



Spanish Springs Citizen Advisory Board

Approval of these draft minutes, or any changes to the draft minutes, will be reflected in writing in the next meeting minutes and/or in the minutes of any future meeting where changes to these minutes are approved by the CAB.

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Spanish Springs Citizen Advisory Board held January 5, 2022, 6:00 p.m. at the Spanish Springs Library at (7100A Pyramid Lake Highway).

1. **CALL TO ORDER/ DETERMINATION OF QUORUM** – Matt Lee (6:05 p.m.), Greg Coppola, Sam Metz, Bruce Parks, Sharon Thygesen, Bruce Durgin (via zoom)
2. **Absent:** Bruce Parks, Stan Smith
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – the pledge was recited.
4. **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT AND DISCUSSION THEREOF** –
Greg Coppola announced Dwyane Smith wasn't able to attend tonight's meeting. Additionally, the NDOT item will be at the February CAB meeting.

Dee Endemano stated she wrote to State Senators and the Governor regarding the warning flashing lights. She stated she received a response.

Dan Herman complimented and thanked Commissioner Hartung. He stated the Commissioners changed the rules for developers; they do not have to come before the CAB anymore. They have community meetings. They only have to notify residents within 700 feet of the project. He said we need to know what is happening with the developers and the Planning Commissioners' rubber stamping projects. They are asking for changes to the codes, which needs to stop. He said we are disappointed that people can't attend to notify us about Pyramid Highway. This is the main avenue to hear what is happening in the community. The County Commission made the change from CAB meetings to Neighborhood meetings. He encouraged everyone to contact their Commissioners.

Steve Bennett thanked Dan Herman for what he said. We fought for many years for things that were being destroyed. He spoke about traffic lights and road improvements. He said he would speak with Vaughn. He said he has lived in the valley for 28 years and Reno/Sparks since 1965. He said he has seen many road projects and each one of them is insufficient. It's designed and obsolete before it opens. He said Pyramid needs to be done right. He said one lane is not enough when we are adding thousands more houses. He said let's stop boxing ourselves in. He said the flashing lights most often they slow us down instead of speed up. It's a safety thing. It saves us time, collisions, and gas.

Victor Szymkiewicz stated he has lived here for a while and noticed significant changes. He said there would be some improvement on Pyramid from McCarran to Golden. It will take 3-4 years until it's done, and we have 50,000 cars going up Pyramid daily. He said we have the design; let's put money into expanding it all the way down. He said 3,000 houses are going in near him. He said you could not get out of that development in the morning. Those houses will be built before the highway improvements are completed. We have to get the infrastructure to equal the housing. It's an NDOT subject. We need to put pressure on NDOT and developers.

Debbie C. stated she has lived in the area since 1971. She said she remembers when the highway was a two-lane dirt road. The developers want to build all these homes, and they don't care about your complaints or the roads. They are only concerned with the dollar. They will build as many homes as possible. They will get the tax breaks. The developers will not speak up for us. The traffic is terrible. 2,500 homes are going in by Savemart. There are homes further out on the highway. She asked how we would have water out here. We can't water our yards now, but we are building more homes.

Bruce Durgin joined the meeting via zoom.

- 5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 01, 2021 (for Possible Action)**
– Matt Lee moved to approve the minutes of December 1, 2021. Sam Metz seconded the motion which carried unanimously in favor.

- 6. WASHOE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE UPDATE** – A general community update may be available
(non-action item)

Lt. Avita introduced Sgt. Dan Bells. Lt. Avita said he lives out here and has seen the development over 29 years. He said we are committed to using our resources. He spoke about reoccurring reports, including new home burglaries.

A public member asked about patrolling the highway at night between 10-11:30 p.m. car and motorcycle racing down the highway. She said it's a racetrack at night. Lt. Avita stated Pyramid Highway is Nevada Highway Patrol. He encouraged them to capture them on camera and find out where they are coming from. Dan Herman complained about jake breaks on semi-trucks. Lt. Avita stated the motor unit address these types of complaints. Sam Metz asked Lt. Avita asked if the AWS is beneficial to him, not as a representative of the Sheriff's office, but as a local resident. He said he does personally feel they are helpful.

