



**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 December 5, 2024, at 6:00 P.M. at South Valleys Library**

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

Present – Wes Mewes, Penny Brock, Marge Frandsen (online), Brad Stanley, Adolfo Correa  
Absent – Thomas Gauthier, Natalie Christopher

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The pledge was recited

**3. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT –**

Sandra Pazen commented that she opposes anything that is proposed to be built in the area as it would negatively affect their neighborhood and impede traffic.

Michael Hudson expressed concerns about the potential development of a stadium in the South Truckee Meadows/Washoe Valley area. He emphasized the risks associated with introducing a stadium into a residential area, citing his background in terrorism and counterterrorism. Hudson noted that FEMA studies and recent NFL research have documented the risks of stadiums, and while increased law enforcement could help, it wouldn't address the core issues of safety and security. He also pointed out that the proposed stadium would replace multiple fields, parks, and recreational spaces, creating a significant loss for the community. He urged the Board to seriously consider these impacts, as the issue could still resurface despite not being formally shut down.

William Naylor addressed concerns about the housing affordability package 2.5, which proposes high-density development in suburban areas to create affordable housing. He criticized the county's process, specifically how it handled notifications for the proposed development code amendment. Naylor stated that the County violated its own Development Code by failing to properly notify the Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) of the Planning Commission's approval and the Board of County Commissioners' first reading of the amendment. He highlighted that the CAB should have been notified and had public meetings on this countywide issue, but this did not occur. Naylor called for the amendment to be rescinded, revised, and properly reviewed through the correct process, ensuring thorough notification to all CABs across the county.

Cynthia Reed expressed deep concern about the potential loss of consistent funding for libraries, which she sees as essential for maintaining quality programs and retaining good employees. She highlighted the importance of dedicated funding, which was established in 1994, to ensure libraries can continue operating effectively without constantly struggling for resources. Reed emphasized the high cost of

resources like e-books and audiobooks, which are critical for educational purposes. She shared personal experiences of how libraries positively impacted her education and career and urged others to support library funding, particularly for children, youth, and seniors. She encouraged attendees to contact their commissioners and educate themselves on the issue, referencing materials available at the library.

Julie Ullman, the branch manager at South Valleys Library, shared concerns about impending budget cuts due to the loss of the W.C. One fund, which has provided crucial library funding for the past 30 years. Starting July 1, the library will face a \$4.5 million reduction in its annual budget, leading to reduced operating hours, staff cuts, limited meeting room availability, and fewer resources for books, e-books, DVDs, and magazines. These cuts will have an impact on library programs, services for children and seniors, and access to technology. However, Ullman highlighted that property tax revenue continues to be collected, and it is up to the Board of County Commissioners to fully fund the library from the general fund. She encouraged residents to contact their commissioners to express their concerns and advocate for continued library funding.

Marc Radow, president of Battleborn Football Club, expressed concern over the ongoing plans for South Valleys Park, which he believes may soon be turned into a stadium despite community support for it to remain a park. He criticized the county for ignoring the lowest bidder, a local contractor Nate Evans, who he believes has the experience and qualifications to ensure the park remains a community space. Radow urged attendees to attend the upcoming Board of County Commissioners meeting to voice opposition to the current bid and support Evans' proposal. He emphasized that approving the current deal could lead to the park being developed into a stadium, potentially misusing taxpayer funds and donations.

Eric Crump from Washoe County announced that he will be giving a presentation on an upcoming agenda item, which will cover unsolicited proposals. Although it is a dry topic, he shared that he had brought a map of the South Valleys Regional Park design, which does not include a soccer stadium. He clarified that the map represents the current site plan for the park and outlined that there will be multiple construction phases. Crump offered to discuss the map and the construction details with attendees after the meeting.

Val White stated her opposition for funding for the library, citing her personal experience with seeing staff not working hard. She believes funding should be allocated towards police infrastructure instead.

