

CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the January 3, 2001 Meeting

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A regular meeting of the Carson River Advisory Committee was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 3, 2001 in the Community Center Sierra Room, 851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada.

PRESENT: Chairperson Charles Zimmerman
Vice Chairperson Claire Clift
Thomas Hall
David Johnson
Paul Pettersen
Kevin Walsh
Barbara Wright

STAFF: Steve Kastens, Parks and Recreation Director
Vern Krahn, Parks Planner
John Warpeha, Carson River Intern
Kathleen King, Recording Secretary
(CRAC 01/03/01; Tape 1-0001)

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 (1-0004) - Chairperson Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Roll was called; a quorum was present. Vice Chairperson Clift arrived at 6:02 p.m.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - DECEMBER 6, 2000 (1-0011) - Member Pettersen moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Member Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0-1-0.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS (1-0017) - None.

D. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA (1-0022) - None.

E. DISCLOSURES (1-0024) - None.

F. PUBLIC HEARING

F-1. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING THE ADOPTION OF THE CARSON CITY TRANSPORTATION PLAN - BICYCLE ELEMENT AND BICYCLE SYSTEM PLAN (1-0026) - Mr. Krahn provided background information on development of the bicycle plan, referred to the maps and the bicycle element included in the agenda materials, and invited questions from the Committee members. In response to a question, Mr. Krahn explained that the bicycle plan is considered a "living document" which will change with the needs of the community and with available funding. Mr. Krahn pointed out new trail heads at the corner of Edmonds Drive and Fifth Street and at the Morgan Mill portage

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site. He indicated that all future changes will be submitted to all the pertinent committees, commissions, and the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Krahn acknowledged that the portion of the bicycle element which comes in contact with the Carson River goes from McTarnahan Bridge to the Silver Saddle Ranch, past the portage area to the Deer Run Road Bridge.

In response to a question regarding funding for improvements and maintenance, Mr. Krahn explained that changes to on-street facilities have been imposed by MPO requirements and will be the responsibility of the Regional Transportation Commission ("RTC"). This will include bicycle lanes, painted stripes, shared facilities, and related signage. The off-street paths have been funded by Question #18, such as the section of the Mexican Ditch Trail between Fifth Street and Hells Bells Road. Matching funds for federal grants have been used to offset some of the cost. Member Hall inquired as to the possibility of licensing bicycles to help fund the bicycle plan, and Mr. Krahn indicated that this proposal has been discussed.

Member Wright inquired as to the responsibility for maintenance of the Snyder Avenue extension. Mr. Kastens advised of the public/private ownership of Snyder Avenue, and indicated that the public portion will be maintained by the City Streets Department. Member Wright inquired as to the cost of the maintenance, and Mr. Kastens advised that there is no plan for development of the road within the bicycle element. The public portion of the extension will be bladed and rolled periodically if a path is actually created. At this point, the plan is to share the road with the existing volume of vehicular traffic.

In response to a question, Mr. Krahn explained that the dashed green lines indicated on the map designate off-street/multi-use facilities. The blue and yellow lines designate on-street facilities. Vice Chairperson Clift pointed out that Mexican Dam Road should be designated by a blue line instead of a dashed green line. Mr. Kastens concurred and clarified that Mexican Dam Road is a shared facility. He indicated that Snyder Avenue should be designated by a blue line as well.

Discussion took place regarding the private property areas designated as part of the bicycle element. Mr. Krahn explained that as the private property is developed, staff hopes to acquire the easements necessary for the bicycle plan. Member Walsh indicated a more appropriate staging area for motorcycles and off-road vehicles on Sedge Road, which would also provide better access to the Pine Nut Mountains. Discussion took place regarding additional changes to the plan, and Member Johnson suggested developing a community staging area for access into the Pine Nut Mountains in the area designated on the map as "M". Member Walsh commented on the need to preserve a bicycle staging area.

