

CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the February 7, 2001 Meeting

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A regular meeting of the Carson River Advisory Committee was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 7, 2001 in the Community Center Sierra Room, 851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada.

PRESENT: Vice Chairperson Claire Clift

Thomas Hall
David Johnson
Kevin Walsh
Barbara Wright

STAFF: Steve Kastens, Parks and Recreation Director

Vern Krahn, Park Planner
John Warpeha, Carson River Intern
Kathleen King, Recording Secretary
(CRAC 02/07/01; Tape 1-0001)

NOTE: Unless indicated otherwise, each item was introduced by Vice Chairperson Clift. 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) - Vice Chairperson Clift called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. Roll was called; a quorum was present. Chairperson Zimmerman and Member Pettersen were absent.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - JANUARY 3, 2001 (1-0009) - Member Johnson moved to approve the minutes. Member Walsh seconded the motion. Vice Chairperson Clift noted a correction to item F-2, and called for a vote on the pending motion. Motion carried 5-0-2-0.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS (1-0027) - None.

D. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA (1-0031) - Vice Chairperson Clift modified the agenda to address item F-6 following item F-1.

E. DISCLOSURES (1-0039) - None.

F. PUBLIC HEARING

F-1. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING A REQUEST FROM THE CARSON HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE CLASS FOR PERMISSION FROM THE CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO DESIGN AND BUILD A TRAIL AT THE AMBROSE-CARSON RIVER NATURAL AREA (1-0042) - Julie Koop, a Carson High School biology teacher, provided background information on the project. She introduced four students, who displayed a PowerPoint presentation, and discussed various trips to the River, the lectures and studies conducted during each trip, the purpose for designing the interpretive trail, and the details of each interpretive post. Ms. Koop responded to questions regarding the location of the trail in relation to the flood plain and the alluvial terrace, the trail length and route, ownership of the subject and surrounding land, the location of the

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proposed foot bridges, and use restrictions. Mr. Kimbrough advised that use restrictions will be determined by the City and the Bureau of Land Management. He acknowledged that the trail would primarily be used for foot traffic. Discussion took place regarding uses allowed in the area, and Mr. Warpeha suggested making the trail head sufficiently narrow so as to deter vehicles. Mr. Kimbrough advised that the trail will be designed according to Tahoe Rim Trail specifications. Member Walsh thanked Ms. Koop and the students, commended them on their presentation, and commented that he looks forward to seeing the trail progress.

In response to a question, Mr. Kimbrough advised that the trail route will be flagged and the specifications reviewed with City staff. He provided background information on the project which will be funded by an EPA grant. He has provided assistance to designate the posts and develop the self-guided brochure. Discussion took place regarding erosion control measures for the steep portions of the trail which are prone to washing.

Vice Chairperson Clift thanked Ms. Koop and her students, and expressed appreciation for the gift which the trail will be to the community. **Member Johnson moved that the Committee approve the plan, as stated, and direct the City to continue with the process. Member Hall seconded the motion.** Paul Pugsley, of the Upper Carson River Coordinated Resources Management Project ("CRMP"), offered his support to the student group in their effort to build the trail. **Member Johnson amended his motion to include a request for the support and involvement of Paul Pugsley and his organization. Member Hall continued his second. Motion carried 5-0-2-0.**

F-2. UPDATE ON THE MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY EVENT AT THE MORGAN MILL ROAD RIVER ACCESS AREA (1-1066) - Mr. Warpeha referred to the donor list included in the agenda materials and commented on the amount of public participation for the project. He reviewed the tasks accomplished, including that 275 willows were planted, willow stakes were set, and recreational access to the River was increased. Member Wright discussed needed revisions to the steps in order to accommodate elderly and handicapped users. Discussion took place regarding the size of the steps, and Mr. Krahn indicated that the project is not yet finalized. Vice Chairperson Clift suggested installing signage to advise of a possible difficulty in ascending the steps. In response to a question, Mr. Krahn advised that the steps will be redrilled and rebarred at a future date. He requested that the Committee consider this an ongoing project.

