



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 May 4, 2022, 6:00 p.m. at the Spanish Springs Library at (7100A Pyramid Lake Highway).

- 1. CALL TO ORDER/ DETERMINATION OF QUORUM** - Greg Coppola (present); (present); Sam Metz (present); Bruce Durgin (alternate, present); Sharon Thygesen

Absent: Bruce Parks

- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – The Pledge was recited.

3. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT AND DISCUSSION THEREOF –

Andrea Pelto, Chair of Sparks Citizens Advisory Committee, spoke about Older Americans Month. Reno, Sparks, and Washoe County have collaborated on events for older Americans. She spoke about upcoming events. The library has flyers available.

- 4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF [APRIL 06, 2022](#) (for possible action)**

MOTION: Sam Metz moved to approve the minutes of April 6, 2022. Bruce Durgin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Sharon Thygesen abstained.

5. WASHOE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE UPDATE

Lt. Avina and Deputy Flaherty provided an update. Lt. Avina said we expect to be busy with Memorial Day weekend with crowds going to Moonrocks. He said we have seen a rise in vehicle burglaries. He reminded the public to lock their cars. He recommended installing motion lights. He stated we would start to see more outdoor gatherings as the weather gets warmer. He said the catalytic converter is a nationwide issue, but we aren't seeing as much lately.

6. TRUCKEE MEADOWS FIRE & RESCUE UPDATE

Battalion Chief Solaro provided an update on recent incidents. He noted they responded to 183 calls this past month. Open burning has closed. If you have questions about recreational fire pits, the rules associated with using those on the TMFPD website. He reminded the public to check fire alarms, replace the batteries, and replace fire alarms if they are 10 years or older. He provided safety tips for off-roading: staying on roads, carrying a GPS device, and ride in pairs. He said it's prohibited to target shoot explosives.

Mr. Isernhagen announced upcoming green waste day for this area is in Palomino Valley on May 14.

7. NV ENERGY - NATURAL DISASTER PROTECTION PLAN

Greg Jackson, Fire Management Officer, Truckee Meadows Fire & Rescue, shared information about the fuels reduction program and its impact to the area. He provided the following updates:

- With the Senate bill, there have been 30 new weather stations and fire-alert cameras to monitor hot spots.
- All the surrounding fire agencies are funded through the NV Energy programs to do fuel reduction programs.
- He spoke about a three-phase approach to do fuel reduction. They create a buffer to help prevent power poles from burning.
- Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District's 20-people crew are conducting fuels reduction on the

210 power lines through Peavine and Palomino Valley.

- NV Energy hired a meteorologist to help with weather information. We can get a spot weather forecast.
- They are doing system hardening by looking at the infrastructure, evaluating, and putting some powerlines underground.
- He spoke about power outages during high wind events. He said outages could take a long because they have to inspect the line before re-energizing the power line.
- Current projects include two transmission lines over Verdi.
- The crews will be conducting fuels reduction but will respond to a fire.
- The goal is to treat 10,000 poles a year. He said it's time-consuming.

Andrea Caldwell asked if drones are used when they inspect the lines before turning the power back on. Mr. Jackson said there is a drone program, and staff reports to the area to conduct the inspection.

Mr. Metz asked about fire watch stations. Mr. Jackson said he could get him the information. He said they use existing radio towers to install a camera. They have one on Virginia peak. He said we have been doing prescribed burns, and we get notifications from the camera. It picks up the heat signature.

8. BASIC FIRE BEHAVIOR, DEFENSIBLE SPACE, TMPFPD WILDLAND DIVISION OVERVIEW

August Isernhagen, Division Chief, Truckee Meadows Fire & Rescue provided a presentation.

Mr. Metz inquired how someone would make a request for defensible space for those who live near power lines. Mr. Isernhagen advised him to call the TMFPD.

In response to public member's question, Mr. Isernhagen spoke about mutual aid agreements. She asked about evacuation information. Mr. Isernhagen said evacuation information would be posted on the Washoe County website. He encouraged them to follow social media pages – the Washoe County Emergency Manager is in charge of the evacuation order and process.

9. RECREATIONAL SHOOTING SAFETY

Kim Dow, BLM, Sierra Front Field Office Manager, provided a PowerPoint presentation.

Mr. Metz said he received a comment from a public member requesting a pistol range. Ms. Dow recommended he include that in the survey. He asked if there was an opportunity for the local news could spread the word about Washoe Life. The representative from the Forest Service said we would share the information with the media. The target shooting survey will also be shared.

Gerry Eick said the off-roaders ignore the signs and go into live-fire range. He asked if there is additional education for non-shooters. Ms. Dow spoke about education in other counties that have helped notify hikers and riders they are approaching the range. Gerry Eick asked about fire investigation. Ms. Dow said we have a fire investigation team who can determine the cause of a fire. She said the cost is well over \$2million in target shooting fire starts.

Mark Newmann, HOA Highland Ranch, SVGID board member, requested to put Ms. Dow on the agenda to educate the citizens of Sun Valley.

10. CHAIR/BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

Mr. Metz said we have been working on efforts to keep the Advance Warning System flashing lights. He said we sent a letter to Christina Swallows from NDOT to attend the CAB. He said he would provide the status at the next meeting.

11. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT AND DISCUSSION THEREOF

Mark Neumann, SV CAB member, said we have all dealt with the removal of the Advance Warning Signals. NDOT decided to remove them per federal regulation. He said we have been going over it with

Mr. Hartung, who is also concerned.

Mr. Metz said there are no regional standards that exist. He said it was the NDOT manager of Pyramid Highway's opinion to remove them.

Cathy Reyes, Washoe County School Board District B, said our school district is at the bottom, number 45. We are dumbing down our kids. The people on the board need to be removed. She said she did 21 years as a federal agent and is an emergency dispatcher.

ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.