

CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes of the September 3, 2003 Meeting
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A regular meeting of the Carson River Advisory Committee was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 3, 2003 in the Community Center Sierra Room, 851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada.

PRESENT: Vice Chairperson Paul Pugsley
Tom Farrer
Dan Greytak
David Johnson
Mark McCubbin
Randy Pahl

STAFF: Steve Kastens, Parks and Recreation Director
Scott Fahrenbruch, Parks and Recreation Director of Operations
Vern Krahn, Parks Planner
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) - Vice Chairperson Pugsley called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Roll was called; a quorum was present. Chairperson Zimmerman was absent. Vice Chairperson Pugsley introduced Members Pahl and McCubbin.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS (1-0023) - John Warpeha discussed the importance of developing maintenance plans for wetlands in Carson City.

1. ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES - June 4, 2003 (1-0041) - Member Greytak noted a correction to item 3-C. Member Johnson moved to accept the minutes, as corrected. Member Farrer seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

2. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (1-0062) - None.

3. AGENDA ITEMS:

3-A. INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS, MARK McCUBBIN, PROPERTY OWNER OF LESS THAN 20 ACRES AND RANDY PAHL, PROPERTY OWNER OF 20+ ACRES (1-0068) - Vice Chairperson Pugsley provided background information on the positions filled by Members McCubbin and Pahl.

3-B. PRESENTATION ONLY REGARDING THE UPCOMING CARSON CITY KIWANIS CLUB'S CARSON RIVER CLEANUP DAY ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2003 AND THE NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2003 (1-0079) - Chris Miller, of the Bureau of Land Management, reviewed details of the subject events as outlined in the agenda materials. She thanked the Committee for their continued support and reiterated the invitation to the two events.

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3-C. PRESENTATION ONLY BY ANNE MACQUARIE, SECRETARY FOR MUSCLE POWERED, A PEDESTRIAN/BICYCLE GROUP, REGARDING CREATION OF THEIR CARSON CITY BIKE MAP AND HOW IT WILL ASSIST THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT TO FACILITATE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES ALONG THE CARSON RIVER WITHIN CARSON CITY (1-0138) - Ms. Macquarie provided background information on development of the Bicycle Route Map included in the agenda materials. She discussed River access routes and provided an overview of the map. She encouraged the Committee to work toward making Fifth Street, as an access route to the River, more safe for bicyclists and pedestrians. She advised of the map distribution sites around town, and responded to questions regarding the same. Mr. Krahn provided background information on the partnership between Muscle Powered and the City's Parks and Recreation Department. He thanked Ms. Macquarie for her efforts in securing the grant funding and developing the map. In response to a question, Mr. Krahn discussed possibilities for making Fifth Street safer for bicyclists and pedestrians. He reviewed the route of the linear path which will bypass Fifth Street once freeway construction begins.

3-D. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ONLY REGARDING THE PHYSICAL/ ENVIRONMENTAL/SEASONAL CHARACTERISTICS OF NORTHERN NEVADA'S WETLANDS AND HOW THESE CHARACTERISTICS ARE USED AS A GUIDE TO ASSIST CARSON CITY AND THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT TO MANAGE THE WETLANDS AT RIVERVIEW PARK AND SILVER SADDLE RANCH (1-0263) - Mr. Kastens distributed copies of the PowerPoint presentation to the Committee members, staff, and the citizens present. Mr. Krahn reviewed the staff report, and introduced Leslie Burnside, of Wood Rodgers Environmental and Engineering Services. Ms. Burnside narrated the PowerPoint presentation. She responded to questions regarding the characteristics of playas, the hydrology associated with the Riverview Park and Silver Saddle wetlands, and expectations for the vegetation at the two wetlands sites in light of the manmade influences. Mr. Kastens provided historic information on conditions at the Riverview Park wetlands, modifications to the wetlands brought about by construction of the Empire Ranch Golf Course, and the requirements of the wetlands mitigation to direct flow back to the River. Ms. Burnside acknowledged that even without adding surface water, the wetlands are functioning properly. To the extent that surface water is available, it is enhancing the existing wetlands. Vice Chairperson Pugsley expressed concern over the public perception of a Nevada wetland.

