



**Warm Springs/Rural Minutes of the regular meeting of the Warm Springs/Rural Citizen Advisory Board held on January 10, 2024 at 6:00 P.M. via ZOOM**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM [Non-Action Item]** Kevin Cook, Pam Roberts, Marshall Todd, Larry Chesney were present. Hugh Ezell was absent due to the inability to connect to the Zoom link.

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

- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE [Non-Action Item]**

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.

There was no general public comment.

- 4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 15, 2023 [For Possible Action]**

Pam Roberts moved to approve the minutes. Kevin Cook seconded that motion. The minutes for November were approved unanimously.

- 5. PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE** – General Community Update from Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and/or Washoe County Sheriff's Office. [Non-Action Item]

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District

Joe Schum, Division Chief from Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District introduced himself. Deputy Chief Schum shared the number of calls in the Warm Springs CAB area, the absence of fires, and the overall increase in calls district-wide. He provided an update on public safety, emphasizing winter safety measures such as using ash cans for fireplace ashes and being cautious with tumbleweeds as fuel for fire. He said that the fire district received recognition for their work in green waste and fuels reduction, which is showcased in a video available on their website. Chief Deputy Schum discussed the community report for 2023, which is currently in draft and will be presented to the county commissioners for approval and distribution to the community.

CAB Chair Larry Chesney made a comment about the excellent service provided by Truckee Meadows Fire and the feeling of ownership provided by the fire station in Spanish Springs, which was acknowledged and appreciated by Chief Deputy Schum, who promised to share that comment with leadership and the crews.

Washoe County Sheriff's Office

Washoe County Sheriff's Office Lieutenant Armando Avina introduced himself, and introduced Sergeant Sophia Butler, who was accompanying him. Lieutenant explained that Sergeant Butler oversees online complaints, with the accountability portion of complaints. The Lieutenant expressed the need to prevent fraud

and scams, particularly targeting the elderly population. He mentioned the technologically advanced nature of scams and the importance of providing information to the community to prevent additional victimization. Lieutenant Avina discussed the increasing fraud cases and scams, and the plan to launch a community awareness program to prevent and protect against scams by providing information and trends on social media and news. He went on to discuss the issue of financial scams specifically related to cashier's checks and online reporting. He mentioned a case where someone's bank account was compromised, and they were able to recover \$19,000. He also highlighted the amount of money, \$1.2 million, that was taken from the community as a whole due to scam artists. Lieutenant Avina also addressed the issue of card reader skimmers, which is a worldwide problem and is especially prevalent at gas pumps, encouraging tapping instead of inserting the card to protect oneself. He also advised to pay attention to the equipment and check for any signs of tampering.

Lieutenant Avina went on to discuss the issue of graffiti and its reporting. He mentioned that graffiti can be related to gang activities and that the gang unit uses graffiti as a source of intel. The Lieutenant highlighted the importance of reporting graffiti which helps to identify and charge the responsible individuals. He pointed out the ability to report graffiti online, the importance of providing photographic evidence, and that one must provide the location of the graffiti. Despite public relations outreach and media on the topic, the Lieutenant acknowledged the lack of attention given to these efforts and mentioned the investigation conducted by the gang unit and its regional team, which is managed by Reno Police Department. Lieutenant Avina mentioned the successful catalytic converter program and the online reporting capabilities, which required follow-up and accountability to ensure deputies are addressing the submitted reports.

CAB Chair Larry Chesney thanked the Sheriff's Office for their work and their report.

CAB member Pam Roberts made a comment to Sergeant Butler regarding senior scams, would encourage her to get in touch with Ms. Roberts for assistance in getting the word out to seniors in unincorporated Washoe County in ways that are not CAB meetings, for instance the Senior Center and Sparks Library. Sergeant Butler thanked Ms. Roberts for her offer of assistance.

Washoe County Staff member Candee Ramos announced a Senior Scams Prevention event that will take place at the Northern Nevada Public Health Office on February 12 at 10:30 AM. The event is expected to last about an hour and a half. Seniors and anyone who helps seniors are encouraged to attend. Ms. Ramos mentioned the opportunity for attendees to have lunch at the nearby Senior Center afterward.

