



Incline Village/Crystal Bay Citizen Advisory Board

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Incline Village/Crystal Bay Citizen Advisory Board held on September 23, 2024, at 5:30 P.M. Incline Village Library (845 Alder Ave. Incline Village, NV 89451)

1. CALL TO ORDER/ DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

PRESENT – Roxanna Dunn, Diane Becker, Denise Davis, Mark Sasway (online)

ABSENT – Chris Wood

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was recited

3. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Denise Davis read an email on the record from Doug Flaherty. Doug requested his email to be in public comment. Doug Flaherty objected to Washoe County's approval of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) in the Washoe Tahoe planning area, citing two main concerns: the absence of an environmental impact study and the lack of a comprehensive evacuation plan. He highlighted the uncertainty regarding the number of people to evacuate, the time required for evacuation, and the potential negative impacts of these approvals on the community's safety during emergencies.

Helen Neff addressed the CAB regarding transportation, safety, and the need for a walkable town center. She highlighted that the upcoming TRPA Governing Board meeting includes a consent item to approve the 2025 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP), which lacks projects for Incline Village and Crystal Bay, particularly in enhancing pedestrian and cyclist safety. Neff requested updates on the Washoe County Tahoe Transportation Plan and revitalization plans for Main Street, as well as progress on specific projects related to State Route 28 and the 2024 TRPA Active Transportation Plan. She noted the urgency of applying for grant funding from the \$5 billion Safe Streets for All program, emphasizing the need to move proposed safety improvements from planning to implementation.

Sarah Schmitz expressed gratitude to firefighters and first responders for their efforts during the Davis fire but criticized the County for insufficient communication, suggesting more timely updates, such as email blasts, would be beneficial. Schmitz thanked the Washoe County Commissioners for their recent decisions regarding short-term rental ordinances, particularly restrictions on new Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs). She also raised concerns about voter integrity related to signature update forms found at the post office, which she believes could contribute to voter fraud. Additionally, she underscored the need for infrastructure evaluations concerning the capacity of the basin to accommodate additional Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs). She emphasized that approvals for new developments are progressing without a clear understanding of their potential impacts on the environment and existing infrastructure, particularly regarding water and sewer

systems. Schmitz highlighted the importance of assessing how many people the basin can handle, especially in terms of evacuation capacity.

Diane Becker made a follow-up public comment regarding concerns about ballot security from the last election. She noted that many ballots were found in the recycling bin. She had been informed by the County that they would work with the post office about this issue being resolved. Becker requested that Alexandra Wilson alert the County to the presence of signature update cards, which include sensitive information like the last four digits of Social Security numbers, being left in recycle bins where they could be accessed by others.

Ronda Tycer commented on the limited engagement of the Incline Village and Crystal Bay population with the Citizen Advisory Board (CAB), noting that the same small group of residents consistently attends meetings. She expressed concern that Washoe County is assessing the CAB's value based on its low participation, arguing that the original purpose of the CAB—to allow citizens to directly influence Village development—has been undermined. Tycer identified three key reasons for the lack of engagement: the planning department made the decision to have developers meet with citizens in a neighborhood meeting and then have their concerns brought to the planners, removing direct citizen involvement; developers have no incentive to increase attendance at their development meetings, failing to notify a broader audience about projects that could impact the entire Village; and residents felt their concerns were ignored, as no developments had been altered and that developers cannot be dissuaded from their plans by feedback from neighborhood meetings. Tycer concluded that the CAB has lost relevance for residents, who feel their voices have been silenced, leading to apathy towards participation in meetings even though CAB members have tried presenting community-wide topics.

Kathie Julian addressed concerns regarding signature validation cards from the Secretary of State's office being discarded. She suggested that a good first step would be to advise recipients to return undeliverable cards to the post office instead of throwing them away. Julian explained that when individuals receive these cards, they can fill out their new signature and provide identifying information, then mail it back to the Registrar of Voters in an envelope to keep private information secure. She also raised a question about how the Secretary of State's office checks signatures to ensure they match those on file, suggesting that county staff could provide more information on this process. Julian expressed her belief that the situation does not represent a significant risk for voter fraud.

