

## **CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **Minutes of the October 6, 2004 Meeting**

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A regular meeting of the Carson River Advisory Committee was scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 6, 2004 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  
Keith Wills

**STAFF:** Roger Moellendorf, Parks and Recreation Department Director  
Scott Fahrenbruch, Parks and Recreation Department Director of Operations  
Juan Guzman, Open Space Manager  
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 during regular business hours.

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL (1-0007)** - Chairperson Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. Roll was called; a quorum was present. Vice Chairperson Pugsley was absent.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS (1-0014)** - None.

**1. ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES - September 1, 2004 (1-0019)** - Member Greytak moved to accept the minutes, as presented. Member McCubbin seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

**2. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (1-0030)** - None.

**3. AGENDA ITEMS:**

**3-A. INTRODUCTION OF ROGER MOELLENDORF, PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR (1-0035)** - Mr. Fahrenbruch introduced Mr. Moellendorf, and reviewed the staff report which outlined his experience and achievements as Director of Parks and Recreation in Green River, Wyoming. Chairperson Zimmerman welcomed Mr. Moellendorf, who commented that he looks forward to working with the Committee.

**3-B. PRESENTATION OF THE 2004 CARSON RIVER AWARDS TO THE CARSON RIVER COALITION EDUCATION WORKING GROUP AND STEPHEN D. KASTENS (1-0056)** - Chairperson Zimmerman presented an award to the Carson River Coalition Education Working Group, and expressed the Committee's great appreciation to Genie Azad, Ed James, Mary Kay Riedl, JoAnn Skelly, John Coburn, Steve Lewis, and Dan Kaffer.

Chairperson Zimmerman presented an award to "distinguished alumnus of the Parks and Recreation Department" Steve Kastens. In response to a question, Mr. Kastens advised that he had been involved with this Committee from its inception. Chairperson Zimmerman expressed appreciation to Mr. Kastens for his time and efforts in making the Carson River a great focal point in the community.

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**3-C. UPDATE ONLY ON THE 2004 CARSON RIVER CONFERENCE (1-0118)** - Genie Azad, of the Carson Water Subconservancy District, invited the Committee members and any interested citizens to the conference. She provided an overview of the conference agenda and contact information which was included in the agenda materials.

**3-D. ACTION TO SUPPORT AND FACILITATE THE CARSON RIVER COALITION EDUCATION WORKING GROUP'S MISSION AND EFFORTS ON THE CARSON RIVER WITHIN CARSON CITY, INCLUDING DEVELOPING A PARTNERSHIP ON AN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY EDUCATION GRANT (1-0146)** - Ms. Azad introduced Mary Kay Riedl, of the Nevada Department of Environmental Protection, and advised that the Carson River Coalition has met, on several occasions, with the Committee's education working group. She discussed a suggestion by Park Planner Vern Krahn to expand on the Carson River Watershed Map project by developing a map which focuses on Carson City's portion of the River.

Ms. Riedl described U.S. Environmental Protection Agency grant funding opportunities for environmental education, and suggested a small, collaborative effort to highlight the Carson River within the Carson City limits. She advised that the grant application deadline is November 15, 2004; the funding would be made available by July 2005. She requested a letter of commitment from the Committee outlining services and expertise which could be contributed toward developing the environmental education portion of the grant and the subsequent project. She reviewed the educational priorities outlined in the grant program materials included in the agenda packets. She and Ms. Azad are developing the grant proposal which she offered to present to the Committee prior to the November 15<sup>th</sup> deadline.

Ms. Riedl described an outreach effort to develop a pilot program through Empire Elementary School to introduce educators to watershed and water resource issues. She advised that Mrs. Carpenter, the principal, was receptive to the idea. Ms. Riedl advised that this would be the next phase of the Explore Your Watershed Program.

