



# Spanish Springs Citizen Advisory Board

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Spanish Springs Citizen Advisory Board held May 10, 2017 at the Spanish Springs Library at (7100A Pyramid Lake Highway).

**1. \*CALL TO ORDER/ DETERMINATION OF QUORUM** – The meeting was called to order at 6:21 PM.

**MEMBERS PRESENT** – Dawn Costa-Guyon, John Gwaltney, Joe Healy

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Alison Ormaas, Ken Theiss, (excused), James Scivally.

**2. \*PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – The pledge was recited.

**3. \*PUBLIC COMMENT** –

Kris D from the Spanish Springs Library gave an update of the library. It's Older American's Month. She gave a handout of calendar of events for the community. The Magician will perform on May 23. Library will be closed for memorial on May 29. She said she checked with Lazy 5, they don't have everything in order with Summer concert series yet which is part of the Art Town this year.

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 10, 2017:**

Joe Healy moved to approve the agenda for the meeting of **MAY 10, 2017**. John Gwaltney seconded the motion to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

**5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF September 14, 2016:**

John Gwaltney moved to approve the meeting minutes of **September 14, 2016**; Joe Healy seconded the motion to approve the meeting minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

**6A. \*Washoe County Commissioner** – Commissioner Vaughn Hartung will provide an update on Board of County Commissioner activities and will be available to answer questions or concerns. Please feel free to contact Hartung at [vhartung@washoecounty.us](mailto:vhartung@washoecounty.us) or (775) 328-2007. (This item is for information only and no action will be taken by the CAB).

Board of County Commissioners Meeting on May 24<sup>th</sup> with various representatives from community agencies. He introduced Sherman Boxx running for Sheriff. He introduced Dana Sears as a County Liaison.

**7. DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS** – The project description is provided below with links to the application or you may visit the Planning and Development Division website and select the Application Submittals page: [www.washoecounty.us/comdev/da/da\\_index.htm](http://www.washoecounty.us/comdev/da/da_index.htm).

**7A. Spanish Springs - WSUP17-0009 (Truckee Meadows Water Authority)** – Request for community feedback, discussion and possible recommendation to approve a special use permit to allow the construction and operation of a temporary water treatment facility at an existing water well site for a maximum of 24 months to provide for a pilot project on site for water treatment.

- Applicant/Owner: Truckee Meadows Water Authority
- Location: 195 Milke Way, Sparks (approx. 300 ft north of horse springs dr. intersection)
- APN: 530-502-02 and 03
- Staff: Roger Pelham, [rpelham@washoecounty.us](mailto:rpelham@washoecounty.us), (775) 328-3622
- Reviewing Body: This item is tentatively scheduled for the June 1, 2017 Board of Adjustment meeting.
  - Dirty water
  - TMWA controlled site

- TMWA well facility located on this property
- Temporary facility to clean the water for 24 months for construction and will return to original state after construction
- Ground water is contaminated in that part of Spanish Springs.
- If works at that location, they will do it at other locations in Washoe County.
- Vaughn Hartung said target contaminants are nitrates, not naturally occurring and other naturally occurring contaminants such as Arsenic
- Paul Miller water quality manager for TMWA spoke about Arsenic and treatment.
- Vaughn said this is a pilot program with contaminants targeted.
- Paul Millers said there may be septic contamination with hair products and prescription drugs. He said they are working with UNR on this process.
- Vaughn said we don't have other contaminants that go along with dry cleaning and other industrial. He said he is excited. He said if we get proof of concept that we could use this in other areas of the County. Paul said it's not approved by State of Nevada for this technique. This is conventional water treatment.

Vaughn said Reno did a pilot program years ago with a lot of promise. This has great potential. If this proves positive, will we be able to use this at our treatment facilities. Paul said absolutely. It's less costly than other alternatives. It's been approved in California with projects. He said they are looking for technologies from outside the area. UNR is getting money from Governor's office.

- Vaughn said when Reno funded this study, it was promising. When it went dry, it was funding reasons. Even though it's a wet year, it doesn't mean we shouldn't protect our resources and sustain ourselves. He said he believes using highly processed affluent (class A affluent) and re-inject into the aquifer. TMWA is servicing with surface water.
- 16 wells in this area. Not all of them are active. Nitrate levels had shut some down.
- John Gwaltney asked about future nitrate contamination. Paul said yes, rainfall, lawns and septic contamination. Nitrate concentration is increasing.
- Vaughn said EPA has set a 10 parts per million nitrates for the US, but it's higher for Europe and other Countries. The difference is, prior to 6 months, you can't metabolize it.
- Vaughn said he is concerned for arsenic. Nitrates are still naturally occurring in some areas. Geothermally active in old lake bed in the north.
- John Gwaltney asked about the future with sewer lines as nitrate problems increase to exist.
- Paul said we bring in water from Lazy 5; we've maxed out infrastructure. Vaughn said John is referring to well to septic conversion. He did phases of 200 houses. We have not methodology in place. This is one of the mistakes we are living with that county commissioners and staff made 30 years ago. It was common to allow septic tanks on parcels. Roger Pelham said you can have septic tank if you have a municipal source of water on one acre in some exceptions, or a sewer line and a well, but otherwise it's on a 5 acre.
- Vaughn said we have come along way with contamination and source protection practices.
- John Gwaltney asked about EPA. Vaughn said we just can't use the ground water; the houses are grandfathered in. \$40-50K to hook up sewer for each dwelling unit, approximately. This possibility would clean the ground water and clean it to use it again.
- Angela Fuss said early June is the Board of Adjustment meeting with construction in the Summer and up and running in the fall, and then run testing.
- Dawn asked Roger about correspondence regarding this item. Roger Pelham said yes, we sent out 30 notifications to the subject site. 54 parcels received a courtesy notice, and received not public comment at this time. Vaughn said he is on TMWA's Board of Directors.

