

CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the January 22, 2003 Meeting

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A meeting of the Carson River Advisory Committee was scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 22, 2003 in the Community Center Sierra Room, 851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada.

PRESENT: Acting Chairperson David Johnson
Dan Greytak
Tom Hall
Everett Hill
Paul Pugsley

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) - Member Johnson called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. Mr. Krahn advised that the Chairperson was absent, and that the Vice Chairperson's term recently expired. Member Hall nominated Member Johnson as acting chairperson. Member Pugsley seconded the nomination. Nomination carried 4-0. Roll was called; a quorum was present. Member Greytak arrived at 5:50 p.m.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - November 6, 2002 (1-0030) - Member Hall moved to approve the minutes, as written. Member Hill seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS (1-0040) - None.

D. MODIFICATION OF THE AGENDA (1-0046) - Mr. Krahn suggested leaving the agenda as written, and the Committee members concurred.

E. DISCLOSURES (1-0058) - Mr. Krahn explained the purpose of this agenda item. The Committee members had no disclosures.

F. PUBLIC MEETING:

F-1. INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS, EVERETT HILL AND PAUL PUGSLEY (1-0073) - Member Hill acknowledged that he was appointed to the Committee in November. At the request of Mr. Krahn, he provided background information on his work experience, his residency in Nevada, and his interest in the Carson River. Mr. Krahn expressed appreciation for Member Hill's willingness to serve on the Committee. Member Pugsley acknowledged that he was appointed to the Committee in December and, at Mr. Krahn's request, provided information on his role as the Upper Carson River Watershed Coordinator for both Douglas County and Carson City. He advised of having attended the majority of Carson River Advisory Committee meetings over the last two years, and discussed his interest in serving on the Committee. He discussed his work on the Carson River over the past sixteen years. Acting Chairperson Johnson welcomed the new members and expressed appreciation for their willingness to invest time in the community.

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F-2. ACTION REGARDING THE ELECTION OF A COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON FOR 2003 (1-0155) - Acting Chairperson Johnson suggested deferring this item until the next meeting. Mr. Krahn referred to the note from Claire Clift indicating she would not be seeking an additional term, and advised that the vacancy is currently being advertised by the City's Human Resources Department. **Member Hall moved to table item F-2 until the next meeting. Member Pugsley seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.**

F-3. PRESENTATION AND ACTION REGARDING THE FUTURE ROLE OF THE NEVADA DIVISION OF STATE LANDS IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF FUNDS PROVIDED BY STATEWIDE BALLOT QUESTION #1, A STATEWIDE PARKS, TRAILS, AND OPEN SPACE BALLOT INITIATIVE (1-0213) - Mr. Krahn introduced Pam Wilcox, Director of the Nevada Division of State Lands, provided background information on this item, and reviewed the agenda materials pertinent to the same. Ms. Wilcox discussed her background, experience, and involvement in various conservation organizations throughout the State. She reviewed the elements of Question #1 and the funding allocations. [Member Greytak arrived at 5:50 p.m.] She distributed a table depicting the various grant programs, and explained the purpose of the grant funding and the Division of State Lands role to ensure the funding is spent effectively. She explained the format of the table, and reviewed the same. In response to a question, Mr. Kastens advised that Question #18 will serve as a unique funding source for matching requirements. He expressed the opinion that Carson City has as good an opportunity as Washoe and Clark Counties to access the grant funding. Ms. Wilcox advised that in-kind matches can also be used. She explained the responsibility given to four of her staff members to develop the rules of the grant. She referred to the Statewide workshop schedule included in the agenda materials, and briefly reviewed the same. In addition, she has offered to present information to any of the City advisory committees.

Ms. Wilcox read into the record a portion of the Act regarding funding allocations for projects along the Carson River corridor. She will be depending on representatives from each of Churchill County, Douglas County, Lyon County, and Carson City to indicate their highest priority projects. She expressed the hope that the four counties will work together rather than compete against one another. She suggested the Carson Water Subconservancy District ("CWSD") may be the best agency to coordinate projects between the four counties, but advised she is open to other suggestions. She advised that the first bond funds will most likely be sold in June. The Act requires development of regulations for the grant program which is the purpose of the workshops. Ms. Wilcox expressed the hope that the regulations will be in place by July in order that the first nomination "window" can take place in the late summer or early fall with the first grant funds to be awarded before the end of the year. Bonds may be sold anytime up to six years from the day voters approve a bond, and Internal Revenue Service regulations require bond monies to be spent within three years.

