

CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the April 5, 2000 Meeting

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A regular meeting of the Carson River Advisory Committee was held at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 5, 2000 in the City Hall Capitol Conference Room, 201 North Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada.

PRESENT: Chairperson Charles Zimmerman
Vice Chairperson Claire Clift
Tom Hall
David Johnson
Kevin Walsh
Barbara Wright

STAFF: Juan Guzman, Community Development Senior Planner
Kathleen King, Recording Secretary
(CRAC 04/05/00; 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 (1-0004) - Chairperson Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. Roll call was taken; a quorum was present. Member Pettersen was absent.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (1-0012) - Vice Chairperson Clift moved to accept the March 1, 2000 minutes as presented. Member Walsh seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0. Member Johnson moved to approve the February 2 and February 14, 2000 minutes. Vice Chairperson Clift seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS (1-0038) - None.

D. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA (1-0043) - None.

E. DISCLOSURES (1-0045) - None.

F. PUBLIC HEARING

F-1. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING AN UPDATE OF THE WILDLIFE SURVEY FROM GARY JUENGER, CARSON VALLEY CONSERVATION DISTRICT ("CVCD") (1-0048) - Mr. Juenger provided background information on his position with the CVCD, and discussed the Committee's request, at the October 1999 meeting, for revisions to the wildlife section of the Carson River Master Plan Element. Mr. Juenger explained the source of information for the existing wildlife section, and advised that revisions could be made using some recently acquired resources, such as the "Corridors Management Handbook" published by the Natural Resources Conservation Service ("NRCS") and the "Bird Conservation Plan" published by Partners in Flight. He can obtain peer review from Larry Neil, of the Nevada Division of Wildlife, and Pat Solberger, the local Fisheries Biologist who was instrumental in developing the existing wildlife section. In addition, he advised of the ARCView program

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which works in conjunction with the City's GIS and could assist in habitat mapping along the Carson River. He discussed the possibility of inexpensive aerial photography as well.

Mr. Juenger explained the function and purpose of conservation districts, and discussed the mailing list which has been developed with the assistance of Jane Schmidt of the NRCS. He advised of a project which is currently being developed at the Northern Nevada Correctional Center ("NNCC"), and introduced Paul Pugsley, the Upper Carson River Watershed Restoration Coordinator. Mr. Pugsley will be instrumental in the project. The purpose of the project is to combine riparian protection and fencing to keep livestock out of the River. Several funding sources have been secured, and the NNCC has offered to contribute labor and some expertise in design. Mr. Juenger pointed out the location of an area which has been identified for potential hydrology restoration. Discussion ensued with regard to plans for bank stabilization, the portion of the River previously straightened by the Army Corps of Engineers, the possibility of grant funding for a wildlife survey from the Fish and Wildlife Service, and beaver damage.

In response to a question, Mr. Juenger advised that he will not be able to conduct field studies on the Carson River at this time. He reiterated that he can acquire information from agencies and printed resources. Committee consensus was to postpone rewriting the wildlife section of the master plan element until a wildlife survey can be conducted. Chairperson Zimmerman expressed a preference that Mr. Juenger spend time in attempting to secure grant funding to conduct the survey. Discussion ensued with regard to factors in conducting a wildlife survey, and Vice Chairperson Clift suggested UNR Natural Resources students as a resource.

Vice Chairperson Clift moved to request Mr. Juenger to refocus his efforts to work toward a natural wildlife field survey on the Carson River in Carson City, to secure grant funding, to seek out volunteers through the University, and to utilize the mailing list in the future to keep people informed of wildlife issues. Member Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

F-2. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING A PRESENTATION FROM THE NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION ON THE PRELIMINARY DESIGN FOR CHANNEL IMPROVEMENTS AT DEER RUN ROAD BRIDGE (1-0760) - Chairperson Zimmerman noted that Mr. Miller was not present. This item was deferred.

F-3. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING AN UPDATED STATUS REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE SILVER SADDLE RANCH PLANNING EFFORT (1-0768) - Chris Miller, of the Bureau of Land Management ("BLM"), advised that she will deliver the plan to the printer on Friday, April 7. Copies of the plan will be provided to each Committee member for comment, and at least one open house will be scheduled in May. Ms. Miller requested the Committee members to call her if they would like to have the plan mailed to anyone in particular.