Yolanda Knaak expressed her belief in the value of the Citizen Advisory Board (CAB) and encouraged community participation. She raised concerns about voter registration cards, advising against mailing them back due to the risk that someone could photograph one's signature. Instead, she offered to personally deliver any cards to the Secretary of State's office in Carson City, asking community members to provide their sealed envelopes by Wednesday. Roxanna Dunn responded to resident Yolanda Knaak's proposition to deliver anyone's ballots by clarifying that it may be in the realm of ballot harvesting and may not be doable. Knaak claimed that it was legal.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM COMMISSIONER HILL

Chair Alexis Hill provided an update from the recent Washoe County Commissioner meeting regarding the Citizen Advisory Boards (CABs). She expressed gratitude for the team's efforts and noted the board's commitment to continuing support for the CABs. Hill emphasized the need for additional resources and indicated that they would proceed with the budgeting process. She invited questions from the group. There were no questions.

5. PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATES

Fire Department

Chief Ryan Sommers informed residents that they can request chipping services until October 27th. He discussed an evacuation plan, developed by the Tahoe Basin fire departments, which is open for public comment for 60 days, with details available on social media and at tahoealerts.com. Residents are encouraged to provide feedback via email to info@nltfpd.net. Additionally, there was an update on the Davis fire, where 45 personnel responded to the incident, and Sommers confirmed there is no threat to Incline Village or Crystal Bay. The speaker recommended using the app "Watch Duty" for real-time updates on incidents and wildfires, as it consolidates relevant information from various sources and provides direct links to dispatch data.

CAB member Becker raised a question regarding the effectiveness of the TRPA evacuation plan, which she described as "static" and potentially inadequate in emergency situations, such as a wildfire approaching from Kings Beach. Chief Sommers responded by emphasizing the importance of relying on evacuation plans established by local emergency managers, noting that these plans are designed to be dynamic to address the unpredictable nature of various emergencies, including wildfires, floods, and more. He explained that while people often seek clear, definitive guidance, the reality is that evacuation plans must adapt to changing circumstances.

Sarah Schmidt expressed confusion about the distinction between a basin-wide emergency evacuation plan and the jurisdiction-specific plan for Washoe County. In response, Chief Sommers explained that the Lake Tahoe Regional Chiefs have compiled a single document that consolidates evacuation plans from all five counties in the Basin for easier access and dissemination of information. This document serves as a comprehensive resource but does not replace any individual county's evacuation plan. Additionally, attendees were directed to alerts.tahoe.com for real-time access to their specific county's emergency management plans.

CAB Chair Dunn asked whether the fire chiefs' consolidated plan includes more than just links to county plans. Chief Sommers explained that the document contains additional information on preparedness, such as tips for preparing homes and maps of major highways out of the Basin. The aim of the plan is to compile relevant information from around the lake into one accessible resource, so individuals can easily find the emergency plans pertinent to their location, reducing stress during emergencies.

Diane Becker expressed concern about the evacuation population of Incline Village. Chief Sommer responded that he is working with Washoe County to update their hazard mitigation and evacuation plan. They are in the fourth phase and are also reaching out to NDOT for car counts. However, the funding constraints pose their own challenges for the county. Chief Sommers will reach out to the County Manager or Emergency Manager about getting funding.

Mark Sasway asked for comments on the King fire. Chief Sommers explained that the fire was started by lightning and was responded to by their Battalion Chief and the Forest Service Battalion Chief. They determined it was too unsafe to go up that night and waited until daybreak to successfully extinguish the fire. He also reminded the meeting that the fire was on Forest Service land and is their jurisdiction.

Helen Neff raised a question about the Perimeter app, noting that it appears to be accessible only to first responders and not the public. She expressed concern that residents might not have access to critical information during emergencies without a dedicated app. Chief Summers responded that inquiries about app availability should be directed to Perimeter representatives, who will be present at the Washoe County Community Picnic on September 28th. Chief Sommers emphasized that the current resource is available through the website perimeter.com.

Diane Becker highlighted the issue of accessing Perimeter information during an emergency when internet and phone services may be down. She shared an example of a resident who struggled to access the information during a fire. Chief Sommers reminded the CAB that there are other places such as the radio that broadcast during emergencies.

