



South Truckee Meadows/Washoe Valley Citizen Advisory Board
Minutes of the regular meeting of the South Truckee Meadows/Washoe Valley Citizen
Advisory Board held on April 4, 2024, at 6:00 P.M. at South Valleys Library

- 1. CALL TO ORDER/ DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**, Wes Mewes (Vice Chair), Marge Frandsen and Brad Stanley were present. David Snelgrove (Chair) was absent. Wes Mewes will act as chair for this meeting.

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

- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

- 3. 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 comments 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)

Chair Mewes outlined that public commenters are allowed 3 minutes per item.

Citizen Cynthia Reed provided a flyer about being a Fire Wise coordinator and how one may become a coordinator for the program. She indicated that there is an upcoming discussion about wildfire evacuations on May 6 at the Raley's on Mt. Rose Highway.

Karen Schider invited the community to attend the 7th Annual Celebrate Washoe Valley on May 18 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. as a free event at Washoe State Park. There will be representatives from various fire fighting agencies in attendance, one can learn about the native plants that are ideal for this area, and there will be music, food and raffles.

Woody Brown discussed the dead-end road which used to end at Thunderbolt Drive, until Mountain Gate development was created 20 years ago. This was changed to be a closed road with a gate. The City of Reno gave permission for Ryder Homes to access the area, but promised to have a gate maintained for perpetuity with access only for emergencies. The gate is now open and unlocked. This was a key issue during the planning of that development. CAB member Marge Frandsen asked if he had spoken with the City of Reno, and Mr. Brown indicated that he had not. Ms. Frandsen and Chair Mewes encouraged Mr. Brown to connect with the City of Reno on this item as this is within their jurisdiction.

Randy Short said he is an owner of Rattlesnake Mountain and has been trying to come to an agreement with the County to acquire the land to use for open space and parks. Would like the CAB to encourage the County to come into conversation with them on purchasing the land and using it for open space and recreation.

- 4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETINGS OF** December 7, 2023 and February 15, 2024 (for possible action)

Both the meeting minutes from December 7, 2023 and February 15, 2024 were approved unanimously, with Marge Frandsen making the motion and Brad Stanley seconding the motion.

- 5. PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATES** – A Washoe County Sheriff’s Deputy and/or Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District may be available to provide a general community update on public safety (non-action item)

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD)

Truckee Meadows Fire Captain Joe Schum provided data from February through March, with about 225 calls per month. This is a reduction from last year in the number of motor vehicle accidents. There were 4 fires in the south valleys, all of which were small and easily contained. He also shared information about the 300 medical calls. He encouraged the community to be proud about Washoe County hosting 2,000 attendees from across the country for the International Fire Chiefs and Urban Interface Conference. Also shared about a recent training session for fire teams from western states. Rookies have 12 weeks left in fire academy training. Touched on open burning being available through the month of April and discussed parameters for allowing open burning. Curbside chipping applications are open through May 7, with chipping taking place the week of May 14. These are for low-income individuals or for those who cannot physically chip. He then touched on green waste dump days that will take place in two locations. He urged residents to read the fire chief community report from 2023 which highlights strategic objectives and can be found on the Truckee Meadows Fire website. Brett Taylor, the new wildfire community interface coordinator, also spoke to his role to mitigate wildfire hazards and offered free defensible space inspections to individuals’ homes.

Washoe County Sheriff’s Office (WCSO)

Captain Brandon Zirkle shared that staffing levels are good within the Sheriff’s Office, higher than they have been in years, with this equating with more deputies on the streets in communities. He went over the many new recruits and their training. There are new crime reduction goals, which are achieved through weekly stratified crime meetings to discuss home and vehicle burglaries, assaults, DUI, etc. The Sheriff has recently released his annual report which can be found on WashoeSheriff.com. There is an uptick in calls for service in 2023 over the 3-year average, however some of the calls are for activity by the same perpetrators time and again. Warned people to be careful about leaving valuables in their vehicles during the summer as they hit trail heads, and for those who are gone as they have summer homes. WCSO is place door hangers on homes where people have cameras who may be able to help solve crimes. Has been working in conjunction with Truckee Meadows Fire on evacuation drills. Captain Zirkle shared this would be his last meeting as he is retiring after 31 years of service in Washoe County and introduced the new Captain, Amelia Felicia. The community thanked Captain Zirkle for his service and wished him well in retirement. CAB member Marge Frandsen asked if the stats for future meetings can be broken out to include Hidden Valley, specifically. Captain Zirkle said that it is difficult to pull out pocket neighborhoods but reports on the CAB district as a whole.

