

CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the September 6, 2000 Meeting

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A regular meeting of the Carson River Advisory Committee was held at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 6, 2000 in the Community Center Sierra Room, 851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada.

PRESENT: Chairperson Charles Zimmerman
Thomas Hall
Kevin Walsh
Barbara Wright

STAFF: Steve Kastens, Parks and Recreation Director
Walter Sullivan, Community Development Director
Vern Krahn, Parks Planner
Kathleen King, Recording Secretary
(CRAC 09/06/00; 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 (1-0001) - Chairperson Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Roll call was taken; a quorum was present. Vice Chairperson Clift and Members Johnson and Pettersen were absent.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (1-0005) - Member Hall moved to accept the minutes of the June 7, 2000 meeting. Member Walsh seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0-3-0.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT (1-0016) - Dan Kaffer, Western Nevada Resource Conservation and Development Coordinator, advised that, in addition to the Grand Opening of the Silver Saddle Ranch, the Kiwanis Club and the Boy Scouts have scheduled their annual River clean-up and work day projects on September 23rd.

D. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA (1-0035) - Chairperson Zimmerman modified the agenda to address items F-8, F-4, and F-5 first.

E. DISCLOSURES (1-0045) - Member Hall advised of being contacted by a resident of the Mexican Dam area who inquired as to how much of the property listed under agenda item F-3 is on the east side of the River. Mr. Krahn advised that parcels 10-121-20, 10-121-21, 10-121-22, 10-121-23, and 10-281-33 are located on the east side of the River.

Chairperson Zimmerman advised that Engineering Manager Mahmood Azad contacted an employee of his firm to design the stream restoration project referenced in item F-5. He indicated he would abstain from voting on the item.

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F. PUBLIC HEARING

F-1. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING AN UPDATE BY CHRIS MILLER, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, REGARDING THE GRAND OPENING OF THE SILVER SADDLE RANCH ON SEPTEMBER 23, 2000 FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M. (1-0831) - Chris Miller, Outdoor Recreation Planner with the Bureau of Land Management ("BLM") displayed a poster for National Public Lands Day and provided background information on the event. She reviewed the event itinerary and the scheduled activities. She advised that the City Streets Department has completed the roads, directional signage has been ordered, and the staging area on the east side of the River along Mexican Dam Road has been completed. She invited the Committee members, staff, and the public to attend National Public Lands Day. The Kiwanis Club will be providing a barbeque at 12:00 noon, and the Sweetwater Highway Band will be performing in the afternoon.

Ms. Miller advised that the comment period for appeal on the Silver Saddle Ranch Master Plan ended Tuesday, September 5th and, as of Friday, September 1st, there were no comments received other than some nice newspaper articles. She expressed appreciation to the Committee members and staff for their assistance and participation in developing the Silver Saddle Ranch Master Plan. Interpretive projects have yet to be completed, and she will be working on development of the Friends of the Silver Saddle organization. A park ranger will be hired to assist with the Silver Saddle Ranch, Prison Hill, and the Ambrose-Carson River Natural Area.

Member Wright complimented Ms. Miller on her work since coming to the BLM, and commented that Ms. Miller has been an asset to the Committee. Chairperson Zimmerman concurred and inquired as to a recent award received by Ms. Miller. Ms. Miller advised she is one of four finalists from the BLM for the Interpreter of Excellence Award. She will travel to Tucson, Arizona in November to attend the awards ceremony. She expressed appreciation for the letters of support written on her behalf. Mr. Krahn advised of the article in the *Capital City Focus* regarding National Public Lands Day. Ms. Miller provided her phone number for early volunteer registration.

Member Walsh advised that 80 flyers had been distributed to members and friends of the Pine Nut Mountains Trails Association ("PNMTA"). He encouraged the public to participate in National Public Lands Day and discussed the degree to which areas can be improved. He thanked Ms. Miller for all her efforts. Ms. Miller advised that volunteers should bring hats, gloves, water, etc.

F-2. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON A CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT'S NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY; SPECIFICALLY IN SUPPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES OCCURRING AT THE SILVER SADDLE RANCH AND AMBROSE CARSON RIVER NATURAL AREA ON SEPTEMBER 23, 2000 (1-0960) - Mr. Sullivan distributed a proposed resolution in support of National Public Lands Day, and reviewed the same. He advised that the Committee's approval of the proposed resolution would be forwarded as a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to approve a similar resolution on September 21, 2000. Member Walsh expressed support for the resolution and discussed the accomplishments of National Public Lands Day 1998. Ms. Miller expressed appreciation for Mr. Sullivan's development of the resolution. Mr. Sullivan suggested asking the Board of Supervisors to make a proclamation for National Public Lands Day, and the Committee concurred. **Member Hall moved that**

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the Committee accept the resolution as stated. Member Wright seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0-3-0.

