

**CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
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A joint meeting of the Carson River Advisory Committee and the Open Space Advisory Committee was scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 2, 2005 in the Community Center Sierra Room, 851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada.

CARSON RIVER

ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Chairperson Charles Zimmerman
Vice Chairperson Paul Pugsley
Tom Farrer
Dan Greytak
Mark McCubbin
Randy Pahl

OPEN SPACE

ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Chairperson Steve Hartman
Vice Chairperson Dan Jacquet
Tricia Lincoln

STAFF: Vern Krahn, Park Planner
Lee Plemel, Planning and Community Development Principal Planner
Larry Werner, City Engineer
Kathleen King, Recording Secretary

NOTE: A tape recording of these proceedings is on file in the Clerk-Recorder's Office, and is available for review during regular business hours.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL (1-0007) - Chairperson Zimmerman called the Carson River Advisory Committee to order at 5:35 p.m. Roll was called; a quorum was present. The Open Space Advisory Committee ("OSAC") was not called to order due to lack of a quorum.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS (1-0014) - Pete Hansel, of 233 Tacoma, suggested that tributaries of the Carson River should be above ground. He further suggested this would serve to address publicity and environmental issues on the River. Member Greytak advised that Clear Creek still flows from the mountains to the River. He further advised that undergrounding the River tributaries happened long ago. He discussed the committee's interest in conveying flood waters to the River. In response to a question, Vice Chairperson Pugsley advised of individuals who have expressed a personal desire to "daylight" some of the tributaries but there is no prospective plan to do so. Member Greytak advised of the Clear Creek Watershed group as a resource.

1. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (1-0081) - In response to a question, Mr. Krahn explained how the meeting would proceed in light of the lack of a quorum of the OSAC.

2. AGENDA ITEMS:

2-A. PRESENTATION ONLY ON THE REGIONAL FLOOD MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE CARSON RIVER (1-0102) - Mr. Krahn provided background information on this item. Genie Azad narrated a SlideShow presentation entitled "Protecting Our Lifeline in the Desert: The Carson River Corridor," copies of which were included in the agenda materials.

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In response to a question, Ms. Azad estimated 4-5 months for taking the presentation on the road. She anticipates having met with a sufficient number of groups in six months to be able to have good information to share. Steve Lewis, of the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, will compile the information which will, in turn, be presented to county representatives. Ms. Azad noted that receiving general public input was the approach recommended by various county representatives. Member Greytak commented that the presentation is "open ended." Ms. Azad advised that the presentation is made to other groups in a workshop format. Chairperson Zimmerman thanked Ms. Azad for her presentation.

2-B. DISCUSSION ONLY REGARDING THE MOST CURRENT DRAFT MASTER PLAN LAND USE MAP AND DRAFT POLICY FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT (1-0356) - Mr. Plemel provided background information on this item, and reviewed the staff report.

(1-0397) Steve Hartman expressed the opinion that the master plan was "coming together quite nicely." He referred to section 1.2, and discussed the concepts of encouraging multiple use in the downtown area and finding ways to "entice rehab." He advised that parking is an infrastructure improvement which has been lacking, and that it has been an issue from the inception of the redevelopment plan. He expressed the opinion that, in addition to upgrading the existing infrastructure, parking improvements will help engender interest in the downtown area.

2-C. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ONLY REGARDING THE DRAFT FEDERAL LANDS BILL MAP TO IDENTIFY CERTAIN BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT ("BLM") AND U.S. FOREST SERVICE ("USFS") LANDS THAT MAY POTENTIALLY BE DISPOSED OF THROUGH A U.S. CONGRESSIONAL LANDS BILL INTO CARSON CITY OR PRIVATE OWNERSHIP FOR VARIOUS USES SUCH AS OPEN SPACE, PARKS, RECREATION FACILITIES, TRAILS, UTILITY FACILITIES, OTHER PUBLIC USES, OR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (E.G., COMMERCIAL OR INDUSTRIAL) (1-0426) - Mr. Plemel introduced this item, and reviewed the staff report and the draft map which was displayed in the meeting room. He discussed the presentation and public input process. Input will continue to be received through December and the draft map refined accordingly. Subsequent presentation will then be made to the advisory committees for formal recommendation to the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Krahn advised that this presentation was made to the Parks and Recreation Commission at their November 1st meeting, and that comments and input were provided. He further advised that although consideration will be given to changing the use of the subject lands, large scale development is not anticipated. He discussed conflicts with the current location of the trap range, and advised that the users have expressed an interest in moving the facility. He discussed the possibility of developing a regional shooting facility in the Brunswick Canyon area off of Sedge Road.

