

CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the June 7, 2006 Meeting

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A regular meeting of the Carson River Advisory Committee was scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 7, 2006 in the Community Center Sierra Room, 851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada.

PRESENT: Chairperson Charles Zimmerman
Tom Farrer
Dan Greytak
Mark McCubbin
Randy Pahl
Ernie Rink

STAFF: Roger Moellendorf, Parks and Recreation Department Director
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 DETERMINATION OF QUORUM (5:31:41) - Chairperson Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. Roll was called; a quorum was present. Vice Chairperson Pugsley was absent.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS (5:32:06) - None.

1. ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES - March 1, 2006 and May 3, 2006 (5:32:37) - Member Rink moved to approve the minutes. Member Pahl seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

2. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA (5:34:00) - None.

3. AGENDA ITEMS:

3-A. ACTION TO MAKE FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS ON MODIFICATIONS TO THE CARON RIVER AQUATIC TRAIL PLAN WHICH WILL BE INCORPORATED INTO THE UNIFIED PATHWAYS MASTER PLAN (5:34:24) - Mr. Moellendorf introduced Resource Concepts, Inc. Hydrologist / Fluvial Geomorphologist Lynn Zonge, and provided background information on this item. He referred to written comments provided by Members Pahl and Rink, which were included in the agenda materials. Ms. Zonge provided an overview of the aquatic trail plan and the map, both of which were included in the agenda materials. Member Rink pointed out a needed revision, and Ms. Zonge reviewed additional needed revisions to the map. She requested the committee members to submit additional suggested revisions. She displayed a copy of the ACA Guidelines for Safe River Kayaking, and suggested including a modified version as part of the map. Mr. Moellendorf advised of additional adjustments to the plan based on input from the public and from this committee. He further advised that the Mexican Dam and that portion of the River downstream of the Santa Maria Ranch have been removed from the plan. He acknowledged that the aquatic trail route begins at a point below the Mexican Dam and goes to the Santa Maria Ranch area for purposes of the study.

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Ms. Zonge responded to questions regarding the names of the rapids, as indicated on the map. Member Pahl expressed support for the addition of a section outlining needs, opportunities, and constraints. In response to a question, Ms. Zonge advised that a plan will be written specifically for Lyon County. In response to a comment, she suggested adding a separate section to the plan outlining improvements in Lyon County. Member Pahl suggested including language to indicate the need for acquiring land for purposes of portage. He noted that the possibility of intermediate stops in the canyon had been identified in the plan. Mr. Moellendorf advised that most of the property on both sides of the River, downstream from the Brunswick Canyon Bridge, is private. The area is one of the highest priorities of the Open Space Advisory Committee. Mr. Moellendorf agreed that the goal of acquiring ownership or recreational easements should be clearly stated in the plan. Member Greytak suggested including "a way to walk out" which should involve an easement. He agreed with conceptually including connectivity with the aquatic trail.

Member Farrer inquired as to concessionaire fees, whether there will be enough potential to create viable funds that will make any kind of difference for improvement of the aquatic trail. Mr. Moellendorf advised of many examples of public and private concessionaires which operate along rivers. He suggested that, at this point, "with much of the River coursing through private property, that's a little problematic." He advised of cases where inner-tube rentals have paid for management of similar facilities. He noted the potential based on the success of the Truckee River Aquatic Trail. Ms. Zonge advised that a private organization runs the concession at the Truckee River and pays an annual fee to the City of Reno. Mr. Moellendorf discussed economic benefits to the community of events such as soccer, softball, and swimming tournaments, and noted the Aquatic Trail represents another attraction. Member Farrer inquired as to whether the revenues generated could be used to reimburse private property owners for use and liability. Ms. Zonge discussed the benefits of community-sponsored clean up days. Member Farrer agreed, but noted the Carson River runs through a rural area with private property. Chairperson Zimmerman commented that people who use public and private lands, from a recreational standpoint, generally clean up after themselves. Discussion followed, and Ms. Zonge noted the emphasis on River clean up included in the plan. Mr. Moellendorf suggested that, depending upon what happens with regard to ownership of property, some type of funding could be allocated to private property owners to assist in management and clean up of property. He noted an earlier comment that the V&T Railroad will prohibit the type of vehicular access which has taken place in the past. He anticipates this will improve the canyon, i.e., with less trash, litter, and dumping than has been seen in the past. Member Farrer expressed the opinion that the V&T Railway may increase litter in the canyon.

