



Gerlach 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 Gerlach Citizen Advisory Board held July 13th, 2023, 6pm.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ DETERMINATION OF QUORUM-- Tina Walters, Kristy Evans, Alan Nash, Brandy Wilbur. Elisabeth Gambrell and Russell Bierle were absent.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE—The Pledge was recited

3. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT— Candee Ramos with Washoe County announced the July 25th ribbon cutting ceremony for broadband for Gerlach to be held at 12:30pm at the library. At 1pm there will be catering and a demonstration at the community center.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETINGS OF JUNE 8, 2023 (for possible action)— Tina Walters moved for approval of minutes, Kristy Evans seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously in favor.

5. PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATES – Deputy Burns with Washoe County Sheriff's Office noted ground has been made regarding burglaries occurring in Fish Springs. Advised citizens to stay hydrated and let people know when and where they are going in case they need to be found. Citizen asked if the sheriff office needs to be notified when hiking, deputy Burns said that wasn't necessary as long as a family member knows.

Don Pelt with the Fire Department noted that in June there 9 calls total, of which 4 were medical (of which 2 went to the hospital, 2 signed against medical advice forms), the fire department assisted with a "quazi floods" from recent rain, and responded to one structure fire that was not major. He updated the committee that the barbeque has been moved to August 5th and that the fiber optics have been installed at the fire station in the bay but not the living quarters.

6. E-COMMENT & SPEAKUP – Erick Willrich, Assistant to the Washoe County Manager, presented a powerpoint on E-Comment and Speakup, explaining the nature and function of each. Mr. Willrich explained that e-Comment allows citizens to review agenda items in detail, indicate their position on an item, request to speak in a live meeting, and submit comments online. For constituents, comments are posted in real time and can be posted from anywhere with internet connection, removing the hurdle of being physically present to provide input. Speakup has multiple language options. Mr. Willrich explained the process of creating an account in order to use Speakup and log in to the agenda. His powerpoint demonstrated how to navigate the platform. He noted the comments are limited to 2,250 characters which is the equivalent to a 3 minute public comment. The platform also allows constituents to sign-up for in-person public comment. No personal information will be included on comments other than the constituent's name.

Mr. Willrich is presenting this information at all of the CABs, and is also working on media press releases with the same information.

Alan Nash asked if it is required to be a county resident in order to speak. Mr. Willrich said that is not a requirement. Mr. Nash asked if full agendas would be accessible, and Mr. Willrich demonstrated that they are.

Kristy Evans asked if there is a deadline on when to comment by before the public meeting. Mr. Willrich explained that commenting opens the day the agenda is posted, and closes at 4pm the day before the meeting, and that commissioners can see all comments in real time.

Pete Dronkers with the Burning Man Project asked if all community activities will go through Speakup. Mr. Willrich replied that this only applies to CABs, but there are plans for expansion.

Kristy Evans asked if there is a Gerlach resident who sign up to speak on Speakup are still required to show up to the public meeting in order to speak. Mr. Willrich confirmed. Ms. Evans asked if anyone would be sent to help facilitate the process of distanced/digital speaking, and Mr. Willrich confirmed, and explained that the logistics of it are still being worked out.

Candee Ramos asked about how e-comments will be monitored for staying on topic. Mr Willrich noted that an administrative team reviews each comment.

7. TRAVEL NEVADA'S 3D PROJECT DESTINATION DEVELOPMENT GRANT DISCUSSION - Carl Ribaldo and Stacey Wittek from Friends of Black Rock-High Rock shared information on the new development grant opportunity.

Ms. Wittek stated that they wrote a grant in December 2022 from Travel Nevada aimed at marketing, but this one also allows for the funding of projects. They used a 2018 economic development plan to see if the topics weres still relevant, and began writing the grant. They are a memeber of 6 cohorts for the grant, 3 beginning this year, 3 next year. They get 18 months to work with a consulting team, and can pull from \$2 million dollars.