Member Hall inquired as to the responsibility for maintenance of Mexican Dam Road. Mr. Kastens advised that some improvements have been made from Lloyd's Bridge south to the point of the Rikalo property. He indicated that any public portion of the road would be the responsibility of the City Streets Department. Private property owners would be encouraged to allow the public to use and maintain the portions of the bike path on private property. The City will work with the Bureau of Land Management ("BLM") to develop a maintenance program for any portion of the bicycle plan located on BLM property.

Member Johnson moved that the Committee request Mr. Kastens and his staff to consider the Committee's discussion and make whatever changes or amendments to the plan that seem

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appropriate based on the discussion rather than addressing a motion on each specific item. Vice Chairperson Clift seconded the motion. Member Walsh inquired as to how the paths will be identified, and Mr. Krahn advised that the Mexican Ditch and Empire Ranch trails have identification signs which also outline allowable uses. He discussed the eagle scout project which included installation of these signs and Carsonite directional signs. This standard will continue to be utilized. Vice Chairperson Clift inquired as to whether mile markers will be included. Mr. Krahn advised that this has been considered and plans to do so are being developed. Mr. Kastens reviewed the changes to the plan requested by the Committee.

(1-0495) Chris Miller, of the BLM, indicated a new staging area which is available for off-road vehicles, bicycles, and horses. She requested that the area be included on the map. Member Walsh inquired as to how the public could become involved in volunteer efforts to help build trails. Mr. Krahn suggested contacting staff to discuss possible volunteer projects. Chairperson Zimmerman called for a vote on the pending motion. **Motion carried 7-0.**

F-2. UPDATE ON THE RIVERBANK STABILIZATION AND WETLANDS RESTORATION PROJECT AT THE NORTHERN NEVADA CORRECTIONAL CENTER LOCATED ALONG THE CARSON RIVER (1-0556) - Warden Dave Meligan, of the Northern Nevada Correctional Center ("NNCC") and Stewart Conservation Camp, distributed a memo to the Committee members and staff. He advised of the involvement of Jane Schmidt, of the Natural Resources Conservation Service ("NRCS"), and Paul Pugsley, of the Upper Carson River Coordinated Resources Management Plan ("CRMP"). Mr. Meligan provided information regarding the prison system property. Uses of the property include ranching, the prison dairy, and land for the stray horse program. Mr. Meligan provided production and service statistics on the prison dairy, and advised of the on-site bakery and the regional warehouse. In addition, the NNCC is an intake center which receives inmates from the northern part of the state.

Mr. Meligan discussed the project developed through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the funding received from multiple areas. The project included installation of approximately 2.5 miles of power fencing to restrict cattle from the Carson River area, construction of a water control structure at Clear Creek, creation of a 40-acre wildlife habitat area utilizing a diversion structure, placement of a portable solar pump and trough to restrict cattle from Clear Creek and improve the water quality, planting willow and cottonwood seedlings to revegetate the Carson River banks and surrounding project area, and removal of noxious weeds. Mr. Meligan indicated that the prison approached this project from the aspect of providing soft-matched funding through the use of inmate labor, prison resources, and prison staff. Project costs were approximately \$32,600. Funding from several agencies was received and partners in the project included the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Reclamation, the Carson Valley Conservation District, NRCS, the Division of State Lands, Western Nevada Resource Conservation, and the Upper Carson River CRMP.

The history and scope of a second project was outlined in a press release included in the materials distributed by Mr. Meligan. He advised that all the materials for the project have been purchased and are on site. Approximately ten willow bundles remain to be planted, and the fence project will begin once the weather is more predictable. Permit requests have been submitted with the assistance of Gary Juenger and Paul Pugsley.