Member Pahl expressed a preference for the plan to include language indicating the need for future improvements to Mexican Dam and possible connectivity in Douglas County. Ms. Zonge advised that several people, with strong ties to the ranching community in Douglas County, "think that would not be a prudent idea," and strongly recommended leaving it out. Mr. Moellendorf suggested there may be opportunities to address the idea once the Aquatic Trail is successful in Carson City. Member McCubbin advised of having rafted the Carson River to Wolf Creek last Saturday. He counted over 40 kayakers and a number of campgrounds which appeared to be used mostly by kayakers. He suggested including a campground in the plan.

In response to a question, Mr. Moellendorf reviewed the tentative public hearing schedule as outlined in the staff report. In response to a further question, he advised that the campground suggestion would be considered, including its possible location and feasibility. Discussion took place with regard to possible action, and Chairperson Zimmerman called for public comment.

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(6:02:15) Attorney Ryan Russell, of the Allison, MacKenzie law firm representing Mark and Sandra Gregory, advised that the Gregorys appreciate the Mexican Dam has been removed from the plan.

Chairperson Zimmerman called for additional public comment and, when none was forthcoming, entertained a motion. **Member McCubbin moved to approve the plan, as is, with some consideration for modifications to include the possibility of a campground location. Member Pahl seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.**

3-B. UPDATE AND DISCUSSION ONLY REGARDING THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION TIME LINE FOR CARSON RIVER PARK'S DAY USE AREA; A QUESTION #1, STATE OF NEVADA CONSERVATION AND RESOURCE PROTECTION GRANT PROGRAM CONSTRUCTION PROJECT (6:04:28) - Mr. Moellendorf reviewed the staff report. He advised that improvements include a small picnic shelter, a small turf area, and installation of playground equipment. He noted the park could become a model for future parks, with an emphasis on natural elements and connection to trail systems. He further noted that the park could serve as a trail head for the Silver Saddle Ranch and the Aquatic Trail, and as a neighborhood park for the Pinion Hills area. In response to a question, he advised of a hesitancy, on the part of the BLM, to include playground equipment at the park. He noted that the development schedule depends heavily on a successful memorandum of understanding between the City and the BLM. He acknowledged that the memorandum of understanding would pertain only to the park.

3-C. UPDATE AND DISCUSSION ONLY REGARDING THE PROPOSED MOTORIZED/ NON-MOTORIZED TRAIL SYSTEMS IN THE CARSON RIVER CANYON LOCATED EAST OF THE DEER RUN ROAD BRIDGE AND ALONG THE CARSON RIVER (6:11:45) - Mr. Moellendorf provided historic information on use of the subject area for recreation purposes. He advised of an obligation to ensure a recreational pathway through the Carson River Canyon from Carson City to Lyon County. He explained the City's willingness to take on the responsibility, including that planning of a recreational trail fits well with staff's expertise and that there is a vested interest in providing recreational access into the canyon. He noted the significant challenge to develop a pathway through the canyon with an adjacent railroad bed. He advised that staff had spent a considerable amount of time scoping the canyon to determine the appropriate location for the pathway. Staff determined the potential "to be able to connect the dots" and eventually develop a trail that will course through the canyon. In some cases, access from the canyon, for emergency response and maintenance, may be required. Mr. Moellendorf advised that staff is fairly confident a trail can be established through the canyon. He clarified that development of the project would most likely have to be phased. He discussed funding mechanisms and other potential development in the area, and suggested that the Carson River Canyon trail could become a significant recreational amenity and destination point for residents and visitors.

In response to a question, Mr. Moellendorf advised that the trail, in most locations, would be below the railroad track and down closer to the river. He reviewed possible trail alignments. In response to a further question, he advised that staff will do as much work as possible in-house and turn over design to an architectural and engineering firm at some point in the future. Member Greytak noted several unknowns, but expressed the opinion that staff's investigation is very proactive.

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3-D. ACTION TO REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE EXISTING AND POTENTIAL PROJECTS TO BE FUNDED THROUGH APPLICATIONS TO THE QUESTION #1, STATE OF NEVADA CONSERVATION AND RESOURCE PROTECTION GRANT PROGRAM (6:19:44) - Mr. Moellendorf reviewed the staff report and the attachments. He referred to the Question #1 Opportunities map displayed in the meeting room.

