

CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the June 4, 2008 Meeting

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A regular meeting of the Carson River Advisory Committee was scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 4, 2008 in the Community Center Sierra Room, 851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada.

PRESENT: Chairperson Randy Pahl
Dan Greytak
Mark McCubbin
Ernie Rink
Lacy Sheck

STAFF: Roger Moellendorf, Parks and Recreation Department Director
Juan Guzman, Open Space / Property Manager
Vern Krahn, Park Planner
Kathleen King, Recording Secretary

NOTE: A recording of these proceedings, the committee's agenda materials, and any written comments or documentation provided to the recording secretary during the meeting are public record, on file in the Clerk-Recorder's Office. These materials are available for review during regular business hours.

CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM (5:33:47) - Chairperson Pahl called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. Roll was called; a quorum was present. Vice Chairperson Pugsley and Member Farrer were absent.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS (5:34:03) - None.

1. ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES - April 2, 2008 (5:34:15) - Member McCubbin moved to approve the minutes. Member Rink seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

2. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA (5:34:31) - None.

3. AGENDA ITEMS:

3-A. UPDATE ONLY ON CARSON CITY'S EFFLUENT WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN AS RELATED TO THE CARSON RIVER (5:34:53) - Chairperson Pahl introduced this item. Deputy Public Works Manager Ken Arnold provided an overview of his last report to this committee. He anticipated having the discharge permit for the Brunswick Reservoir in the very near future, and discussed the benefits of the discharge permit. He advised that the plan to install an effluent water line to the Silver Saddle Ranch "is still on the books, still funded, ..." The effluent line would enable irrigation of the Silver Saddle and Andersen Ranch properties. Mr. Arnold discussed the possibility of installing a large reclaimed water holding tank in the northwest corner of the Silver Saddle Ranch, which would provide flexibility for regulation and irrigation. Mr. Krahn discussed the benefits of the reclaimed water holding tank. At his request, Mr. Arnold discussed test well drilling in the area of the Silver Saddle Ranch. He acknowledged surface water is presently being used to irrigate the Silver Saddle Ranch. He further acknowledged that consideration is being given to the possibility of capturing and using the water from the Brunswick seep. He described the water as very high quality and discussed possibilities for its use.

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Mr. Arnold acknowledged the City is represented, as a non-voting member, on the Mexican Ditch Board. Member Greytak expressed concern with regard to the future possibility of effluent water in the Mexican Ditch. Mr. Arnold advised that the City has hired BHC Consulting to consider the future of the Mexican Ditch. He acknowledged there are Mexican Ditch water rights to the north of Hells Bells Road, and that water will continue to be delivered to the ranch near Hells Bells Road. In response to a further question, he advised of no plans to do away with the Mexican Ditch. Chairperson Pahl thanked Mr. Arnold for his presentation.

3-B. UPDATE ONLY ON “CREATING A COMMUNITY VISION: “SILVER SADDLE RANCH AND THE CARSON RIVER COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS AND DESIGN CHARRETTE” (5:46:05) - Chairperson Pahl introduced this item. Mr. Guzman provided background information on, and an overview of, the community workshops and design charrette process. He reviewed the plan area in conjunction with displayed maps and aerial photographs. In response to a question, he advised that the City will be funding revision of the Carson City FEMA maps. Public Works Department staff is in the process of hiring contractors. Mr. Guzman explained the method by which FEMA maps are revised.

Mr. Guzman advised that the workshop and charrette recommendations will be drafted into one report, submitted for review by the advisory boards, commissions, and committees, and eventually forwarded to the Board of Supervisors for adoption. He acknowledged concerns regarding the location of pedestrian bridges in relation to private property and access to recently-acquired open space properties. He advised that the plan area covers approximately 4,000 acres, nearly half of which is flood zone and riparian resources. He described the overall “flavor” of the workshop and charrette recommendations as conservative and passive as to recreation.

