

CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the October 4, 2000 Meeting

Page 1

A regular meeting of the Carson River Advisory Committee was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 4, 2000 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
Barbara Wright

STAFF: Walter Sullivan, Community Development Director
Steve Kastens, Parks and Recreation Director
Vern Krahn, Parks Planner
John Warpeha, Carson River Intern
Kathleen King, Recording Secretary
(CRAC 10/04/00; 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, 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 Pettersen and Walsh were absent.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - JULY 10, 2000 (1-0007) - Vice Chairperson Clift moved to approve the July 10th minutes as presented. Member Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS (1-0022) - Paul Pugsley, of the Upper Carson River Coordinated Resources Management Program, advised that the Carson Water Subconservancy District and the Nevada Department of Environmental Protection have joined with the U.S. Geological Survey to conduct a phosphorous study on the Carson River. Approximately two hundred samples will be taken during this government fiscal year, and one-third that amount in the second year. Mr. Pugsley advised that he is attempting to gain private property access in order that samples can be taken from areas other than the bridges. The purpose of the study is to identify primary sources of phosphorous. Suspected sources are animals in the River, dairy operations, golf courses, effluent irrigation, and the Carson City/Minden storm water conveyance ditches. Member Johnson offered his property as an access point between Lloyd's Bridge and Deer Run Bridge in the Pinion Hills area. Member Wright offered the McTarnahan Bridge site. Member Hall offered his property as well, with the condition that any penalties be waived. Chairperson Zimmerman thanked Mr. Pugsley.

(1-1328) - At the request of Supervisor Williamson, Jane Schmidt, of the Natural Resources Conservation Service ("NRCS"), provided a report on the Mexican Dam. The NRCS was contacted regarding the status of the Mexican Dam and she and State Engineer Chuck Houston subsequently scheduled a visit. Ms. Schmidt advised that the River is extremely low at this time and that water is currently going under and through the dam. This has most likely been an ongoing problem which has developed over a long period

CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the October 4, 2000 Meeting

Page 2

of time. After reviewing old photographs, a determination was made that major construction work has been done to the dam at various times over the last fifty years. The problem appears to need further evaluation.

Ms. Schmidt advised that there is a great deal of debris on the dam as a result of the 1997 flood. Mr. Pugsley is working with the cooperators to remove the debris. The dam is a massive structure which has become a gradient control point with at least a ten foot drop. This has backed up sediment for an unknown distance upstream. The expense of trying to repair it could be phenomenal and the cost effectiveness unknown. A potential environmental problem exists because of the gradient control structure the dam has become. It needs to be evaluated and considered by the City from that standpoint, and Ms. Schmidt advised that engineering assistance will be needed. She indicated that as the structure starts to break down, it may fail in several ways. Two weak points exist on either side of the dam which a flood event could take out, leaving most of the dam intact and creating two large spillways. Ms. Schmidt advised that this is the same way the Ruhenstroth Dam failed, and stated that any lowering of the sediment level behind the dam could have serious effects downstream. She advised that Mr. Pugsley will continue to research and evaluate the situation.

Chairperson Zimmerman inquired as to a time frame associated with the potential environmental affects of the dam's further erosion. Ms. Schmidt indicated that no prediction can be made on such an old structure. She expressed the opinion that the dam "took a pretty good hit" in the 1997 flood mainly because of debris being launched at it. An engineering evaluation will be needed to determine the soundness of the structure. Discussion took place regarding ownership of the dam.

D. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA (1-0083) - None.