F-3. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING THE CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION OF RIVER PROPERTIES TO THE OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR INCORPORATION INTO THE OPEN SPACE PROGRAM (1-1092) - Mr. Krahn referred to the recent tour conducted by the Open Space Advisory Committee ("OSAC") and the Carson River Advisory Committee ("CRAC"). He advised of the open space program criteria which requires that properties under consideration be offered by willing sellers, and referred to the August 30, 2000 memorandum included in the agenda materials. He indicated that the OSAC has requested input from the CRAC on the properties identified during the tour as possible acquisitions for the open space program. The volunteer group established at the joint meeting, consisting of Chairperson Zimmerman, Vice Chairperson Clift, and Member Johnson, provided the recommendations listed in the August 30th memo. Mr. Krahn requested that the Committee review the memorandum and provide comments to be forwarded to the OSAC. He referred to a map which displayed the subject properties.

Mr. Sullivan distributed an application packet, developed by Senior Planner Juan Guzman and Mr. Krahn for consideration by the BLM, and reviewed the same. He indicated that properties which the Committee may designate as low priority will most likely be covered in the application.

Mr. Krahn reviewed and described the locations of the properties prioritized in the August 30th memorandum. He discussed options for acquiring the properties, including fee purchase, land trade with the BLM, and conservation easements. In response to a question, Mr. Krahn advised that the Andersen property is not available at the present time. He clarified that if Mr. Andersen ever does make the property available, the volunteer group indicated that it should be a first priority. Member Walsh inquired as to access to the second priority properties, and Ms. Miller advised that most of them would only be accessible through the Silver Saddle Ranch. Discussion took place regarding development requirements, recreational opportunities, and accesses. Member Hall suggested the possibility of a portage point in the area of Mexican Dam near the Hirsh and Stein properties.

Mr. Krahn indicated that staff had an opportunity to meet with Jeff Winston, the City's open space consultant, and reviewed his recommendations as delineated in the August 30th memo. Discussion took place regarding easements across properties to be developed, and Mr. Krahn explained various options for conservation easements. He acknowledged that the property owners in the second priority category have been contacted, and indicated that a real estate company representing the property owners had presented proposals to the OSAC. Member Hall suggested designating the second priority properties as first priority since the Andersen property will most likely not become available. Chairperson Zimmerman clarified the reason for the prioritizations.

In response to a question, Mr. Krahn explained the time table for presenting the Committee's recommendations to the OSAC. If the OSAC concurs with the recommendations, staff will proceed to discussions with BLM representatives. He advised of discussions which have already taken place with both Chuck Pope and Dan Jacquet, of the BLM, and indicated that earnest money may be needed to secure the properties. BLM representatives have agreed to provide a list of requirements once the recommendations have been made. Mr. Krahn anticipated that staff will have clear direction by the latter part of this year or

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the first part of next year. He acknowledged that the OSAC is interested in receiving the Committee's recommendations as soon as possible. Member Walsh inquired as to each property's acreage. Mr. Krahn referred to Carson River Park and advised that it consists of 40 acres. Member Hall advised that Mr. Foerschler's property is approximately 40 acres and is divided by the River. Mr. Krahn reviewed the Nominated Properties Land Acquisition Category included in the application packet previously distributed by Mr. Sullivan. Discussion took place regarding the desirability of the Andersen property.

Member Wright moved to have staff present the priorities to the Open Space Advisory Committee or the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Krahn requested a clarification that the priorities listed in the memorandum are adequate and acceptable to the Committee. **Member Wright amended her motion accordingly. Member Hall seconded the motion.** Member Walsh inquired as to the effect of tabling this matter until a future meeting, and Mr. Krahn advised that it would simply delay any further proceedings by one month. Chairperson Zimmerman called for a vote on the pending motion. **Motion carried 3-0-3-1, Member Walsh abstaining.**

F-4. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING CARSON CITY'S PARTICIPATION IN THE COORDINATED RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN (CRMP), REGARDING CRMP'S RELATION TO THE UPPER CARSON RIVER MANAGEMENT AREA (1-0347) - Mr. Krahn referred to the presentation made by Paul Pugsley, of the Upper Carson River Coordinated Resources Management Group, at the June meeting. He explained that a recommendation from the Committee is needed and, if approved, will be submitted to the Board of Supervisors for approval.