**6. BUSINESS LICENCING IN WASHOE COUNTY** – Sarah Tone, Business Facilitator for Washoe County Community Services Department, will share information about the New Business License Toolkit to simplify the road to running your own business, including common mistakes, and required local and state licenses. [Non-Action Item]

Sarah Tone from the Community Services Department discussed business licensing in Washoe County. She explained the main questions from the community regarding business licenses in Washoe County, including the need for business license jurisdiction boundaries, and which businesses require a license. Ms. Tone explained her role in working on development projects and ensuring feedback from the public is taken into account. She also talked about the efforts to provide access to information about key services, including business licensing. Ms. Tone showcased the revamped business license page on the Community Services Department website, highlighting the new business license toolkit and the required documents checklist, which are tools to help new business owners navigate the licensing process. She explained the goals of the business licensing team, which include public safety and supporting businesses through the licensing process. She also mentioned working with stakeholders like the Nevada Small Business Bureau to assist businesses in

their development and funding. Ms. Tone offered to work with the planning team to provide the necessary information about special use permits.

CAB member Kevin Cook inquired about the goal of these business services to Ms. Tone. Ms. Tone said that their goal is public safety, with fees going to support those services. Also, to ensure that the legwork has been done ahead of time with the State and Department of Taxation to ensure appropriateness of businesses for the area, to ensure public safety, first and foremost.

CAB member Marshall Todd expressed frustration he had heard from others about the lack of response when requesting information about special use permits and zoning. Mr. Todd said that they need to respond when invited to meetings. Ms. Tone indicated she would take this feedback to her colleagues in Planning.

#### **7. INCREASE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION** – Discussion and brainstorm on how to increase engagement and participation of the Warm Springs community in the CAB. [Non-Action Item]

Washoe County Community Outreach Coordinator Candee Ramos opened the discussion to brainstorm ideas to encourage more people to attend the CAB meetings, an idea presented by CAB member Pam Roberts. Ms. Ramos indicated that outside of CAB members, presenters and public officials, there were only 2 members of the public involved in this meeting. Presented the idea of a reimagination of the CAB program and exploring ways to bring broad-based topics to the community at large, as a follow up to the recent focus groups of stakeholders. Ms. Ramos mentioned that previous efforts have included sending postcards to individuals in the CAB district. The floor was opened to participants of the meeting to provide ideas for increased participation.

CAB Chair Larry Chesney discusses the history and current state of the County Advisory Boards (CABs). He mentioned that the CABs had strong participative membership in the past but opined the CABs were destroyed due to county commissioners' dislike of their input. The speaker believes that the county does not want serious conversations on record about the issues addressed at county commission meetings. He also mentioned the dilution of the CABs' influence and the lack of input from residents in neighborhood decisions. Mr. Chesney expressed frustration with the communication barriers and the county's priorities and believes that firewalls have been put into place such as Washoe 311 phone line and taking away the county phone list from the website. Ms. Ramos clarified if what Mr. Chesney were saying is that if the CAB had authority more people would possibly join in the meetings; Mr. Chesney said that yes, this is what he meant.

Community member Nancy mentioned the idea of promoting the availability of Zoom for remote participation in CAB meetings as she was previously unaware. Ms. Ramos confirmed that Zoom options are available, but that this aspect could be promoted more, as fellow community member Cequinne Sky had also mentioned that she liked the Zoom opportunity.

Community member Cequinne Sky said that learning about the meeting on Nextdoor was helpful as email is not as helpful. For instance, the newsletter is for the whole county and not specific to her neighborhood. Ms. Sky said she would brainstorm and let the County know if she had any ideas to increase engagement.

Community member Nancy suggested recording the meetings and sharing them with the public as a way to inform and engage more people and a way to attract new attendees. She said that she liked receiving emails.

CAB member Marshall Todd said that there are smart people in the CAB, but there is no real job for them to do. Ms. Ramos asked if what Mr. Todd would like would be for solutions-oriented people to come together to

create change, and he said yes. Mr. Todd mentioned that previously the CAB was able to provide input on development, but now they don't have a role in that. CAB Chair Chesney concurred that the CAB has been diluted and does not have a role in providing solutions or recommendations to the Commissioner to take forward. Shared how sharing ideas to the Commissioner and putting support behind the Commissioner items brought to the Board as a whole and is unhappy with the loss of power that the CAB used to have.

