



South Truckee Meadows/Washoe Valley Citizen Advisory Board
Minutes of the regular meeting of the South Truckee Meadows/Washoe Valley Citizen
Advisory Board held on February 15, 2024, at 6:00 P.M. at South Valleys Library

- 1. CALL TO ORDER/ DETERMINATION OF QUORUM** David Snelgrove (Chair), Wes Mewes, Robert Dunbar, Marge Frandsen, Brad Stanley were all present.

Quorum was established and the meeting was called 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. (non-action item)

No public comment.

- 4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETINGS OF** December 7, 2023 (for possible action)

This item was removed from the agenda because the minutes were not posted within the required three day required timeframe for adherence to Open Meeting Law. The December 7, 2023 minutes will be reviewed and voted upon at the April 2024 meeting.

- 5. PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATES** – A Washoe County Sheriff's Deputy and/or Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District may be available to provide a general community update on public safety (non-action item)

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD)

Battalion Chief Martin Johnson from Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District shared statistics of calls in the area, including 277 calls for service, a 2% increase in call volume, with a majority of those calls being for medical. Warned that the wildland fire fuel division has been working on Mt. Rose Highway with controlled burns, so that if smoke has been seen in the area, this is why. Also working off of Farm Lane and will continue to work up Mt. Rose Highway. In April it will be anticipated that green waste burning will also return but that the dates are not yet finalized.

It was also shared that TMFPD had hired four new firefighter paramedics and a new coordinator who will assist with improving business in the neighborhoods, acquisition of grants to help further reduce fuel risks, and will help with defensible-space inspections.

A citizen asked when a new station would be built. Chief Johnson replied that an Apple Station is slated to open in 2024. TMFPD Chief Chris Ketring shared that the funding of the station is in progress due to raising prices and inflation. Chief Ketring went over the land having already been purchased and answered questions as to the materials that would be used to build the structure.

CAB Chair Snelgrove asked about opportunities for reducing fire danger. Chief Ketring said that anybody can visit the TMFPD webpage to learn about defensible space and arrange to have an expert visit their home and provide specific feedback. Mr. Snelgrove mentioned including HOAs in becoming a fire-adapted community.

Washoe County Sheriff's Office

Lieutenant Mike O'Brien provided an update via ZOOM and expressed disappointment at not being able to be at the meeting in person. He said that Sheriff Balaam will be releasing the 20204 State of the Sheriff's Office to include the goals for 2024 and the Sheriff's desire to reduce residential and vehicle burglaries, assaults and increase in DUI enforcement due to an increase in recent DUI arrests. In the future, a DUI unit is a goal.

- 6. HISTORIC VIRGINIA & TRUCKEE TRAIL; RAILROAD TO RAIL TRAIL** - Donna N. Inversin, President of the Historic V & T Trail, will provide Historic Virginia & Truckee Trail information including volunteerism, and more. [For Discussion Only]

Donna Inversin provided handouts about the Historic Virginia & Truckee Trail and background on the nonprofit organization and its goal to find the remaining sections of the old railroad and stitch them together to create a rail trail of multi-use path system for the enjoyment of the citizens of Northern Nevada. This will promote alternate commute opportunities to include Reno to Carson City and even to Minden and Gardnerville, or Virginia City. The trail will create recreation and tourism opportunities to benefit the economy. Throughout the path there will be interpretive panels to include the history of the tribes and the mining and ranching industries. The next steps are to go to the RTC, Regional Transportation Commission and Washoe County to be adopted into the alternative transportation plan. Carson City's Redevelopment Authority Citizens Committee has funded wayfinding signs and has obtained an agreement with NV Energy to use an easement line, and the Veterans Parkway which connects to the Tahoe Pyramid Trail, is being adopted as an alternative route to avoid populated areas. An agreement with the City of Sparks has been signed. A website is in development and the nonprofit is working with Douglas County, and a grant is on the horizon to be granted. In the future the group will be creating a fundraiser to help complete the trail. Ms. Inversin went over opportunities for membership and referenced brochures.

A citizen asked about the property being referenced as being private and expressed concern for the costs associated with any fees associated with building in this area. Ms. Inversin acknowledged these concerns and said that she hoped grants would help with any of these costs.