Mr. Pugsley explained that Carson City is between the Upper Carson River and the Middle Carson River Management Plans, and that neither plan incorporates Carson City at the present time. He indicated that any interested party can participate in the CRMP. He is looking for a Carson City group who could identify how best to use funding he obtains for the Carson River. From that perspective, he requested that the Committee participate in the CRMP. In response to a question, Mr. Pugsley advised that the Upper Carson River CRMP is currently written to include Mexican Dam. The only reason the plan does not currently include the Lyon County/Carson City border is that it is necessary for a group or entity to indicate an interest in participating in the plan. He advised that the means by which to do so is the Carson River Master Plan element, and the Committee's request that the pertinent points of the master plan be incorporated into the CRMP. He stated that there is no conflict between the two plans. He acknowledged that the Upper Carson River CRMP would cover from one end of Carson City to the other and that the Mexican Dam "demarcation" would no longer be an issue. He assured the Committee that participation in the Upper Carson River CRMP in no way requires a change to the Carson River Master Plan element.

Mr. Pugsley acknowledged that a Committee member would be requested to attend the CRMP meetings on a regular basis. His goal is to establish monthly meetings. Quarterly meetings would be scheduled with the entire participation of the Upper Carson River CRMP. "Submeetings" would be held for the "reaches" and he anticipated incorporating the Carson City portion into the regular meetings of the Committee. Member Hall expressed an interest in volunteering to attend the quarterly meetings.

Member Walsh commented that the Committee's participation will facilitate knowledge and understanding of other areas of the River. Mr. Pugsley agreed and indicated that the Committee's participation will be a resource for information, funding, permits, etc. In response to a question, he advised that the quarterly

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meetings would take place in Gardnerville or Minden. He reiterated that the monthly meetings could be incorporated into the regular Committee meetings. In response to a further question, he discussed the response he has received from Alpine County, California. Discussion took place regarding the Leviathan Mine, and Member Wright suggested agendaizing a presentation by an Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) representative. Member Walsh expressed favor for Carson City’s participation in the CRMP.

Mr. Kaffer provided background information on development of the management plans. He explained that the upper watershed plan stops at the Mexican Dam because the EPA was requiring construction projects which had anything to do with mercury to be stopped. He indicated that this is the reason Carson City was not involved in the planning process from the beginning. He advised that Mr. Pugsley’s jurisdiction and the grants providing funding through the EPA stop at Mexican Dam. By participating in the CRMP, Carson City receives a benefit downstream from Mexican Dam. Mr. Kaffer commented that Mr. Pugsley had been one of the founding chairmen of the Middle Carson River CRMP.

Mr. Pugsley advised that, pursuant to a conversation with a Nevada Department of Environmental Protection representative, there is currently no permitting difficulty on any stretch of the Carson River relative to mercury. If any large amount of dirt ever has to be removed from the River, it may need to be transported to a hazardous materials landfill.

Member Hall inquired as to the action being requested of the Committee. Mr. Kastens suggested a motion to approve and to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that Carson City participate in the Coordinated Resource Management Plan regarding its relation to the Upper Carson River Management area. **Member Hall moved to accept Mr. Kastens’ recommended motion. Member Walsh seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0-3-0.**

F-5. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING SUPPORT OF A STREAM RESTORATION PROJECT TO IMPROVE WATER QUALITY AND EROSION CONTROL ON ASH CANYON CREEK, A TRIBUTARY OF THE CARSON RIVER (1-0644) - Mr. Kastens advised that there was no need for Chairperson Zimmerman to abstain from any vote on this item. Mr. Pugsley advised that Carson City has proposed a restoration project on Ash Canyon Creek in the area of Longview Way. He discussed the need to prioritize watershed projects relative to seeking funding. He advised of the possibility of assisting in acquiring funds for the subject project, and requested that the Committee provide an indication of this project’s priority. He offered to assist in acquiring the necessary permits for the project as well.