Ms. Azad advised that the Carson River Coalition Education Working Group would be willing to work with the Committee's education working group to develop the grant application. Chairperson Zimmerman expressed support for the idea. Member Pahl agreed, but expressed a concern with regard to the conditions of the grant program which indicate that funds will not be allocated for projects which simply disseminate information. He suggested that the map would have to be a component of some other project. Ms. Riedl clarified that environmental education involves teaching critical thinking skills, decision making, and development in an objective format which seeks to increase awareness, understanding, and knowledge. Member Pahl agreed that the map will be a good educational tool, but reiterated the concern that submitting the grant application to develop only the map would be a "waste of time." Ms. Azad advised that the map would be part of the Explore Your Watershed Program. Ms. Riedl noted the description, in the grant program materials, of the differences between environmental education and environmental information. She pointed out that environmental education is clearly an objective of the Carson River Coalition Education Working Group. Mr. Pahl agreed with including the map as part of the Explore Your Watershed Program. Chairperson Zimmerman suggested adding an educational stewardship component.

In response to a question, Ms. Riedl advised that the grant application will have to be clear and concise with regard to goals and objectives. She discussed the proposal to focus on the Carson City portion of the Carson River Watershed Map, to enhance the map by developing an educational elective CD to be used

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by educators and other interested individuals. Different aspects of the Carson City watershed would be included, such as Clear Creek, Ash and Kings Canyons, the tributaries, benefits, uses, historic culture and heritage. Ms. Riedl acknowledged that an interactive map would be included on the CD. Ms. Azad advised that the CD would also include lesson plans, information from the Explore Your Watershed Program website, essays submitted by students, applicable professional papers, etc. She advised that details of the grant application will need to be worked out, and inquired as to whether the Committee's education working group would be interested in working with the Carson River Coalition Education Working Group to develop the focus map and the grant application.

In response to a question, Ms. Azad expressed the hope that the same artists who worked on the Carson River Watershed Map project would be involved in doing artwork for the focus map. Chairperson Zimmerman suggested considering talented student artists as well. Ms. Riedl advised that students and adults can contribute art work for display on the Explore Your Watershed web site. In response to a further question, Ms. Azad advised that the match requirement of 25% will be fulfilled with in-kind services. She advised that the Carson River Watershed Map cost \$10,000 to develop and print 20,000 copies two years ago; costs will have to be researched.

In response to a question, Members Pahl and Farrer volunteered to work with the Coalition's Education Working Group. **Member Pahl moved that the Committee's education working group work with the Carson River Coalition's Education Working Group to develop the grant and, if successful, work to make the project a reality. Member Farrer seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.** Chairperson Zimmerman thanked Members Pahl and Farrer, and Ms. Azad and Ms. Riedl for their presentation.

**3-E. ACTION REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION OF A PROTOTYPE TRAIL SIGNAGE PROGRAM FOR ACCESSIBILITY FOR ALL USER GROUPS AT RIVERVIEW PARK, MEXICAN DITCH TRAIL, AND CARSON RIVER PARK (1-0410)** - Mr. Fahrenbruch requested Chairperson Zimmerman to defer this item until the arrival of the presenters. (1-0609) Mr. Fahrenbruch reviewed the staff report.

(1-0634) Peter Axelson, founder of Beneficial Designs, Inc., provided background information on his company and its development of the Universal Trail Assessment Process ("UTAP"). He advised of having received Symms Trail Grant funding to systematically measure trails in Douglas County, Carson City, and Washoe County. He described the UTAP, which includes entering data and generating reports using TrailWare software. He advised that the reports are provided to trail agency representatives who have an opportunity to review the data and make any necessary corrections or improvements. Once the data is processed, trail access information ("TAI") strips are generated. Mr. Axelson referred to Exhibit B and reviewed the same. He reviewed the status of the project, and advised that Beneficial Designs is awaiting feedback from the county representatives. The signs will then be professionally printed and attached to a fiberglass Carsonite-type sign post.

Bill Blythe, of Beneficial Designs, Inc., reviewed Exhibit A. He advised that the icons were developed in conjunction with field testing and verification. Mr. Axelson reviewed the proposed locations for the full signage represented in Exhibit A and for the TAI strips depicted in Exhibit B, and discussed how to use the information. In response to a question, Mr. Blythe described the dimensions of the Carsonite sign; 18" are pounded into the ground which leaves a height of 5'6". The signs are printed on an all-weather, UV resistant vinyl material and affixed directly to the Carsonite post with an aggressive permanent adhesive.

