

CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
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A regular meeting of the Carson River Advisory Committee was held on Wednesday, February 4, 1998 in the Community Center Sierra Room, 851 E. William St., Carson City, NV at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Chairperson Mark Kimbrough
Vice Chairperson Marian Battaglia
Claire Clift
David Johnson
Bill Piccolo
Barbara Wright
James Zimmerman

STAFF: Walter Sullivan, Community Development Director
Steve Kastens, Parks and Recreation Director
Juan Guzman, Senior Planner
Vern Krahn, Park Planner
Fran Smith, Recording Secretary
(CRA 2/4/98 1-0000.5)

NOTE - Unless otherwise indicated each item was introduced by Chairperson Kimbrough. 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 Kimbrough called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. A roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

B. COMMITTEE ACTION

1. Approval of Minutes - Member Clift moved to approve the Minutes of the January 7, 1998 meeting. Member Zimmerman seconded the motion. Member Battaglia questioned the inclusion of the "Colorado" river in the Minutes. The secretary will look into this. Motion carried 7-0.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT - (1-0049.5) Tom Quigley asked if there could be an agenda item at the next meeting relating to keeping vehicle traffic away from the river because this is in the Master Plan. He would like to see an ordinance enacted to keep this traffic from the riparian area of the City owned property. He explained he had been preparing to photograph bald eagles but they had been scared off by a vehicle coming down the hill. Mr. Sullivan said he could put something on the agenda.

D. MODIFICATION TO THE AGENDA - Chairperson Kimbrough put Item 2 as the first item to be discussed.

E. DISCLOSURES - None.

F. PUBLIC HEARINGS

F-2 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING A LETTER FROM ERICK AND JULIE MASSA CONCERNING THE POSSIBLE AMENDMENT TO THE MASTER PLAN LAND USE OF PARCEL 10-582-04 - Mr. Massa had written a letter to Community Development outlining all his concerns regarding the proposed zoning change from A to P. He also had photos which he presented to the Committee. He expounded on the fire hazard that is possible when people are allowed in the area. He spoke at length about the junk people leave which has to be removed and how it affects the wildlife. He also mentioned its proximity to his property and said it is about the only area where the wildlife can sustain itself because of development and wanted it preserved. He also commented on the damage beavers have done to the trees in the area and said he had contacted many agencies about this and the other problems but had not seen any mitigation. At this point

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Chairperson Kimbrough said there are some funds that can be given to private property owners so that they can work on protecting their properties. He also explained that the Committee has already done some work with BLM on alleviating the trespassing problem, the illegal camping, and campfires. He also felt that Mr. Massa should have a copy of the Master Plan which he could study and asked Mr. Sullivan to see that he gets a copy. Mr. Massa then provided a detailed chronology of occurrences where the authorities had to be called to mitigate problems and remove persons involved in illegal activities. He reiterated his concern with the trees the beavers had cut and said he did not want to have to wait many years for new growth nor did he want his descendents to have to wait. Member Clift asked if there is a list of property owners to whom a letter could be sent advising them of the funding for repairs and Chairperson Kimbrough said the Assessor's Office could help. Mr. Guzman said Community Development could also be of assistance. Member Piccolo asked what could be done to get more patrols in the area. Mr. Kastens said his park ranger makes daily trips to Carson River Park and Riverview Park and also keeps an eye on the area on the east side of the river. He also said the Sheriff had told the Committee he does not have the manpower to commit to patrolling the area and had talked about the possibility of the volunteer posse becoming more involved. He felt if there are problems the citizens can call and the authorities would respond as soon as possible. Member Piccolo asked about the use of Question #18 funding for additional personnel. Mr. Kastens said they are looking at the possibility of this but that the Question #18 funding cannot be used for that because it is specifically for the operation and maintenance of new areas being developed and cannot be used to supplement care of existing facilities. He explained that requests for additional staff go through the budget process. He suggested that the Committee attend the sessions and show their support. Mr. Quigley commented on how some communities use park hosts to keep an eye on things and also keep them clean. He said these are sometimes seniors who will do this for a small amount or volunteer. He felt this could possibly be considered by the City. Member Johnson said he supported open space but felt if it cannot be kept safe the City might as well not have it. The discussion returned to the letter from Mr. Massa on the the possibility of changing the zoning on the parcel discussed earlier. Mr. Sullivan referred to the concern of Mr. Massa if the parcel is zoned "P" there would be degradation resulting from the public being allowed on it. He explained if there is Federal, State, or City property it is zoned as Public property but that does not necessarily mean the public can go anywhere they want on it. He added in the Master Plan there is a designation of where trails are to be, how they are to be constructed, and it is taken into account that there does not have to be a trail next to the water that can cause problems. He noted that hopefully the public would stay with the trails. At this point Chairperson Kimbrough said after Mr. Massa studies the plan the Committee can get together with him and visit the site to see how his concerns can be mitigated. No formal action was taken.