Mr. Ribaldo from Travel Nevada and representing the consulting team, Better Destinations, presented a powerpoint on the grant and 3D project. Mr. Ribaldo explained that the project is aimed at building destination development programs in rural parts of Nevada, as a ground-up approach to boost local economies based on turism. The project includes a 10-year plan for success. He noted that they recently had a steering community that looked at examples from across the county to use as models (he refers to local places that could benefit from the program). One example project is Connecting Outdoors and Dark Skies as a potential tourist opportunity. A second project is creating a visitor center. Visitor centers help encourage tourists to stay a little longer, and is a central component to the project and experience. Another aspect of the project includes lodging [unable to see powerpoint for specific samples]. A fourth possible aspect of the project is a New Arrival component that sets up Gerlach as a “place.”

The next steps includes a timeline for implementation, identify roles and responsibilities, funding possibilities, potential barriers, communication strategies, and measurements for success. This will be included in the 10-year plan.

Gabrielle Enfield commented that nobody attending via Zoom could see the powerpoint. The issue was resolved. Candee Ramos requested that the powerpoint be sent to her to post on the CAB website. Mr. Ribaldo quickly went through the slides a second time for everyone to see.

Margie provided slides and discussed a mock-up for a potential 3D project, such as local murals depicting local history and culture, and develop a walking/mural tour.

Candee Ramos asked what can local constituents do to support this grant opportunity. Ms. Wittek noted that they had sent out a survey and reveived approximately 120 responses, but haven't had time to formally present the findings, but that the responses were largely positive, emphasizing that locals were interested in tourists who cared about nature and local values. The survey results will be posted online. Existing projects can also be enhanced by the 3D funding. While funding is available, it is ony a catalyst, and that further funding will be required down the road.

Mr. Ribaldo said they recognize the grant isn't enough—the projects need to be implemented and volunteers will be needed as well.

Kristy Evans expressed excitement for the program, and asked where people can read more about potential project ideas. Mr. Ribaudo said that they would be making resources available to the public.

Ms. Wittek expressed a desire to hear from the community about which projects they'd like to see in the community. Stacy Evans concurred and emphasized the need for community engagement in the projects. Mr. Ribaudo reiterated the importance of community input.

Tina Walters said she wants to talk about potentially setting up sessions for community members to workshop project ideas with Travel Nevada representatives.

Dave Cooper reiterated that many of these ideas came out of the 2018 economic development plan and encouraged everyone to take a look at it.

Gabrielle Enfield piggybacked on Mr. Cooper's point, and mentioned she has extra copies of the plan and will send them to anyone who wants one. Ms. Ramos asked Ms. Enfield to send her a digital copy to post on the CAB webpage.

8. NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING HUB STANDING AGENDA ITEM – Candee Ramos, Washoe County Community Outreach Coordinator, noted that the PDF of what took place at the recent 360 meeting is available online.

9. COMMISSIONER AND BOARD MEMBER ITEMS — Jeanne Herman expressed excitement for everything that in the works.

Kristy Evans noted that as the board of adjustment considers individual projects, they can only consider whether or not it meets the High Desert and Master Plans. So if constituents want to see a difference in development plans moving forward, those ideas need to get into the High Desert and Master Plans.

Candee Ramos noted that Eric Young, who is involved with the Master Plan, wants to be on the next agenda to provide the High Desert Plan update.

Alan Nash announced his intention to resign from duty this week.

Tina Walters noticed that the July 25th ceremony coincides with the food drive event. Ms. Walters and Ms. Ramos discussed how it may be a good opportunity to bring more people out.

10. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT – Candee Ramos announced that the Washoe County Leadership Academy applications close tomorrow at 5pm. Kristy Evans participated in the past and highly recommended the program. It launches August 18th.

Gabrielle Enfield announced that the Washoe County CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) process is beginning for next year, and the first informational meeting will be via Zoom on July 27th. The information will be on Facebook and the county website. CDBG is a grant opportunity.

ADJOURNMENT—Meeting adjourned at 7:03pm