A resident expressed concern about a lack of transparency and trust in the decision-making process. They questioned whether individuals in positions of power are influenced by underhanded incentives, such as bonuses or payments. The resident emphasized the importance of listening to the public when they speak and urged that higher authorities, including commissioners, should heed the concerns of the community.

#### 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF October 2, 2024 – [For Possible Action]

Brad Stanley moved to approve the minutes for the October 2, 2024, CAB meeting minutes and Penny Brock seconded the motion. Minutes were approved unanimously.

#### 5. PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE -

##### Washoe County Sheriff's Office

Lieutenant Tittensor provided an update on local crime trends, noting a decrease in aggravated assaults, burglaries, robberies, and sexual offenses, while property destruction, drug offenses, and vehicle thefts have risen. Calls for service are up by 500, and the jail population is at 1,142. He also warned of increased package thefts during the holidays and advised residents to use doorbell cameras and retrieve packages promptly. He cautioned against vehicle thefts, especially when cars are left running to warm up, and emphasized that keyless entry vehicles remain vulnerable. Tittensor highlighted a rise in cryptocurrency scams targeting the elderly, with over \$1 million lost this year. He reassured the public that the sheriff's office will never ask for money over the phone and urged residents to contact the department directly if needed.

##### Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District

Battalion Chief Martin Johnson provided a November update, reporting 246 calls for service, with 152 being EMS-related. Fire-related calls included the Callahan fire, which burned 65 acres, destroyed one home and several outbuildings, but resulted in no major injuries. Wildland fuel reduction efforts are underway near the Rock Farm area, Saint James Village, and Mount Rose Highway. Erosion control and hazard tree removal are ongoing in these areas. Burn permits are available online at [tmfire.us](http://tmfire.us), with burning allowed in December if weather permits. Construction has begun on a new apparatus bay at Station 37 in Hidden Valley, expected to take about a year. Additionally, six personnel are currently training at the Carson City Regional Fire Academy, set to join the team in January due to anticipated retirements.

Brett Taylor provided updates on two key fire-related projects. First, Truckee Meadows has submitted a \$2 million hazard mitigation grant to restore areas impacted by the Davis Fire, focusing on soil stabilization and hazard tree removal. This project, coordinated with the Division of Forestry for aerial reseeding, aims to make the area safer and restore the land over the next three years. Second, a \$2 million grant from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will fund a joint project between Truckee Meadows and Carson City Fire to improve defensible space and remove hazardous fuels along Eastside Boulevard. This initiative aims to protect homes and infrastructure from potential wildfires, and residents can sign up for free work to improve defensible space around their properties. Taylor encouraged residents to contact him directly for more information.

A resident asked for the reason for the occurrence of the Davis fire. No information was able to be provided.

A resident asked about the fire station for Washoe Valley and Chief Johnson informed them that the plans are identical to the Apple station. As of right now they are looking for funding for the station. They currently are looking at a funding source of \$15 million extra and would like to get something finalized before Moore retires.

Drew Ribar shared concerns about a power shutdown in Washoe Valley, which occurred earlier than expected and lasted about a day. The shutdown, intended to prevent fires, caused significant losses for local businesses, including Dollar General, which had to discard thousands of dollars' worth of food. Ribar asked whether Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) was involved in the decision to de-energize the area and questioned if such shutdowns would continue. In response, TMFPD explained that they are not part of the decision-making process for public safety power outages. While they do support them with additional personnel during such events if requested, the decision to shut down power is made by the utility company, in this case, NV Energy. TMFPD advised waiting for the NV Energy representatives to address the issue further.

A resident asked whether the power shutdown affected only East Lake Boulevard or if it extended to other areas. They sought clarification on which parts of Washoe Valley were impacted. TMFPD clarified that the shutdown covered a large area, including everything from Highway 395 to Carson City, and from Lake to Virginia, encompassing the entire east side of Washoe Valley.

