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Description automatically generated**  **Gerlach/Empire Citizen Advisory Board**

**Minutes of the regular meeting of the Gerlach/Empire Citizen Advisory Board held on**

**May 9, 2024, at 6:00 P.M. at Gerlach Community Center, 410 Cottonwood,**

**Gerlach, NV 89412**

1. **CALL TO ORDER/ DETERMINATION OF QUORUM** Russell Bierle, Kristy Evans, Tina Walters (Chair) and Elisabeth (Schatzi) Gambrell were present. Brandy Wilbur was absent.

A quorum was established and the meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

1. **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 Board as a whole. (non-action item)
2. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETINGS OF MARCH 14, 2024** for possible action)

Schatzi Gambrell moved to approve the minutes. Vice Chair Kristy Evans seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were approved unanimously. There were no meeting minutes for the month of April 2024 due to that month’s CAB being cancelled.

1. **PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATES –** A Washoe County Sheriff’s Deputy and/or members from the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe Fire Department may be available to provide a general community update on public safety (non-action item)

Washoe County Sheriff’s Office

The new Washoe County Sheriff's Office Deputy Stapledon was present to introduce himself and provide an update, including an increase in calls to the area due to warmer weather for things such as calls for assistance for being stuck in the desert. Drivers visiting the area are slowing down while driving due to increased presence by deputies at the request of the community. Fish Springs has also seen an increase in calls.

CAB vice chair Evans asked if a speed trailer would be available during Burning Man which has been helpful in years past. Deputy Stapledon said that this would be a great time to bring it out, and that it is a useful tool and would request that it be brought out for the event.

CAB member Gambrell encouraged the posting of photos on the Facebook page “Stuck in Gerlach” because it is a common occurrence that the community likes to laugh about.

CAB member Bierle asked about RVs being camped in residential areas and blocking traffic and code enforcement with the new ordinance being passed about illegal camping. Inquired if there would be signs or other warnings about this new ordinance. Deputy Stapledon said that posting signs could work, as well as additional patrols. CAB member Gambrell commented that perhaps allowing individuals to rest briefly would be beneficial when considering sleepy drivers. She asked for a pause to the citations surrounding the ordinance for the timeframe surrounding Burning Man.

Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe Fire Department

Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe Fire Department Captain Jonathan Prichard said that the previous month had seen 16 calls for service, 4 for medical and the remainder being for fire and calls for assistance. Suggested that with the rural nature of the area that people clear their cheatgrass to get rid of flammable brush, noting a recent fire in the Nixon area.

CAB vice Chair Evans expressed concern about dragging chains on Highway 447, asking if there is anything that can be done to mitigate fuels along the route. Captain Prichard said that the Nixon fire was a controlled burn by NDOT that had gotten out of control. Because of that incident, another controlled burn would be unlikely.

CAB member Gambrell asked for an update on the Vial of Life program that had been introduced the previous month. Captain Prichard said that Chief Pelt and Lisa Nash were working on this and the CAB could expect an update at the next month’s meeting.

CAB member Bierle asked if the Nixon fire was due to the “Great Wall of Tumbleweeds.” Captain Prichard said that the fire was at mile marker 11.

CAB Chair Walters asked about shutting down power due to the fire. Captain Prichard answered that this was true because power lines were in the line of fire as a preventive measure to avoid live power lines or destroying power poles.

CAB member Gambrell shared that a community member had shared photos with her of his yard that had been struck by lightning, resulting in a fire.

1. **MEDICAL CONDITION TRACKING METHOD -** Pyramid Lake Fire Rescue/EMS Fire Chief, Don Pelt, will provide information about how the community may inform first responders of medical conditions while protecting privacy. [non-action item]
2. **MAINSTREET AMERICA** – Gabrielle Enfield, Community Reinvestment Manager for Washoe County, will provide information about the Mainstreet America program. [non-action item]
3. **DTS BROADBAND UPDATE –** Representatives from DTS Fiber will provide an update on bringing broadband to homes in the community and be available to answer questions. [non-action item]
4. **NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING HUB STANDING AGENDA ITEM –** Candee Ramos, Washoe County Community Outreach Coordinator, to share the latest community information on the Neighborhood Meeting HUB featuring development community meetings.(non-action item)

Ms. Ramos shared her screen to show the Neighborhood Meeting HUB. Outlined that there are no upcoming events near Gerlach. Demonstrated how to use the map and the list of upcoming events in alphabetical order. She then outlined how citizens could sign up to receive email notifications on items of interest to them, including the Neighborhood Meetings.

1. **COMMISSIONER AND BOARD MEMBER ITEMS** — This item is limited to announcements and/or requests for future agenda items by CAB members and potential general announcements from the county commissioner and county manager. (non-action item)
2. **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 public is encouraged 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)

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:XX p.m.

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