Kathie Julian addressed Chief Summers, recalling her experience of losing T-Mobile service during the Davis fire. She noted that the outage occurred because energy providers cut power to the area, and some mobile service providers failed to bring in generators to maintain cell tower operations. She emphasized the necessity of incorporating cellular service reliability into regional emergency plans, suggesting that the government should mandate mobile providers to deploy emergency generators during fires. Julian expressed frustration that consumers should not have to contact service providers about local issues and argued that this responsibility should fall to local government and emergency services. Chief Summers acknowledged her concerns, explaining that while some providers, like Verizon, brought in mobile cell towers (COWs) to restore service, the county is already working on measures to ensure cell towers remain operational during emergencies. He noted that battery backups are required for new cell towers, although he was unsure of their duration. Chief Summers assured her that improving cellular service during emergencies is being integrated into the new regional plan.

Sherriff's Office

Lieutenant Armando Avina expressed gratitude to fire personnel and the Sheriff's Office for their efforts during the Davis fire. He acknowledged the challenges faced by deputies needing to take longer routes due to the fire but reassured that law enforcement was consistently present in Incline Village. Avina emphasized that emergency services remained operational, with deputies stepping

up to ensure resident safety. Avina mentioned that he attended the Depoli Press Conference Town Hall meeting on Tuesday. There they discussed predictions of fire spread, highlighting how shifting winds ultimately prevented a major disaster. Avina noted the importance of communication, stating that the Sheriff's Office actively disseminated information from emergency management. He encouraged residents to reach out with any questions, offering to facilitate further responses through established channels. He also emphasized that the Sheriff's Office was also forwarding all messages from Emergency Management.

Deputy Glenn Reed addressed concerns about cell phone service during emergencies, explaining that they utilize reverse 911 calls for evacuation notifications. Deputies, alongside fire personnel, conduct door-to-door outreach in evacuation zones to provide updates and information. He noted that while Nevada lacks mandatory evacuations, residents are advised to make decisions for their safety. Reed highlighted a challenge during the Davis fire, stating that while they cannot force evacuations, they can prevent re-entry to ensure safety and keep emergency routes clear. He emphasized the importance of following evacuation advice for the safety of both residents and emergency responders.

Incline resident, Neil Jones, inquired about the status of e-bike patrols, noting he hadn't seen any deputies using them despite training occurring. Lieutenant Avina confirmed that the e-bikes were still at the station and promised to follow up on their deployment timeline. CAB member Denise Davis then clarified that the e-bike patrol has been operational since July 4th, with successful patrolling in various areas. She provided Sergeant Nick Tone's contact information (ntone@washoecounty.gov) for further inquiries, mentioning plans to expand the program. Lieutenant Avina acknowledged the communication gaps between shifts but expressed gratitude for the update.

6. TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY (TRPA) REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Roxanna Dunn announced that Ryan Murray from the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) will provide an update on regional transportation plans. They clarified that while the community often focuses on the mobility hub, its oversight belongs to the Tahoe Transportation District (TTD), not TRPA.

Ryan Murray presented the "Connections 2050" regional transportation plan, updated every four years to meet federal requirements and projecting 25 years into the future, with hopes for board adoption in 2025. The plan outlines key goals, including improving safety for vulnerable road users like pedestrians and cyclists, enhancing connectivity across all transportation modes, supporting environmental protection, and promoting economic sustainability in Tahoe's town centers. It focuses on creating a resilient transportation network capable of handling emergencies, such as evacuations, and improving operational efficiency through advanced technology. Public input from over 9,000 participants since 2021, collected via workshops and surveys, helped identify community priorities. A data-driven approach uses collision maps and statistics to address high-stress roads and vulnerable areas. Murray also introduced a 2050 vision, featuring a seamless transit system with electric buses, micro-transit services, and walkable town centers, contrasting

current challenges like limited connections between North and South Shore. The plan aims to reach zero roadway fatalities by 2050, with ongoing improvements, including expanding bike and pedestrian facilities. Currently, Tahoe has 61 miles of shared-use paths, 46 miles of bike lanes, and 29 miles of sidewalks, but no protected bike lanes. By 2050, the goal is to introduce buffered and protected lanes and expedite slow and costly infrastructure projects. The public draft will be released in spring 2025, with an estimated cost of over \$2 billion. Community input is encouraged through an open survey on funding priorities. CAB member Denise Davis asked how to sign up for the TRPA e-news and Murray answered that you can do so at TRPA.gov via email. CAB Vice-Chair Becker inquired about the King's Beach mobility hub being removed from the plan. Murray, to the best of his knowledge, believes that the mobility hub is still part of the plan.

