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Description automatically generatedNorth Valleys Citizen Advisory Board**

**Minutes of the regular meeting of the North Valleys Citizen Advisory Board held on April 8th,2024 at 6:00 P.M. North Valleys Library (1075 N Hills Blvd. Reno, NV 89506)**

1. **CALL TO ORDER/ DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**  Teresa Keela-absent, Aaron Jennings-present, Wayne Robinson-absent, Kelly Orr-absent, Roger Edwards-present, Juanita Black-present
2. **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 CAB as a whole.

Mark Newman- Highlighted several upcoming events related to Older Americans Month in May. He mentioned the Senior Fest at 9th and Sutro on May 1st and the "Stuff-a-Bus" event at Target on I-80 and Vista on May 24th. He also noted that insurance companies would now cover the use of Reno's facilities for senior activities, which were previously charged separately. Additionally, he brought senior magazines and mentioned that a full calendar of events for Older Americans Month would be available on May 1st. He also shared that he is involved with the Open Space and Regional Parks and announced his candidacy for Nevada State Senate District 15.

Pat Davidson- spoke to the CAB members to publicly thank Commissioner Herman for her vote on accessory dwelling units (ADUs) and tiny homes in March. Davis emphasized that this decision could help address the affordable housing shortage by allowing homeowners to add units for family members or rental income. Additionally, Davis requested that a future agenda item be included to inform the community about the changes related to ADUs and upcoming development code changes, including those related to multi-family dwellings and other affordable housing initiatives.

1. **PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATES**

Derrick Reed, a Battalion Chief with Truckee Meadows Fire, provided an update on fire-related statistics for the region, including 223 calls in March that ranged from EMS and motor vehicle accidents to public assistance and false alarms. He announced that open burning is permitted in April with an approved permit, weather permitting, and directed people to the TMFPD website for more information. He also mentioned that curbside chipping applications are open until May 7th, specifically for the elderly and disabled, and provided details about the Green Waste program on April 13th and 14th. Reed emphasized the usefulness of the TMFPD website, which is user-friendly and contains detailed information on various fire-related services. He concluded by thanking the community and the CAB members for their support.

A person asked Derrick Reed if their lot in Golden Valley, which is 9.5 acres, would be affected by the website's one-acre minimum rule for some service or regulation. Reed responded by saying that this question would need to be addressed by the Fire Marshal.

Brandon Zirkle, a captain with the Washoe County Sheriff's Office, provided updates on various activities and statistics. He noted that in March 2024, 1,182 inmates were booked into the county jail, slightly down from the three-year average. Releases for the same period were 1,222, slightly reducing the jail population. The average length of stay was 30 days, up slightly from the three-year average. Calls for service in the county increased by 400, though calls in a specific region decreased slightly. Self-initiated calls by deputies increased, indicating more active patrolling and checks in the area. Zirkle also mentioned an increase in patrol staff, with 55 deputies currently on duty and eight more joining soon. He also mentioned a string of vehicle burglaries in the Galena area, with minimal losses but emphasized the importance of locking vehicles and securing homes. Finally, he reminded the community to be vigilant and report any suspicious activity.

Mark Newman asked two questions during the meeting. First, he inquired about whether the new deputies would have enough vehicles to use. The response indicated that they had ordered additional vehicles as staff increased, with nine currently being outfitted. These vehicles are expected to be ready within the next six months. Newman's second question was about the well-being of an officer involved in a recent shooting on Greenbrae. The response confirmed that three Washoe County Sheriff's Office deputies were involved in the incident, but no further details were provided about their condition.

**5. WASHOE COUNTY COMMUNICATION RESOURCES**

Alexandra Wilson, the Community Outreach Coordinator for the Commissioner Support Team, discussed efforts to make the county's website more user-friendly and accessible. She emphasized the importance of receiving feedback to ensure that the website is intuitive and easy to navigate for residents and visitors. The website is organized with topic-driven headers such as "Living Here," "Doing Business," and "Health and Safety," designed to help users find the information they need quickly. Additionally, the website features a search bar for locating specific content like property taxes or department-specific information. Wilson mentioned that they are continually working on streamlining the website to ensure it effectively provides the most requested information.

**6. NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT HUB**

The discussion centers on the Neighborhood Development Hub and how it helps keep the community informed about upcoming neighborhood development meetings and projects. The hub is designed to provide easy access to information about development projects in various districts, including meeting dates, project details, and the approval process. The hub allows residents to sign up for email notifications specific to their district or all districts, ensuring they receive timely updates. The page also offers a flowchart outlining the development process, information about the project's planner, and links to related meeting agendas and outcomes. This makes it easier for residents to stay informed and participate in the development process. Additionally, the recent use of ARPA funds for a project in Sun Valley was mentioned, highlighting ongoing development efforts in the area.

Pat Davison asked whether the neighborhood development meetings, which were moved out of the CAB (Community Advisory Board) agendas due to their contentious and lengthy nature, are experiencing the same issues now that they are held separately. Alexandra Wilson responded by saying that the neighborhood development meetings are generally shorter than the previous CAB meetings, although she didn't have exact figures. One of the reasons for moving these discussions out of CAB agendas was to allow for a broader range of topics to be covered in CAB meetings, rather than focusing solely on development issues. While positive feedback has been received regarding the new portal for neighborhood development meetings, there is still room for improvement.

Pat Davidson also asked about conflict, how is is dealt with the neighborhood meeting and cab meeting? Alexandra Wilson acknowledged that managing emotions and conflict is an important aspect of both neighborhood meetings and CAB meetings. She indicated that neighborhood development meetings are designed to be more focused and specific to particular projects, which can sometimes help in managing contentious issues more effectively. In these meetings, they aim to provide clear and direct communication about the projects, which can help to address concerns before they escalate. The meetings are structured to allow for community input, but they also try to keep discussions productive and solution oriented.

Roger Edwards asked about the attendance of the meetings. Alexandra Wilson is committed to gathering more data to provide a clearer picture of how neighborhood development meetings are functioning in comparison to CAB meetings, particularly in terms of attendance and effectiveness in communication. By tracking average attendance and continuing to present updates at CAB meetings, she aims to ensure that information reaches as many people as possible through multiple channels, including in-person meetings, emails, and word of mouth. This approach helps in assessing whether these new methods are effectively engaging the community and addressing their concerns.

**7. CAB MEMBER/COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS/REQUESTS**

There were none for this meeting.

**8. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mark Newman highlights the significance of the new CARES campus, noting that a substantial portion of its population consists of seniors and veterans, which is a concerning statistic. He points out that while the facility is a major investment for taxpayers, it is set to be one of the largest care campuses in the United States, surpassing even Los Angeles County in terms of bed capacity. His comments underscore both the scale of the project and the pressing need it addresses within the community.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:13pm.