A regular meeting of the Carson River Advisory Committee was scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 1, 2008 in the Community Center Sierra Room, 851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada.

- **PRESENT:**Chairperson Randy Pahl<br/>Vice Chairperson Paul Pugsley<br/>Dan Greytak<br/>Tom Farrer<br/>Ernie Rink<br/>Lacy Sheck
- **STAFF:** Roger Moellendorf, Parks and Recreation Director Vern Krahn Park Planner Darlene Rubin, 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 is a public record, on file in the Clerk-Recorder's Office. These materials are available during regular business hours.

**CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM:** (5:32:00) Chair Randy Pahl called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. Roll was called; a quorum was present. Member Mark McCubbin was absent. Member Tom Farrer arrived at 5:59.

### CITIZEN COMMENTS ON NON-AGENIZED ITEMS: None

1. ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES - August 6, 2008 (5:33:37): Member Ernie Rink moved to approve the minutes. Member Lacy Sheck seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

2. **MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA (5:34:14):** Vern Krahn requested to move agenda item 3-B to the first position to accommodate guest Julie Slocum, who would be speaking. There were no objections.

### **3. AGENDA ITEMS:**

3-A. <u>Update and discussion only</u> regarding the current status of the State of Nevada, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Division of State Lands Question -1 Program's land acquisitions, river projects, and future funding rounds for Carson City (5-56:02): Norm Keehn introduced this item and said Boger Meellenderf would give

**City (5:56:02):** Vern Krahn introduced this item and said Roger Moellendorf would give the status report instead of Mr. Guzman who was attending a conference in Winnemucca. Mr. Moellendorf referred to page 2 of the staff report, attached hereto and made a part hereof by reference as though stated in its entirety, **Project #7 - Carson River Land Acquisition.** He noted the Committee had engaged in a collaborative effort with the Open Space Advisory Committee and the Park and Recreation Committee to

outline a strategy for using Question-1 funds to accomplish some projects and acquire some properties. This project focused on the Carson River acquisitions. As Carson River flowed through Carson City there were an upper reach, middle reach, and lower reach through the county. Recently the Desormier property was acquired on the upper reach, just above Mexican Dam. Recently, too, on the middle reach the Anderson property had been acquired at a cost of about \$1.5 million. Currently, negotiations were ongoing for the Gerrard Ranch and about \$3 million had been approved through Q-1. The negotiations had "cooled down" recently and Mr. Moellendorf said he was not sure about the long term status of the purchase. He remained hopeful however, because if that was acquired "we would have public property all along the river, from the Mexican Dam (except for the Empire Golf Course property) almost to Deer Run Road Bridge, which tied up a nice green belt along the Carson River" for public use and preservation of that property. He explained further that in terms of Carson City and the county, below Deer Run Road Bridge (the lower reach) they were in negotiations with John Serpa for about 400 acres through the canyon. They had already been approved through Q-1 for a little more than \$1 million. They have had several negotiations with Mr. Serpa and at this point were discussing having an appraisal done.

Mr. Krahn next spoke about the status of several trail projects, most along the river, as detailed on page 3 of the staff report. **Project #2 - Modified/Multi-Use Trail from Riverview Park to Empire Ranch Trail:** That trail had been identified in the *Unified Pathways Master Plan* as one of the key components of the trail system along the river. He believed the advantage was that Vidler Water Company purchased a 40-acre tract (the Red Graham property), and had subdivided out four or five one-acre lots and there would be about 35 or so acres of the 40-acre parcel going to the City's Open Space Program. Thus, all the land between Riverview Park and the Empire Ranch Golf Course would belong to the City. One of the best aspects of the land donation to the City had been the developer's commitment to building the City the trail (in the *Unified Pathways Master Plan*) from Riverview to the Empire Ranch Trail. It would be a 12-foot wide DG (decomposed granite) trail that would go from the north side of Riverview Park across their property; they would put in a low-flow crossing to go across Eagle Creek, and tie into the Empire Ranch Trail. Mr. Krahn continued stating that another interesting thing about that trail was that it was not along the river, rather "more through the center part of the property, more of the sage brush community out there, thus leaving a fairly large buffer of sage brush as well as riparian and cottonwood groves closer to the river away from that trail."

