

CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the February 20, 2002

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A regular meeting of the Carson River Advisory Committee was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 20, 2002 in the Community Center Bonanza Room, 851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada.

PRESENT: Chairperson Charles Zimmerman
Vice Chairperson Claire Clift
Thomas Hall
Barbara Wright

STAFF: Steve Kastens, Parks and Recreation Director
Juan Guzman, Open Space Manager
Vern Krahn, Parks Planner
Scott Keith, Recreation Specialist - Youth Programs
Laura Leuders, Carson River Intern
Kathleen King, Recording Secretary

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. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM (1-0001) - Chairperson Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Roll was called; a quorum was present. Members Greytak, Johnson, and Walsh were absent.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - NOVEMBER 7, 2001 (1-0020) - Deferred.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS (1-0048) - None.

D. MODIFICATION OF THE AGENDA (1-0054) - Chairperson Zimmerman modified the agenda to address item F-2 prior to item F-1.

E. DISCLOSURES (1-3685) - None.

F. PUBLIC MEETING

F-1. ACTION ON AMENDMENT TO THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 5, 2001 CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING (1-2800) - Mr. Kastens reviewed the staff report and referred to page 6 of the subject minutes which were included in the agenda materials. Vice Chairperson Clift advised that the Attorney General's opinion indicated the motion did not pass, and that the District Attorney's office has "decided to not agree with the Attorney General's decision." She advised that she would vote against the requested amendment and "continue on." She expressed understanding for the District Attorney's position but advised she does not agree with it and "neither does the Attorney General." In response to a comment, Mr. Kastens explained that the Committee members serve in an advisory capacity to the City, and that the City's legal representative is the District Attorney.

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In response to a question, Mr. Kastens discussed the issue of abstentions within the framework of an advisory committee. Chairperson Zimmerman clarified that his reason for abstaining was based on a lack of information and knowledge of the property which was the subject of item F-5 of the September 5, 2001 agenda. Member Hall explained that his vote in opposition to the motion was not as much a reflection on acquiring the property as it was the "way they were going about getting it." He indicated that his position had not changed. Member Wright concurred with his comments.

Mr. Kastens clarified the purpose of the subject agenda item was to take action on amending the minutes. Discussion took place regarding the amendment. Following comments by Vice Chairperson Clift, Chairperson Zimmerman expressed the preference that the Committee move on and not "get hung up in a legal confrontation." He called for public comment and, when none was provided, entertained a motion. Vice Chairperson Clift suggested that the minutes should remain in their present form and not be amended. No motion was forthcoming and Chairperson Zimmerman indicated that no action would be taken.

F-2. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING THE FINAL DRAFT OF THE CARSON CITY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT'S OUTDOOR EDUCATION PROGRAM (1-0100) - Mr. Krahn introduced Ms. Leuders and Mr. Keith and provided background information on development of the Outdoor Education Program included in the agenda materials. Ms. Leuders provided an overview of the Outdoor Education Program and discussed its purpose to provide an educational experience for participants in the Carson City Latchkey Program. She advised she will be working with Mr. Keith to implement the program. Mr. Keith discussed the plan to utilize some of the Outdoor Education Program elements in conjunction with the Recreation Department Junior High Program. The Junior High Program participants have since taken two trips to the Carson River with Ms. Leuders and accomplished some of the educational objectives. Mr. Keith advised that Ms. Leuders will train some of the Latchkey Leaders to implement the Outdoor Education Program in stages over the summer. If all goes well, the program will be carried forward into the Latchkey Program which takes place during the school year.

In response to a question, Ms. Leuders advised that the program will be implemented at Riverview Park. Vice Chairperson Clift commended Ms. Leuders and Mr. Keith on development of the program. In response to a question, Mr. Keith advised that the Summer Camp program is based at Mills Park. During the school year, the junior high, elementary, and kindergarten Latchkey Programs are based at the Community Center and at five elementary schools. Vice Chairperson Clift suggested adding River history and culture to the program, and a brief discussion took place with regard to the same. **Vice Chairperson Clift moved to approve the Outdoor Education Program. Member Wright seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.** Mr. Krahn commended Mr. Keith, Ms. Leuders, and Mr. Warpeha on their efforts in developing the program.