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Chairperson Zimmerman thanked Mr. Meligan for his time, and expressed appreciation for the fact that the prison system has been working to improve the water and habitat quality along the Carson River. He requested a tour of the project once it is completed, and Mr. Meligan indicated that the Committee would be welcome to do so. Mr. Meligan commented on the uniqueness of the project and the fact that there were no obstructions in working with the various federal, state, and local agencies. Member Wright commended Mr. Meligan on the appearance of the property. Discussion took place regarding the efforts to keep cattle out of Clear Creek and the River, and Mr. Meligan commented on the tremendous gains in repairing the damage caused by cattle tracks.

Chairperson Zimmerman inquired as to whether a monitoring program will be associated with the attempts at stabilization. Mr. Meligan indicated that U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service representatives are allowed onto the property at any time to check the project. Ms. Schmidt advised that the NRCS is involved in managing the livestock, and that the range program will therefore be monitored. Improved grazing management should translate into economic terms for the prison.

Vice Chairperson Clift suggested that the Committee draft a letter commending the efforts of all involved in this project. Mr. Kastens suggested including this project in the annual awards program as well.

F-3. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING A NEVADA CONSERVATION CORPS AND CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE WORKDAY ON MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY, JANUARY 15, 2001 AT THE MORGAN MILL ROAD PORTAGE AREA (1-0828) - Mr. Krahn advised that the Carson City Regional Planning Commission approved the conceptual master plan at its December 20, 2000 meeting. The Division of State Lands and the Army Corps of Engineers have also indicated preliminary approval of the plan. The hitching post in the water is the only issue which remains to be approved. Mr. Warpeha has been coordinating volunteers, and various assignments and groups will be confirmed in the next few days. Mr. Krahn provided an overview of the schedule, as follows: prison crews will be at the site on January 8 and 9 to harvest willows, cut down large, unsafe cottonwoods, and prepare the site for the other groups. The Southwest Gas Employee Volunteer Team plans to be on site with 10-15 people and large equipment on January 13th. They will be cutting the road in, preparing steps, etc. The City Streets Department will provide culverts. Tim Bertagnoli will provide base material for the road at no cost.

Mr. Warpeha advised of speaking with Jerry Kier, Director of the Nevada Conservation Corps ("NCC"), who advised that approximately thirty people will be available to work on January 15th. A meeting is scheduled with Mr. Kier on Tuesday, January 9th to discuss the project details. Mr. Warpeha indicated that there is plenty of help for the project. The NCC may also plant willows in the area below the Ambrose-Carson River Natural Area. Mr. Warpeha has also discussed with Mr. Kier the possibility of involving senior citizens. He indicated that the primary focus of the NCC crew will be on planting and restoration.

Mr. Krahn discussed other donations by the Cemetery staff, Parks Department staff, and the Southwest Gas Employee Volunteer Team. Chairperson Zimmerman requested that staff keep track of the volunteers and groups helping with this project so that they can be appropriately recognized either after completion of the

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project or on Carson River Day. Mr. Warpeha indicated that Mr. Kier may have funding available for purchase of project materials.

In response to a question at last month's meeting regarding the agencies Paul Pugsley has contacted regarding permitting for the project, Mr. Warpeha listed the Division of State Lands, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the Nevada Department of Environmental Quality. Mr. Pugsley discussed the permits which have been obtained for the project including two water quality permits and rolling stock permits. He is attempting to obtain a general permit through the Division of State Lands which would incorporate streambank restoration activities. He indicated that the Army Corps of Engineers is checking on the possible navigational hazard of the proposed hitching post. Mr. Krahn invited the public to attend the workday at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, January 15th. No formal action was taken.

F-4. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING REVISIONS TO THE CARSON RIVER MASTER PLAN, CHAPTER 3, RESOURCE INVENTORY SECTION (1-1008) - Mr. Warpeha advised of a meeting with Gary Juenger, of the Dayton Valley Conservation District, and Jane Schmidt, of the NRCS, on December 19th to discuss a number of issues. At that meeting, he submitted the map work outlining all the habitat for review by Mr. Juenger. Mr. Warpeha will be contacting groups regarding wild horse areas, non-game wildlife, and species of concern in order to include the data in the inventory. Mr. Juenger has also submitted an endangered/threatened species list. Mr. Warpeha advised that an additional meeting is scheduled for January 12th to tour some sampling areas. Member Pettersen advised that he had received a memo from Ms. Schmidt regarding the inventory proposal. He thanked her for developing the plan. He thanked Mr. Warpeha for his efforts in this project. No formal action was taken.