**MOTION:** Joe Healy moved to approve the case. John Gwaltney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Dawn said it's a benefit for the community. John said he would like to see a semi-annual report and receive a quarterly update at the next CAB meeting; the County staff to coordinate with Tatyana or Paul.

**8. \*COUNTY UPDATE** – A representative from the Office of the County Manager will provide an update on County services and is available to answer questions and concerns. Please feel free to contact the Office of the County Manager at (775) 328- 2000. To sign up to receive email updates from the County visit [www.washoecounty.us/cmail](http://www.washoecounty.us/cmail). (This item is for information only and no action will be taken by the CAB).

- Dana Searsy, Washoe County Manager's office, gave an update
- Budget process, final approval at BCC May 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.
- Moving into the next fiscal year, host a budget 101 overview
- Huge increase in building which will come before this board
- Gator Swamp playgrounds will be shut down and playground equipment will be replaced (June – August)
- Dana read about a possible code amendment update. Dawn said she received a call about this meeting, and wanted to know the time. Dana said the agenda will be posted next Wednesday.
- Vaughn Hartung said land use changes and tentative maps, final maps is what you will see. Roger Pelham said discretionary there are 3 actions – allowed, discretionary (may or may not at the discretion of the County, special use permit, tentative map), and activity request. Take place before they get construction permits. Vaughn said you won't see the permit. You won't see it again. John asked for clarification – we will see a plan for a potential for a plan changes, not building permit. He said what's constantly nagging at him is knowing the full scope. It would be helpful if there was a map that showed the housing development stages. Roger said if we are talking about dwelling units, we do have a map – Chad in our office can produce that map. We wouldn't have a map that would show the type of discretionary actions such as special use permit. John said that would be helpful. Vaughn said when you get a request for change, you will see map with parcel, surrounding parcels, and existing land use and requested land use/densities they are making. John said he might not understand what he is looking at. Roger said we have a map that Chad updates it. We can include that in the next meeting. Vaughn said there might be one online. Angela Fuss said the university has a approved unbuilt map. It's a great regional perspective; regional studies. Google Reno center for regional studies, Brian Bonafont.
- Dawn asked Vaughn about Colony about taking land, forums, presentation for people. She said she is seeing a lot of people want to voice/advocacy petitions. Any public forums upcoming? Vaughn said they can ask those questions at the county meeting. Their footprint has expanded. There were a number of tribal colonies that increased their footprint. It was a bigger bill. Some people were angry at Vaughn. It's been the process for years. October 7<sup>th</sup> of last year was when it was signed. They don't have to ask to do anything; they are a sovereign nation. They can do whatever they want. Vaughn said those were federal actions through legislatures and BIA (Bureau of Indian Affairs). The BLM didn't see this as a downside; they can't manage the lands they have now. This 'ask' has been on the table for many years. Harry Reid got it done before he got out of office. The Native Americans feel they got a small piece of land that was originally all theirs. They said they aren't going to change the land. You can't ride ATVs, but can hike/horseback. They will restrict uses. Moon Rocks is not part of it. They didn't want Moon Rock. Vaughn said the tribe and we are concerned about shooting and fires. Joe said he noticed there hasn't been anyone out there shooting. Fire season is upon us and illegal targets can create fires, and then we have mud slides. Vaughn said we don't want to see dumping on public or private lands. He spoke about lands being developed by Sparks that we won't hear about. It's been designated and approved already. People trespass all the time on private land thinking its public open space.

- Dawn asked about having an area to ride ATV, quads. Why can't Spanish Springs put together some designated land for use for an off-road park. Similar to Sun Valley. Vaughn said it's a dual use in Sun Valley for flood management area. There are not ATV uses there, it's BMX. No motorized vehicles. Vaughn said you have to identify a parcel of land. He said there isn't a lot of BLM land around the valley. HACO's subdivision where done at the turn of the century. If HACO donated land to County, would county do it? Vaughn said no, there is too much liability. BLM allows uses on their land; multiuse designation for shooting out of congested area. Dawn said there are a lot of kids on the ATV on her street. A designated spot would put us on the map. Vaughn said you have to identify a piece of land with a few hundred acres, but we don't have jurisdiction over the BLM lands – they are federal.

**9. \*CHAIRMAN/BOARD MEMBER ITEMS/NEXT AGENDA ITEMS** - This item is limited to announcements by CAB members and topics/issues posed for future workshops/agendas. (This item is for information only and no action will be taken by the CAB).

- John said they wanted to congratulate 55 mph; not everyone was happy, but they were.
- Pyramid project planners did a great job.
- There have been more RVs parked on the road than ever before. What is the legal time for RV parking? Roger Pelham said its Sheriff's department. Vaughn said we can have a Sheriff attend the community forum to answer these questions.

**10. \*PUBLIC COMMENT** – No public comment.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Number of CAB members present: 3

Number of Public Present: 1

Presence of Elected Officials: 1

Number of staff present: 2

Submitted By: Misty Moga