item.

In response to a question, Mr. Guzman advised that the match requirement for the Andersen and Jarrard properties would be fifty percent through Question #1. He responded to additional questions regarding various match funding sources. In response to a further question, he advised that the property owners are interested in selling all of the water rights. He acknowledged the City is interested in keeping water rights with the property. Vice Chairperson Pugsley noted the Andersen / Jarrard properties have been the top priority recommended by this committee to the Open Space Advisory Committee in the past.

Member Greytak agreed with Vice Chairperson Pugsley and expressed support for moving forward with the Andersen / Jarrard properties. He expressed a preference for disassociating the second project from the first. He noted that there had been no plan presented as to Mexican Dam improvements. Mr. Guzman explained that doing stabilization repairs to the dam without proceeding with recreation enhancements at the same time would represent a lost opportunity. Question #1 applications are due by the end of March. Staff will continue to work with Gary Lacey to present the Question #1 application with more substance, including a more detailed design. Mr. Guzman agreed with earlier comments, by Ms. Gregory, regarding the importance of additional mercury studies. He advised that the information available indicates there is no mercury in the area. He further advised that staff will do whatever is necessary to submit a complete Question #1 application. Part of the application includes identifying tasks to be carried out if and when funding becomes available.

Vice Chairperson Pugsley discussed emergency work which he is organizing at the diversion. He advised that, to be of value, the emergency work needs to be completed by April 10<sup>th</sup>; prior to any consideration for getting over the diversion with rafts and canoes. Because of Ms. Gregory's objection and the fact that the owners of Mexican Dam had not yet had a chance to review the proposal, Vice Chairperson Pugsley expressed a preference to submit the application at a later date once some of the conceptual problems can be addressed. He expressed the opinion the Mexican Dam users would most likely have issues with the conceptual design. Mr. Guzman advised that he would be comfortable withdrawing nomination of the Mexican Dam project for the March application cycle. Vice Chairperson Pugsley called for public comment.

(8:35:37) Sandy Gregory inquired as to how long the project had been considered. Vice Chairperson Pugsley advised that the concept of finding a way to go over the structure probably originated in a conversation between he and Mr. Guzman in January. Ms. Gregory advised this meeting was the first time she had ever heard of the proposal. She expressed the belief there should be a lot more study before taking the next step. She expressed support for fixing the dam, and reiterated concerns over the Superfund site at Leviathan Mine upstream. She expressed a further concern over whether an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement had ever been done on the river with regard to recreation.

Vice Chairperson Pugsley called for additional public comment and, when none was forthcoming, entertained a motion. Member Greytak moved to recommend to the Board of Supervisors the nomination, for the next cycle of the Question #1 state grants program, Buzzy's Ranch (Andersen

and Jarrard properties) located at Carson River Road for acquisition. Member Pahl seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

#### 4. NON-ACTION ITEMS:

STATUS REPORTS, COMMENTS, AND CONCERNS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS (8:39:52) - Vice Chairperson Pugsley advised that the only apparent losses in the Carson River stretch, as a result of the December 31<sup>st</sup> high water event, were the rock outfall protection at Mexican Dam and the excavation which was done at the Andersen diversion. Prison property was affected by debris in the fields and fences down. Vice Chairperson Pugsley advised he had been unable to get to the banks along the Prison property to check on the willow and revetment work. He discussed damage caused by the August 15, 2005 rain storm.

**STATUS REPORTS AND COMMENTS FROM STAFF** (8:42:39) - Mr. Guzman invited the committee members to raft with Lynn Zonge on Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup>.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS** (8:43:04) - Vice Chairperson Pugsley advised that he and Chairperson Zimmerman would be generating agendas. He requested the committee members to contact them with agenda items.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM STAFF** (8:43:48) - Mr. Krahn commended the committee on its involvement in review and approval of the parks and recreation master plan element, the unified pathways master plan element, and the comprehensive land use plan.

**5. ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT** (8:44:58) - Member Farrer moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 p.m. Member Pahl seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

The Minutes of the March 1, 2006 Carson River Advisory Committee meeting are so approved this 7<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2006.

CHARLES ZIMMERMAN, Chair