F-5. DISCUSSION REGARDING AN ACTIVITY REPORT ON THE UPPER CARSON RIVER MANAGEMENT PLAN (1-1055) - Mr. Pugsley advised that the Mexican Dam Water Users are attempting to gather information relative to the viability of the dam structure and alternatives to either maintain the structure or seek other water ways. He discussed the compromised integrity and the purpose of the structure. Concerns exist relative to the ability to continue moving water down the Mexican Ditch, and the wetlands mitigation effort at Riverview Park. Mr. Pugsley explained that the City is considering the area north of Riverview Park before it crosses Logan Bridge as a solution to the wetlands which are being removed because of the bypass. Water from the Mexican Ditch will be needed if this particular location is chosen, and Mr. Pugsley estimated the investment to be approximately \$1 million. He commented that there is not enough agriculture on the ditch to make that investment which is part of the resulting problem in eliminating agricultural users. These are all issues that the users are attempting to address and resolve. Mr. Pugsley indicated that the primary registered participant at the present time is the City, and that City staff has agreed to work with the users to resolve some of the issues. Chairperson Zimmerman thanked Mr. Pugsley for his report.

F-6. DISCUSSION REGARDING FUTURE ITEMS FOR THE CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (1-1146) - Member Johnson inquired as to a report from Mark Kimbrough and the high school group. Mr. Krahn advised that the item will be reagendaized for a future meeting. Member Pettersen requested that staff agendaize review and discussion of the data collection forms for the inventory. Member Johnson requested that staff schedule a meeting of the working group to discuss Carson

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River Park, and then agendize a report to the Committee at the February meeting. Discussion took place regarding the recently advertised Committee vacancy, and Mr. Kastens indicated that an updated copy of the Committee membership list will be provided at the next meeting.

F-7. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING THE ELECTION OF A CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR FY 01/02 (1-1257) - Discussion took place regarding the most recent election, and Member Johnson moved that the officers remain the same until the current two officers have served one year's term which would be through August 2001. Ms. Miller indicated that, pursuant to her notes, the last election took place in March 2000. Member Pettersen seconded the motion. Member Walsh requested input from Chairperson Zimmerman and Vice Chairperson Clift. Mr. Pugsley suggested that the Committee determine when elections should take place. Mr. Kastens advised that other City boards and commissions typically elect officers in January of each year. He suggested that if the Committee wished to consider Chairperson Zimmerman and Vice Chairperson Clift for another year, that it be done in January and then continued in the future. Discussion took place regarding election of officers whose terms are ready to expire, and the term expiration dates of the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Open Space Advisory Committee. Mr. Kastens suggested that term expirations need not be considered at this time. Member Johnson withdrew his motion, requested Mr. Kastens to research the term issue, and either postpone the election until February and make it a January term or to proceed tonight with the election. Member Pettersen withdrew his second and **moved to appoint Chairperson Zimmerman and Vice Chairperson Clift for fiscal year 01/02. Member Johnson seconded the motion** and inquired as to whether the two were willing to serve in these positions. Vice Chairperson Clift indicated her willingness to continue. Chairperson Zimmerman called for a vote on the pending motion. **Motion carried 7-0.**

G. ADJOURNMENT (1-1493) - Member Pettersen moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Member Walsh seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

The Minutes of the January 3, 2001 meeting of the Carson River Advisory Committee are so approved this _____ day of February, 2001.

CHARLES ZIMMERMAN, Chairperson