(6:24:06) Carson Fly Fishing Club Vice President C.K. Baily provided background information on the urban fishing pond and the Question #1 funding allocated from the Nevada Department of Wildlife (“NDOW”). He discussed the need for amenities such as a handicapped pier and appropriate landscape. He noted the benefit of the fishing pond to the community’s quality of life and economy. He requested to have the fishing pond included in the list of priority projects. He responded to questions regarding the source of water for the fishing pond, the difference between this pond and a commercially-operated pond in Douglas County, and NDOW’s responsibility for operating the fishery aspect of the pond. Member McCubbin expressed concerns with regard to parking in conjunction with the adjacent casino and whether the 15-foot depth will be sufficient to support fish. Mr. Baily explained the “put and take” nature of the fishery, as defined by NDOW. He advised that 15-feet is a sufficient depth. (6:34:44) Mr. Baily compared the urban fishing pond design to Wilson Commons in Washoe County. He referred a question regarding cost estimates to Park Planner Vern Krahn and Engineering Division Senior Project Manager Robb Fellows.

Member McCubbin reiterated concerns over the depth of the pond. Mr. Moellendorf advised that NDOW fisheries biologists have been involved in the design process since the beginning. He further advised that the casino development will not infringe upon any park land. In fact, the new master plan indicates a substantial amount of parking to be added to the Fairgrounds area and to the west end of the park. Member Greytak advised there is no direct connection between the pond and Clear Creek. Fish from the creek will not mix with the pond; the pond is a stand-alone fishery. Member Greytak advised the urban fishing pond is an alternative to the pond at Ross Gold Park.

In response to a question, Mr. Moellendorf explained the purpose for agendaizing this item. He expressed the opinion that phase 2 of the urban fishing pond project is worthy of consideration by this committee and by the Question #1 subcommittee. In response to a question, Mr. Moellendorf explained staff’s recommended action, as outlined in the staff report. Member Farrer expressed concern over previously prioritized River projects being deleted from the list, and over allocating funding which could be used for River projects to recreational amenities. In response to a question, Mr. Moellendorf provided additional clarification with regard to the purpose of the agenda item. Member Farrer expressed support for the urban fishing pond, but pointed out that it represents a capital expenditure. He reiterated concern over giving up funding for River projects “for a recreation department project” if the City is having trouble funding capital expenditures.

(6:46:47) Jon Paul Kiel, representing the Division of State Lands Question #1 Program, explained that \$10 million was initially available for the Carson River. The pertinent jurisdictions agreed to “split the pot” and receive \$2.5 million each so as not to compete for the \$10 million. Carson River corridor projects are ultimately reviewed by the Carson Water Subconservancy District. Mr. Kiel advised of an additional \$55.5 million, administered by the Division of State Lands, for other projects such as acquisitions and recreational trail construction. He provided background information on reasons for having to remove projects from the

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priority list. He advised that, at this point in time, competition for funding “really isn’t there, but we’re getting closer.” He explained Division of State Lands staff’s intent to provide the City the opportunity to decide priority projects.

In response to a question, Mr. Moellendorf noted the recommendation in the staff report to explore Division of State Lands Question #1 funding for phase 2 of the urban fishing pond project. He explained staff’s intent that the project was not related to the Carson River and should be competitive on a statewide basis. Chairperson Zimmerman expressed concern over attempting to take action on this item without sufficient time to review the projects. He expressed further concern over prioritized projects which have not yet been funded. Mr. Moellendorf explained delays associated with negotiation of the conservation easement for a portion of Horse Creek Ranch, and with negotiations between the City and the BLM over the memorandum of understanding for Carson River Park. Delays are project specific. Mr. Moellendorf expressed understanding for the daunting nature of the task of prioritizing projects, and provided a recommendation with regard to the committee’s action.

Member Farrer advised of an understanding of the Question #1 allocations for the Carson River and for statewide competitive projects. He noted that each allocation requires match funding, and reiterated concerns over the unavailability of City funding for capital expenditures. Mr. Moellendorf advised that acquisition of open space along the River has been a priority because “that’s where we have our best funding source.” Member Farrer agreed “that’s where we should be putting our effort.” Member Greytak advised he would be out of town on Monday, June 26th, and suggested another committee member take his place as a member of the Question #1 subcommittee. He agreed that the previously prioritized projects were good projects. Chairperson Zimmerman suggested that Member Farrer take Member Greytak’s place as a member of the subcommittee.

Chairperson Zimmerman entertained a motion and, when none was forthcoming, suggested that the committee trust the representatives appointed to the subcommittee to carry forward the existing prioritization of River projects, recognizing the financial constraints and relationship to the River of the three additional projects recommended by staff. Member Pahl suggested that the whole idea of trying to prioritize 14 projects, many of which are not within the committee’s purview, is too difficult.