E. DISCLOSURES (1-0089) - None.

F. PUBLIC HEARING

F-1. UPDATE ON NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY/OPENING OF THE SILVER SADDLE RANCH AND CARSON RIVER CLEAN UP DAY (1-0091) - Chris Miller, of the Bureau of Land Management ("BLM"), thanked the Committee members for all the assistance, and advised that this year's National Public Lands Day was the best yet. Three hundred volunteers showed up at the Silver Saddle Ranch, together with visitors, BLM staff, and Kiwanis Club members. Ms. Miller reported that the volunteers painted an entire barn, built 280 feet of trail, removed 20 cubic yards of trash, wrapped approximately 100 trees with chicken wire, planted 400 willow trees which are still there, and planted approximately 1,000 fingerling trout in the River. Ms. Miller thanked the Kiwanis Club for the good food, the Boy Scouts, the Committee, the Parks and Recreation Department, and the Community Development Department.

Ms. Miller advised of a volunteer meeting scheduled for Thursday, October 5th at 6:30 p.m. at the BLM Field Office. She distributed a copy of the BLM Nevada web page, and thanked the Committee for their support. Chairperson Zimmerman inquired as to any assistance the Committee can provide now that the Ranch is open. Ms. Miller advised that the Committee can help in promoting volunteerism. She indicated that the park is still in phases, none of the trails are yet open, visitor use has yet to be determined, interpretive signs need to be installed and brochures developed. She invited comments and suggestions

CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the October 4, 2000 Meeting

Page 3

from the Committee members from a recreational viewpoint. The park hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., with extended hours during the summer months. The park ranger position will be advertised in the near future, and Ms. Miller expressed appreciation for City Park Ranger Bub Richardson's presence at National Public Lands Day.

In response to a question, Ms. Miller acknowledged that the BLM park ranger will work at the Ranch and assist her in developing and implementing programs. She explained that the BLM's classification of park ranger is a non-law enforcement position. A care taker will live at the Ranch instead of the park ranger so as to provide "double coverage." The park ranger's job description includes working with volunteers, maintenance, assisting school groups, and developing programs. She clarified that the position is better described as a park naturalist.

In response to a further question, Ms. Miller advised that she will find out next month who will be awarded the National Interpretation Excellence Award. She expressed appreciation for the letters of support written on her behalf, and advised that three of the four nominees are from Nevada.

Ms. Miller advised that she has seen horse trailers, mountain bikes, hikers, and lots of people who worked on National Public Lands Day at the Ranch. Discussion took place regarding signage at Lloyd's Bridge to indicate the location of the staging area. Member Johnson thanked Ms. Miller and Mr. Kastens for blocking vehicular access to the Ambrose-Carson River Natural Area. Chairperson Zimmerman thanked Ms. Miller for her presentation.

F-2. INTRODUCTION OF JOHN R. WARPEHA, CARSON RIVER INTERN, FOR CARSON CITY (1-0285) - Mr. Krahn introduced Mr. Warpeha. Mr. Warpeha provided information on his background, education, and experience. In response to a question, Mr. Warpeha discussed the differences between the water environments in Maine and Nevada, and the tree species present in the two areas. In response to a question, Mr. Krahn explained that the intern position is something of an experiment for the City and for the Western Nevada Resource Conservation and Development organization. He discussed funding sources for Mr. Warpeha's salary. Chairperson Zimmerman welcomed Mr. Warpeha.

F-3. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE FINAL JOB DESCRIPTION FOR THE CARSON RIVER INTERN TO ASSIST THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT STAFF WITH RESOURCE ASSESSMENT AND PROJECT CONSTRUCTION ISSUES/COSTS FOR FUTURE PROJECTS ALONG THE CARSON RIVER (1-0411) - Mr. Krahn reviewed the work description included in the agenda materials, broken down into construction project, administrative, and planning priorities. Discussion took place regarding the possibility of securing ongoing funding for the intern position.

