



Sun Valley Citizen Advisory Board

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Sun Valley Citizen Advisory Board held on October 7, 2023, at 10:00 A.M. at Hobey's Casino, 5195 Sun Valley Boulevard, Sun Valley, NV 89433.

1. **CALL TO ORDER/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM** - Carmen Ortiz (absent), Amy Owens, Michael Rider, Mary Esposito, Heidi Soper (absent), Charles (Mark) Neumann

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 CAB as a whole.

Mark Neumann – Senior Services for Washoe County District 3. We have new printouts with everything available here in the county. For open space and regional parks. We have a substantial grant to improve the BMX track out in sun valley.

4. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETINGS** of July 8, 2023 and August 5, 2023 (For Possible Action)

There were no minutes for approval.

5. **PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATES** – General community updates from public safety representatives; including but not limited to Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, Washoe County Sheriff's Office, and others [Non-Action Item]

Washoe County Sherriff's Office

The county has had 128 accidents, compared to 101 at the same time last year. Drug offenses and DUIs have increased. The current jail population is 1,232, down from 1,291 last year.

The speaker mentions the upcoming court cleanup scheduled for October 17th, where abandoned vehicles on the court's lane will be removed.

What is the ruling or law on unlicensed vehicles on people's property?

Answer – If it is on their property, it is fine. If it is on the street then it is a different story.

Truckee Meadows Fire

The speaker discusses fire prevention measures, such as changing smoke detector batteries and having two ways out in case of a fire.

In Sun Valley, there were 265 incidents, including 9 fires, 201 EMS incidents, and 11 vehicle accidents. The speaker also mentions ongoing projects in Mount Rose's top basin and upcoming green waste collection events in different areas. A helicopter has been brought in to help bring out trees. Green waste starts today. October 14 15 lemmon valley and silver lake. October 21st in Spanish Springs at lazy 5. All information is available at www.tmfpd.us.

Citizen - There was smoke in Dog Valley. What was it from?

Answer – It was in Tahoe. It was a controlled burn.

Citizen - The speaker expresses concern about the absence of the Emergency Management Administrator and suggests rescheduling for November.

6. **HOW PREPARED ARE YOU?** – Kelly Echeverria, Emergency Management Administrator for Washoe County, will provide information about personal emergency preparedness. [Non-Action Item]

Kelly Echeverria is out today and the presentation is to be rescheduled.

7. **REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION (RTC)** – Presentation covering Sun Valley transportation plans and projects with a Q&A session. Presenters include: Paul Nelson, Government Affairs Officer for RTC; Dale Keller, Director of Engineering for RTC; Jim Gee, Service Planning / Innovation Manager for RTC; and Jeff Wilbrecht, Engineering Manager for RTC. [Non-Action Item]

The speaker provides an overview of the RTC's role, previous planning efforts, and ongoing and future transportation projects.

They have a growing Vanpool program that is subsidized by Enterprise and RTC, allowing people to carpool to work and reduce congestion and pollution. The PICS route transportation system is the backbone of their transit system, with about four and a half million trips booked every year. They have the Senior Ride Taxi Bucks program, which provides \$60 subsidies per month and can be used for Uber and Lyft. The 2050 regional transportation plan is their guideline for transportation goals and projects, capturing the community vision.

They have a preventative pavement program to maintain good roads and avoid costly reconstruction projects. Phase 1 of the project included improvements like paths, sidewalks, and bus stops, with a final cost of 8.7 million dollars. They have a bus stop improvement and connectivity program to improve safety and connections for 97 bus stops.

Transportation Projects

The US 395 Pyramid Way connector project is a major project with a budget of around \$800 million.

The El Rancho multi-modal project and improvements on North McCarran Boulevard are planned for 2026 to 2030. The estimated cost of the El Rancho and Dandini project is \$28.4 million.

The Lemon Pass project is in the early phases of planning.

