



STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item: 9

Report To: Open Space Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: February 28, 2022

Staff Contact: Lyndsey Boyer, Open Space Manager, lboyer@carson.org

Agenda Title: For Possible Action: Discussion and possible action regarding whether to submit a letter of support for the National Park Service - Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program (“NPS-RTCA”) grant to update the Carson River Master Plan.

Staff Summary: The National Park Service (“NPS”) is accepting nominations for the Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program. Staff and Member Kimbrough are proposing to submit a nomination to update the Carson River Master Plan. Nominations are due to NPS on March 1, 2022.

Agenda Action: Formal Action/Motion

Time Requested: 15 minutes

Proposed Motion

I move to approve submission of a letter of support for a NPS-RTCA grant as presented.

Board’s Strategic Goal

Quality of Life

Previous Action

N/A

Background/Issues & Analysis

The NPS-RTCA program supports locally-led conservation and outdoor recreation projects across the United States. NPS-RTCA assists communities and public land managers in developing or restoring parks, conservation areas, rivers, and wildlife habitats, as well as creating outdoor recreation opportunities and programs that engage future generations in the outdoors. NPS-RTCA does not provide financial assistance or monetary grants. As a collaborative partner, they provide professional services, including technical assistance to help achieve a specific conservation and outdoor recreation project vision. Staff and Open Space Advisory Committee Member Kimbrough are proposing submitting a nomination to update the Carson River Master Plan and are seeking a letter of support from the Open Space Advisory Committee. All nominations are due March 1, 2022.

The Carson River Master Plan was prepared by the Carson River Advisory Committee (CRAC) and was completed in 1996. This grassroots plan was developed by a volunteer leadership team formed from a politically appointed coalition after a proposal was placed on the Carson City Board of Supervisors agenda to develop a future vision for the Carson River corridor. Specific agencies and interested stakeholders included: Carson City, the Bureau of Land Management (“BLM”), Nevada Division of State Parks (“NSP”), Nevada Department of Wildlife (“NDOW”), Natural Resource Conservation Service (“NRCS”), the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California and more. Since that plan was completed, many elements of the plan have been accomplished and conditions in the Carson River corridor have improved. As a result, the plan requires an

update to illustrate the accomplishments in acquisition and preservation. Building off those accomplishments, the plan also needs to be updated to include recommendations for recreation development and natural resource management in the river corridor. This will ensure that the Carson River has a comprehensive, community supported plan to provide framework and guidance for the future of the river. Additionally, the original plan did not involve all the stakeholders and possible interested parties; this new plan would be more thorough and reach out to all potential community stakeholders for inclusion in the planning process.

The anticipated results of the plan, depending upon priorities established by the collaborative, would have the following possible implementation. Actual metrics of distances or specific details will be established when an inventory and monitoring report of existing conditions is completed at the beginning of the planning effort.

- Develop a recreational facilities and public access plan for Carson River Canyon;
- Review and engineering for possible river crossings for trail connectivity;
- River BMP needs and implementation as opportunities become available;
- Wildlife enhancements and wildlife protection for the river corridor;
- River enhancements to improve trout fishery;
- Interpretive and environmental education facilities or program development;
- List of any private property within the corridor that would be instrumental for connectivity for future easements or purchase;
- Trail enhancements for sustainability and connectivity to the adjacent counties;
- Trail plan for river corridor; and
- Floodway enhancements, if necessary.

Applicable Statute, Code, Policy, Rule or Regulation

N/A

Financial Information

Is there a fiscal impact? Yes No

If yes, account name/number:

Is it currently budgeted? Yes No

Explanation of Fiscal Impact: There is no fiscal impact associated with this grant, other than staff participation.

Alternatives

Do not provide a letter of support and direct staff to pursue a different direction for the Carson River Master Plan update.

Board Action Taken:

Motion: _____

1) _____

2) _____

Aye/Nay

(Vote Recorded By)