Mr. Krahn said he knew the Committee was concerned about having too much access to the river; there had to be some balance–providing public areas along the banks yet providing areas for nesting and other types of activities for wildlife. The location tentatively being considered accomplished that. There may be social trails that interacted with the 12-foot wide DG trail that would take one down to the river, but the intent was to stay, with that particular section of the trail, further away from the river than some of the other trail segments. He added that from a passive recreational hiking experience there was great diversity in the trail. The parcel map had been through their office again for review and once it had been finalized they could start working with Mr. Guzman on the land acquisition transfer.

Next, Mr. Krahn reported that on the Mexican Ditch Trail Bridges Project two key components of that

trail were missing (1) an older 5-foot wide wood bridge that was sagging down near Hidden Meadows, and (2) a spot where a trail came up to the ditch on the east side, and a trail came up to the ditch on the west side (see map in packet). South of the Hidden Meadows development, there were two bridges being put in; they had been bid out. Mr. Krahn credited Ann Bollinger for her help in that process, acquiring the grants and doing the grant administration, as well as working with the bridge manufacturers. Two prefabricated metal bridges would be put in: one, from Excel Bridges, the other from Big R Bridges. They would be trucked in and the contractor would pour the concrete abutments and put the bridges on them. The Board of Supervisors would be taking action to award to the lowest bidder, on October 2, 2008, after which they would have ten days to get their paperwork in order, then the Public Works Department would issue a notice to proceed and construction would begin on the abutments.

Regarding the <u>Aquatic Trail Plan's Recreation Improvements</u>, Mr. Krahn reported that a number of Committee members had been involved in the project, working toward doing improvements at both the Morgan Mill Road River Access Area and at Carson River Park. First, on the Morgan Mill project, they had been working with Resource Concepts who now had completed 100 percent of the construction documents. One problem had been the struggle in getting the state and federal permits to get into the river. Part of the project was to construct a concrete boat ramp and do some bank stabilization; they had hoped to get into the river this fall but that probably would not happen until next year.

Mr. Krahn next reported on <u>Carson River Park</u>. They were currently working with the well; some preliminary testing had been done. That 40-acre parcel was called "Camp Carson" and some of the amenities at the time included a restroom facility which no longer existed, but the well was intact. There was power to the well, the pressure tank worked and it would produce about 10gpm. They were now looking to hire a well contractor to see if there was a better way to configure the well. They were considering going with a variable speed well pump for a number of reasons, one, with enough pressure they could put in a spray system which would help establish vegetation. They also hoped to have consultants under contract to start the landscape design by the end of the month for bidding next spring. The project would have two parts: the landscaping around the parking lot first, then the improvements on BLM property would be done later in the year.

Mr. Krahn reported briefly on some other Question-1 projects: the <u>Urban Fishing Pond</u> project, although not directly related to the river sat on a tributary of Clear Creek, was moving forward and it was hoped that funding would be solidified by the end of 2008 for construction next year. Improvements had been completed on <u>Project #2</u> with the Clear Creek Habitat Improvement near the river. Chair Pahl asked to have more specifics on the Clear Creek project and Mr. Krahn responded that as part of the Urban Fishing Pond project, one of the things they had wanted to do was to add to the diversion gate. They had to get a core permit for the diversion to the pond. Aspen Excavating and Grading had done the work. Also Rob Fellows, the City's storm water engineer, worked with Mr. Krahn and others to widen the stream environment zone through some contour manipulations and other grading activities. The Clear Creek Watershed Council had done some restoration projects in that area as well. With the current design, he believed it would allow a 500cfs event to be able to go through the stream environment zone and not impact

the fairgrounds or the urban fishing pond. If it were a bigger event, the effect was unknown. Member Pugsley commented that a significant result of all the work had been in tripling the size of what could flow through the culverts.