Mr. Warpeha encouraged the Committee members to tour the project. He advised that he will be scattering 50 pounds of native rye grass, donated by Dan Greytak and the Washoe Nursery, to improve the bird habitat. He further advised that Nevada Conservation Corps crews will help complete additional tasks at the Morgan Mill Road area in another month. In response to a question, Mr. Krahn advised that staff has been in contact with the Streets Department regarding available grindings. Mr. Warpeha indicated that the Morgan Mill project was very successful and that the major objectives of restoration and recreational access were accomplished. Member Walsh thanked Mr. Warpeha for his work on the project. Vice Chairperson Clift thanked the people involved in the project. Mr. Krahn acknowledged that this was an approximately \$30,000 project which was accomplished without funding. Vice Chairperson Clift commented on the exceptional publicity the project received. Mr. Krahn thanked Amanda Hammon at the Nevada *Appeal* and Andy Bourelle at the Reno *Gazette-Journal*.

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F-3. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING REVISIONS TO CHAPTER 3 OF THE CARSON RIVER MASTER PLAN RESOURCE INVENTORY SECTION (1-1260) - Mr. Warpeha advised that two inventory sheets have been submitted to Chairperson Zimmerman and Member Pettersen for review and comment. He anticipates being able to collect data samples in the next few weeks. He advised of a recent tour with Gary Juenger, of the Dayton Valley Conservation District, and Jane Schmidt, of the Natural Resources Conservation Service ("NRCS"), to test the inventory sheets for sampling public sites such as the Silver Saddle Ranch, Carson River Park, and others. He will begin work on the introduction and revisions to chapter 3 in the near future. He advised that Mr. Juenger has completed approximately 60% of the maps outlining the habitat, and discussed several informational resources which he will be using for the inventory. No formal action was taken.

F-4. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING THE WILDLIFE AND HABITAT INVENTORY WORKSHEETS FOR CHAPTER 3 OF THE CARSON RIVER MASTER PLAN RESOURCE INVENTORY SECTION (1-1350) - Jane Schmidt, of the NRCS, provided information on the purpose of the inventory worksheet included in the agenda materials, and reviewed the same. She referred to the woody species regeneration form, also included in the agenda materials, and discussed its purpose and relationship to the inventory worksheet. She discussed the sampling to be conducted by Mr. Warpeha and the anticipated results. She emphasized that the sampling will take place on public access land only, and advised that the intent of utilizing the aerial photography is to provide a better perspective. Ms. Schmidt commented on Mr. Warpeha's qualifications for this project, and Vice Chairperson Clift thanked him for his efforts. No formal action was taken.

F-5. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING COMPLETION OF CARSON RIVER PARK, PHASE I, SITE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (1-1433) - Mr. Krahn reported that Residential Construction Tax funding has been approved to complete the phase 1 site improvements. He provided background information on the project, and advised of meetings between staff and the volunteer working group. He reviewed the improvements depicted on a displayed drawing, and responded to questions regarding the picnic area, the time frame for the bidding process, and the permitting process. **Member Johnson moved that the Committee approve the plans, as submitted, and that the project go forward. Member Walsh seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0-2-0.**

F-6. DISCUSSION REGARDING AN ACTIVITY REPORT ON THE UPPER CARSON RIVER MANAGEMENT PLAN (1-0416) - Mr. Pugsley reported on a meeting of the Mexican Dam Users Group wherein discussion took place regarding an engineering assessment of the Mexican Dam. He expressed the opinion that the dam is a significant grade control structure, and proposed an additional assessment to determine its importance and the costs involved in keeping it for this purpose. He advised that he had discussed this proposal with the NRCS, but was informed that the resources for this type of assessment are not available at this time.