Supervisor Williamson inquired as to the involvement of the Storm Drainage Advisory Committee (“SDAC”). Chairperson Zimmerman expressed the opinion that the subject project is not under the purview of the SDAC. He advised that Mr. Azad had requested his firm to review the project in terms of erosion control, water quality improvements, and recreation. He indicated that the project would assist in controlling flood conditions. Supervisor Williamson advised that the Committee should not wait to take action on this item until the Board of Supervisors approves participation in the CRMP.

Member Walsh requested additional information on the project, specifically regarding the recreational opportunities. Mr. Pugsley discussed possible opportunities, including a walking/bicycle path. Member Wright requested additional information as well. Mr. Pugsley expressed the opinion that the City should

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present the project in more detail. Mr. Kastens advised that he would contact Mr. Azad. He advised that the open space areas at Long Ranch, except for the meadows, become City property after the development goes through as a PUD. The subject creek is in one of the open space areas. The recreational opportunities consist of existing paths throughout the subdivision. Mr. Kastens suggested that the Committee members visit Ash Canyon Creek, and advised that the proposal is to create a more passive creekbed such as has been done on Kings Canyon Creek. Supervisor Williamson acknowledged that a decision could be deferred until additional information is provided. Mr. Kaffer suggested reviewing the Committee's priorities and those in the surrounding watershed, and discussed the importance of not allowing new projects to become priorities over those already established. No formal action was taken.

F-6. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING A PRESENTATION AND UPDATE BY THE CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S VOLUNTEER GROUP ON THE TOP PROJECT PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED AS COMMITTEE GOALS (1-1912) - Chairperson Zimmerman advised of goal setting workshops over the past few years, and of a recent meeting among the subcommittee to review priorities. He reviewed the list of project priorities included in the agenda materials, and solicited comments and questions. Member Walsh inquired as to recreational access in the southern area (State Prison Lands), and Chairperson Zimmerman explained that it had not been included in the project priorities list because it requires further discussions with State Prison officials. Member Walsh further inquired as to prioritizing recreational access in the northern area. Chairperson Zimmerman indicated that the priority list is not exclusive and can be added to. Mr. Krahn referred to the priority list as a "living document" and advised that the intern will be working from it. Mr. Krahn referred to the Project Funding 2000 sources list included in the agenda materials and reviewed the same. Member Walsh advised that he will continue to pursue recreational access in the northern area. Mr. Krahn discussed the needed action on this item, and **Member Hall moved to accept the Carson River Advisory Committee's project priorities as listed. Member Wright seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0-3-0.**

Mr. Krahn reviewed the residential construction tax application submitted to the Parks and Recreation Commission for completion of Carson River Park Phase I. He explained the residential construction tax application process, and requested that the Committee prioritize the remaining aspects of the project in the event the application is partially funded. He reviewed the project list, and discussion ensued regarding the Committee's past direction for completion of the project and the project priorities. Supervisor Williamson suggested appointing a subcommittee to prioritize the remaining projects once funding is received, if any. Member Wright concurred. Mr. Krahn acknowledged that erosion control geofabric and rock rip rap will not be needed until the concrete landing ramp is constructed. Discussion took place regarding the benefits of the concrete landing ramp, and Chairperson Zimmerman expressed a preference for prioritizing the concrete landing ramp, the erosion control geofabric, and the rock rip rap. Discussion took place regarding the importance of the rock rip rap. Chairperson Zimmerman commented that the ramp has function, the curb is cosmetic, the tree pruning would be nice to have, and the gate is not as critical. Member Walsh commented that Supervisor Williamson's suggestion would allow the Committee to wait and find out how much funding is allocated, and convene a meeting of the subcommittee. Mr. Krahn acknowledged that this would be acceptable, and provided background information on the function of the subcommittee. Consensus of the Committee was to wait until a determination is made by the Parks and Recreation Commission. No formal action was taken.

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F-7. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING AN UPDATE OF THE NORTHERN SECTION OF THE CARSON RIVER; SPECIFICALLY ISSUES OF PRIVATE PROPERTY OWNERSHIP, AND HOW THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF THE V&T GRADE ALONG THE CARSON RIVER BETWEEN DEER RUN ROAD BRIDGE TO MOUNDHOUSE AFFECTS RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES (1-2488) - Member Walsh described the location of the subject area, and provided background information on this item. He referred to page 70 of the Carson River Master Plan and read a portion into the record. He advised of a recent field trip with Mr. Krahn and Mr. Guzman, at which time he pointed out the challenges to recreational access. He advised that the area is owned by five private property owners with certain portions managed by the BLM. He indicated that he has drafted a letter discussing the benefits of clean up projects, and advised that he will be mailing it to the private property owners. He will continue to update the Committee on his progress, and will organize the clean up project for the fall. Mr. Krahn discussed the benefit of the field trip, and advised that staff is interested in assisting as much as possible. Discussion took place regarding the possibility of land trades. No formal action was taken.