Mr. Krahn advised that 60 to 70 people participated in the community workshops, and compared the level of participation with other, recently-held public hearings. He further advised that 35 to 40 people participated in the three-day charrette process. Mr. Guzman advised that, based on a map survey, public participation was representative of the entire community, not just the area of the River. He discussed the request by the Friends of Silver Saddle Ranch to involve professionals in the charrette process, and advised there were a large number of professionals who participated. Mr. Krahn listed the professional firms which participated in the charrette process and thanked them. He and Mr. Guzman discussed their personal experiences as participants in the charrette process.

Member Greytak commended the charrette process, and expressed confidence that a direction will result “as opposed to stick it on the shelf ...” He expressed the belief that the recommendations will be acceptable to the public, noting that funding the recommendations will take time. He described the recommendations as “passive” and “low key;” “trying to integrate everything together so that it maintains the aesthetic value that it has now. ... as the City continues to build and get bigger and there’s more pressures, that’s the important thing. The River, in itself, is the key thing that links them all together and how do we use it.”

Mr. Guzman advised that no agreement was reached as to an appropriate name for the area, and consensus indicated the possibility of holding a community contest. He discussed concerns with regard to “calling it a regional park” due to the implication of “a whole bunch of development.” He and Mr. Krahn agreed the process was very worthwhile. Mr. Krahn expressed the belief that, during the charrette process, the paradigm began shifting from considering individual parcels to the larger context. He and Mr. Guzman

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discussed various recommendations from the charrette process. Chairperson Pahl looked forward to presentation of the report, and Mr. Krahn estimated it would be finalized in four to six weeks. Chairperson Pahl entertained additional questions or comments; however, none were forthcoming. He thanked Mr. Guzman and Mr. Krahn for their thorough report.

3-C. ACTION TO ADOPT A REPORT PREPARED BY RESOURCE CONCEPTS, INC., ON THE CARSON RIVER MERCURY SITE SUPERFUND STUDY AREA AS RELATED TO THE CARSON RIVER CANYON, CARSON RIVER, AND ADJACENT RIVER PROPERTIES (6:15:58) - Chairperson Pahl introduced this item. Mr. Guzman reviewed the staff report and the Resource Concepts report, included in the agenda materials as Exhibit A. Because of the Resource Concepts report, he advised of feeling considerably more at ease with regard to the potential for acquiring properties in the subject area. In response to a question, he discussed the phase one analysis as part of the due diligence process. He has asked the representatives of two firms to discuss with NDEP representatives a phase one proposal of sufficient depth to direct whether or not to purchase the lands in the subject area. He advised of having received the second proposal earlier in the day.

Chairperson Pahl called for additional questions or comments of the committee members. Member Greytak commended the report. He expressed an interest in the Mexican and Mead properties, those which “may have influence on the golf course, or even further south in those river properties that may be around Eagle Creek.” Mr. Guzman explained the phase two analysis which designs a sampling study from a specific site. He acknowledged the consultants will determine the location of “the hot spots.” Staff and the consultants will then decide whether a phase two analysis is necessary. Mr. Guzman explained staff’s recommended action, and Chairperson Pahl entertained a motion. In response to a question, Mr. Guzman offered to request that the consultants include the Mexican and Mead Mill sites. **Member Greytak moved to adopt a report, white paper, prepared by Resource Concepts, Inc., on the Carson River Mercury Site Superfund Study Area, as it relates to the Carson River Canyon, Carson River, and adjacent properties; and request, if possible, to include further detailed information on the Mexican Mill Site and the Mead Mill Site as related to Table 1 in the document. Member Sheck seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.** Chairperson Pahl thanked Mr. Guzman.