F-3. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ONLY REGARDING THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT'S EFFORTS TO UPDATE THE PINENUT MOUNTAINS LAND USE PLAN AMENDMENT (1-0365) - Project Manager/Team Leader Tom Crawford introduced himself and Project Planner Mike McQueen. Mr. McQueen distributed "A Desktop Reference Guide to Collaborative, Community-Based Planning" and a PowerPoint presentation on the Pine Nut Mountains Plan Amendment. Mr. Crawford provided an overview of the Reference Guide and discussed the purpose of the initial step in the process to gain additional information from planning partners, interested and concerned individuals, and the Carson River Advisory Committee. He reviewed the PowerPoint presentation and responded to questions

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regarding the back country byway and plans for the Burbank Canyon Wilderness Study Area. He clarified that a recommendation has been forwarded to Congress that the Burbank Canyon is unsuitable for wilderness designation. Mr. McQueen discussed the recreational and public purpose planning process criteria for designating a wilderness area. He advised that two environmental impact studies were conducted in the late 1980s to identify suitable wilderness designation areas. As part of that process, the areas suitable for designation were forwarded as recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior and eventually to Congress. Mr. McQueen explained that the recommendations remain in a "study area status" until Congress takes action to designate them as wilderness areas or to release them from the designation. Member Hall expressed the opinion that the area is not suitable for wilderness area designation because of the high volume of OHV traffic. Mr. Crawford reiterated that the original plan recommended the area as unsuitable for wilderness designation. Discussion took place regarding the location of and access to Burbank Canyon.

Mr. Guzman provided an overview of the map included in the PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Crawford responded to questions regarding input received from tribal representatives and Indian allotment owners, and continued reviewing the PowerPoint presentation. Mr. McQueen discussed the planning process and advised that the BLM will follow the method outlined in the Collaborative, Community-Based Planning Guide. He reviewed differences in the method by which the community will be engaged in the planning process. He anticipates that the plan will be developed with more public support, that additional funding sources will be available to implement the plan, and that many of the conflicts will be resolved during the planning process.

Mr. Crawford advised that scoping meetings have yet to be scheduled. He requested that any comments be sent to him or to John Singlaub before March 31st. He advised of four meetings which have taken place with the planning partners, and of presentations made to the Carson City Board of Supervisors and the Douglas and Lyon County Commissioners. The Collaborative, Community-Based Planning Process has received a great deal of support. Mr. Crawford welcomed comments and participation in the meetings, and advised that the next one is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Monday, February 25th at the BLM office. In response to a comment, Mr. Crawford advised of Member Walsh's regular participation in the meetings which have taken place thus far. Chairperson Zimmerman thanked Mr. Crawford and Mr. McQueen for their presentation. Mr. Crawford responded to questions regarding his background and experience with the BLM. Chairperson Zimmerman called for public comment; however, none was provided.

F-4. DISCUSSION ONLY REGARDING THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT'S POSITION ON ACQUIRING PRIVATE PROPERTY FROM WILLING SELLERS IN THE CARSON RIVER CANYON EAST OF DEER RUN ROAD TO THE COUNTY LINE (1-1169) - Mr. Guzman introduced BLM Non-Renewable Resources Systems Manager Chuck Pope and narrated a slide presentation. He pointed out the River, BLM property, and the subject private properties on a displayed map. He provided a brief overview of the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act ("SNPLMA"), and discussed possible mercury contamination of the subject properties and ways to mitigate this issue. He and Mr. Pope responded to questions regarding liability of the private property owners, consideration of this area for clean up, the parameters of the designated superfund site, previous consideration of the Serpa property for SNPLMA nomination, and possible impacts to plans for the V&T Railroad if the properties are included in the SNPLMA nomination. Mr. Guzman advised of Member Walsh's concerns regarding a sufficient amount of right-of-way to accommodate a railroad track together with other uses such as trails, and discussion took place with regard to the same.