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In response to a question, Mr. Axelson advised that 8% slope is the standard for a wheelchair ramp. Member Pahl advised of the access barrier at the entrance to Riverview Park from Fifth Street, and discussion took place with regard to the same. Mr. Axelson advised that Beneficial Designs has applied for a Small Business Innovation Research Grant through the U.S. Department of Agriculture to develop barriers which allow access for people with mobility impairments but prohibit motor vehicles. He encouraged the Parks Department to consider improved access, and noted that a better access point is the Hidden Meadows Trailhead. Member Greytak suggested a pedestrian friendly gate which would also prohibit wild horse access. Mr. Fahrenbruch agreed that prohibiting wild horse access is the biggest challenge, and advised that the Parks Department, as reasonable accommodation, has made keys available. Mr. Axelson described a prototype design, developed by Beneficial Designs, which has a 12" wide barrier at the top and is wider below.

Member Greytak suggested including information on the proposed signage regarding how to contact the Parks Department to obtain an access key, and including an equestrian symbol for the south Mexican Ditch Trail. In response to a question, Mr. Blythe advised that the "Dogs Allowed" icon has not yet been developed. Mr. Fahrenbruch reviewed the existing Riverview Park dog policy, and advised that it is currently under consideration.

Mr. Axelson solicited feedback from the Committee members regarding the concept of the TAI signage and the full signage. In response to a question, he explained that trail usability has to come through personal experience and education. In response to a further question, he expressed the opinion that the City has a good spectrum of trails, and that the signage program will help to encourage trail use. He suggested that once people have a chance to see and use the information, there may be interest in implementing the signage program for other City trail facilities. In response to a question, Mr. Guzman advised that Beneficial Designs staff visited Longview Park, the V&T Trail, and the Linear Park trail in addition to those represented in the agenda materials. **Member Greytak moved to approve implementation of a prototype trail signage program for accessibility for all user groups at Riverview Park, Mexican Ditch Trail. Member Pahl seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.** Mr. Blythe distributed Beneficial Designs newsletters to the Committee members and staff. Chairperson Zimmerman thanked Mr. Axelson and Mr. Blythe for their presentation.

**3-F. ACTION REGARDING THE RENAMING OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD PARK PORTION OF RIVERVIEW PARK TO THE "KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK"** (1-0417) - Mr. Fahrenbruch reviewed the staff report, and described the location of the neighborhood park portion of Riverview Park. He emphasized that the wetlands, the trails, and the River frontage would remain Riverview Park. He advised that Parks staff is supportive of the subject proposal.

(1-0474) Richard Hyde, President of the Carson City Post Korean War Veterans, Chapter 198, reviewed the proposal to erect a memorial in the park and name it the Nevada Complex. He discussed the history of the proposed name, one of the last major battles fought in Korea in 1953. Four hills in Korea which were called Carson, Reno, Elko, and Vegas were defended and stand in free land today as a result of the action. He requested the Committee's consideration for renaming the neighborhood park and erecting the memorial dedicated to the park.

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In response to a question, Mr. Fahrenbruch advised that preliminary discussions with regard to possible designs have included boulders, trees, shrubs, and a plaque. He acknowledged that the boulders could simulate the appearance of the four hills. He further acknowledged that additional public input will be required, and explained the purpose for presenting this item first to this Committee. The next presentation will be made to the Parks and Recreation Commission and, ultimately, the Board of Supervisors.

(1-0524) Fred Williams, past President of the Carson City Chapter Post Korean War Veterans, advised that he has been working with Prison Industries representatives regarding the possibility of having the boulders inscribed. He advised that the memorial will be educational.