Member Sheck asked if any work was being done on Butti Way, where Airport Road came across on the culvert off the new freeway going to the river. Mr. Krahn said that he knew the Public Works Department over the years had tried to do something in the area because of the large flood area created by NDOT as a result of the freeway. The result was a wide area that could flow a lot of water being channeled through a narrow concrete culvert then into a smaller channel on the north side of the waste water treatment plant. However, he was not aware of anything being done currently, Member Sheck noted that the water would be flowing into the river and it was a 72-hour retention pond, which meant a lot of water at one time down to the river. She expressed concern that with the Vidler Company putting that pathway through, would that be washed out in a major storm event.

Mr. Krahn confirmed there was a lot of water being channeled through all the freeway drainage structures, however, some help would come from the number of detention basins built upstream at the college, the Shenandoah detention basin, and a number of others scattered throughout town to help take the "head" off the storm. Nevertheless, there would be a lot of water coming down through there, in fact, the entire valley drained through that one spot. As far as the low flow crossings, typically they were designed with a variety of big culverts lined up in the creek stream flow that, during normal water times, went underneath the path and flowed through the culverts. Typically, too, those culverts were concreted in place so that in the event of a big flood the water flowed through the culvert and eventually as the water level increased it flowed over top of it. They believed that was a better solution, even though it would close the trail for a two or three-day period in a large flood plain, than trying to put a bridge over the creek. A huge bridge would be required to get over the creek with the flows that could be anticipated, as well as other things catching on the bridge structures and backing up water.

Member Pugsley noted that the real concern with flooding was not Eagle Valley Creek, it was Carson River. If there was a 500cfs event in Eagle Valley Creek, which that channel would come close to handling, it would be a huge volume in the Carson River, and that entire property including all the paths much less the low-flow crossing would be under water. All of the exercise they had gone through relative to retention basins upstream of Eagle Valley Creek had an impact on how flows reached that particular culvert on Butti Way. It had been reduced by one-third from a potential of 12,000cfs to just less than 8,000cfs. "We could not pass even 8,000cfs past the low-flow crossing that was in the Moffett property, which is where the Mexican Ditch flume crosses over Eagle Valley Creek; that particular gap will not pass 8,000cfs." Thus, Mr. Pugsley added, even though both bridges at the (Butti Way or Edmond) road would not pass that, the real concern was that gap underneath the flume. He said that was a high priority for Rob Fellows at storm water management to deal with, before dealing with the issues on each of the roads.

## **3-B.** Action regarding the Carson River Advisory Committee's efforts to plan, organize, and sponsor a Carson River Work and Education Day on Saturday, October 25, 2008.

(5:34:37) Vern Krahn explained that the Committee had been working on developing a Carson River Work and Education Day, scheduled for Saturday, October 25. At the last meeting, the Committee spent some time discussing the particular aspects of the event and Chairman Pahl and Member Greytak had been fine tuning the program. Mr. Krahn then introduced Julie Slocum, Branch Supervisor, Greater Nevada Credit Union, who would like to partner with the Committee for the event.

Ms. Slocum reported that the Greater Nevada Credit Union had an established employee volunteer program in place. It was part of their corporate culture to give back to the communities they served. They had four branches in Carson City, one in Minden, one in Dayton, and many of their executive operations were in the area. They had earlier decided they were going to do something for "National Make a Difference Day" which also fell on October 25. Accordingly, she said they would like to commit 15 to 50 volunteers and hoped that it might be an ongoing partnership in future events. Chair Pahl was very pleased and welcomed their participation. He said it was often difficult to plan that type of day when the participation level was unknown. He wanted to make sure there was enough work for everyone.

Mr. Krahn said they had been successful with partnerships in the past and recalled the participation of the Boy Scouts and their families in previous years. Mr. Krahn wanted to put together a press release/poster with the start times, meeting place, and so on and asked for volunteers to help with that so they could get it out to the community as quickly as possible. He noted there were many different activities taking place in October–the Clear Creek Watershed Council on October 4, Snapshot Day would take place the following week–so there were many volunteer opportunities and he wanted to get the Carson River Work and Education Day on the calendar as soon as possible.