- 7. SENIOR NUTRITION PROGRAM** – Gabriel Barbato, Washoe County Park Ranger II, will share information about the Senior Nutrition Program available in Spanish Springs **(non-action item)**

Gabriel Barbato, Lazy 5 Park Ranger, provided an update regarding new programs at Lazy 5 Regional Park:

- The senior meal program, 11-2 p.m. for age 60+, suggested a donation of \$2. Under age 60 is \$4. He said it's an excellent way for the community to engage and interact.
- He announced the new off-leash dog park.
- Open gym is offered at the location formally called the Sand Dome. Pickleball is available Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, noon-3 p.m., and basketball, Sunday, noon-2 p.m.
- Concert Series is held in the Summer, every Wednesday beginning in June-August.
- He encouraged the community to provide feedback, ideas, or concerns.

Sam Metz asked if it would be beneficial if more people would attend the senior program. Mr. Barbato stated that the Washoe County Senior Services fund it. He spoke about COVID impacts on program and attendance. He encouraged everyone to reserve your meal. Mr. Barbato provided flyers for the new programs.

- 8. PYRAMID CROSS-STREET STOPLIGHT UPDATE** – Dwayne Smith, Division Director of Engineering & Capital Projects for Washoe County, will share an update about proposed stoplights along Pyramid Highway **(non-action item)**

Dwayne was unable to attend. This item will be heard at a future meeting.

- 9. WASHOE COUNTY COMMISSIONER UPDATE-** Washoe County Commissioner Vaughn Hartung may be available to provide updated information on discussions and actions by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). Commissioner Hartung can be reached via email at vhartung@washoecounty.gov

Commissioner Vaughn Hartung provided updates and answered concerns voiced during public

comment, including:

- Highland Ranch grated intersection.
- Pyramid expansion and challenges with funds.
- Service request for a speed trap on Pyramid from the Sheriff.
- He stated he would reach out to RTC about the jake breaks.
- Truckee Meadows Station # 46 has an ambulance now due to response time.
- He spoke about an acceleration lane south of Calle De La Plata.
- He noted he had a meeting with NDOT's Christina Swallow about AWS.
- New signal at Egyptian and Sunset Springs.
- Commissioner Hartung introduced Washoe County Manager Eric Brown. He has complimented Mr. Brown on his two years with the County.
- He announced we ended the state of emergency.
- Speed devices in the valley would encourage people to slow down

Public member, Dannel, asked about the current speed bumps. Commissioner Hartung stated the fire district fights us because they have to use an alternative route. He said it's a law enforcement issue. He encouraged them to contact the non-emergency number or Washoe 311 to get Commissioner Hartung to get it on their radar.

Dan Herman asked about the change with CAB and developer projects. He said he felt that was a negative change. Commissioner Hartung agreed and stated he sat on the CABs before becoming a commissioner.

Debbie Callous asked if anything was being done with U-turn signs. She said we have almost hit people trying to make a U-turn. It's very unsafe. Commissioner Hartung stated that was City of Sparks' change. He stated he had brought this up to NDOT at an RTC meeting. They said there will be a light at Dolores.

Victor Szymkiewicz asked about WinCo and new housing. Commissioner Hartung stated that it's the City of Sparks. He encouraged them to contact their Planning department.

Eric Brown stated the CAB was reconstituted to give you more a voice regarding your needs and desires. He said as it relates to traffic issues we face with NDOT and NHP, please consider writing letters. He encouraged the community and CAB to send the letters to him and the commissioners to be forwarded to the State. He said he lives in this area. He said he had been County Manager for two years. He stated it's a frustration County-wide with a lack of infrastructure issues. He said Commissioner Hartung is voicing the concerns of this community.