With regard to the bond which was passed for purchase of ranches near Fort Churchill, Member Pugsley inquired as to delays associated with the purchase process, and delays which may be anticipated with Question #1 projects. Ms. Wilcox explained that the Fort Churchill ranches were three separate acquisitions. The State's statutory process for acquiring land requires appraisals, willing sellers, determinations over water rights, ditches, etc. Ms. Wilcox recalled that, after the bond passed, "it took a lot of time." In the end, however, the sellers were happy and the State came away with "what they needed." Member Pugsley expressed a concern that contemplating property purchase with Question #1 grant funds may involve similar time frames. Ms. Wilcox indicated that every acquisition is different. With regard to property acquisitions by the State, State Parks has identified only a few acquisition possibilities. Grants

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to local governments will be “up to local governments,” which have individual processes. Mr. Kastens advised that if Carson City wanted to acquire a piece of property, under the provisions of Question #1, it would most likely be addressed by the Open Space Advisory Committee. If it were to be developed, an easement would be granted to the Parks and Recreation Department similar to that which was granted on the Moffat property. Mr. Kastens advised that Open Space Manager Juan Guzman is working on his second acquisition proposal. Carson City will most likely be able to quickly acquire land because of the open space program and associated matching funds. Mr. Kastens clarified that the open space program only purchases from willing sellers; condemnation is not used to acquire property. He advised that Mr. Guzman has developed a rapport with all the large property owners along the River, and many of the large properties have already been nominated as part of the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act process.

In response to a question, Ms. Wilcox advised that the Act encourages exploration of conservation easements prior to fee acquisition. She is considering development of a conservation easement tool kit for use by grant applicants. At the request of Acting Chairperson Johnson, Ms. Wilcox explained the concept and purpose of a conservation easement. Mr. Kastens advised that Parks staff and the Open Space Advisory Committee are very knowledgeable of conservation easements. The Open Space Advisory Committee is hosting a workshop to educate interested appraisers, attorneys, property owners, etc. Mr. Kastens advised that conservation easement is a tool used by the open space program to acquire property. In response to a question, Ms. Wilcox discussed various conservation easements held by the Division of State Lands for properties in Nevada, and advised of her expectation that conservation easements will become more widely used to acquire property in Nevada. In response to a comment, Mr. Kastens discussed the training and education programs in which Parks and Open Space staff have participated over the last five years. He provided examples of how conservation easements have been successfully applied in California and Colorado. He discussed districts which grow out of conservation easements as a result of the need for management.

Ms. Wilcox anticipates that the grant funding will become competitive. In response to a question, she advised that the Act gives final authority to the Division of State Lands. However, a process will be developed that “everybody feels is fair.” Criteria will be developed by which the grant applications will be evaluated, points will be awarded, etc. Ms. Wilcox requested input from the Committee and City staff with regard to development of the process. She reviewed the time table for development of the process in conjunction with public workshops. She reiterated the hope that the process will be more cooperative than competitive. Mr. Kastens encouraged the Committee members to attend one of the workshops or to provide written comments to Ms. Wilcox’s office. Ms. Wilcox acknowledged that the bond funding will accrue interest and that the Act provides for the interest to return to the fund. This can, in turn, be used to fund positions to administer the grant funding. She advised that a budget was submitted last summer which provides for two planning positions and a support position funded with interest from the bond. She expressed the hope that the budget request will receive favorable consideration in the Legislature.

In response to a question, Member Hall advised of the Committee’s priority to finish Carson River Park. Mr. Krahn advised Ms. Wilcox that Carson City has a Carson River Master Plan element which was created by the Committee and adopted by the Board of Supervisors. In addition, Carson City has an integrated trails plan of on road facilities as well as off road multi-use path facilities within the River corridor. In response to a question regarding proximity to the River corridor, Ms. Wilcox advised that these are the types of questions which will be addressed during the public workshop process. She explained that the Act

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requires trails to provide access to and along the River. Mr. Krahn further advised that Carson City has an adopted master plan for one of its parks. He suggested that many of Carson City's priorities have already been identified through previous planning efforts. Ms. Wilcox advised that the Act requires an open space master plan element prior to any allocation of the \$20 million designated for open space acquisitions. She assumes there will be extra points for applicants which have been through a public planning process. Ms. Wilcox acknowledged that a federal grant could be used as match funding. Mr. Kastens advised that there are many ways to "compound what little money we have" with other grant funding. Ms. Wilcox advised that the Question #1 funding will be used wisely and leveraged as much as possible. She expressed the opinion that the people of Nevada will receive more than \$200 million in benefits. Acting Chairperson Johnson thanked Ms. Wilcox for her presentation.