F-1 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING SUPPORT FOR A TRADE OF LANDS BETWEEN JOHN SERPA AND THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM) ON PROPERTIES ALONG THE CARSON RIVER EAST OF DEER RUN ROAD BRIDGE, SOUTH OF U.S. HIGHWAY 50 EAST AT THE CARSON CITY/LYON COUNTY LINE, AND EAST OF GONI ROAD AND IMMEDIATELY NORTH OF THE INDUSTRIAL AREA - (1-0768.5) Mr. Sullivan read from a letter received by City Manager John Berkich from Capital Engineering in which they indicated they were providing a map indicating the City properties associated with the proposal. (The secretary did not get a copy of the letter or map.) He visually pointed out the properties involved and noted the size of each. He said the proposal would also be reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Open Space Advisory Committee and that staff was recommending support. He also said he had toured the area near the river and that there is indeed a lot of trash and that Mr. Serpa has submitted a letter saying he has not given anyone permission to camp there or otherwise cause a problem. Member Johnson asked if there are plans for the acreage near the golf course. Mr. Kastens said it was his understanding that Mr. Serpa has approved development rights. Member Wright asked if anyone had visited the property involved in the proposed exchange. Mr. Sullivan said he believed BLM would have the properties surveyed to make sure there are no chemicals, that no people are displaced, and to find out if there are any cultural resources. Chairperson Kimbrough noted that property owners are coming forth with trade proposals and suggested a list be made rather than look at these one at a time. Mr. Sullivan said he could work with BLM to develop a list. Member Wright asked about water rights on the properties and Mr. Kastens emphasized these are not City properties but rather BLM lands being traded for private properties. He added he was not aware of any water rights that are available on the three areas. Member Battaglia asked if the support being sought was for the river area and was it also being sought for the parcels not at the river. She said she supported the idea for the river

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area but had a concern with all the proposals being received as noted previously. Mr. Kastens approved Committee support for the river area but was not sure their support for anything beyond the river was anything more than citizen comments. He said he would also be taking the proposal to the Parks and Recreation Commission for their consideration. Member Johnson then moved that the Committee support in concept the proposed land swap between John Serpa and BLM. Member Zimmerman seconded the motion. Mr. Quigley said there is a parcel on Deer Run Road across from the river where someone had attempted to put in a sand pit a number of years ago. He asked if the BLM has plans are for it and suggested this be taken into consideration. Member Piccolo asked if the motion could be changed to include Committee support for recreational use only. Chairperson Kimbrough said the plans call for withdrawing those types of uses on those parcels but there has never been any support for borrow pit use or changing recreational use. Member Johnson suggested amending his motion to include with it is with the understanding that the ultimate land use would be in accordance with the Committee's Master Plan. He then amended his motion to included that the Committee go on record as supporting the land transfer between John Serpa and BLM which in principle as long as it meets the guidelines for the land use set forth in the Committee's Master Plan for the river. Member Zimmerman accepted the amended motion. Member Wright said it was her understanding that BLM would not disturb the historical ruins on the property. Motion carried 7-0.

F-3 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING PRIORITIZATION OF PROJECTS ALONG THE CARSON RIVER - (1-1315.5) This had been discussed at the previous meeting and Member Clift felt rather than discuss it at this meeting suggested perhaps there could be a workshop. Chairperson Kimbrough noted the Committee had indicated their desire for a workshop and said they needed to set a date. Discussion ensued and it was agreed to have it March 21 or 28. Chairperson Kimbrough will contact BLM to see if their conference room would be available. The Committee will discuss this again at their next meeting. No formal action was taken.