Ms. Miller acknowledged that she is pleased with the outcome of the process and stated that the public will have three good proposals to review. She advised that the BLM plans to open the ranch on National Public Lands Day, September 23, 2000. She expressed appreciation for the Committee's support of the proposed plan.

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In response to a question, Ms. Miller advised that a budget has been prepared for each alternative and that Field Manager John Singlaub was briefed on the environmental assessment last week. Mr. Singlaub expressed a preference for BLM staff to work in partnership with the City on issues such as law enforcement. He believes that grant funding will be needed to fund a park ranger position. The grant funding which Ms. Miller has available is for interpretive signs. Ms. Miller informed Mr. Singlaub that she will be developing the Friends of the Silver Saddle Ranch, using some of the bylaws and articles of incorporation used for Red Rock. She explained that the caretaker will most likely have to be a voluntary or hosted worker. The BLM will begin advertising the position if the present caretaker is unable to spend more time at the ranch. Ms. Miller explained the current caretaker's seasonal firefighter position which may conflict with the opening of the ranch on September 23.

Ms. Miller reported that one gate and three culverts have been replaced, and that best management practices are currently being used. The memo of understanding for irrigation with Carson City has been completed. In the future, the BLM will work in partnership with the City; however, the City will receive all the profits. The BLM will assist the City with advertising the permittee for haying and grazing. With regard to the Ambrose-Carson River Natural Area sign, Ms. Miller advised that Parks Planner Vern Krahn is awaiting information from the BLM on the cost of the signs.

Member Walsh advised of a field trip with Ms. Miller on Tuesday, April 4. They looked at a proposed staging area for loading/unloading horses, mountain bikes, motorcycles, etc. Ms. Miller described the location and advised that it is safe from flooding and noise, and that there is plenty of room for trailers to turn around. Member Walsh and another member of the Pine Nut Mountain Trails Association will be visiting the area on Saturday, April 8 to determine whether some of the alternate trails leading to the proposed staging area can be opened up. Discussion ensued regarding the steep grade, possible canyon access to the power line road, parking problems, and the possible need for trail building work.

At the request of Member Walsh, Ms. Miller described the planned activities for Public Lands Appreciation Day. Discussion ensued regarding the need for trash clean up, the stolen backhoe which is scheduled to be picked up by California law enforcement personnel, and advertisement of the Silver Saddle Ranch. Mr. Guzman advised that he would request David Morgan, of Nevada Video Productions, to cover the opening. He further advised that Mr. Sullivan produces a television program on CAT-10 and 26 and that this may be an appropriate venue for advertisement. Chairperson Zimmerman thanked Ms. Miller for her presentation.

F-4. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING AN UPDATE ON THE MAILING LISTS AND INFORMATION PACKETS FOR THE CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (1-1090) - Jane Schmidt, of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, displayed the revised map prepared by Scott Royal of the City's Information Services Department. The Assessor's Office provided a list of names, APNs, etc. on diskette and Pam Jenkins, Administrative Assistant with the CVCD, has been working to sort out the properties which actually touch the River. She has narrowed the list to approximately 50 property owners. The package which will be sent to the property owners on the River will include the joint cover letter from the Committee and the CVCD, information about noxious weeds, and the weed booklet. If the secondary mailing list is not too long, the "Wanted: Dead Not Alive" posters may be included.

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Ms. Schmidt advised that the CVCD's web page is in the process of being developed. The address is www.conservationdistricts.org. The main intent of the page is to provide as many links as possible to the largest variety of people. Ms. Jenkins is presently reforming the link to the backyard conservation program, and Ms. Schmidt advised that the CVCD newsletter will also be included on the web page. She invited the Committee to provide input for the web page, and advised that information can be e-mailed to Ms. Jenkins. The mailing lists should be completed by the end of the week.

With regard to the progress of the weed eradication program, Ms. Schmidt advised of a great deal of activity, including that a portion of the grant obtained through Resource Conservation and Development has been distributed to the City. Demonstration areas have been developed to provide information, and fairly regular workshops have been scheduled in various parts of the Carson watershed. As more people have learned about the noxious weed problem, more reports have been received and thus the problem is greater than anyone had anticipated.