## 6. **UNSOLICITED PROPOSALS -**

Eric Crump provided an overview of Washoe County's unsolicited proposal policy, which was developed to guide the county in evaluating proposals it did not actively solicit. The policy was implemented in 2016 to address the increasing number of proposals coming in as the economy grew, particularly due to limited land and rising land costs. The policy outlines objectives such as fostering innovative ideas, ensuring transparency, and ensuring that projects benefit Washoe County residents. The process includes an assessment panel that evaluates proposals based on criteria like alignment with county goals, financial feasibility, and public support. If a proposal meets the criteria, it moves to the Board of County Commissioners for approval. Crump also highlighted examples of successful public-private partnerships in Washoe County, such as the Wilbur-May Museum, Reno Ice, and Wild Creek Golf Course, which were made possible through unsolicited proposals.

A resident asked about the process of donating property to Washoe County and the possibility of the county later changing its intended use, such as converting a donated property into a soccer stadium. Eric Crump explained that when land is donated to the county, it often comes with deed restrictions specifying how the land should be used. He cited the example of South Valley Regional Park, which was donated with a restriction for public use. In cases like this, the county consults legal experts to determine if proposed uses, such as a soccer stadium, align with the donation's terms. If the use is deemed a "gray area," the county reaches out to the donor or their representatives for clarification. In this instance, the soccer stadium proposal was eventually dropped after the donor's successors did not support it. Crump emphasized that the county takes deed restrictions seriously to avoid violating the terms of the donation.

Val White asked Eric Crump about the current status of the soccer stadium proposal at South Valley Regional Park, seeking clarification on whether the proposal had been completely halted after the county determined it did not align with the donor's wishes. White asked if any steps had been taken by the county to officially cancel the project. Crump confirmed that the proposal was indeed halted because it did not meet the ethical or legal standards, and the design for the park would not include

the stadium. He also responded to White's question about whether the Board of County Commissioners would make a formal statement about the proposal's cancellation. Crump stated that while the commissioners hadn't requested an official statement, they could add it as an agenda item if desired, though no further action had been taken since the proposal no longer met the necessary criteria.

Marc Radow asked Eric Crump about the criteria for considering unsolicited proposals, particularly in situations where the private sector cannot complete a project on its own and needs government involvement. Marc expressed concern that the county might be placing too much responsibility on the Droskar family for the proposed stadium, and questioned whether this was fair. In response, Crump clarified that while there are many criteria for unsolicited proposals, the decision to move forward with such projects involves public feedback, which had strongly opposed the stadium proposal. He emphasized that the stadium proposal was effectively dead, given both the public opposition and the deed restrictions on the land. Crump also noted that the design of South Valley Regional Park was moving forward without the stadium and that the overall project would cost approximately \$18 million.

Marc Radow asked Eric Crump how the public could receive the same clarity and certainty that Crump had just provided regarding the stadium proposal. He expressed concern about future unsolicited proposals, specifically questioning what safeguards or assurances exist to ensure the community is fully informed, especially for projects with long-term impacts. Radow pointed to examples like the South Valley soccer stadium and the Ice Rink, which the public was not aware of until later, raising concerns about the lack of transparency in such proposals. In response, Crump acknowledged the challenge of engaging the public and emphasized that the government complies with open meeting laws, posting agendas, and making information available through various channels. He explained that while they try to engage the community, it's also the public's responsibility to stay informed. He pointed to efforts like the recent Rancho San Rafael master plan process, which included extensive community involvement, to illustrate the transparency measures in place. However, Crump also noted that the government cannot contact every individual, and people need to actively seek out information.

Wes Mewes asked Eric Crump about the timeline for public notice regarding the stadium project, specifically when the first notice was given to the public and how the public could access the information. Crump explained that the proposal was presented three times at public meetings of the Open Space and Regional Park Commission, all of which were publicly posted and agendaed. Mewes then inquired about how the public could sign up for notifications for future meetings and view agendaed items. Crump responded that the public could visit the county's website to access this information.

