



Spanish Springs Citizen Advisory Board

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Spanish Springs Citizen Advisory Board held on August 7th, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the Spanish Springs Library.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

PRESENT - Brandon Partain, Bonnie Billings, Shannon Martell, Renata York, Jason Evans

ABSENT - Bradley Young

A quorum was established, and the meeting was brought to order.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

3. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Joni Hammond had two updates.

- There's a Donovan Ranch subdivision meeting discussing the division of land into acre parcels and its impact on traffic. The meeting is at 5:30 PM on Monday at the Spanish Screens Library.
- There will be a "Party in the Park" on October 3rd at Lazy 5, featuring several candidates running for office, including Rich Duvall, PK O'Neill, Denise Meyer, and Marsha Berkgigler. The event runs from 6 to 8 PM.

Commissioner Andriola provides some updates regarding the Donovan Ranch event and assures the group Alexandra Wilson will reach out with updates for the Donovan Ranch event and signing up for alerts about developments and opportunities in Washoe County. She asks the new CAB board members to introduce themselves.

Jason Evans introduces himself and mentions he has lived in Washoe County for almost 30 years with 9 in Spanish Springs, with his wife and three dogs.

Renata York introduces herself and mentions she has lived in Spanish Springs for 8 years and that she and her husband really liked it there.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes for March and June were approved. (4-0)

5. PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATES

Derek Reed, Battalion Chief with Truckee Meadows Fire, provided recent statistics: in July, there were 112 EMS calls, 5 motor vehicle accidents, 5 public assists, 21 good intent calls, and 3 false alarms. The green waste program is in the planning stages with five collection locations in the north and two in the south, though specific dates and locations are not yet confirmed. He advised resources are being sent to various states on the West Coast—Washington, Oregon, Idaho, California, and Utah—to assist with wildland fires, reflecting a collaborative support system among states. Regarding the park fire, he advised containment percentage is not yet clear as the fire is still advancing rapidly, and mapping efforts are ongoing. An app is available for real-time updates.

Sheriff Gomez states crime in Spanish Springs has been relatively low. To maintain this, two deputies are assigned to patrol every night. Recently, there were two commercial burglaries: one at a marijuana shop on July 18th and another at Jackson's Food Store the following night. A successful investigation led to the arrest of a juvenile, thanks to the efforts of patrol deputies and detectives. Additionally, the Sheriff's Office has launched a dedicated DUI enforcement program focusing on areas like Pyramid Highway and the route to Pyramid Lake, alongside other key thoroughfares. This program operates county-wide but frequently collaborates with local patrol deputies for enforcement. He asks for questions. He is asked about the number of officers on DUI enforcement. The DUI enforcement program involves one dedicated officer focusing specifically on DUI-related traffic violations and stops. This officer's role is to supplement the existing two patrol deputies in the area. The dedicated DUI officer is expected to handle traffic stops and enforcement related to DUI offenses, with the potential for additional officers to be added in the future. One dedicated officer and one DUI officer at this time. During a recent drive, a resident observed a car driving aggressively and dangerously. Two motorcyclists who were present managed to pull over the vehicle. The resident wondered if it would have been appropriate to return and offer a statement to the officer about the incident. It was suggested that contacting dispatch or the Sparks Police Department would have been a good approach. Regarding traffic violations, it was explained that officers do address a range of infractions including equipment, speed, and reckless driving violations. While officers may not always immediately address every infraction, they do make traffic stops regularly. For issues like dark-tinted windows or noisy vehicles, these are indeed considered violations and officers can pull over vehicles for them. There was also a question about traffic management at intersections near Pyramid Highway and people making illegal U-turns. The jurisdiction for traffic enforcement in these areas is shared between different agencies, including Sparks Police and NHP. Concerns about specific traffic issues should be reported to either the local non-emergency number or the relevant jurisdiction's dispatch.

6. COMMUNITY BROADBAND AND CELLULAR PROJECTS

An update on connectivity efforts in Washoe County was provided by CIO Behzad Zamanian. The county developed a Broadband Master Plan in fiscal year 2022 to address areas with inadequate or no internet access. Various types of connectivity, such as copper lines, fixed wireless, cable modems, and fiber, were assessed. Fiber, which offers high-speed internet, is the preferred option.