F-8. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING JOB DESCRIPTION FOR A POSSIBLE INTERN FROM THE GREAT BASIN INSTITUTE/NEVADA CONSERVATION CORPS TO ASSIST PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT STAFF WITH RESOURCE ASSESSMENT AND PROJECT CONSTRUCTION ISSUES/COSTS FOR FUTURE PROJECTS ALONG THE CARSON RIVER (1-0075) - Mr. Krahn advised that discussions had taken place between himself, Mr. Kastens and Mr. Kaffer regarding the possibility of developing an intern position. He indicated that Jerry Kier, of the Great Basin Institute/Nevada Conservation Corps had approached staff regarding available positions. Mr. Krahn provided background information on the Nevada Conservation Corps and the associated Americorps. He advised that the intern position would be partially funded through the Americorps program, and that matching funds may be available through the Western Nevada Resource Conservation and Development District and through the City.

Mr. Krahn referred to the job description distributed prior to the start of the meeting, and solicited comments from the Committee members. Chairperson Zimmerman expressed favor for the proposed position, and commented that the Parks and Recreation Department is the most logical place for the intern to be employed. Member Walsh concurred and inquired as to affiliation with the University system, or the possibility of college credit. Mr. Krahn explained the benefits to the intern, including stipends and college credit/tuition. He reviewed the resumé of John Warpeha attached to the job description. Discussion took place regarding whether or not the proposal would be submitted to the Parks and Recreation Commission for review. Mr. Kastens explained that the purpose of the agenda item was for Committee input and conceptual approval. Minimal funding will be required from the City and Mr. Kastens advised that it will not be necessary to submit the proposal to the Parks and Recreation Commission or to the Board of Supervisors for review and approval. Mr. Kaffer indicated that his organization is fully supportive of the intern position and will be providing the majority of the funding.

In response to a question, Mr. Krahn advised that Mr. Kier had indicated that Mr. Warpeha is the most qualified candidate. A telephone interview will take place prior to finalizing the decision. Chairperson Zimmerman pointed out that Mr. Warpeha's focus has primarily been on forestry. He suggested that there may be other qualified individuals with more watershed-specific experience. Mr. Kaffer indicated that he is comfortable with Mr. Warpeha's background, and commented that Kevin Piper, of the Middle Carson

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River Coordinated Resources Management Group, has a master's degree in forestry. Mr. Krahn reviewed the job description. In response to a question, he advised that if private property owners are interested, assistance could be made available. He indicated that efforts will be focused on City park and BLM property, and that the intern may be asked to research grant funding to perpetuate the position. He continued reviewing the job description.

Member Walsh moved to approve, research, further explore the Parks and Recreation Department's Carson River proposed intern. Member Wright seconded the motion. Mr. Kaffer requested that the motion include an indication that the intern could be hired if funds are available. He explained that a decision needs to be made in September. **Member Walsh amended his motion to indicate that the Committee endorses hiring for the Parks and Recreation Department's Carson River intern position. Member Wright continued her second. Motion carried 4-0-3-0.** Chairperson Zimmerman commended Mr. Kaffer, Mr. Pugsley, and Mr. Krahn on the proposal.

(1-0381) Mr. Pugsley advised that he could help the Carson River intern with permitting. He further advised that the Carson Valley Conservation District ("CVCD") is considering a similar intern position which will focus on the Carson Valley. (1-0614) He commented that his background is in banking.

F-9. DISCUSSION REGARDING FUTURE ITEMS AND MEETING DATES FOR THE CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (1-2664) - Mr. Krahn advised that Mr. Azad would be contacted to provide more information on Ash Canyon Creek and the tributary issue. Staff will continue to work with Member Walsh on agendizing a further status report on the northern section on the River. He invited the Committee members to call with other items for the October agenda.

G. ADJOURNMENT (1-2705) - Member Wright moved to adjourn the meeting. Member Walsh seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0-3-0.

The Minutes of the September 6, 2000 meeting of the Carson River Advisory Committee are so approved this _____ day of November, 2000.

CHARLES ZIMMERMAN, Chairperson