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Description automatically generatedSouth Truckee Meadows/Washoe Valley**

**Minutes of the regular meeting of the South Truckee Meadows/Washoe Valley held on August 3, 2023, at 6:00 P.M. at The South Valleys Library – 15650A Wedge Parkway, Reno**

**1. CALL TO ORDER/ DETERMINATION OF QUORUM** David Snelgrove(absent), Robert Dunbar, Wesley Mewes, Marge Frandsen, Tom Burkhart

A quorum was established and the meeting was brought to order.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

**3. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT** – Comment heard under this item will be limited to three (3) minutes per person and may pertain to matters both on and off the agenda. The Citizen Advisory Board will also hear public comment during individual action items, with comment limited to three minutes per person. Comments are to be made to the Board as a whole.

Citizen – Our elections are in a state of chaos. An out-of-state election group has been suggested to take over the elections. The voters of Washoe County need to know what’s happening. We need to turn out at the county commission meeting.

Citizen - An announcement was made about the two vacancies on the Library Board of Trustees and the application process.

4. **ELECTION OF THE SOUTH TRUCKEE MEADOWS/WASHOE VALLEY CITIZEN ADVISORY BOARD CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR** – Members of the STM/WV CAB will elect a Chair and Vice Chair to serve October 5, 2023 to June 30, 2024 term. (For Possible Action) (Approx. 5 minutes)

The election of the chair and vice chair was postponed until next meeting due to the absence of David Snelgrove.

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING OF August (for Possible Action)**

The minutes for August were approved.

**6. WASHOE COUNTY AND AGENCY UPDATES** – (Non-Action Item)

Washoe County Sheriff’s Office – Captain Brian Zircle from the Washoe County Sheriff's Office introduced himself and discussed making their activities more transparent.

The captain provides statistics on calls for service in the South Truckee Meadows, Washoe Valley CAB area, mentioning a decrease of 5 calls compared to the three-year average. He mentions an increase in self-initiated activities, such as traffic stops and subject contacts, in the South Truckee Meadows, Washoe Valley CAB area. He mentions seeing a lot of vehicle burglaries at trailheads and parks where people leave their valuables inside their unlocked vehicles.

The captain mentions the significant cost of rendering and towing abandoned vehicles, which is covered by the Sheriff's Office budget. He discusses abandoned vehicles as a significant issue in most regions but mentions not having many reports from the South Truckee Meadows area. He discusses abandoned vehicles as a significant issue and explains the challenges of getting tow companies to remove them. He mentions a partnership with Truckee Meadows Fire to use abandoned vehicles for firefighter training and explains the issue of finding suitable land for this purpose. He explains the current process of towing abandoned vehicles to a yard, rendering them, and then towing them to the landfill for disposal.

He expresses concern about the increase in assault batteries and vehicle burglaries in the Truckee Meadows area. The speaker mentions efforts to work with communities and implement strategies to address vehicle burglaries.

He discusses the issue of commercial burglaries in housing developments, specifically targeting appliances. The speaker mentions efforts to combat these burglaries through increased surveillance and presence in the area.

The participants express concerns about illegal dumping, lack of security, and challenges in proving ownership and making arrests for misdemeanor crimes.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District

Christopher Black provided facts about fire incidents, burn restrictions, and the importance of evacuation when necessary. There were a total of 266 calls. That’s up 4 from June. 16 were fire-related, 154 were EMS-related, 16 were auto accidents, and 47 were good intent calls. No burning of anything not gas-fueled. It is fire season, and the fire department is fully staffed. We have been sending employees out to other states. We have 10 to 12 employees in Utah.

One participant expressed disappointment in the low attendance at a recent fire management event. The participants discussed the importance of such events for the community's vulnerability to fire.

Question - I have a fire pit in my back yard. How does the word get out?

Answer - We work with the local media to get the word out. Gas fire is okay. Just nothing that can send out embers.

**7. E-COMMENT** – Erick Willrich, Assistant to the County Manager, Washoe County, will deliver a brief presentation on E-Comment, which allows citizens to provide public comment electronically on county issues and Board of County Commissioner meeting agenda items. (Non-Action Item) (Approx. 10 minutes)

Eric introduced the SpeakUp platform and explained its purpose, impact, and engagement opportunities. He explains the features of the e-comment system, including the ability to submit comments, the comments becoming part of the permanent record, and the option to register to speak in person during the meeting.

Erick explains the benefits of using the e-comment system, including comments being instantly part of the public record, visible to county commissioners, and the system providing more opportunities for public comment. He explains the engagement process and outreach efforts for the e-comment system, including meeting with commissioners, attending CABs, and providing presentations to the public.

The availability of Granicus for boards was discussed. Currently, it is only available for the Board of County Commission. The Planning Commission's agendas are not in Granicus at this time, but it may be offered in the future.

Concerns about AI and voice recognition were raised. The speaker expressed concern about AI being able to mimic an individual's voice pattern without their knowledge. They were worried about outside sources of influence and the potential misuse of voice recognition.

**8. WASHOE COUNTY SUSTAINABILITY** – Brian Beffort, Washoe County Sustainability Manager, will present about the county’s efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality and improve quality of life for everyone in the county. (Non-Action Item) (Approx. 20 minutes)

The sustainability manager for Washoe County introduced the concept of sustainability. They discussed the definition of sustainability and its importance in meeting current needs without depriving future generations. Brian also mentioned the benefits of sustainability for people, lands, wildlife resources, and the economy.

Brian mentions working with the police on transitioning away from polluting vehicles to more efficient alternatives. He presents data on the county’s electrical bills for various public facilities and discusses their goal of reducing costs by switching to LED light bulbs. He discusses their role in helping the county plan its steps towards achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. Brian highlights the potential cost savings and energy efficiency of LED light bulbs, as well as the county's green recovery plan and strategies for reducing heat and pollution levels.

He mentioned the goal of achieving zero food insecurity by 2050 and the plan to expand opportunities for local farmers and community gardens. He discussed the plan to work with Reno, Sparks, RTC, and other agencies to expand alternative fuel infrastructure.

Brian discussed the need to increase the number of trees and highlighted their benefits. He mentioned the possibility of planting fruit trees to address food insecurity and recommended consulting with the Reno urban forester for tree selection.

He mentioned the use of alternative fuels like hydrogen and the need to wait for more options to become available. He discussed the plan to transition fleet vehicles to electric and mentioned the challenges with certain vehicles like snowplows and road graders.

Citizen – She expressed concerns about the perceived threat to freedoms, control of lives, and the belief that access to oil and gas resources is being restricted. They also mentioned the potential impact on electric and fuel-powered vehicles. She emphasized the need to protect freedoms and be mindful of radical proposals related to climate change. They mentioned the influence of a democratic liberal agenda and the impact on children in schools. The discussion also touched on the importance of trees in Washoe County and the fiscal year budget for the county.

**9. NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING HUB** – Marc De La Torre, Washoe County Community Outreach Coordinator, to share, if any, the latest community information on development community meetings. (Non-Action Item) (Approx. 1 minute).

There are no meetings scheduled.

**10. CAB BOARD MEMBER/BCC NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** — This item is limited to announcements and/or requests for future agenda items by CAB members and residents. (Non-Action Item) (Approx. 5 minutes).

There were no announcements.

**11. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT** — Comments heard under this item will be limited to three (3) minutes per person and may pertain to matters both on and off the agenda. The Citizen Advisory Board will also hear public comment during individual action items, with comment limited to three minutes per person. Comments are to be made to the Board as a whole.

A public comment is not intelligible. It concerns the lands bill.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:14 pm