**Spanish Springs Citizen Advisory Board**

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Spanish Springs Citizen Advisory Board held on February 5, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the Spanish Springs Library.

1. **CALL TO ORDER/ DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

PRESENT – Bonnie Billings, Bradley Young, Shannon Martell, Brandon Partain (online), Jason Evans

ABSENT – Renate York

A quorum was established, and the meeting was brought to order. County staff commented that due to technical difficulties, no camera would be available for those individuals who were attending via Zoom.

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

1. **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mark Neumann provided public comment that the intersection of Pyramid Highway and Highland Ranch and road improvements in that area should be the responsibility of the Five Ridges home development, however this is not triggered until there are 650 homes with certificates of occupancy. He expressed concern because this may take years to occur, and meanwhile this road needs help due to overwhelming traffic. He also shared that seniors using RTC Rideshare or Taxi, Uber, or Lyft, can get $60 per month if they are over the age of 60, and the local nonprofit N4 gives $80 per month, but may be some qualifying aspects for N4 and encouraged the community to look into these opportunities.

1. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETINGS OF** December 4, 2024

Bradley Young motioned to approve the minutes from December 4, 2024, CAB meeting and Shannon Martell seconded the motion. The minutes passed unanimously.

1. **PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATES**

Washoe County Sherriff Depart

Sergeant Randy Whitmore provided a status report outlining that most crime in Spanish Springs had gone done, except for an increase in in fraud offenses and stolen vehicles. He shared with the room that his name had been being used by scammers pretending to be with the Washoe County Sheriff’s Office and demanding payment. He reiterated that this was not him, and no WCSO staff will ever contact anyone demanding payment. He also cited individuals warming up their cars in the morning as being a key cause to this increase and recommended that people do not leave their vehicles running unattended.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District
Battalion Chief Derek Reid provided a recap of the number of calls for service to the Spanish Springs area, for a total of 186 calls. One hundred and thirty-four of these were EMS calls, and only 4 were for fire.

A resident asked if there was an evacuation plan for the Spanish Springs area. FIRE said that this would be within the purview of the Emergency Management personnel.

1. **NEW COMMUNITY INPUT PORTAL**CAB Chair Bonnie Billings introduced a new community input portal available for residents of Spanish Springs. She said that there were flyers in the meeting room with a QR code that can be scanned, and people may provide ideas for upcoming CAB topics. She thanked Commissioner Andriola who had been a driving force to create this opportunity.

Constituent Janet Butcher asked if there was a web landing page that may be used in lieu of the QR code. Chair Billings said that County staff are working on a landing page, but at this time only the QR code is available to use this new tool.

1. **REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION (RTC) UPCOMING PROJECTS IMPACTING SPANISH SPRINGS**

CAB Chair Billings indicated that County Manager Eric Brown, who was originally scheduled to be item 7, was stuck in traffic from the State Capital and rearranged the agenda to have RTC representatives present first.

Paul Nelson from RTC shared information about the organization including the newly elected Board, their mission and core functions. He went over the various forms of public transportation including increased ridership on the Bus Rapid Transit, Microtransit, FlexRIDE, and service delivery rides such as the Senior Ride Taxi Bucks Program and the Vanpool Program that provides transportation alternatives for groups who share commute routes. Mr. Nelson discussed the new cashless way to pay for bus rides as the way that people prefer to pay in today’s era. He then outlined the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan, which is updated every four years and identifies long term transportation needs and goals. The plan includes an active transportation plan to include a Neighborhood Network Plan that includes bicyclists and pedestrians, sidewalks and bicycle facilities, and analyzes existing data. He shared that RTC had made a community investment in Fiscal Year 2024 of over $81 million, with over 2,500 direct jobs as a result of this investment. RTC has projects slated for 2025 that includes highway projects and a Sparks Boulevard Capacity Improvement plan to include road widening, intelligent corridors, traffic signal modifications, and changes to the Vista Blvd. and Disc Dr. intersection, La Posada Dr. corrective maintenance, Eagle Canyon safety and operations plan, Sparks Blvd. and Ion Drive traffic signal, the addition of a southbound lane from Egyptian Dr. to Ingenuity Ln., and the widening of Highland Ranch Parkway near the Five Ridges development. They went on to discuss a TRIC Connector Alignment Study to outline possible alternate routes between the Reno/Sparks area and USA Parkway. In addition to alternate routes, a commuter rail may be in the works. A review of the revenue and revenue sources was shared, along with expenditures.