Washoe County Commissioner Jeanne Herman provided background on the CABS and said that her goal is to give a voice to the people. Wants to improve the CABS, give them a reason to exist, and that this is a training ground for people to run for office. Referred to the Sun Valley CAB as a successful example of the community coming together and encouraged Warm Springs CAB attendees to visit a Sun Valley CAB meeting in the future. Commissioner Herman said that the CAB could ask Hobey's Casino to provide a space for the various CABS to come together after the Sun Valley CAB ends to discuss county-wide problems and solutions.

CAB member Pam Roberts opined that if the only action item of the board is to approve minutes, the board is not fulfilling its advisory role. She proposes having action items added to upcoming agendas, such as sending a letter to request a special exemption on a zoning issue. Several participants agreed that the CAB should go beyond informative presentations and have a tangible impact on the community. They express the desire to push ideas and proposals back to the county for consideration. It was noted that CAB and community members can share their opinions with the county commissioner during the meetings as long as it's not a motion or an action item. She emphasized the need for participation and feeling useful.

CAB member Marshall Todd reiterated his desire to give the CAB have power, and suggested all 8 CABS coming together to discuss problems and put pressure on the County Commissioners to create change.

Sequinne Sky said that her impression of CAB meetings were that they are interesting, but there is no problem-solving taking place. The agendas are not clear enough to explain what will take place at the meetings. CAB Chair Chesney clarified that perhaps the community does not understand the role of the CAB, and Ms. Sky agreed, but wants input on what the community cares about, advocate for themselves, and what they want life to be like would be more interesting than listening to presentations.

CAB member Kevin Cook asked if a CAB item can be then added to the Board of County Commissioners agenda. Ms. Ramos said that an item could be proposed to be added to the BCC agenda by Commissioner Herman, once properly vetted. Mr. Cook appreciated the potential of the CAB based on this conversation. Suggested that each participant bring a single person to the next meeting, and the CAB would grow. Wants to give advisement as opposed to solely receiving presentations. Wants action items so that people in the community will have a vote on a topic.

CAB member Cook suggested continuing the discussion at the next meeting, recapping the comments and suggestions made in this meeting. The idea of having special meetings instead of monthly meetings is discussed. It is suggested that a special meeting may be scheduled in February to discuss the frequency of meetings.

Commissioner Herman added that there are two reasons why people come to meetings, the advisory aspect and frequency. Stated that the CAB needs to hold the meetings on a monthly basis. Encouraged anyone from any part of the County to call her with concerns.

CAB member Kevin Cook suggested having monthly meetings and potentially canceling them if there's nothing to discuss. Requested this to be brought back to an agenda. Ms. Ramos said that we can bring it back as a

discussion and action item. Expressed concern that it is better to have a special meeting when something to share, rather than cancel meetings because there is nothing of note. CAB Chair Chesney would like a special meeting or more in the upcoming months and pending on the topics needed. Ms. Ramos confirmed that a special meeting could be an option and would confer on the special meeting based on if there is a need and topic that is necessary to call for a special meeting.

Community member Nancy suggested including the meeting recording in the next meeting's promotion.

**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 for discussion. Specific questions and feedback will be brought back to the appropriate staff for announcement at the next CAB meeting. [Non-Action Item]

Community Outreach Coordinator for Washoe County, Candee Ramos, shared her screen to online viewers to demonstrate how to search and find the Neighborhood Development HUB. Ms. Ramos explained the process of staying informed about upcoming neighborhood development meetings, the process of subscribing to email updates to receive notifications about neighborhood developer meetings.

**9. WASHOE COUNTY COMMISSIONER UPDATE**- Washoe County Commissioner Jeanne Herman may be available to provide updated information on discussions and actions by the Board of County Commissioners. [Non-Action Item]

Washoe County Commissioner Jeanne Herman shared that a County Commission Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 16. It is suggested to bring two or three people to the special meeting as a goal.

**10. CAB MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS/REQUESTS** — This item is limited to announcements and/or requests for future agenda items by CAB members or the Washoe County Manager Eric Brown. [Non-Action Item]

CAB member Pam Roberts mentioned that if we hold a special meeting on the second Wednesday of the next month, Valentine's Day would be problematic.

**11. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT** – Limited to no more than three (3) minutes. Anyone may speak pertaining to any matter either on or off the agenda. The public are requested 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]

CAB Chair Chesney would like to comment that he is incensed that the County removed the phone list from the county website and questions the head of security's decision.

The meeting is adjourned at 07:48 p.m. with thanks and goodbyes.