Diane Becker argued against the proposed mobility hub, claiming it is poorly conceived and primarily benefits visitors rather than the local community. She emphasizes that while the community supports public transportation, they oppose the hub, which she believes exacerbates issues like traffic and public safety by attracting more cars. Becker criticizes the lack of public input in the planning process, noting that a petition against the hub gathered thousands of signatures. She suggests that the focus should be on creating alternative transit solutions, such as designated bus drop-off areas, instead of adding large parking facilities. Overall, she stresses the need for community-driven planning that prioritizes local interests over external funding motives.

Roxanna Dunn criticizes the current TRPA decisions affecting public transportation and housing in the Tahoe area. She expresses concern that recent developments, like luxury condominiums with ample parking, will deter bus ridership by catering to residents who are less likely to use public transport. Dunn argues that zoning changes allowing inclusionary housing to be built elsewhere dilute the intended benefits of higher-density housing in town centers. She also highlights the issue of short-term rentals scattered throughout the community, which increases reliance on cars. Dunn stresses the need for better coordination with the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) to ensure transportation goals align with land use decisions. She points out deficiencies in evacuation planning, especially regarding new parking at Chimney Beach, which could impede emergency responses. Lastly, she advocates wider shared-use paths, suggests limiting e-bike access on pedestrian paths, and emphasizes the importance of designing infrastructure that can accommodate emergency vehicles.

Sarah Schmitz criticizes the transportation plan for assuming bike paths will reduce vehicle miles traveled, arguing they increase the number of vehicles because people drive to the area for recreation. She highlights concerns about emergency evacuations for tourists who won't have their vehicle because they bused in and suggests the plan overlooks the environmental impact of increased tourism. Schmitz believes the plan's ideas are positive but impractical, particularly regarding infrastructure for buses and the feasibility of bus-only lanes, calling for a more realistic approach that addresses these challenges.

Helen Neff supports Diane's concerns about mobility hubs, suggesting they should be rebranded as "transit stations". She warns that parking lots attract more cars, particularly with free parking, and emphasizes the need for parking for service workers. Instead, she advocates prioritizing transit routes for visitors and proposes that new parking areas should be expensive to encourage public

transport use. Neff also suggests a mobility hub model without parking, like one on the South Shore, to keep the town center pedestrian friendly.

Kathie Julian expressed her concerns about the current housing plans, arguing that without stronger affordable housing incentives, the focus will shift to high-end condos, as inclusionary housing requirements are minimal. She feels that zoning changes favor developers and will not adequately address the need for workforce housing. Additionally, she raised the need for better monitoring and reporting of accidents involving e-bikes on trails, highlighting a past incident that went unreported. She emphasizes that without proper data collection on such incidents, safety concerns remain unaddressed. Ryan Murray from TRPA acknowledges the issue of underreporting collisions on trails and mentions efforts to improve data collection.

Doug Flaherty criticizes the TRPA's plans, accusing them of "greenwashing" various issues like workforce housing and transportation to secure grant money. He expresses skepticism about the feasibility of the proposed transportation initiatives, arguing that they won't materialize because the public is increasingly aware of these tactics. Flaherty emphasizes the need for a wildfire evacuation stress test instead of focusing on bike and pedestrian issues, pointing out that there is no data on evacuation times in current plans. He highlights concerns about the safety risks posed by proposed developments, suggesting that they could endanger both residents and visitors.

7. DAVIS FIRE

Diane Becker raised concerns about evacuation procedures during recent emergencies, emphasizing that road construction in Kings Beach hindered evacuation efforts and trapped people. She pointed out a lack of communication between construction activities and emergency management, which resulted in missed opportunities to clear evacuation routes. Becker stressed the need for better communication regarding risks to Incline Village and Crystal Bay, suggesting timely updates via email, especially when phone and internet services are down. She also advocated exploring options for citizens to connect to emergency systems and utilize alternative communication methods. Additionally, she noted the potential danger of recreational water activities near firefighting helicopters, which could delay operations. Becker invited further community input to compile a comprehensive report for the county.