F-4 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING A PROPOSED LETTER TO THE NEVADA STATE PRISON AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO - (1-1443.5) Chairperson Kimbrough talked about the meeting he, Member Clift and Chuck Wright had with the land manager at the prison. He said parcel maps are needed for the area outside the City limits to Cradlebaugh Bridge to show prison ownership and that which is private property. He explained that a proposal for public access could not be made until this is resolved. He noted he had gotten a price of \$150 for the maps. He felt once they are available then the private property owners could be contacted to see how they feel about the proposal for a trail system before going to the prison with a presentation. He expressed his belief that Community Development has funding available to have the maps produced and Mr. Sullivan said he would look to see if funding is there and suggested a motion be made to approve the \$150. Member Johnson moved to approve an expenditure not to exceed \$150 for the preparation of a parcel map. Member Clift seconded the motion. Member Piccolo asked how many property owners are involved and Chairperson Kimbrough said it is basically the Danberg Ranch. Motion carried 7-0. Chairperson Kimbrough then said there is a person in Las Vegas who supervises the whole prison operation and is the next level to discuss this with before the letter is sent and emphasized this has to do with the security issue.

F-5 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN - (1-1563.5) Chairperson Kimbrough said Member Battaglia had indicated an interest in serving as Chairperson but this had been delayed because of her recent illness. Member Battaglia said she could not commit to this because of medical issues mentioned earlier which would take place in the next six months. Chairperson Kimbrough said he could not serve a second term because of his work schedule. Member Clift did not feel any of the new members should serve yet because of the learning curve. Member Johnson moved that the Committee defer consideration of elections for Chairperson and Vice Chairperson until the July meeting. Vice Chairperson Battaglia seconded the motion. Member Zimmerman felt in the meantime the other Members should help Chairperson Kimbrough with his workload. Motion carried 7-0-1. (Chairperson Kimbrough abstained.)

G. INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (NON-ACTION)

G-1 Committee Member Comments

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1. Report of a Meeting Held January 28, 1998 to Establish the Goals and Missions for a United Vision of the Carson River Watershed by Each Planning Group Working on the River - (1-1695.5) Kevin Piper representing the Middle Carson River Management group - Chairperson Kimbrough talked about the groups who had been represented and explained what each group has been focusing on. He also noted that the Legislators want the groups to be a unit when they seek funding. Mr. Piper talked about the areas and projects each group is working on and the process for seeking funding.

G-2 Staff Comments

1. Status Report Regarding Contact with Property Owners on Construction of a Trail Along the Western Boundary of Land Recently Acquired by Carson City as Open Space Located East of the Empire Ranch Golf Course and Other Matters Related Thereto - (1-1873.5) Chairperson Kimbrough clarified that the Committee has been working with Parks and Recreation Director Steve Kastens to come up with a solution to the concern about a trail having been developed on the west side of the river between it and the golf course. Mr. Kastens said he and Park Planner Vern Krahn had walked the affected area with Pete Anderson of NDF. He added that Mr. Peterson had provided input regarding restoration. He also said Mr. Peterson had given them names of contacts at the Army Corps of Engineers in the area where they are involved. He then commented that he and Mr. Krahn are in the process of finalizing their letter of recommendation to Stanton Park Development on what their action should be to mitigate the problem with the trail. Member Battaglia asked for clarification as to whether there should be a trail there or not. Mr. Kastens explained there should not be a section of trail that was created by the developer. He added that the staff recommendation to the developer was where the flood had taken out a part of his dike separating the golf course property from the river they had not rebuilt the dike at the original width and the fence on the dike was not placed so that there were four feet on the east side. Therefore, they had created a new path. He added he was comfortable that the reconstruction of the dike to its original size allows for the four feet. He also said the other issue is the barbed wire fence and they are going to remove it and go to a smooth strand wire so there will not be any liability to the developer or the City. He will bring a report to the Committee at the next meeting.