Michael Hudson asked Eric Crump about the consideration of public safety in the metrics used to evaluate proposals. Hudson pointed out that while the proposal included factors like zoning and traffic lights, it didn't address safety concerns such as crime, terrorism, and law enforcement involvement. He questioned when these public safety issues, which involve law enforcement and first responders,

would be addressed. Crump acknowledged this gap and explained that safety concerns related to law enforcement are typically considered later in the process, when stakeholders such as law enforcement and fire departments are involved in planning and permitting. He agreed that it was a valid point that should be addressed.

Penny Brock asked Eric Crump for clarification on how to find information about county proposals on the Washoe County website. She mentioned difficulty navigating the site and asked specifically where to go for unsolicited proposals. Crump explained that to find information, users can visit the county's website, go to "Boards and Commissions," and look for agendas related to the Open Space and Regional Park Commission, where proposals like the soccer stadium are discussed. He also mentioned that individuals can sign up for email notifications about meetings and agendas. However, he clarified that unsolicited proposals are rare, and there isn't a dedicated section on the website for them. Instead, they appear in public meeting agendas where the community can provide feedback.

A resident asked Eric Crump if the county would update its policies to include safety issues, specifically involving first responders, in future plans. They emphasized that safety should be formalized in the planning process, not overlooked as it was with the stadium project. Crump agreed, mentioning he could take the suggestion back to the committee and the board for consideration. He acknowledged that in the recent Rancho San Rafael master plan update, law enforcement was not included as a stakeholder but noted it should have been.

## **7. WINTER PREPAREDNESS AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT RESPONSE -**

Kelly Echeverria covered key aspects of winter weather preparedness and emergency management. She started by discussing the various winter hazards in the region, including extreme cold, freezing rain, snow, ice, and high winds. These conditions can cause hazardous driving, power outages, and other risks such as hypothermia, frostbite, carbon monoxide poisoning, heart attacks from overexertion (like shoveling snow), and falls. Echeverria stressed that these risks are common every year, but the severity can vary, with some conditions lasting longer than expected. She emphasized the importance of being prepared for such events by understanding local risks, which vary depending on location. For example, winter risks in her neighborhood near the snow line in southwest Reno differ from those in the valley or other regions. Preparing your home involves insulation, sealing gaps, checking alarms, and winterizing your vehicle (ensuring it has antifreeze, working brakes, and good tires). Echeverria also recommended checking weather forecasts and signing up for alert systems, as well as keeping emergency kits in both homes and cars. These kits should include essential items like blankets, warm clothes, food, water, a flashlight, and a first-aid kit. For cars, she suggested having jumper cables, sand, and a full gas tank, and reminded people to never leave the gas tank too low, especially during winter. Echeverria also highlighted the importance of being prepared for power outages and other emergency situations by keeping electric light sources (such as flashlights) and knowing how to shut off water valves to prevent frozen pipes. Additionally, she noted the importance of recognizing signs of hypothermia and frostbite, including numbness, white or grayish skin, and drowsiness, and explained how to respond to these conditions. She encouraged everyone to check on