Mr. Pugsley advised that \$20,000 has been designated in the Carson Water Subconservancy District ("CWSD") budget for expenditures on the River in Carson City. Once Mr. Krahn and Mr. Warpeha were advised of the funds, they developed a list of possible projects, including dam stabilization, debris removal, the inventory, stream bank restoration projects at Carson River Park and Morgan Mill Road, and future projects, including erosion control on State prison lands. Mr. Pugsley requested that a determination be made regarding allocation of the funds for Parks and Recreation or for the CRMP. He explained that a

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flexibility issue exists with regard to how the funds may be used, and advised that the funds are the best available for federal matching. He emphasized that there is no competition for the funds between the City and the CRMP. Mr. Krahn advised that he and Mr. Kastens have been working with Mr. Warpeha and Mr. Pugsley regarding the best use for the available funding, and that the intent is to request the funds from the CWSD.

In response to a question regarding the consequences of the failure of Mexican Dam, Mr. Pugsley advised that it is dependent upon what is below the visible sediment layer. This is the reason for needing an engineering assessment. He expressed a concern over the possibility of a 12' head cut moving from the dam to the gauge along Snyder Avenue, approximately one-half mile upriver. At the request of Vice Chairperson Clift, Mr. Pugsley explained the concept of a head cut. Discussion took place regarding the possibility of disassembling the dam, the reason for maintaining the 12' ledge, the downstream effect of the silt load, and possible mercury concentrations.

Mr. Pugsley advised that the Mexican Dam Users Group is willing to fund \$10,000 toward an assessment with the goal of determining what will be necessary to leave the diversion in place. He suggested that it may be more cost effective to join the Mexican Dam Users Group in their assessment than to conduct a separate assessment. Mr. Pugsley responded to questions regarding the assessment costs, additional funding sources, the differences between the Ruhenstroth Dam and the Mexican Dam, the benefits and detriments of removing the Ruhenstroth Dam, and the mercury content in the sediment at Mexican Dam. Mr. Pugsley indicated a need to resolve management of the CWSD funds, and Mr. Krahn advised that staff would work with Mr. Pugsley as the matter was not agendized for action.

Mr. Pugsley advised of the U.S. Geological Survey phosphorous study on the River. The sites tentatively selected in Carson City include the Ambrosetti Pond outflow, Cradlebaugh Bridge, the ditch north of Cradlebaugh Bridge, Hayburn ditch, Clear Creek before it joins Carson River, the Mexican Dam gauge, Eagle Valley Creek upstream from the confluence with Carson River, the golf course creek, Deer Run Road, and the Dayton Bridge. He discussed significant erosion issues on Clear Creek due to the old and new portions of Highway 50.

Mr. Krahn advised that staff will work with Mr. Pugsley regarding management of the CWSD funding. He offered to return to the Committee as decisions are made regarding allocation of the funding, and Member Johnson requested the opportunity to participate in the decision-making process. Supervisor Robin Williamson discussed her understanding of the purpose for the CWSD funding to be used for projects on the River instead of assessments or studies. She concurred with the idea of staff presenting a list of projects and priorities for review by the Committee. With regard to phosphorous levels in Carson City, Supervisor Williamson advised that wells in Carson City are monitored regularly and that water quality is constantly well within and below any critical measurements.

F-7. DISCUSSION REGARDING FUTURE ITEMS FOR THE CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (1-1623) - Member Walsh requested that a status report on the northern section of the River be agendized, as well as discussion regarding the accumulation of garbage at the Deer Run Road Bridge. Vice Chairperson Clift requested status reports on the allocations of the CWSD funding, and on Carson River Park. In response to a question, Mr. Krahn reviewed some of the informational items included in the agenda materials.

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G. ADJOURNMENT (1-1682) - Member Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 p.m. Member Hall seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

The Minutes of the February 7, 2001 meeting of the Carson River Advisory Committee are so approved this _____ day of March, 2001.

CHARLES ZIMMERMAN, Chairperson