F-4. ACTION REGARDING FUTURE PLANNING GOALS OF THE CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (1-0865) - Mr. Krahn reviewed the staff report and the attachments. Discussion took place with regard to planning and project priorities. In response to a question, Mr. Krahn advised that the purpose of presenting the planning goals was to clarify the Committee's intent with regard to each one. In response to a question, Ms. Wilcox advised that Question #1 "is completely silent" on land ownership with regard to funding allocations. Mr. Pugsley acknowledged that CWSD funding could be leveraged, in conjunction with Question #1 funding, for private property projects. Discussion took place with regard to forming volunteer work groups to address the Committee's goals and priorities. In response to a comment, Ms. Wilcox advised that \$3 million in Question #1 funding is available for development of habitat conservation plans, specifically for smaller counties with less than 100,000 residents. In addition, \$250,000 is available for open space planning.

Additional discussion took place regarding forming a volunteer work group to review the planning goals and project priorities, and returning to the Committee with recommended priorities. Following discussion, consensus of the Committee was to designate Members Pugsley, Greytak and Chairperson Zimmerman to work on the planning goals. Acting Chairperson Johnson and Members Hall and Hill volunteered to work on the project priorities. Acting Chairperson Johnson suggested agendaizing the project priority recommendations for the March 2003 meeting. Member Pugsley suggested agendaizing the planning goals recommendations in conjunction with the storm water management program presentation agendaized for the February meeting. Discussion took place regarding the status of the storm water management program. No formal action was taken.

F-5. ACTION REGARDING DEVELOPMENT OF A FIVE-YEAR OUTLOOK FOR POTENTIAL RIVER CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS WITHIN CARSON CITY (1-1475) - Mr. Krahn reviewed the staff report and provided an overview of the project list included in the agenda materials. In response to a question, he discussed the Sedge Road OHV trail head and staging area project. Discussion took place regarding the purpose of this agenda item, the construction projects, funding sources, and the State's liability over mercury contaminated properties along the River. Mr. Krahn advised that he would facilitate a meeting between Acting Chairperson Johnson and Members Hall and Hill. He requested the volunteer work group members to review the Carson River Master Plan and the documents included in the agenda materials in the meantime. He acknowledged that the master plan and Carson River Park design documents would be available at the meeting. Member Pugsley requested the volunteer work group to consider the appropriateness of including the Sedge Road OHV trail on the project list, and discussion took place with regard to the same. Acting Chairperson Johnson requested staff to provide an update on the Brunswick Canyon Bridge. Mr. Kastens advised that the Regional Transportation Commission

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developed a schedule for the Brunswick Canyon Bridge, copies of which he will provide to the Committee. No formal action was taken.

F-6. PRESENTATION AND UPDATE ONLY REGARDING THE BIO-ENGINEERING STREAM BANK STABILIZATION PROJECT AT THE AMBROSE / CARSON RIVER NATURAL AREA (1-1804) - [Acting Chairperson Johnson recessed the meeting at 7:16 p.m. and reconvened at 7:24 p.m.] Member Pugsley narrated a slide presentation on this project. He responded to questions regarding the CFS which the project is anticipated to withstand. Mr. Krahn commented on his participation in the project, and expressed appreciation for Member Pugsley's expertise and diligence. At the request of Member Hill, Member Pugsley provided background information on the project. In response to a question, he advised that bioengineering workshops are scheduled in Ely and on the coast of California in the spring of 2003. He does not anticipate conducting another workshop in the Carson City area until the spring of 2004 or 2005. He discussed difficulties associated with scheduling the workshop staff. Acting Chairperson Johnson thanked Member Pugsley for his presentation.

F-7. ACTION REGARDING SELECTION OF CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO ACT AS COMMITTEE LIAISONS TO VARIOUS CARSON RIVER COALITION PARTNERS, THE PINENUT MOUNTAINS LAND USE PLAN AMENDMENT, AND VARIOUS CITY ADVISORY BOARDS (1-2311) - Acting Chairperson Johnson suggested deferring this item until a future meeting. **Member Pugsley moved to table this item until a subsequent meeting. Member Hill seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**

G. COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS (1-2329) - None.

H. DISCUSSION REGARDING FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND COMMITTEE MEMBER STATUS REPORTS (1-2336) - Mr. Krahn acknowledged that he had sufficient direction to proceed with developing the February 5, 2003 agenda.

I. STATUS REPORTS FROM STAFF (1-2382) - None.

J. ADJOURNMENT (1-2386) - Member Hall moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. Member Pugsley seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

The Minutes of the January 22, 2003 meeting of the Carson River Advisory Committee are so approved this 12th day of March, 2003.

CHARLES ZIMMERMAN, Chair