(7:05:03) Mr. Kiel suggested simplifying the prioritization exercise by appropriately categorizing each project.

Chairperson Zimmerman entertained a motion. **Member Greytak moved that the three representatives to the working group for prioritization of Question #1 funding for Carson City be Randy Pahl, Tom Farrer, and Paul Pugsley; and that in their representation of the Carson River Advisory Committee they choose to prioritize, at the highest level possible, those projects which this committee had prioritized as being the most important. Member Rink seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.**

3-E. ACTION REGARDING THE CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE ORGANIZING, SCHEDULING AND SPONSORING CARSON RIVER WORK DAY EVENTS IN CARSON CITY (7:08:41) - Mr. Moellendorf provided background information on this item, and inquired as to the committee’s desire to organize a work day event. In response to a question, Member Greytak advised that Vice Chairperson Pugsley would be familiar with work which needs to be done along the River. He reviewed previous discussion regarding a work day. He noted available funding through

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Western Nevada Resource Conservation and Development, and the Kiwanis Club's annual work day event. He suggested a proactive educational or work day project to improve habitat or River function. He further suggested that a volunteer working group develop details of a proposal for presentation to the committee at a future meeting. Member McCubbin suggested assisting Julie Koop's class with the interpretive trail which was presented at the last meeting. Member Greytak suggested the committee could also assist with the aquatic trail, the put in at Riverview Park, a project at the Morgan Mill site, installation of signs, etc. He offered to lead the working group, and Member Rink volunteered to participate. Additional project possibilities were discussed, and Chairperson Zimmerman entertained a motion. **Member Pahl moved to form a working group to consider and identify potential future projects for review by the full committee. Member Rink seconded the motion.** Discussion took place regarding possible event dates in conjunction with the next regular committee meeting. In response to a question, Members Greytak and Rink reiterated their intent to participate in the working group. Vice Chairperson Pugsley was nominated to participate. **Member Pahl so amended his motion. Member Rink continued his second.** Mr. Moellendorf requested the committee members to contact him or Park Planner Vern Krahn with suggested projects. Chairperson Zimmerman suggested that the working group involve Dan Kaffer in their meetings. He called for a vote on the pending motion; **motion carried 6-0.**

3-F. ACTION TO SELECT VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO INDIVIDUALLY REVIEW AND EVALUATE THE CURRENT CARSON RIVER MASTER PLAN, AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO BRING IT INTO COMPLIANCE WITH THE RECENTLY ADOPTED COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN, PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN, AND UNIFIED PATHWAYS MASTER PLAN (7:19:52) - Mr. Moellendorf explained the purpose of this item in response to a question. Chairperson Zimmerman volunteered to participate. He expressed the opinion that the process will be much more efficient if staff is involved in developing a method for cross-referencing the plans. Mr. Moellendorf advised that staff would definitely assist. Member McCubbin volunteered to participate. In response to a question, Mr. Moellendorf advised that Mr. Krahn would be assigned to assist the volunteer work group because of his familiarity with all three master plan elements. Mr. Moellendorf expressed the opinion that the process will be relatively short and simple. Chairperson Zimmerman entertained a motion. **Member Farrer moved that Chairperson Zimmerman and Member McCubbin serve as the volunteer work group to review the Carson River Master Plan element to ensure that it is in compliance with the other three plans. Member Pahl seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.**

3-G. ACTION TO DEVELOP AND RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS THE CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S GOALS AND WORK PLAN FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2006/2007 (7:25:41) - Mr. Moellendorf reviewed the staff report and the attachments. Chairperson Zimmerman requested the committee members to provide him with suggestions for annual goals, and offered to organize the same. In response to a question, Mr. Moellendorf requested that the task be completed before December. Chairperson Zimmerman requested the committee members to provide input by mid-July. Member Greytak thanked Chairperson Zimmerman.

4. NON-ACTION ITEMS:

STATUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM STAFF (7:30:46) - None.

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MEMBERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION (7:31:04) -

Member Greytak advised of having floated the upper and the lower aquatic trail route, and suggested everyone should do the same. He discussed the experience, and commented that the aquatic trail plan is very proactive.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (7:32:15) - Previously covered.

6. ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT (7:32:40) - Member McCubbin moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 p.m. Member Pahl seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

The Minutes of the June 7, 2006 Carson River Advisory Committee meeting are so approved this 2nd day of August, 2006.

CHARLES ZIMMERMAN, Chair