7. WASHOE COUNTY MANAGER UPDATE – Washoe County Manager Eric Brown will provide an update regarding happenings in Washoe County and a look-ahead for 2024. [For Discussion Only]

Washoe County Manager Eric Brown said that this is the third year in which he has done such a presentation and prefaced the discussion by saying he would go over what had transpired over the past year, what the goals are for 2024, and to determine the future of the CAB program. The key accomplishments in 2023 were the regionalization of emergency dispatch and the coordinating partner entities. Manager Brown then discussed 2024 being an election year and the assistance of an outside consultant which provided input on how to improve the elections process in Washoe County. He shared that being good stewards of the environment are important within the Master Plan of the County, and the addition of a Sustainability Manager. He then went on to discuss senior services, new opportunities for childcare, emergency operations, and broadband connections to create digital equity. Moving forward, there are new ways that Washoe County wants to communicate with the residents living in the County. He went over the Washoe County Leadership Academy, the SpeakUp e-Comment opportunity for those who cannot make it in person to Board of County Commissioners meetings, and the addition of the Community Development HUB which showcases development neighborhood meetings. Manager Brown alluded to the possibility of a new position within Washoe County which would allow for a coordinator within the Community Services Department. He introduced new leadership within the County who have been hired, the sound financial footing of the County, and touched on the homelessness challenges and opportunities. The purchase of the West Hills mental health facility will create new opportunities for mental health in Washoe County. Manager Brown went over the CAB meeting statistics over the past year which indicate that there are often more staff members at these meetings than participants. He shared that a survey indicated that people generally do not prefer in person meetings to online meetings, and desire meetings with a specific topic that is of importance to the community.

CAB member Brad Stanley asked if meetings could be made hybrid with in-person and online options. Washoe County Community Outreach Coordinator Candee Ramos said that meetings are already hybrid-capable and that the only person who had taken advantage of this during this meeting was the WCSO for his update.

CAB Chair Snelgrove said that development is the key topic that the community wants to hear about and would recommend bringing development back to the CAB. Also recommended getting rid of the voting aspect from the CAB board, as they do not vote on anything of importance.

CAB member Marge Frandsen said that as a former member of the Planning Commission, that when developers came to CABs, attendance was high. Suggested an early community meeting within the development process for citizens to express concerns with developers before going to the planning commission. CAB member Brad Stanley echoed this sentiment.

Citizen attendee Steve Bennett said that he has been to many public meetings and said that the topics that bring people to meetings are important for attendance, however expressed concern that in every form of government he believes that those who vote already have their mind made up prior to community feedback. Manager Brown said that, in his experience, the Commissioners' minds are not

made up when they enter a discussion, they are open minded about taking into consideration community input. Manager Brown went over the new community neighborhood development meeting process, how the meetings are required earlier in the process than before. CAB Chair Snelgrove recommended offering the developer the opportunity to either hold their own meeting or come to a CAB because finding meeting space is difficult and expensive for the developers. A citizen agreed with Mr. Snelgrove's assertion that finding meeting space is difficult. Mr. Snelgrove said that often boards such as CABs are working off of emotion rather than legal findings.

A citizen said that she had heard about the CAB meeting on Nextdoor and recommends the use of social media to promote CAB meetings to reach a younger audience. Staff member Ms. Ramos said that the County posts on Nextdoor as well as sends email blasts and how people may be added to the email list. Another citizen said she would like to see equity between the jurisdictions for services such as snow plowing.

Ms. Ramos said that a second community survey will come out soon and encouraged participation.

8. NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING HUB STANDING AGENDA ITEM – Candee Ramos, Washoe County Community Outreach Coordinator, to share the latest community information on the Neighborhood Meeting HUB featuring development community meetings. (non-action item)

Ms. Ramos mentions no upcoming meetings were for the South Truckee Meadows area. The Neighborhood meeting HUB was discussed and a screen sharing session was conducted to showcase the HUB. Ms. Ramos showed the opportunities to see various projects and meetings, the development application process, how one may sign up to receive notifications about the neighborhood development meetings, and how one may review what transpired during a neighborhood meeting after it occurs. Ms. Ramos encouraged citizens to attend these meetings as they are early in the planning process and they are not restricted to three minutes of public commentary and that these meetings are designed to be more of a conversation between the developer and the community.

Washoe County District 2 Commissioner Mike Clark reiterated that he does not have his mind made up before he votes on a development project, and that he listens to the community in attendance. He shared that the community meetings are worthwhile because these are opportunities for a conversation between the developer and the community.

9. COMMISSIONER AND BOARD MEMBER ITEMS — This item is limited to announcements and/or requests for future agenda items by CAB members and potential general announcements from the county commissioner and county manager. (non-action item)

There were no Commissioner or Board Member items.

10. 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 public is encouraged to submit a "Request to Speak" form to the Board chairman. Comments are to be addressed to the Board as a whole. (non-action item)

Citizen Cynthia Reed said that she had attended a recent community meeting regarding increased parking on Mt. Rose Highway and Timberline, which the community opposed, and the community was listened to. Suggested a Lower Whites Creek Trail discussion for an upcoming CAB meeting topic. CAB Chair Snelgrove asked to add that for an upcoming agenda item.

Another citizen said that he was curious about how historical homes and properties may be preserved.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.