Member Greytak said that along the river corridor they had looked at the painted trees the beavers had taken out; their "taking" was very selective. Some of the trees were sprouting again so he would like to target the trees that were left in the dry, low area, to paint and protect them. The goal was to keep the beavers from eating the big trees. He also reported that Nancy had a lot of "bird box" work she wanted to do; some were not built, and others were not hung, and that activity provided a good educational opportunity. She may have some help from the Audubon Society and they may be able to do that as two groups. Another activity was to target some weeds; they simply needed to be found, identified and marked, and someone would return later to treat those identified with pesticides. Finding those weeds, especially along the river, was extremely helpful in preparation for treating them. There were thistles-the seed heads could be removed and they would "go away." He noted, too, there had been some fencing work and if people were available to help he could probably have the materials to rebuild those fences located closer to the river corridor. Member Greytak said also that he would like to have someone lead a naturalist hike for those people who may not be able to work but who wanted to get on the trails. He related that Nancy had spoken of getting people out on the trails to identify areas that needed work, or trails that were not on the map and a decision had to be made whether to keep them or not. "It's a walk with a critical eye taking notes." On another matter, he had learned that the State Tree Nursery in Washoe Valley had some

black willow trees and wild roses, and where traffic needed to be discouraged wild roses were a great barrier and a good plant for wildlife. There would probably be plant material for planting that day as well.

Member Greytak reported that they were looking at finding a caterer–Dan Kaffer, of Resource Conservation and Development, was going to sponsor the catering. Also, 125 T-shirts were being made with "Carson River Work Days" logo on the front, which was the standard that Linda Conwin used for her River Wranglers. On the back would be "Friends of Silver Saddle" and the Carson City logo along with Audubon, if they want to be on it. He invited Julie Slocum to submit the Greater Nevada Credit Union's logo/art work via email and he would get it to the silkscreener at Douglas High School where the shirts were printed at a great savings.

Member Greytak said the word was getting out about the Work Day; Pioneer High School was pushing it, the 4-H Group that had horses down there had been invited to participate. Two school groups wanted to bring children in for the Work Day but it could not be done because it was not taking place on a school day. However, as people were becoming more familiar with the river other opportunities could be arranged with some scheduling and organization. He added that Dan Kaffer suggested calling the event the "October Carson River Fest." In any event, they were drafting the poster; they knew what kind of activity would take place, the date was set for October 25, and would start at 9:00, with lunch about 12:30. Participants should come to the Silver Saddle Ranch parking lot/staging area (driving to the Red House). The ranch headquarters would be used for the wrap-up and lunch. All of the activities would involve hiking from there to the river, about one-quarter mile, so people should be prepared to walk. The "bird box" activity would be spread out as far as the Mexican Dam. As far as the weather, Member Greytak reminded that it could be cooler at the end of October.

Member Lacy Sheck asked about getting a banner across Carson Street, by the Nugget, and Mr. Krahn said he would look into it. He believed the organization had to provide the banner and the County would put it up, although he wondered if the Committee wanted to spend money that way. He added that Mr. Kaffer was providing some limited funding for the T-shirts, lunch, materials, and plants. Mr. Krahn said that was very much appreciated. He next asked if the Committee had decided to put chicken wire around the Cottonwoods, or paint. Member Greytak said they were undecided, they may need to do both. There was some discussion about that. Mr. Krahn said he was reserving the community clean up trailer for the work day and would have it delivered on-site about 8:30. The trailer was equipped with water, and a wide assortment of tools (rakes, shovels, wheelbarows, prunning/loping shears, garbage bags, but no hammers) and people should bring their own gloves and comfortable walking shoes, and dress appropriately for the weather. Julie Slocum said she would get the word out to her employees and get a roster started. She would inform the Committee about the number of people participating. Mr. Krahn said he would put together the press release (and would send to Dan Greytak and Randy Pahl for review), but would appreciate someone creating the flyer to go with it. Chair Pahl said he could do something like that, and Mr. Krahn would arrange for distribution. Ms. Slocum said she would recommend car pooling to her employees, and Chair Pahl thought that suggestion should be included in the press release. No action was necessary.