Ms. Schmidt and Mr. Juenger will continue to work on the prison dairy. Ms. Schmidt has been providing technical assistance to the owners of the Andersen Ranch, north of Silver Saddle. Ms. Schmidt and Ms. Jenkins will be conducting three programs at Carson High school focusing on botany in the River corridor. Discussion ensued with regard to improvements at the Andersen Ranch.

Vice Chairperson Clift requested a hard copy of the mailing list, and Ms. Schmidt advised that it would be stored on diskette for easy update.

F-5. DISCUSSION AND UPDATE ON RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES ALONG THE PROPOSED REALIGNMENT OF THE V&T RAILROAD ALONG THE CARSON RIVER BETWEEN DEER RUN ROAD BRIDGE TO MOUNDHOUSE (1-1335) - Member Walsh reviewed the previous consensus of the Committee with regard to this matter, and reviewed his April 5, 2000 memorandum included in the agenda materials. He displayed photographs of clean up projects conducted by members of the Pine Nut Mountains Trails Association ("PNMTA"). Member Wright suggested contacting the National Guard for assistance in removing abandoned vehicles, and Member Walsh discussed his previous experience with attempting to get National Guard assistance. He advised of his strategy for removing vehicles and trash, and for keeping the area patrolled. He requested the Committee's support for his proposal and advised that he will continue to work out the logistics of the project. Chairperson Zimmerman suggested that Member Walsh talk to the National Guard again regarding assistance in removing the abandoned vehicles. Discussion ensued with regard to the same, and Member Walsh explained that the vehicles will first be located on a global positioning system, and that the vehicle identification numbers will have to be collected. Chairperson Zimmerman and Vice Chairperson Clift thanked Member Walsh for his presentation. Chairperson Zimmerman commented that he is in favor of the area remaining accessible to pedestrian recreation, and Member Walsh advised that he will continue to work on the issues. Further discussion took place with regard to potential and existing trails. Member Walsh explained that the PNMTA has mostly consisted of off-road vehicle users; however, the membership has recently changed their approach to balance the interests of the association. Member Walsh advised that the subject area is not particularly appropriate for motorcycles and that the intent of the PNMTA is to work in the area to assist the City.

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F-6. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING AGENDA TOPICS AND ITEMS FOR THE APRIL 15, 2000, CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE WORKSHOP TO BE HELD AT THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE ROOM, AT THE CITY CORPORATE YARD, FROM 10:00 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M. (1-1730) - Chairperson Zimmerman and Member Johnson advised of recent scheduling conflicts. Following discussion regarding other available dates, Vice Chairperson Clift suggested agendizing the next monthly meeting as a working session, and the Committee concurred. Chairperson Zimmerman requested that the agenda be limited to the Silver Saddle Ranch item and goals and objectives for the year 2000. He requested that the Committee members be prepared to revisit the goals from the previous workshop and to present ideas and points of interest. Vice Chairperson Clift requested that copies of the goals from the previous workshop be distributed to the Committee members. No formal action was taken.

G. INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (1-1812) - Chairperson Zimmerman suggested changing the regular meeting location to the Capitol Conference Room, and discussion ensued with regard to the same. Committee consensus was that the televised meetings were valuable to the public. Chairperson Zimmerman requested that the workshop be a non-televised meeting.

G-1. CORRESPONDENCE TO COMMITTEE MEMBERS (1-1865) - Mr. Guzman advised that the Open Space Advisory Committee had passed a motion at their April 4, 2000 meeting regarding acquisition of the Moffat property which is directly east of the Carson City Utilities Department. He pointed out that the bottom of the hill is one of the lowest places in Carson City and that drainages pass through prior to getting to the River. The property is also the location of a major intersection of the City's trails plan. Discussion ensued with regard to the location of the property and scheduling a joint meeting with the Open Space Advisory Committee in June.

H. ADJOURNMENT (1-1940) - Vice Chairperson Clift moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m. Member Hall seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0-1-0.

The Minutes of the April 5, 2000 meeting of the Carson River Advisory Committee are so approved this _____ day of May, 2000.

CHARLES ZIMMERMAN, Chairperson