In response to a question, Ms. Burnside advised that the Environmental Protection Agency defines wetlands differently than the Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Land Management. She explained that the BLM deals only with riparian wetlands, which are very definitive and associated with a permanent water source. The EPA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Army Corps require three attributes to qualify a wetland: hydric soils, hydrophytic vegetation, and that the soil must be saturated or covered with water for a minimum of seven days during the growing season. In response to a further question, Ms. Burnside reviewed the most common plants anticipated in the Riverview Park and Silver Saddle wetlands. In response to a further question, she explained the Army Corps regulations regarding agricultural fields and wetlands. She further explained the differences between the created wetlands at the Silver Saddle Ranch and storm water quality improvement ditches. She advised that a property which serves the purpose of wetland mitigation is defined as a wetland. Discussion took place regarding the effects of water management on the wetland environment and Army Corps of Engineers mitigation regulations. Ms. Burnside responded to questions regarding the National Wetlands Inventory mapping project, and the characteristics of the Silver Saddle Ranch wetlands.

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(1-1093) Mr. Krahn introduced Walt Devaurs, Lead Wildlife Biologist at the BLM Carson City Field Office, who provided background information on his experience and participation in designing the Silver Saddle Wetlands. He explained the cycles associated with Great Basin wetlands, and the method by which water is distributed through the Silver Saddle Wetlands. He advised that the Silver Saddle Wetlands were flooded this year to establish the vegetation. The BLM will ultimately take over management of the wetlands. The City is required to demonstrate effective management to the satisfaction of the Army Corps of Engineers in order to have the mitigation project certified as successful. Mr. Devaurs responded to questions regarding design outcomes.

Mr. Krahn responded to questions regarding contracts associated with the wetlands mitigation project. He advised that Nevada Department of Transportation and Army Corps of Engineers representatives have visited the wetlands and “are very happy with what’s been done out there at this point.” NDOT representatives will monitor the wetlands construction and management for a period of five years to evaluate and ensure success. Mr. Krahn acknowledged that the Silver Saddle Ranch Wetlands are a mitigation project associated with the Carson City freeway bypass. He distributed copies of the July 24, 2002 letter from NDOT Project Manager Jim Gallegos, and read the same into the record. Mr. Devaurs provided historic information on selection of the wetlands mitigation site. Discussion took place regarding available water, water application cycles, and the freeway corridor. In response to a comment, Mr. Kastens advised that the City has set a precedent that provision for wetlands mitigation necessitated by the freeway construction be within Carson City.

Vice Chairperson Pugsley reviewed the purpose of the subject agenda item and discussion took place regarding the origin of the Riverview Park wetlands. Vice Chairperson Pugsley advised that both Ms. Burnside and Mr. Devaurs have indicated a reasonable management plan exists to generate a palustrine wetlands both at Riverview Park and at the Silver Saddle Ranch.

(1-1545) John Warpeha provided background information on his experience in evaluating wetlands. He suggested that in order to improve the function of the Silver Saddle wetlands, water inundation for longer than one month will be necessary. He further suggested applying effluent water in a greater volume earlier in the year.

(1-1600) In response to an earlier question, Mr. Fahrenbruch advised that the Street Department applied a sheep’s fescue seed mix to the Silver Saddle wetlands. He provided a description of the Riverview Park wetlands, and reviewed the metered water application process and annual schedule which he negotiated through the Mexican Ditch Users Association. He discussed management practices, including noxious weed control and periodic trail maintenance. He reviewed park functions, including that dogs are allowed per posted restrictions, trash collection procedures, and tree pruning. In response to an earlier comment, Mr. Fahrenbruch advised that, due to the permitting process, the use of reclaimed or effluent water will not be possible at the Riverview Park wetlands. Vice Chairperson Pugsley commended Mr. Fahrenbruch on negotiating “24-hour water” for the Riverview Park wetlands. Mr. Fahrenbruch responded to questions regarding the amount of water maintained at the Riverview Park wetlands and the wetlands acreage. In response to a question, Mr. Kastens advised that the Riverview Park wetlands have been managed according to available water and not habitat. Mr. Fahrenbruch acknowledged that the wetlands was designed to return water to the Carson River. Discussion took place regarding the permitting process required for returning effluent water to the Carson River. Vice Chairperson Pugsley thanked Ms. Burnside, Mr. Devaurs, and Mr. Fahrenbruch for their presentations.