**3-C.** <u>Update and discussion only</u> regarding the progress to schedule a workshop on Saturday, January 10, 2009, to develop a Committee "work plan" for 2009/2010. (6:22:18) Chair Pahl said they were going to get together to develop a work plan. Several weeks earlier a group had met that included Steve Lewis, who had been a great asset on other occasions, and who was going to help facilitate that gathering. In the packet was an agenda that Mr. Lewis had prepared, but it could be revised if there were any suggestions. The date had been set for January 10, 2009, in the morning, followed by lunch. Mr. Pahl liked the idea of spending some time on the historical aspects–how the mission had been described in the master plan, and also on documents such as the resolution by the Board of Supervisors that created the Committee. Those were some of the things Steve Lewis wanted to discuss; a "trip down memory lane and revisit some of our successes so we can feel good about ourselves."

Mr. Krahn thought the Committee had a lot to be proud of; there were many plans that had come from the Committee, "it was a policy committee at some points, a hands-on committee at others." He noted that over its history the Committee had accomplished and helped City staff, the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Open Space Committee, and the Board of Supervisors do good things on the river. He added, "It's always good to start off a Saturday morning with a cup of coffee, a roll, and a pat on the back for everybody."

Chair Pahl said he would take whatever resulted from that workshop and put together a work plan, after which he would ask for comments. The next step would be to present it to the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Krahn said it would be a good opportunity to communicate with them directly, in the space of about fifteen minutes, perhaps with a PowerPoint presentation. If they asked questions and it went beyond the fifteen minutes that would be all right. Member Greytak asked about inviting the participation of one of the commissioners in the workshop-possibly Pete Livermore or Robin Williamson. Mr. Krahn said that Robin was technically the liaison and he would extend that invitation to her if the Committee so desired. They all agreed. Member Pugsley added that he was friends with two of the original committee members and he might be able to have them join in that meeting as well. The committee had much to be proud of. A general discussion ensued about how the committee today was different from it was originally because of the circumstances under which it was formed. The goal then was to put together a 50-foot wide river ownership for the City down the stretch of the river. That committee struggled with property values and issues, and so on, and much better solutions had been found to most of those issues. Chair Pahl agreed those original members were welcome as well as any member of the public, and if they had any special river issues to discuss let the Committee know. Chair Paul asked the Committee to be thinking about any specific items for that workshop.

# **3-D.** Action to change the Carson River Advisory Committee's bylaw to remove from Section 11A, Regular Meetings, the wording "... The meeting shall occur in January, March, May, July, September, and November of every year ..." (6:30:45) Roger Moellendorf

March, May, July, September, and November of every year ... "(6:30:45) Roger Moellendorf noted that at the last meeting (August 6, 2008) the Committee had passed a motion to support staff's recommendation to bring forward at this meeting a change to the bylaw. The recommended change applied to Section II-A, Regular Meetings. Currently the bylaw stated the Committee shall hold one meeting every

month. The meetings shall occur in February, April, June, August, October, and December of every year, or at the call of the chair as business requires, or a vote of the committee members. He stated at that meeting that a series of cut backs in staffing as well as tightened budgets had resulted in his staff being reduced by 12 employees from just over a year ago. One key loss was an administrative assistant position so they no longer had that support in compiling and distributing the meeting packets, doing agendas, notifications and so on. Accordingly, while trying to maintain the level of service to all the committees they staffed, it would be necessary to rearrange the meeting schedules where that could be done without detriment to the committees. One of the ideas was to consolidate the meeting dates for the Shade Tree Council and the Carson River Advisory Committee so that CRAC would be meeting on the fourth Monday of every other month. On the other month the STC would be meeting. Therefore, Mr. Moellendorf's recommendation would be to change the bylaw by removing references to those specific months that were listed so that the new bylaw would read: "The Committee shall hold one meeting every other month or at the call of the chair as business requires, or a vote of the committee members." If approved by the Committee, the next meeting would continue on the same schedule as presently, meeting again on December 3, and this change would start after the first of the year. The new schedule for 2009 would begin with the meeting of January 26, 2009, and continue on the fourth Monday of every month. He added that the reason that it was not passed at the last meeting was that according to the bylaw, a bylaw could be entertained but not be acted upon until the next meeting.