3-D. ACTION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION FOR PRESENTATION TO THE CARSON AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (“CAMPO”) REGARDING A POTENTIAL NEW ROADWAY CONNECTING DOUGLAS COUNTY TO SOUTHERN CARSON CITY AND ITS POTENTIAL IMPACT ON THE CARSON RIVER AND ITS FLOOD PLAIN (6:34:27) - Chairperson Pahl introduced this item. Mr. Krahn provided background information and reviewed the pertinent agenda materials. Chairperson Pahl advised of Vice Chairperson Pugsley’s suggestion to schedule a meeting between this committee and the CAMPO. Mr. Krahn advised he would work with Transportation Operations Manager Patrick Pittenger with regard to a representative of this committee meeting with the CAMPO board. Discussion followed, and Chairperson Pahl noted the importance of continuing to keep concerns regarding the River and its flood plain in the forefront. Member Greytak suggested that the resolution “puts it on their radar.” He noted the importance of establishing a river crossing that allows “the river to work.” He expressed support for the resolution, and the hope that it will be “duly noted when the time comes.” Mr. Krahn advised of the requirement for CAMPO’s regional transportation plan to be fiscally constrained. Neither NDOT nor Douglas County has the funding available “in the foreseeable future” to do the project. He expressed support for the resolution.

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Chairperson Pahl entertained questions or comments regarding the resolution and, when none were forthcoming, a motion. **Member McCubbin moved to adopt the resolution, as written. Member Rink seconded the motion.** Mr. Krahn read the draft resolution into the record. Chairperson Pahl called for a vote on the pending motion; **motion carried 5-0.** In response to a question, Mr. Krahn anticipated that a meeting with the CAMPO board would likely take place in July.

3-E. ACTION REGARDING THE CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S EFFORTS TO PLAN, ORGANIZE, AND SPONSOR A CARSON RIVER WORK DAY IN THE FALL 2008 (6:50:53) - Chairperson Pahl introduced this item. Mr. Krahn provided an overview of last year's work day which was organized in conjunction with Jacob Flansberg's Eagle Scout project. He advised that, since April, there have been no volunteer projects presented to the Parks Department. He advised of staff limitations, and inquired as to the committee's interest in organizing a work day. Discussion followed, and Member Greytak suggested a working group could consider opportunities. He suggested the possibility of working with the Friends of Silver Saddle Ranch to develop a project for the fall. He expressed a willingness to check into the possibility, with input from other committee members, and suggested agendaing additional discussion for the August committee meeting. He expressed the opinion that the committee should promote an annual river project of some kind, and suggested each year will present different opportunities. Member McCubbin discussed a recently-purchased open space property, near his residence and adjacent to the River, which could use some work. He noted the recreation potential of the open space property "because it is a big, open area with a lot of trees and grass." He offered to visit the area and report back to the committee.

Member Greytak acknowledged an interest in scheduling a meeting between committee members, Friends of Silver Saddle Ranch representatives, Equestrian Alliance representatives, and Dan Kaffer. Mr. Krahn offered the Parks Administration office as a meeting place. He suggested that a working group of the committee refine project possibilities and then meet with appropriate partners. Chairperson Pahl expressed a willingness to assist Member Greytak. In response to a question, Mr. Krahn reiterated there have been no volunteer projects presented since April. Based on discussion of item 3-F at the April 2, 2008 committee meeting, he advised that Parks Department staff intends to call Chairperson Pahl if any individual or group presents a volunteer project at the River. He noted that Members Farrer, Sheck, and Rink had offered their assistance.

4. NON-ACTION ITEMS:

4-A. STATUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM STAFF (7:03:50) - Mr. Krahn reviewed and discussed the "FYI" items included in the agenda materials. (7:18:18) Mr. Krahn advised that the site development plans for the Morgan Mill Road river access area and Carson River Park phase II will be presented for approval to the Board of Supervisors at their June 5th meeting. Following Board of Supervisors approval, building permit applications will be submitted for both projects.

4-B. MEMBERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION (7:12:59) - Member Greytak discussed the May Clear Creek Watershed Coalition meeting.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (7:14:22) - Mr. Krahn reviewed the table of future agenda items included in the agenda materials, and discussion followed.

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- 6. ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT** (7:19:42) - Member Rink moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 p.m. Member Greytak seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

The Minutes of the June 4, 2008 Carson River Advisory Committee meeting are so approved this 6th day of August, 2008.

RANDY PAHL, Chair