Roxanna Dunn expressed the need for better training in emergency procedures, particularly regarding the use of the Perimeter system, as many community members are unaware of its function. Dunn requested the county to provide training sessions to clarify evacuation stages, expected actions, and rules during emergencies. Dunn highlighted concerns about traffic congestion during evacuations, emphasizing that vehicles like boats or trailers could pose dangers and hinder safe evacuations.

Denise Davis raised several concerns about the impact of power outages during emergencies, noting that they disrupt cell service and TV reception, making it difficult for residents to receive critical information. She urged the County to improve communication regarding emergency generator usage during power shutdowns. Davis also emphasized the need for community training

on evacuation procedures and the importance of citizens being prepared with go-bags and emergency plans. She suggested that official updates could be posted in central locations like the post office during emergencies. Additionally, she encouraged residents to inform first responders of their evacuation status by posting notes that they evacuated on their doors so that first responders are not risking their lives. Lastly, she reiterated that personal preparedness is essential for safety during crises.

Helen Neff emphasized the need for cellular towers to be equipped with backup batteries to maintain service during power outages. Neff discussed the inadequacies of the Nevada 511 app for road closures, suggesting improvements based on their positive experience with Caltrans' quick map. She recommended suspending roadwork during emergencies to reduce traffic on open routes, especially when major roads are closed, and encouraged residents to limit travel to essential trips. She also urged the media to advise visitors to avoid the area during emergencies to prevent additional congestion.

Sarah Schmitz proposed that the Washoe County Building Department notify construction site managers to halt work during emergencies to reduce the number of vehicles and people in the area, easing evacuation efforts. She suggested creating a community resource that outlines essential information, like evacuation procedures, to help residents prepare in advance rather than scrambling during a crisis. Schmitz emphasized the need for better communication and resources for the community.

Kathie Julian expressed appreciation for Ryan's assurance that the Davis fire would not impact Incline Village. However, she noted the lack of communication from North Lake Tahoe and the County explaining why the fire posed no threat to the area. She emphasized that clearer, reassuring information from officials could have alleviated public panic and helped residents feel more secure during the crisis.

Denise Davis raised a question about the use of Knox boxes, which allows first responders access to a home key during emergencies, suggesting they could be a safer alternative to leaving homes unlocked with a note on the door during evacuations. Washoe County employee Alexandra Wilson shared her experience from a different Community Advisory Board, where officials advised against leaving notes on doors as this may indicate vulnerability to potential thieves. This discrepancy highlighted the need for clear communication and consistent guidance from emergency management about evacuation procedures. Davis noted that local law enforcement assured residents that extra patrols would secure evacuated areas. The discussion emphasized the importance of training and clearer information dissemination to ensure residents understand proper evacuation protocols.

8. NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT HUB

Washoe County Community Outreach Coordinator Alexandra Wilson reported no updates.

9. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE MEETINGS OF

The minutes for January and February were again not approved due to lack of review by some CAB members and a request was made to resend the minutes with changes from CAB member Chris Wood. Alexandra Wilson confirmed that she had sent the minutes, transcripts, and videos to each CAB member.

10. BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS/REQUESTS/DISCUSSION

Roxanna Dunn brought up the reimagination of the Community Advisory Board (CAB) meetings. She highlighted that attendance at CABs has been low, except for Incline Village, which she credited to engaged community members and leadership. The Washoe County Commissioners support the continuation of CABs but are concerned about improving attendance. To enhance participation, Dunn proposed announcing next month's topic during current meetings, allowing more time for outreach. For the next meeting, they will focus on water quality and will have representatives from UC Davis and a person from IVGID (Incline Village General Improvement District). Chair Dunn and Alexandra Wilson debated the date for the next CAB meeting. Alexandra will be reaching out to John Crockett to confirm whether the correct date is the 14th or the 21st of October.

Denise Davis announced there is an IVGID Board of Trustees Town Hall at the Chateau at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, September 24th. On Saturday, September 28th, there will be the Washoe County Sheriff's Office Community Picnic at Aspen Grove from 10am to 2pm. There will be free hamburgers and hot dogs. On Monday, September 30th, they will have an IVGID forum hosted by the Community Forum and IVGID at Incline Village High School in the Duffield theater at 6pm.

11. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

12. ADJOURNMENT- - The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.