Member Pahl expressed support for the memorial and for the design concept to include a representation of the four hills. Mr. Williams acknowledged the option of leaving the name of the park as it is and erecting a memorial within the park. Mr. Fahrenbruch acknowledged this option as well, and advised that given the small acreage of the neighborhood park, staff believes it would be appropriate to name the neighborhood park and leave Riverview Park as the undeveloped, natural portion. Mr. Fahrenbruch responded to questions regarding parking and access, and advised that he anticipates no problem with parking in the area. In response to a question, Mr. Williams advised that the proposal includes installation of one flag pole for the American Flag at the present time. Two additional poles are proposed to be added at a future date, and would include the battle flag and the Korean flag. Mr. Hyde acknowledged a willingness to maintain the memorial if Parks Department staff would continue maintaining the park landscape. He discussed including inscriptions to honor donors and participants. **Member Wills moved that the Committee support this project as it moves forward. Member McCubbin seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.** Chairperson Zimmerman thanked Mr. Hyde and Mr. Williams for their presentation.

**3-G. UPDATE ONLY ON STATEWIDE BALLOT QUESTION #1 / CARSON CITY QUESTION #1 OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM, GRANT APPLICATIONS, AND PROJECTS (1-1007)** - Mr. Guzman advised that funding agreements have been received for nearly all the applications submitted as part of Question #1. He reviewed the table attached to the staff report, and advised that he is moving forward at "full speed" with acquisition of the Horse Creek Ranch at the direction of the Open Space Advisory Committee. He advised that Mr. Krahn has been successful in receiving Question #1 funding for recreation and trails. He is seeking match funding for the Carson River project.

Mr. Guzman advised that the Carson River Stream Bank Stabilization Project has been temporarily postponed. Vice Chairperson Pugsley is pursuing federal funding, which is the main component of the project. Mr. Guzman described the location of the project, and pointed it out on a displayed map. He advised that the Lake Tahoe Multi-Use Path System suffered a setback as a result of the sale of the Ponderosa Ranch. He noted that Washoe County has taken the lead on the project.

Mr. Guzman responded to questions regarding the allocated Question #1 funding listed on the table attached to the staff report. He explained that the allocated funding is somewhat subject to negotiation because of contingency funds and the ability to reassign some funding. He advised that additional funds are being requested for acquisition of the Horse Creek Ranch, and Question #1 administrators are attempting to accommodate the request. The reason for the request is that the project has changed from a combination fee acquisition/conservation easement project to a full acquisition fee title project.

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**3-H. ACTION ON THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION'S REQUEST TO USE STATEWIDE BALLOT QUESTION #1 FUNDS TO PROVIDE A PORTION OF CARSON CITY'S MATCHING FUNDS FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE BRUNSWICK CANYON BRIDGE (1-1133)** - Mr. Guzman reviewed the staff report, and pointed out the location of the Brunswick Canyon Bridge and the access point from Sedge Road into the Pine Nut Mountains on a displayed map. He noted that the bridge will divert traffic from the residential area to an area presently used for recreation. He reviewed the funding sources, including federal, Regional Transportation, and Question #1. He advised that the bridge is expensive because it will accommodate vehicles as well as pedestrians, and because it will have to be constructed in full compliance with various regulations. Mr. Guzman acknowledged that the bridge will ensure pedestrian access once the V&T Railroad is constructed. In addition, the bridge will facilitate assembly areas for the V&T corridor.

Mr. Guzman acknowledged that the bridge will accommodate access to aggregate sources on BLM property. It will also facilitate pedestrian and OHV access. In response to a comment, Mr. Guzman expressed certainty that any agreement for use of the aggregate resource would take into consideration the recreational aspect of the area. Mr. Guzman acknowledged that the Question #1 funding will be allocated to the recreation trail amenities and not to the bridge structure. He advised that there is more than one way to apply for Question #1 funding for Carson River projects, and assured the Committee members that staff will maximize the opportunities to the extent possible.

Member McCubbin expressed concern with regard to opening up that side of the River to easier access because of the usual result of more destruction. He inquired as to plans for increasing BLM patrol of the area. Mr. Guzman acknowledged the concern, and advised that the City recently hired two park rangers who will help to patrol the area. In addition, the Parks Department is working on an agreement with the BLM for reciprocal patrol. One issue is that City park rangers can enter BLM property but BLM rangers cannot enter City property. Mr. Guzman advised that City staff have been addressing the issue of improved security in parks and open space. In addition, the Open Space Program and the BLM have been working extensively with off-road groups to encourage improved management of the area. Mr. Guzman acknowledged that there is more work to be done. Member McCubbin expressed a desire to see better OHV access in order to discourage driving in the River. He reiterated the importance of improved supervision of the land after the bridge is constructed.