The Pyramid Highway Phase 1 project is currently underway. The intersection at Highland Ranch, Sparks Boulevard, and Pyramid Highway is a federal priority project. This is the next phase of the project.

The Sun Valley Boulevard multi-modal project is part of the short-term plan from 2020 to 2025. Long-term projects discussed include the Pyramid 395 connector, the West Sun Valley Connector, and widening and multimodal improvements on Bryant Pass.

Sun Valley Boulevard Project

The Sun Valley Boulevard project is currently in the preliminary design phase and received a discretionary grant of \$2 million to advance the design. It will include sidewalks, pedestrian improvements, multi-level improvements for bikes, and drainage improvements.

The southern half of Sun Valley Boulevard is under NDOT control, which added challenges to the project. RTC, as a regional body, has limitations on what it can do in that area.

The Sun Valley Drive will have turn lanes to improve traffic flow. Sidewalks, bike lanes, and drainage improvements are also part of the plans. The installation of sidewalks will include a curb and gutter, which will modify the drainage system.

Highland Ranch Parkway and Intersection

Concerns were raised about the safety of the intersection at Highland Ranch Parkway and the need for school zones and crosswalks for children.

There is a project being considered for Sun Valley, including bike lanes or pedestrian improvements from Hanford Road to the end of Sun Valley. RTC coordinates with local entities on development projects and provides input on how they impact the regional road network. Implementation of modifications like signals or crosswalks is the responsibility of the local jurisdiction.

Discussion on the need to widen 7th Avenue and add a bike path, considering the new housing development and other ongoing projects in the area. The discussion also touched on the reasons behind the design choices for Sun Valley Boulevard and the coordination with the developer for improvements on Highland Ranch Parkway.

Citizens expressed frustration and urgency regarding the poor condition of the road and the need for it to be paved. Participants discuss the traffic issues at HUG High School, including the lack of proper infrastructure and the need for better traffic control.

Answer – This is about cooperation between the school and the county. It is a difficult problem of how to get all the students in one place. Any suggestions on how to manage pedestrians is welcome. We agree that the parents dropping off students on El Rancho is a problem and we are addressing it.

Citizen – It would be nice if there were a North, West, South, and East McCarren.

Participants express confusion regarding the final route selection for the Pyramid Highway Connector and seek clarification.

Answer – The reasoning behind the decision was published in 2018. I can share it with you.

Carol (citizen)- The striping on the road was discussed, specifically the section from 7th forward. You cannot see the lines on the road.

Answer - NDOT is responsible for that section, while RTC did the section from 7th further forward.

Mark Neumann - The construction of the intersection improvement was supposed to start this year but has been put on hold due to the need for major improvements. Minor improvements are not being made

at the moment. A question was raised about the reasoning behind not making any minor improvements to the intersection.

Answer - The exact answer to the question was not known, but there have been plans to improve the pilot target itself, although nothing specific at the intersection.

8. **NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT HUB** – Staff to display the online HUB for review by the CAB members and/or attendees to determine if there are new or existing projects. [Non-Action Item]

Candee Ramos explained how to view the upcoming neighborhood meetings. There were no new meetings.

9. **BOARD MEMBER/COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS/REQUESTS/DISCUSSION** — This item is limited to announcements and/or requests for future agenda items by CAB members and/or Commissioners Mariluz Garcia and Jeanne Herman (Non-Action Item)

Commissioner Mariluz Garcia –

Commissioner Garcia discussed various topics including pedestrian safety, traffic needs, and infrastructure improvements in Sun Valley. She is advocating for Sun Valley and the pedestrian safety problem. She wants to improve the entrance and infrastructure to Sun Valley.

Three out of the four proposed Community Block Grant projects are in Sun Valley. Three upcoming infrastructure projects in Sun Valley are the Sun Valley pool rehab project, Gephord Park pedestrian safety project, and Sidehill Drive pedestrian improvement project.