- 5. HISTORIC RENO PRESERVATION SOCIETY** – Melissa Hafey, Board Member for the [Historic Reno Preservation Society](#), will provide information about how a property may become a historic landmark, or otherwise be preserved. [Non-Action Item]

Melissa Hafey provided a presentation about the role of the Reno Preservation Society, which is a nonprofit that focuses on research and education for the history of the entire region, including walking tours, speaker series, home tours and more. She provided information about how to create a historic landmark through preservation efforts. She outlined the parameters for having a historic landmark proclaimed and preserved, including historic significance, sustainability and a shared heritage, as well as why some developers choose to not maintain historic buildings, including difficulty of bringing them up to modern code. She discussed the various aspects that are necessary for a building or location to be declared historic. The National Register of Historic Places does not provide protection for locations deemed as historic; only honors them and encourages working with local registering agencies to ensure protection. She highlighted the Washoe County Recorder's Office, and the University of Nevada Reno as being excellent resources for learning about historic buildings and places in the area. Chair Mewes shared that this item was brought to the CAB based on comment at a recent CAB when an individual had been asking how historic items may be preserved, specifically the Harris Ranch and Mount Rose Hot Springs and the small bath house. Ms. Hafey confirmed that the small bathhouse will be demolished due to hazardous materials, however the Washoe Tribe will salvage rock materials and use those to commemorate the location.

6. 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 mentions that there are no upcoming meetings for the South Truckee Meadows area. The Neighborhood meeting HUB was discussed and a screen sharing session was conducted to showcase the HUB. Ms. Ramos showed the opportunities to see various projects and meetings, the development application process, how one may sign up to receive notifications about the neighborhood development meetings, and how one may review what transpired during a neighborhood meeting after it occurs. Ms. Ramos encouraged citizens to attend these meetings as they are early in the planning process, and they are not restricted to three minutes of public commentary and that these meetings are designed to be a dialogue between the developer and the community.

7. 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)

Chair Mewes said that there are open seats open on the CAB and encouraged people to apply for appointment.

8. 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)

Citizen Cynthia Reed encouraged people to participate in the Open Space and Parks changes and to participate in meetings. Encouraged individuals to push for a dog park that has zones for small and large breeds. Chair Mewes thought that inviting the Parks and Open Space division with Washoe County to speak on this idea would be appropriate for an upcoming CAB meeting agenda item.

Julie Ulman provided public comment in her role as a member of the Washoe County Library staff. She discussed that NDOT will be speaking about the South Virginia Safety Portal for ingress and egress safety. NDOT has a table at the South Valleys Library and at Tamarac Junction, should people wish to provide comment.

9. WASHOE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM BOOKMOBILE – Washoe County Library staff to provide information on the new [bookmobile](#) [Non-Action Item]

Jonnicia Bowen, branch manager of the North Valleys Library, was on site to provide information about the new Bookmobile that will deliver books and other library assets around the County, including to rural and underserved populations. She provided an overview of the Bookmobile, including the history of the Bookmobile idea which came to the County in 1947, the Bookmobile with bull horns from the 1980s, and in 2021 when community forums provided feedback that people wanted the Bookmobile back. A resident asked how the locations of the Bookmobile will be determined. Ms. Bowen answered that this will largely be based on staffing and availability, and to provide positive feedback to the Library Board of Trustees if they like the Bookmobile for a greater chance of increasing services like these in the future. She invited residents to visit the Bookmobile that was parked in the parking lot.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:11 p.m. with Marge Frandsen making a motion to adjourn, and Brad Stanley seconding the motion. All were in favor.