Vice Chairperson Pugsley inquired as to plans for lands west of the trap range as indicated on the draft map. Mr. Krahn advised of considerations for building a third community park in addition to Mills and Fuji Parks. He noted that developing a community park in the area west of the trap range would create a buffer between the industrial and residential areas. He advised that the land has been identified, by the BLM Urban Interface Plan, for recreation and public purpose. He described access from the freeway, and advised that staff is taking the opportunity to consider larger parcels of land within the core of the City. He noted that another community park in the subject area would serve the north side of town. He acknowledged that the subject area was recently considered for development of an auto mall. He responded to questions regarding the proposed location for the regional shooting facility.

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In response to a question, Mr. Krahn discussed opportunities associated with the City acquiring the Silver Saddle Ranch, including equestrian enhancements, development of a community amphitheater, etc. He provided the examples of the Bartley Ranch and Rancho San Rafael Park in Reno. Mr. Plemel advised that “great consideration” will be given to the flood plain. Mr. Krahn advised that the proposal is only in the conceptual stage, and that staff is interested in input from the community and the Board of Supervisors.

Vice Chairperson Pugsley noted that the Ambrose-Carson River Natural Area had been designated on the draft map. In response to a question, Mr. Krahn advised that no consideration had been given to management or use changes. He acknowledged the area is part of the River’s visual corridor, and advised there may be future recreation opportunities. He noted the area is included in the Silver Saddle Ranch Management Plan. He reiterated there is nothing in the proposed Parks and Recreation Master Plan which indicates any changes to existing management practices or uses. Vice Chairperson Pugsley advised the area is used by equestrians to some extent, primarily residents of the Pinion Hills area. He noted it is one of the few areas of the City which has sufficient parking and access to areas appropriate for equestrian use, but that it seems to be underutilized. He further noted that the proposed regional shooting facility location could potentially be used for equestrians. Member Greytak advised that OHV users also like the area.

In response to a question, Mr. Plemel advised that the BLM has no funding or staff to update their Urban Interface Plan. BLM representatives have expressed a willingness to support the City’s lands bill if it is developed as part of a public process. The lands bill would then supercede the Urban Interface Plan because some of the uses would be different. In response to a question, Mr. Krahn advised that BLM representatives have reviewed the trails plan. The BLM is in the process of working on the Pine Nut Mountains Plan which they hope to release for public comment in February or March of 2006. In response to a question, Mr. Plemel advised that some of the lands are identified for disposal for the purpose of economic development. He expressed the understanding that ownership of lands designated for public use would be transferred to the City for continued public purpose uses.

(1-0874) Washoe Tribal Planner Max Kalhammer advised the Tribe is respectful of the City’s desire to acquire more land especially near the urban core. He further advised that the City has consulted the Tribe on the draft land use plan and the parks and recreation plan. City representatives have advised of the desire to utilize lands surrounding the Carson Colony for recreational trails. Mr. Kalhammer noted that the “property in question is extensive, not just a few parcels here and there.” Some of the land is valuable open space which the Washoe Tribe has always held dear and would most likely be interested in acquiring. Mr. Kalhammer advised that for “its own residents and economic well being, these lands would be valuable” to the Washoe Tribe. The Washoe Tribe believes it would be a good steward of the land, “possibly even better than the City.” Mr. Kalhammer inquired as to the reason the BLM, the City, and the USFS haven’t engaged the Tribe in the process to discuss possible transfer of lands to the Tribe. Chairperson Zimmerman advised that, based on Mr. Kalhammer’s comments, the process of engaging the Tribe may take place in the future.

(1-0931) Mr. Hartman was uncertain as to whether Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act funding would allow for the Silver Saddle Ranch to be reconfigured under different ownership yet again. He advised of issues, from an open space perspective, regarding the same and expressed confidence that City staff would return to the OSAC to discuss the proposal. He expressed the understanding that recreation and public purpose “would be the transfer of preference ... with BLM” because it is the easiest and quickest approach.

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Chairperson Zimmerman called for additional public comment; however, none was provided. (1-1123)
Vice Chairperson Pugsley expressed an interest in discussing uses for the land located north and west of Highway 50, above Centennial Park.

3. ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT OF THE OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE - None.

CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS - None.

1. ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES - None.

2. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA - None.

3. AGENDA ITEMS:

3-A. DISCUSSION ONLY REGARDING THE CITY'S CANCELLATION OF THE BRUNSWICK CANYON BRIDGE PROJECT IN CARSON RIVER CANYON, EAST OF THE DEER RUN ROAD BRIDGE (1-0960) - Mr. Werner provided background information on the project, and advised that when initial estimates were developed, "a lot of things weren't taken into account." Funding became a main issue in that project costs increased to two or three times the initial cost estimates because of mercury issues. Additionally, there is no clear distinction of right-of-way ownership on the south side of the River. An additional issue was associated with the federal lands bill in that if, in fact, the regional shooting facility develops in its proposed location, the location of the bridge would be inappropriate. Based on those reasons, a determination was made that timing for the project was inappropriate. The Regional Transportation Commission recommended withdrawal of the project. NDOT concurred and withdrew the project. Mr. Werner advised that the project can be proposed again, but noted "there a lot of issues still unanswered."

In response to a question, Mr. Werner advised that a new access road would be constructed for a regional shooting facility. Consideration has been given to isolating the residential properties from any regional shooting facility to avoid traffic and noise issues. A separate access point, which would be manned and supervised, has been discussed. Mr. Werner reiterated that until a separate access point was designed, City staff didn't want to "build a brand new bridge that may drop traffic into the midst of the area outside the control point."

In response to a question, Mr. Krahn advised that all trail designations have been removed from the subject area. Based on everything happening in the Carson River Canyon, the area east of Deer Run Road, south of Highway 50, and north of Sedge Road, will be designated as a special V&T planning area on the trails map. In so doing, staff will have more flexibility with regard to planning and development requirements. In response to a question, Mr. Werner advised that access to the shooting facility would be controlled. Sedge Road and the Brunswick Canyon access would still exist and be open to the public.

Mr. Krahn acknowledged the possibility of a pedestrian bridge, in the area of the Bertagnolli property, as part of the trails plan. Member Pahl expressed the hope for a crossing in the area because hiking and biking access from Sedge Road is difficult. Mr. Krahn discussed the possibility of a "primitive trail" from Deer Run Road on the south side of the River to the existing bridge to provide access. He discussed cost

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estimates for crossings. In response to a question regarding preliminary studies for construction of the Deer Run Bridge, Mr. Werner advised the construction took place outside the River channel. The concern with the Brunswick Bridge was that construction would have taken place in the channel area, particularly in old mill locations. (1-1146) Chairperson Zimmerman thanked Mr. Werner for his presentation.

3-B. PRESENTATION ONLY REGARDING A GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OF THE CARSON RIVER (1-1149) - Member Pahl narrated a SlideShow presentation, copies of which were included in the agenda materials. Chairperson Zimmerman called for public comment; however, none was provided. In response to a question, Member Pahl advised that only one report card will be issued but he was certain there will be future studies. Chairperson Zimmerman thanked Member Pahl for his presentation.

4. NON-ACTION ITEMS:

STATUS REPORTS, COMMENTS, AND CONCERNS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS (1-1719) - None.

STATUS REPORTS AND COMMENTS FROM STAFF (1-1726) - Mr. Krahn distributed a letter to the committee members and staff advising of Member Wills' resignation from the committee. He reviewed the advisory committee application and appointment process.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS (1-1762) - Vice Chairperson Pugsley suggested agendizing discussion to identify a river work day. He advised that Dan Kaffer, of Western Nevada RC&D, has funding available to support such an activity. Mr. Krahn advised of the need to remove previously applied poultry fencing from cottonwood trees that have grown too large.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM STAFF (1-1807) - Mr. Krahn reviewed the master plan meeting schedule included in the agenda materials. He advised there would be no December committee meeting, and reviewed the tentative agenda for the January meeting. He responded to questions regarding the master plan meeting schedule and membership terms. In response to a further question, he offered to check with Management Assistant Rose Gardner regarding the membership terms.

5. ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT (1-2010) - Vice Chairperson Pugsley moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 p.m. Member Farrer seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

The Minutes of the November 2, 2005 Carson River Advisory Committee meeting are so approved this 1st day of February, 2006.

CHARLES ZIMMERMAN, Chair