Mr. Fahrenbruch advised that the park rangers will have patrol responsibility over City facilities at the Carson River. In response to a question, Mr. Guzman advised that applications for the next round of Question #1 allocations are due in late November. He agreed to provide the Committee members with additional information if this item is approved by the Board of Supervisors. **Member Pahl moved to approve the Regional Transportation Commission's request to use Question #1 funding to provide a portion of Carson City's matching funds for reconstruction of the Brunswick Canyon Bridge. Member McCubbin seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.**

**3-I. ACTION TO RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PROPERTIES TO BE SUBMITTED FOR ACQUISITION BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, LOCATED IN THE VICINITY OF THE CARSON RIVER AS PART OF ROUND 6 OF THE SOUTHERN NEVADA PUBLIC LANDS MANAGEMENT ACT (1-1398)** - Mr. Guzman reviewed the staff report. In response to a question, he advised that support for a local public lands act will be determined as part of the master plan process. He responded to additional questions regarding lands in Carson City which the

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BLM has designated for disposal. He pointed out Sand Canyon on a displayed map, and advised that Carson City has a specific plan with the BLM which controls land use from Sand Canyon to the east. The plan also covers the Virginia Range to the north. The major tenets of the plan provide for no mining and that Carson City will enter into negotiations with the BLM for management of the area, specifically OHVs, recreation opportunities, etc. The lots available for disposal are earmarked in the plan, and Mr. Guzman advised that there are less than 100 acres total. He pointed out the parcels on a displayed map, and advised that they are also depicted on the Urban Interface Plan map. Chairperson Zimmerman requested a copy.

Mr. Guzman responded to questions regarding the Partners Working Group, and explained the proposal by Terra Firma outlined in the staff report. He reviewed staff's recommendation, and advised of having briefed Terra Firma as to the need to save a corridor for the V&T and the City's intention to obtain grant funding for construction of the bridge, parking lot, and access. In response to a question, Mr. Guzman advised that the BLM would pay Mr. Serpa for the land and become the fee title owner. Throughout the nomination process, the City's needs will be noted in the project. Mr. Guzman explained the benefit of Terra Firma pursuing the Serpa property in that the land is mercury contaminated.

**Member Greytak moved to recommend to the Board of Supervisors the nomination of the Bently property, the Bulin-Hollingsworth property, the Darling property, the Desormier property, the Hutchison property, and the Serpa property for potential acquisition by the federal government as part of the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act, Round 6. Member Pahl seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.** Chairperson Zimmerman thanked Mr. Guzman for his presentation.

**3-J. UPDATE ONLY REGARDING THE COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN AND THE PARKS, RECREATION, AND TRAILS MASTER PLAN (1-1639)** - Mr. Fahrenbruch reviewed the staff report and the accompanying exhibits. He invited the Committee members to attend any of the public workshops. In response to a question, he advised that advisory committee members will receive an invitation to attend the Friday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> Advisory Boards focus group meeting.

#### **4. NON-ACTION ITEMS:**

**STATUS REPORTS AND COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS (1-1704)** - None.

**STATUS REPORTS AND COMMENTS FROM STAFF (1-1712)** - Mr. Fahrenbruch advised of the reason for Mr. Krahn's absence.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS (1-1728)** - Chairperson Zimmerman inquired as to the status of the Community Council on Youth, Youth at the Table Program. Mr. Fahrenbruch advised that he would follow up with Mr. Krahn and report back to the Committee. In response to a question, Mr. Guzman advised that a report on the status of the Brunswick Canyon Bridge project could be available for the November 3<sup>rd</sup> Committee meeting. Following discussion, he suggested waiting until the Regional Transportation Commission makes a decision.

**5. ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT (1-1801)** - Member Farrer moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:21 p.m. Member McCubbin seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

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The Minutes of the October 6, 2004 meeting of the Carson River Advisory Committee are so approved this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of November, 2004.

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CHARLES ZIMMERMAN, Chair