neighbors, particularly the elderly or vulnerable, to ensure their safety during extreme weather. In her discussion on emergency management, Echeverria explained the response process during a disaster. She works in the Regional Emergency Operations Center, where agencies like law enforcement, fire departments, and emergency medical services coordinate their efforts during a crisis. When an incident or threat occurs, emergency management is notified, and the necessary evacuation alerts are issued to the public. The response involves setting up temporary shelters, sometimes in partnership with local libraries, which have become an important community resource for evacuations. Echeverria provided an example from the Davis fire, where the North Valleys Library was used as an evacuation shelter before the area itself was evacuated. Libraries, due to their accessibility and community presence, have proven to be effective places for people to seek refuge during emergencies. In addition to shelters, emergency alerts provide information on the type of threat, evacuation areas, and where to go for help. Echeverria underscored that these alerts must be clear and succinct to ensure residents can quickly understand and act on them. She also explained how the emergency management team collaborates across agencies to ensure a smooth response, including establishing a communication system to coordinate shelter openings. She highlighted a new tool, *Rave Smart 911*, which allows residents with access and functional needs to receive earlier alerts, giving them extra time to evacuate. This tool is particularly beneficial in emergencies like wildfires, where timely evacuation is crucial. Echeverria emphasized that alerts would be sent through multiple channels, including emergency alert systems, social media, emails, texts, and voicemails, to ensure that everyone receives the information they need, regardless of how they prefer to receive notifications. She also touched on the use of *Perimeter Map*, an online resource that proved essential during the Davis Fire. This tool provides real-time updates on evacuation areas, road closures, shelters, and other emergency details, making it a valuable resource for both first responders and the public. The system is expanding statewide, including new counties such as Pershing, Elko, and Nye, to enhance regional communication. Echeverria then discussed mass care operations, including temporary evacuation points, shelters, and support services like feeding, medical aid, pet care, and security. These services are coordinated with community partners like the Red Cross to ensure all evacuees' needs are met. The goal is to provide swift relief without unnecessary shelter openings when incidents are resolved quickly. Finally, she provided an overview of the Regional Emergency Operations Center (REOC), which serves as the coordination hub during emergencies. The center brings together various agencies, including law enforcement, energy providers, and volunteer organizations, to streamline information and resource management for both first responders and the public. This collaborative approach ensures that the community can respond effectively to disasters and mitigate their impact.

Ken Vaughn raised a concern about the challenges during a recent evacuation, specifically that the designated evacuation point (the library) was difficult to reach due to blocked roads, particularly on Wedge Parkway. He asked how evacuation sites are chosen and whether the routes are properly evaluated for accessibility during an emergency. Kelly Echeverria responded by explaining that evacuation locations are determined by first responders in conjunction with emergency management and the Emergency Shelter Council. They aim to select locations that are safe and far enough away from the threat. However, she acknowledged that sometimes roadblocks or traffic issues, like those in

the Arrow Creek area, may not be immediately reported to incident command. She emphasized the importance of residents reporting such issues to ensure resources are directed where needed. Echeverria also mentioned that they are actively working on improving evacuation planning, with a focus on enhancing communication and addressing potential choke points. This includes a new evacuation study to identify key areas of concern and better prepare for future events. The goal is to mitigate problems in evacuation routes before they arise and secure funding for these efforts.

A resident commented on the significant traffic congestion during the evacuation, particularly on Wedge Parkway, which caused long delays despite the evacuation point being relatively empty. They suggested that in the future, more attention should be given to traffic control, and recommended training volunteers to manage traffic, drawing from their experience in a city where traffic officers used whistles and flashlights to direct vehicles during busy situations. Kelly Echeverria responded by acknowledging the issue and appreciating the resident's input. She mentioned that volunteers are crucial and encouraged those interested in helping with traffic control to get involved, emphasizing that the support of trained volunteers would be valuable in managing such situations in the future.

A resident raised a concern about the impact of new housing developments on traffic during emergencies, particularly when evacuations occur down Arrow Creek and other nearby roads. They suggested that emergency management should work more closely with the planning department to address this growing issue, as thousands of new homes are being built with limited road access. Kelly Echeverria responded by acknowledging the issue, agreeing that there should be better integration between emergency management and planning. She explained that her department is not currently involved in the planning process but recognized the need for such collaboration. However, due to limited staff resources in her office, she noted it would be challenging to take on additional responsibilities at the moment. She indicated that this issue would be brought up with senior leadership.

Jennifer Jay asked if the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) plans to be on the PulsePoint app, noting that she uses the app and follows the Reno fire alerts but doesn't see Truckee Meadows Fire on it. She mentioned that she lives on the border of the district and finds it helpful to hear sirens to understand what's happening around her. The response indicated that TMFPD is not currently on PulsePoint, but they use a different system. This system collects specific data, such as the needs of residents, and sends that information directly to fire departments to aid in responding to emergencies, particularly for residents with special needs.