F-4. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON DEVELOPING VOLUNTEER WORKING GROUPS TO ASSIST THE CARSON RIVER INTERN AND CARSON CITY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT STAFF ON SPECIFIC PROJECTS ALONG THE CARSON RIVER (1-0625) - Mr. Krahn suggested three working groups from the Committee; two that will work directly with Mr. Warpeha and one that will work with himself and Mr. Kastens on construction projects. He advised that the Parks and Recreation Commission is forwarding a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to fund the remainder of the Carson River Park Phase I project. Vice Chairperson Clift

CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the October 4, 2000 Meeting

Page 4

thanked staff for representing this request to the Parks and Recreation Commission. Mr. Krahn suggested that the same working group could continue working with staff on this project, and the Committee members concurred. Mr. Krahn suggested that one of the working groups could assist Mr. Warpeha with the portage area project. Once the portage project is complete, other projects along the River include willow planting/bank stabilization, etc. Mr. Krahn suggested that the other working group could assist with rewriting the resource inventory. He acknowledged that he would like to have the working groups designated at this meeting.

Member Johnson volunteered to assist with completion of Carson River Park Phase I and the portage project. Vice Chairperson Clift volunteered to assist with completion of Carson River Park Phase I. Discussion took place regarding former member Bill Piccolo's continued involvement, and consensus of the Committee was that if he is still interested he can participate as a member of the public. Member Hall volunteered. Chairperson Zimmerman assigned Member Walsh to assist with the portage project, and volunteered to assist as well. Member Wright inquired as to a stabilization project for the McTarnahan area and discussed the problems created by the 1997 flood. Mr. Krahn indicated that this area can be considered together with the other projects.

With regard to the resource inventory, the Committee nominated Member Pettersen and Chairperson Zimmerman volunteered. Mr. Krahn inquired as to how to address revisions to the resource inventory. Mr. Pugsley suggested defining the goals of the Committee and the community relative to wildlife in the River corridor and, from that, devise a means of determining the status of the wildlife today and the methodology to determine whether wildlife habitat has improved ten years from now. He provided information on the Humboldt River resource inventory, and suggested contacting related agencies or organizations to assist with the inventory, i.e., the Audobon Society for the bird inventory. Mr. Krahn advised that he would schedule a meeting of the working group, staff, and agency/organization representatives. Jane Schmidt, of the NRCS, advised that, from a technical standpoint, "realms of data" exist to collect the information. She expressed the opinion that one pertinent issue is the conservation corridor, and described the same. Discussion took place regarding scheduling the working group meetings.

F-5. STATUS REPORT ON THE CANCELLATION OF THE NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION ("NDOT") PROJECT FOR CHANNEL IMPROVEMENTS AT DEER RUN ROAD BRIDGE (1-1113) - Mr. Krahn provided background information on the project and advised that because funding is not available, the project has been canceled. Chairperson Zimmerman inquired as to the possibility of future funding and the reasons the project was canceled rather than deferred. Mr. Krahn advised that he had asked the same question and was told there would not be any funding in the foreseeable future to do the project.

F-6. DISCUSSION REGARDING FUTURE ITEMS AND MEETING DATES FOR THE CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (1-1202) - Mr. Krahn advised that a regular report from Mr. Pugsley will be agendaized. As the volunteer committees move forward, regular reports from each will be agendaized. Chairperson Zimmerman requested that Mark Kimbrough's item on the nature trail construction project be agendaized. Vice Chairperson Clift inquired as to the success of the tree planting endeavor, and Mr. Krahn discussed Dan Kaffer's request that a monitoring program be developed. Chairperson Zimmerman commented that a photographic inventory would be helpful, and suggested that staff invest in a digital camera. Mr. Krahn advised that Building Superintendent Larry Nair has agreed to

CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the October 4, 2000 Meeting

Page 5

lend his division's digital camera. Vice Chairperson Clift requested that a report on the success of the tree wrapping project be agendized. (1-1475) Mr. Kastens requested that discussion of the Mexican Dam be agendized for a future meeting.

G. ADJOURNMENT (1-1485) - Member Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m. Vice Chairperson Clift seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

The Minutes of the October 4, 2000 meeting of the Carson River Advisory Committee are so approved this _____ day of November, 2000.

CHARLES ZIMMERMAN, Chairperson