2. Status Report of the Silver Saddle Ranch Advisory Task Force Meeting on January 24, 1998 - (1-2145.5) Mr. Krahn said BLM had provided a lot of good information. He provided details on what had been discussed and said they had also taken a tour of the ranch. He then said there is another meeting scheduled for February 11 where they will discuss alternatives. These include removal of some of the buildings and turning others into interpretive centers, passive recreational opportunities, and turning the property into a working ranch. He added that the current big issue is the water which the City owns and wants to be paid for. However, he noted that BLM is working with the City on a resolution. He had also provided a copy of the BLM draft interim management plan for the ranch and said Tom Abbett of BLM would be bringing some clarifications to the next meeting. Member Battaglia asked if restoration of the riparian area is being treated as a separate part of the plan. Mr. Krahn said the wetlands and the wildlife areas are important to BLM and as a minimum they would be as they are as part of the ranching. He added that alternatives being discussed are their expansion and that of the vegetation. Member Wright asked about the possibility of seeking funding from the Board for the ranch and asked what the process is. Mr. Kastens said staff would have to do any budget requests. He added they would be looking at budget year July 1, 1998 to June 30, 1999 and until there is a plan in place he did not know what kind of a funding request it would be. He also mentioned the possibility of spending capital on the parcel because it was purchased and said Mr. Abbett was not sure if they could do RP&Ps on it. He reiterated what Mr. Krahn had said about the big issue being the water rights. Mr. Krahn said City Manager Berkich had asked for cost figures and the Utility Department is working on this.

3. Status Report Regarding the Open Space Advisory Committee Activities - (1-2415.5) Mr. Guzman talked about the neighborhood meetings that were held for the purpose of getting public input on open space issues. He explained that Committee members, staff, consultants had split into groups at the four meetings at schools in the quadrants of the City. He had maps that had been used on of which depicted the areas where the public had come from and what they felt were priorities for open space. He also talked about the polygons on the

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map which showed where TRPA, State Parks and BLM have jurisdiction. He noted staff and the Committee had asked the public how they felt about the three gateways to the City, the valley floor, and the river area. He said they had also provided questionnaires for the public to provide input on their definition of open space, wildlife habitat, development, and what they felt their legacy would be. Mr. Krahn stated that CAT 10 would be running videos on the meetings with Mr. Winston in the next couple of weeks. Mr. Guzman then talked about the Open Space Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for February 23 which will be a workshop with the U. S. Forest Service and the public to discuss management of the areas they control in the City and invited the Committee to attend. This will be at the Sierra Room.

Member Zimmerman left at 8:29 p.m. A quorum was present.

G-3 STATUS REPORT REGARDING ACTIVITIES ALONG THE UPPER AND LOWER CARSON RIVER - (1-2795.5) Mr. Piper said downstream in the Dayton valley area there are ten emergency watershed projects two of whom have been surveyed and designed and completed. He added there are three under construction and several are waiting to go out to contract. He noted they are trying to get projects done by spring runoff.

G-4 STATUS REPORT REGARDING BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT TRAILS GRANT AND DRAFT TRAILHEAD PLAN - (1-2823.5) Chairperson Kimbrough said this is something that Tom Abbett needs to talk about but he was not at the meeting. Therefore, this will be agendized for the next meeting.

G-5 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT CRAC MEETING ON MARCH 4, 1998 - (1-2835.5) Chairperson Kimbrough said he had been asked to agendize a discussion on ordinances relating to the river.

Mr. Quigley said the Director of State Lands had offered her assistance if anyone asked about doing work on the river bed. He explained an area of interest is north of Lloyd's Bridge where there are obstructions to rafting and she had said the concrete and other impediments could be moved without a problem. Chairperson Kimbrough said that could also be agendized.

Chairperson Kimbrough also asked to have something on budget items on the next meeting agenda and Mr. Kastens said he would handle that. Mr. Kastens commented on the possibility of requesting funding at the budget hearings for another park ranger to handle the river area.

H. ADJOURNMENT - There being no further business Member Johnson moved to adjourn. Member Piccolo seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0. Chairperson Kimbrough adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

The Minutes of the February 4, 1998 meeting of the Carson River Advisory Committee

ARE SO APPROVED __3/4__ , 1998

/s/ _____
Mark Kimbrough, Chairperson