Kelly Echeverria made two final important points. First, she emphasized that after fires, there is a heightened risk of flash floods, particularly in burn areas. Two weather stations have been established to monitor these risks, especially with concerns about snowmelt and storms in the winter. She also mentioned that the library serves as an alternate location for the region's emergency operations center. If the main EOC on the hill becomes inaccessible, operations can be set up at the library or at the Spanish Springs Library, ensuring preparedness across different parts of town.



## 8. NV ENERGY EMERGENCY RESPONSE –

Tim Hill discussed the steps taken to address the increasing wildfire risk in Nevada. He explained that the issue began after the 2018 Paradise fire, which led to state legislation requiring utilities to implement natural disaster programs aimed at safeguarding communities while maintaining power delivery. Hill provided an overview of the utility's operations, noting that it served 46,000 square miles in Nevada, covering about 90% of the state's population. The company served 1.5 million customers and employed 2,600 people, with an average tenure of 14 years. He emphasized that their wildfire mitigation program prioritized community safety, acknowledging that power outages were an inconvenience but sometimes necessary for protection. To mitigate fire risks, the company made significant investments in system upgrades, including replacing bare wires with covered conductors and implementing fire-sensitive equipment like non-expulsion fuses and fast-trip systems. They also improved situational awareness by deploying weather stations, fire cameras, and AI monitoring to detect heat or smoke. Additionally, they enhanced tree trimming and fuel mitigation efforts, clearing vegetation and unhealthy trees near power infrastructure. The company developed a comprehensive approach to fire risk management, incorporating multiple environmental factors into decision-making processes. This included a public safety outage management (PSOM) program that could trigger outages in response to hazardous conditions. Hill mentioned the program's success in recent years, including the activation of their emergency operations center (EOC) during high-risk periods. Overall, these efforts were part of a broader strategy to protect communities from wildfires while ensuring reliable power service. Additionally, he discussed emergency de-energization as a safety measure during wildfires. This occurred when fires got too close to power infrastructure, where keeping the power on could exacerbate the fire's spread. Hill highlighted how power lines, especially during high winds, could worsen fires by releasing atomized smoke and increasing fire intensity. The goal was to protect first responders and communities by shutting down power before it caused further harm. He explained the operational challenges, such as the need for lead time when de-energizing transmission lines to safely shut down generation plants. Additionally, decisions to de-energize were made based on weather conditions, fire behavior, and the potential impact on the infrastructure. An incident management team, including fire experts and meteorologists, actively monitored these situations to ensure that the power was cut off safely and efficiently. Hill touched on re-energization, which was tricky due to the unpredictable nature of fire containment. Power restoration was coordinated with fire control efforts, ensuring it happened only when it was safe for both residents and responders. In cases of major fires, the power outage could last as long as the fire threatened the area. He also explained the communication process for notifying customers, recommending that people sign up for notifications through the utility's website for timely alerts via call, text, or email. This helped ensure that people in affected areas were kept informed during potential power outages.

A resident asked how the utility incorporates undergrounding infrastructure into its long-term capital planning to reduce reliance on temporary power outages. In response, it was explained that the utility has identified 33 high-risk areas for undergrounding but faces significant costs, with some projects costing up to \$5 million per mile. While undergrounding is part of their plan, the company is initially focusing on upgrading to covered conductors as a quicker, more cost-effective way to improve

resilience. Over time, they are gradually working on undergrounding the identified segments as part of their overall mitigation strategy.