A resident said that Five Ridges is not required to expand the road until they have hundreds of homesites available and sold, which could take years. RTC staff said that they are unaware of the timeline for the development build-out.

A resident requested clarification on roadways mentioned in the presentation, and RTC staff explained that updates to the roadways would go to La Posada.

1. **COUNTY MANAGER ERIC BROWN UPDATE**County Manager Eric Brown shared the vision for Washoe County for 2025, to include following through on strategic priorities of seniors, mental health and infrastructure while preparing for possible financial headwinds due to flattening revenues. He shared the fiscal management accomplishments to include an increased tax bond rating, a four-year collective bargaining agreement with Washoe County employees, and the implementation of Open Checkbook, which was a request by Commissioner Andriola. He then went over the accomplishments made on behalf of our vulnerable populations including the completion of Cares Campus construction, state funding to support affordable housing projects, the relocation of the Men’s Crossroads program, and the launch of the city of Miami’s model for a sequential intercept behavioral model. Further, Washoe County has hired an opioid analyst to create an Opioid action plan, hired a behavioral health administrator, secured state funding to remodel Washoe Behavioral Health Center, completed phase one of the Senior Center remodel, and re-bid the senior food vendor agreement. County Manager Brown shared updates at the Registrar of Voters office to include the new staffing model, renovated facilities, purchased and installed new election equipment for better efficiency and aster ballot processing, a “Top Down” Know.inc voter registration and election management system in collaboration with the SOS Elections Office, and successfully administered the February Presidential Preference Primary, June Primary and November General Presidential Elections. Most recently, the County successfully completed recruitment for a new Registrar of Voters. Additionally, the County has plans for a Regional Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) project progressing on schedule/on budget for Fall 2025 completion, successfully implemented technology to enhance community outreach including the Development HUB, eComment, virtual BCC meeting access for Incline Village and Gerlach communities the Wordly.ai language translation tool, the approval of Washoe County Master Plan by the Board of County Commissioners, and completed an upgrade of Incline Village Court House facilities. Manager Brown went over the ongoing regional collaboration that the County is pursuing including public/private partnerships, neighboring jurisdictions, and regional dispatch. After providing these updates on what had transpired in 2024, priorities for 2025 include an ongoing CAB program, the completion of computer aided dispatch, to complete the Washoe Behavioral Health Center site use plan and begin implementation, conduct a justice system case workflow study, update emergency evacuation plans, pursue public/private partnership opportunities to drive Washoe County’s growth, and complete updates to FEMA floodplain designations.
2. **CAB MEETING FREQUENCY IN SPANISH SPRINGS**CAB Chair Bonnie Billings introduced the idea that the frequency of Spanish Springs CAB meetings should be discussed and revisited. CAB member Bradley Young said that he had attended the CAB reimagination input session held in December, and that he believed that of the eight CABs throughout the County, two were meeting bi-monthly (including Spanish Springs), and the other 6 were meeting on a monthly basis, and thought there would be value in meeting monthly. County staff clarified that the numbers were four and four, with half meeting monthly and the other half meeting bi-monthly. CAB member Shannon Martell agreed that there would be value in meeting monthly. Chair Billings said that a possible problem with meeting monthly is that other CABs are experiencing difficulty in finding interesting topics on a regular basis. CAB member Brandon Partain expressed concern about the ability to cancel meetings if there were no topics, and it was confirmed that this could be done. Chair Billings requested input from the community. Community member Joni Hammond said that some interesting topics can come out many times, such as RTC, who always have something new and interesting to share with the community, and would like to see monthly meetings. Commissioner Andriola commented that there may be some months when meetings may be more difficult to hold due to holidays and other concerns. CAB member Bradley Young made a motion to change the frequency of the Spanish Springs CAB from bi-monthly meetings to monthly, except for the months of August and December. CAB member Shannon Martell seconded this motion. A vote was taken and the motion was passed unanimously.
3. **CAB MEMBER/COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS/REQUESTS**

Commissioner Andriola commented that she was pleased that the survey portal had come to fruition, and that the CAB would be meeting on a more regular basis. She indicated that there are typically larger crowds at the CAB and that she was disappointed that a notification about the CAB was not sent to the community.

CAB Chair Billings also said she would like to see increased promotion of the CAB program. She also said that next month’s CAB would feature a presentation from the Tribe, thanks to the work by Commissioner Andriola to arrange this conversation, who then gave kudos to CAB member Shannon Martell for helping to arrange this presentation.

1. **ADJOURNMENT –** The meetingadjourned at 8:04 p.m.