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Mr. Pope discussed the mercury contamination issue and restrictions regarding acquisition of a portion of the Rolling A Ranch. In response to a question, Mr. Pope advised that the Dayton Valley Conservation District and the Division of State Lands have considered acquiring the mercury contaminated portion of the Rolling A Ranch. Discussion took place regarding the portion of the Ranch which is being developed. Mr. Pope discussed historic, scenic, and recreation values which will be part of the SNPLMA nomination criteria. Chairperson Zimmerman advised of equipment for evaluating mercury in soils called "Mercury Sniffer." Discussion took place regarding mitigation of the mercury contaminated portions of the properties and sources of the contamination. Mr. Pope noted that public lands are located on either side of the subject properties, and that acquisition and management by conservation groups or State agencies is sensible. Discussion took place regarding superfund site designation, the remedial investigation and feasibility study, and the mercury clean up conducted in Lyon County by the Environmental Protection Agency. Mr. Guzman advised that he will keep the Committee informed of the progress of this matter. Chairperson Zimmerman called for public comment on this item; however, none was provided.

F-5. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING SELECTION OF CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO ACT AS COMMITTEE LIAISONS TO VARIOUS CARSON RIVER COALITION PARTNERS, THE PINENUT MOUNTAINS LAND USE PLAN AMENDMENT AND VARIOUS CITY ADVISORY BOARDS (1-2365) - Mr. Krahn discussed the purpose for agendaizing this item. Chairperson Zimmerman expressed appreciation for Mr. Krahn's consideration, and discussion took place with regard to formally designating Committee members. In response to a concern expressed by Chairperson Zimmerman, Mr. Kastens requested that each Committee liaison take responsibility for contacting a replacement liaison when necessary rather than placing that responsibility on City staff. Chairperson Zimmerman suggested deferring action on this item until the full Committee can be present. Mr. Kastens offered to develop a list of the various other committees and their meeting dates and times for review at the next meeting. Vice Chairperson Clift discussed the importance of designating a Carson River Advisory Committee liaison to the Storm Drainage Advisory and Open Space Advisory Committees. Discussion took place regarding other committees, and consensus of the Committee was to defer action on this item.

F-6. DISCUSSION ONLY REGARDING AN ACTIVITY REPORT ON THE UPPER CARSON RIVER MANAGEMENT PLAN (2-0043) - Chairperson Zimmerman noted that Paul Pugsley was not present at the meeting. Consensus of the Committee was to defer this item to the next meeting.

G. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND COMMITTEE MEMBER STATUS REPORTS (1-3715) - Mr. Krahn advised that presentations on noxious weeds and birds along the Carson River will be agendaized for the next meeting. He further advised that Mary Bennington, of The Nature Conservancy, will present information on the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act.

Chairperson Zimmerman left the meeting at 7:35 p.m. A quorum was no longer present.

H. STATUS REPORTS FROM STAFF (1-3815) - Mr. Krahn distributed the updated Carson River Master Plan element. He displayed and circulated the Elmer H. Anderson Park Excellence Award received for Carson River Park, and provided background information on the same. (2-0223) In response to a question, he provided a status report on Carson River Park. Mr. Kastens responded to questions regarding

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the CIP process, and Mr. Krahn responded to questions regarding the portion of the Silver Saddle Ranch which is designated as a picnic/playground area.

I. ADJOURNMENT (2-0495) - The meeting adjourned by mutual consent at 7:46 p.m.

The Minutes of the February 20, 2002 meeting of the Carson River Advisory Committee are so approved this _____ day of March, 2002.

CHARLES ZIMMERMAN, Chairperson