The plan prioritized Gerlach for its lack of connectivity. A project was initiated to install 60 miles of fiber between Nixon and Gerlach, funded through state programs and partnerships with the PLPT tribes. By July 2022, the fiber project was completed, connecting key facilities in Gerlach. Subsequent phases aimed to connect all businesses and homes in Gerlach and Empire, with progress on track and an open house scheduled for the next week.

The next priorities for broadband expansion include North Valleys, Warm Springs, and Washoe Valley. Funding is being sought through BEAT funds, with proposals from vendors expected in the coming weeks. The plan also addresses a 20-mile cellular service dead zone on Pyramid Highway, with Verizon working on a new cell site at Axe Handle Exit. The build is expected to be completed within 10 to 12 months. Additionally, Verizon is making adjustments to existing sites to improve connectivity. T-Mobile is offering free hotspots, and interested parties can check their website for more information.

7. NORTH SPANISH SPRINGS FLOODPLAIN DETENTION FACILITY

The Director (Dwayne Smith) was unable to attend this meeting and was rescheduled to December.

8. WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS AND RESOURCES

Brett Taylor was fighting a fire in Utah and unable to present at this meeting due to mandatory time off.

9. NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT HUB

Alexandra Wilson from the Washoe County Manager's Office provided information from the Neighborhood Development Hub. Key points include:

- The Neighborhood Development Hub was created alongside the reimagination of the Citizen Advisory Boards (CAVs) in 2021. The process is divided into two tracks: Citizen Advisory Boards handle broad community issues, while Neighborhood Development Meetings focus specifically on development projects.
- When a developer proposes a project, they must first hold a meeting with the community. According to NRS, they need to notify residents within 750 feet of the property or at least 10 homes, though this can be quite limited in scope. To enhance outreach, the county's Community Services Department sends notifications to district lists, which can be subscribed to for updates on upcoming projects.

- Residents can view upcoming meetings and projects on the Neighborhood Development website, including details about specific developments such as the Donovan Ranch subdivision. Meetings are often hybrid, allowing for both online and in-person participation.
- Project details, such as developer information and staff contacts, are provided on the site. After meetings, project information, including presentations, recordings, and notices, is uploaded for public review. Feedback can be submitted at any time during the process.
- For further engagement, residents can sign up for notifications via the Washoe County website or through the URL washoecounty.gov/subscribe. Notification requirements for projects include informing schools and other key stakeholders, though the standard notification is within 750 feet of the project site.
- Notifications are also sent to district residents via email, with additional postings on Nextdoor. For more specific project tracking, details can be found on the Washoe County Applications page, where information about applications going to governing boards is accessible, including outcomes of these reviews.

10. CAB MEMBER/COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS/REQUESTS

Interim CAB Chair Bonnie Billings wanted to recognize Commissioner Andriola for her efforts in arranging speakers for the October 2nd meeting. Special thanks were also given to Alexandra Wilson and her team for their work.

Commissioner Andriola announced an unexpected opening on the board. Applications for CAB positions are open to all interested individuals, and the announcement will be circulated for wider awareness. The next meeting will feature elections for the Chair and Vice Chair positions on the board. Commissioner Andriola shared exciting news about Washoe County's commitment to financial transparency. The county will soon launch a detailed transparency portal similar to Checkbook Nevada, which will allow residents to view and analyze government expenditures and income. This initiative aims to provide clear, accessible information about budgeting and spending, contributing to better public understanding and accountability. To further enhance transparency, there will be a workshop on government budgeting to help residents understand the process and details of budget preparation. This is part of the effort to clarify financial information and prevent misinformation.

Commissioner Andriola concluded her remarks with thanks to Mr. Parks for his service as the Chair of the CAB.

11. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Donnie Olson - Wanted to comment/ask about the flood plain detention zone, but with Dwayne Smith not in attendance she was unable to get an answer. There were no other commenters.

12. ADJOURNMENT - Adjourned at 6:51 p.m.