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3-E. ACTION ON A JOINT RECOMMENDATION FROM THE SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION, OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE, CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE, AND THE ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE TO THEIR RESPECTIVE COMMISSION OR COMMITTEES, LISTING PRIORITIES FOR PROJECT CONSTRUCTION, PROPERTY ACQUISITION, AND RESOURCE RESTORATION FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR STATE BALLOT QUESTION #1 FUTURE PROJECTS (1-2014) - Mr. Krahn reviewed the staff report, and Vice Chairperson Pugsley provided an overview of the priority matrices and Question #1 Opportunities Map. At his request, Mr. Krahn reviewed the projects associated with the Carson River. Vice Chairperson Pugsley noted that all nine Committee projects were incorporated in the priority matrix. Member Greytak commended staff on developing the priority matrices, and commented that the matrices and Question #1 Opportunities Map will serve as good tools for future planning. Mr. Krahn thanked Member Greytak and expressed appreciation for Open Space Manager Juan Guzman's participation in development of the matrices and map. He discussed the dynamic nature of the priorities as opportunities present. **Member Johnson moved to accept the joint recommendation from the subcommittee. Member Farrer seconded the motion,** and agreed with Member Greytak's earlier comments. He complimented staff and the members of the subcommittee on the cooperation and efficiency with which the meeting was conducted. In response to a question, Mr. Krahn explained the process by which project costs will be designated. Vice Chairperson Pugsley called for a vote on the pending motion; **motion carried 6-0.**

3-F. ACTION REGARDING NOMINATIONS FOR THE CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S CARSON RIVER AWARDS AND CERTIFICATES OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT FOR BUSINESSES, AGENCIES OR INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE MADE A CONCERTED EFFORT TO IMPROVE THE RECREATIONAL, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS ALONG THE CARSON RIVER WITHIN CARSON CITY (1-2396) - Mr. Krahn reviewed the Carson River Awards History and the award nominations included in the agenda materials. Vice Chairperson Pugsley entertained additional nominations and, when none were forthcoming, entertained a motion. **Member Johnson moved to not distinguish between one category and another and that awards be presented to the three nominees.** He commented on the Foerschlers' contribution to the Carson River master plan element. **Member Greytak seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.**

4. NON-ACTION ITEMS:

STATUS REPORTS AND COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS (1-2661) - Vice Chairperson Pugsley reported that funding from the Carson Water Subconservancy District has been confirmed for the project at Eagle Valley Creek and the streambank restoration project at the corner of Riverview Park. He advised that the CWSD has established a steering committee to oversee the BLM's development of a model on the Carson River which will be used as a tool for county land use planning and restoration issues. The City will be asked to appoint a member to the steering committee. Member Greytak reported on the issues addressed during a recent Clear Creek Watershed Committee meeting, including responsibility over trash from the Wal-Mart parking lot in Clear Creek, and NDOT's implementation of the erosion mitigation project near Highway 50. Vice Chairperson Pugsley explained to Members McCubbin and Pahl the Committee's liaison assignments to other pertinent committees and agencies.

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STATUS REPORTS AND COMMENTS FROM STAFF (1-2630) - In response to a question, Mr. Krahn advised that he would check the status of a riverbed project previously proposed by NDOT.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS (1-2574) - In response to a question, Mr. Krahn provided a brief overview of the tentative agenda for the October Committee meeting. (1-2805) Vice Chairperson Pugsley suggested agendaing review of the Committee members' liaison assignments.

5. ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT (1-2815) - Member Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Member Greytak seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

The Minutes of the September 3, 2003 meeting of the Carson River Advisory Committee are so approved this 1st day of October, 2003.

CHARLES ZIMMERMAN, Chair