Member Greytak asked if they were "locked into a Monday." Mr. Moellendorf said the bylaw change would not specify the day of the week nor the month; it would only specify the committee would meet once every other month. He added that he had picked the fourth Monday because that worked well with his department's schedule, as far as not "doubling up" before other meetings.

A motion was made by Dan Greytak to change the Carson River Advisory Committee's bylaw to remove from section II-A Regular Meetings, the wording "the meetings shall occur in February, April, June, August, October and December of every year" and to replace with "the committee shall hold one meeting every other month or at the call of the chair as business requires, or a vote of the committee members." It was seconded by Paul Pugsley, and carried unanimously.

### 4. NON-ACTION ITEMS:

### STATUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM STAFF:

**4-A.** Linear Park Trail / Mexican Ditch Trail Bridges Connectivity Project. Mr. Krahn reported on a number of "FYIs" contained in the meeting packet, dealing with the Carson River Clean up, trails along the river, Riverview Park and Silver Saddle Ranch. He also cited the map included in the packet and reported that a number of the projects they were working on with the trails and bridges had a purpose, namely to be able to eventually connect downtown Carson City with the Carson River. It was hoped that by the middle of next year, one could enter the trail by Governors Field on an off-street path and ride/walk east across the Lompa Ranch through the Freeway Corridor. NDOT would be building a multi-use 10-foot

wide asphalt paved path which would connect with a project currently being worked on (that project would also be awarded by the Board of Supervisors), to pave the trail on the south and east sides of the waste water treatment plant over to the Moffett property. That trail would connect with the Mexican Ditch Trail going south all the way to Silver Saddle Ranch. Once that was all connected, Mr. Krahn and Mr. Moellendorf, perhaps in conjunction with Muscle Powered or other bicycle groups, would have a ribbon-cutting event to alert the community to the new trail system. That had been a goal in the *Unified Pathways Master Plan* to have an integrated system and one of the key parts was missing links–the "missing links" were scattered all over town and that prevented having a system. With the Bridge Project, the Linear Path paving, and NDOTs construction of the bicycle path through the Freeway Corridor completed, there would now be a way to go from downtown to Silver Saddle Ranch and the river. To carry it further, he added, that on Roop Street–from Governors Field north to 5<sup>th</sup> and then west on 5<sup>th</sup> Street, there were sidewalks and bicycle lanes painted on both streets–one could go from the State Capitol Complex and by using the off-street path go all the way to the river. Mr. Krahn added that they were all very pleased about the opportunity that would provide for the community next summer.

Chair Pahl noted that once the Vidler Trail was put through the old Hell's Bells Ranch and connected with the low-flow crossing to the Empire Trail, one could go from Governors Field all the way to Morgan Mill. He added that it was beginning to develop into a nice and an important trail network system linking east and west Carson. Mr. Krahn noted that NDOT was being "very bicycle-friendly." The 5<sup>th</sup> Street overpass would have sidewalks and bike lanes, then because of the off-street multi-use path, the path would go under 5<sup>th</sup> Street, under the freeway, and then one could go over to Butti Way and connect into the City's system by the waste water treatment plant. The grades for the path had already been cut. He expressed thanks to NDOT and the Board of Supervisors for their efforts on behalf of the trail system.

### MEMBERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION: None

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: (6:45:00) Mr. Krahn recalled that the Friends of the Silver Saddle Ranch, the National Park Service representatives, and the City had put together the Carson River and Silver Saddle Ranch design workshops, and now they were working with Juan Guzman on getting the first draft into a format that could be presented to the public. Once that was ready, they would go to the Open Space Advisory Committee, Carson River Advisory Committee, and Parks and Recreation seeking their recommendations to the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors. He hoped it would be ready in December.

An update on the Federal Lands Bill would be presented by Mr. Guzman.

In January or February 2009, take action on the goals that emanated from the January 10, 2009 workshop.

### 6. ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT: (6:46:25) A motion to adjourn was made by Paul Pugsley, seconded by Lacy Sheck, and carried unanimously.

### Chair Pahl Adjourned the meeting at 6:46 p.m.

The Minutes of the October 1, 2008 Carson River Advisory Committee meeting are so approved this 26<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2009.

RANDY PAHL, Chair