Mr. Brown addressed Mr. Herman's questions about development and the change in the CAB meeting. He said he listened to complaints about CAB; we would like the CAB agendas to include more topics, including fire protection and crime. He said people had expressed the desire to have a forum to address development in advance. He said Commissioner Hartung did not advocate for this change. The goal is to provide more opportunities to hear about the development. He said if you want to bring the development to the CAB, you can do so. He said the change was to address issues with development and provide comments. He said what was happening before; people felt they were being gamed. The CAB wasn't hearing the development in a timely manner. Our objective is not to do that going forward. The CABs are for your community. Based on direction from commissioners, we need to make a change to the CABs. We want to make it work for you. If it doesn't work, we will make adjustments. He said we are proposing the changes in order to provide more input, not less. Let's get it right. He said we heard the CABs wanted to broaden the scope while providing developers feedback to address concerns.

Dan Herman stated CAB was the only way to hear what the developers were doing. He asked how

people could be notified. Mr. Brown stated we could make adjustments to the noticing. He added a portal is being developed for each CAB so that people can see the status of projects for each community. He said we understand there has been dissatisfaction with developers. We are trying to respond to that. He said it's a big county with diverse communities.

Mr. Brown stated we recently approved \$2million for additional sheriff staffing immediately to address issues. He said he works closely with Sheriff Balaam. He said everyone is experiencing challenges with hiring quality staff. We need to get them staffed properly to address community concerns.

Sam Metz asked for clarification on drafting a letter from the CAB to address letters of concerns about Advance Warning System and send to Mr. Brown. Mr. Brown said yes; send the letters to him, and he will send them to the State. He said the letters are ammunition.

Dee Endemano requested all development come before this CAB. Mr. Metz said that when these developments go through many channels and by the time it comes to the CAB, it has been revised somehow. He said he wouldn't want to step in front of the planners or engineers. He said he would be uncomfortable providing a judgment call before going through the channels. Mr. Brown said most people don't want to sit through all the developers' information. They don't understand or have the time for all the information. Overwhelmingly CABs have expressed they want a distilled, executive summary of the development. He said communities would have a checklist of items they want to see addressed. He said a subcommittee will review the project, and then it will come to this CAB.

A public member said this attendance is sparse and only represents 1/5 of the community. He said his neighbors don't even know about CABs. Alexandra provided an update regarding public outreach about CABs. She encouraged everyone to sign in on the sign-in sheet with their emails to be notified about future CAB meetings. Mr. Brown said each community is different with their preference on how they want to be notified.

Commissioner Hartung stated if you want to write a letter, agendaize it. You are subject to the open meeting law. He said he would also put on the Board of County Commission agenda to write a letter to NDOT about AWS.

Commissioner Hartung stated that Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and Rescue provides ashcans for ashes and oil rags for free. He encouraged them to contact Station #46 to request a can.

Commissioner Hartung noted Dwayne Smith would be here next month to address capital programs.

10. CHAIRMAN/BOARD MEMBER ITEMS- This item is limited to announcements by CAB members.
(This item is for information only, and no action will be taken by the CAB).

Sam Metz wanted to acknowledge Alan Tom for putting on a parade with side-by-side off-road vehicles. Mr. Tom said it was fun to do and will plan it even better next year.

Bruce Durgin (via zoom) stated he is looking forward to being part of the Board. He said he was impressed with Commissioner, Manager, and public members. He said he looks forward to working with you.

Mr. Coppola shared Sparks City Councilman Dahir's email kdahir@cityofsparks.us. He said Mr. Dahir responds to emails.

Commissioner Hartung suggested agendaizing a CAB training.

11. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT AND DISCUSSION THEREOF –

Sam Amadi from NDOT said our main focus is safety. He said we wouldn't do anything to destroy safety. He said we had done this in the entire State of Nevada except for Sparks and Reno. He said we had had zero safety issues with the change. It's our way to improve safety in highways and roads in the states.

Dan Herman spoke about TMWA's exploratory well in Donovan. They are asking the parks department to put it on the trail. If that works, they want to do a production well on the tank. He said you might want to get involved if you are on a well.

Mr. Coppola stated NDOT/RTC Pyramid Connectors information is on the website.

ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Number of CAB members present: 5

Number of Public Present: 14

Presence of Elected Officials: 0

Number of staff present: 2