The purchase of West Hills Hospital happened a couple of meetings ago. Our kids are struggling and they have been for years. Importance of mental health and gratitude towards Manager Brown and the Board of County Commissioners.

Introduction of a program for outdoor field studies at Sun Valley Regional Park. She discusses the importance of outdoor experiences and their positive impact on students' well-being.

Manager Brown – Thanks Commissioner for the kind words. The county has been trying to figure out what is the highest and best use for the property. It is going to take about a year for the county to be able to use it safely. What is the best use of the property? We met with law enforcement, courts, public defenders, and many experts. I am excited about the collaboration. On October 24th at 9 am will be having a strategic plan workshop at the Sparks library. It will not be streamed, but it will be open to the public. Normally this happens in January, but we have new commissioners and there has been feedback for youth priorities.

The Washington County Commission, Reno City Council, Sparks City Council, and REVSA board of directors approved the implementation of a regional computer-aided dispatch system for EMS and public safety dispatchers. The regional computer-aided dispatch system will enable all jurisdictions to be on the same platform, providing visibility of the chart and metals filter and the location of Reno Fire assets and Sparks Fire. The implementation of the regional computer-aided dispatch system will take approximately 27 months. In the meantime, 12 action steps have been identified to improve response times for EMS operations.

Mr. Clark – Is any of the money from the CVS settlement going toward this?

Answer – Yes, that money gets split throughout the county. The availability of the ARPA money is time-limited, and once it runs out, funding may need to be subsidized by taxpayers or the settlement with CVS. Discussions have started between Clark County and Washoe County to go after unallocated state ARPA money for mental health services. We are going after that money for mental health specifically.

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 chair. Comments are to be addressed to the Board as a whole.

Mark Neumann - A fence is being installed at Gifford Park to protect the T-ball fields. ARPA funds have been used to resurface basketball courts and install new scoreboards at Guilford Park. Lighting and security cameras are being installed in various parks to prevent vandalism.

Mark Neumann mentioned that the Better Business Bureau is offering classes on scam alerts and how not to be taken advantage of for seniors. Last summer the GID tried a new little thing and from 11 to noon on Tuesdays and Thursdays, it was free swimming for the seniors at the Sun Valley swimming pool. That is open to all seniors of Washoe County or the United States or wherever you bring your friends. It's not just tied down to the Sun Valley residents.

Carol(citizen) - Mr. Clark's been trying to get an item on the commission agenda, for restarting public comment at the beginning of the meetings and this was deleted by Chairman Hills. The lands bill is coming our way. Many residents spoke in opposition to the proposal.

Leo Varisci expressed concern about a tree being cut down at Gifford Parkway and the lack of plans to replace it.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting and it was unanimously approved at 11:10 am.

Meeting Summary

Public comment covered various topics such as senior services, open space, regional parks, and transportation services. Public safety statistics for Sun Valley were presented, including calls for service and crime categories. County statistics highlighted an increase in accidents, drug offenses, and DUIs, as well as the current jail population. Truckee Meadows Fire discussed incidents in Sun Valley and fire prevention measures. The Regional Transportation Commission provided an overview of their role and ongoing transportation projects. Public transportation options, such as the PICS route transportation system and Senior Ride Taxi Bucks program, were mentioned. Previous and upcoming planning efforts were discussed, including the Sun Valley Boulevard corridor study and the 2050 regional transportation plan. The Sun Valley Boulevard Transportation Improvement Project was detailed, along with other transportation projects. Concerns were raised about the Highland Ranch Parkway intersection and road conditions. The meeting also covered the purchase of West Hills Hospital, an outdoor field studies program, and the implementation of a regional computer-aided dispatch system. Discussions about the allocation of state ARPA money for mental health services and park improvements funded by ARPA were mentioned. Free swimming for seniors at the Sun Valley swimming pool was highlighted. Public comments included concerns about agenda items and tree removal, as well as information about scam alert classes for seniors. The meeting was adjourned.