Drew Ribar asked several questions regarding the safety measures and legislative processes behind wildfire mitigation efforts. He first inquired about the history of fires caused by electrical infrastructure in Northern Nevada over the past 10-20 years and whether such incidents have been significant enough to justify current regulations. Tim Hill responded by explaining that while there may not have been a notable history of such fires in Northern Nevada, the legislation was passed after major incidents like the 2018 Paradise fire, and there are concerns about future risks. He emphasized that it's more of a proactive measure to prevent potential disasters, even if there hasn't been a major incident yet in the area. Hill also mentioned that the law requiring grid shutdowns, Senate Bill 329, was passed between 2019-2020 and is available in the NRS, which could be shared if needed. Ribar also asked about the specific legislative session that led to the creation of these safety measures, and Hill confirmed it was passed shortly after the 2018 campfire, likely in 2019 or 2020. Additionally, Ribar raised concerns about the lack of direct evidence linking electrical infrastructure to fire outbreaks in Northern Nevada, prompting further explanation from Hill and TMFPD about the potential dangers posed by electrical lines and the importance of being proactive to prevent a major disaster in the future. They discussed the risks of power lines causing fires, particularly with high winds, and the importance of preemptive actions like de-energization and infrastructure monitoring.

Brad Stanley asked about the AI system that uses video and camera technology to monitor for potential fire risks. Tim Hill explained that the system, which is shared with BLM and integrated into AlertNevada.com, uses fire cameras to detect heat signatures or smoke plumes. The AI system automatically identifies abnormalities in the camera frames and alerts the team. Hill further explained that this system has been in place for about three years, with improvements made over time. The system is part of an effort to expand fire camera coverage and improve the overall network, benefiting not only NV Energy but also fire teams and other responders. Additionally, Hill mentioned another advanced tool, Techno Silva, which analyzes aerial satellite images to assess vegetation density and identify high-risk areas near infrastructure. He emphasized that NV Energy is working closely with these companies to refine these tools, with input from their meteorologists to help develop more effective fire mitigation systems.

A resident asked Tim Hill whether outside plant maintenance records, such as vegetation clearance, are integrated into the AI system used for fire risk assessment. Tim Hill explained that while the AI system monitoring cameras detects abnormalities like heat signatures, the maintenance records, including vegetation data, are input into Techno Silva, the fire modeling system. This system combines various data sources, including inspection history and satellite imagery, to assess risk levels. The resident then inquired about the system's effectiveness and metrics for measuring improvements over time. Tim Hill acknowledged that this was a question for his meteorologists and offered to follow up with more detailed information.

Jake Long asked Tim Hill whether there is an active program within NV Energy, possibly under the

auspices of URG, to protect transmission facilities from intentional sabotage, such as terrorism or vandalism, targeting transformers and other infrastructure. Tim Hill responded that NV Energy does have a physical security program, as well as cybersecurity measures, to protect against such threats. While there have been incidents of copper theft at substations, there haven't been significant credible threats in Northern Nevada. He mentioned that NV Energy works closely with Homeland Security and receives alerts about threats to critical infrastructure. Although there have been incidents in other states, they have not encountered such issues in their service territory.

Catherine asked Tim Hill if NV Energy offers any assistance or protection for individuals who rely on electricity for life-sustaining medical equipment, such as ventilators or oxygen concentrators, or those who need help evacuating. Tim Hill responded that NV Energy has a program called the "Green Cross Customer Program" for people with medical needs. Customers can sign up for the program with a doctor's validation of their condition, and they will receive advanced notifications during power outages or emergencies. The program is designed to give these individuals early alerts, starting in the watch phase, while other customers may only receive warnings later. He emphasized that the program requires sign-up and that NV Energy only shares limited information with emergency responders when necessary, ensuring the privacy of participants.

#### **9. NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING HUB –**

Wes Mewes explained how residents can stay informed about local developments by using the Neighborhood Hub on the official website. By selecting a specific area or district, residents can receive notifications about relevant building projects and neighborhood meetings where they can provide input. The platform allows users to customize their notifications for projects in their area or other districts they are interested in, ensuring they can attend meetings and offer feedback on matters that affect them.

Bill Miller expressed concern about the timing and accessibility of a required public meeting for a proposed 65-foot monopole in Washoe Valley, near the new Washoe City commercial area. The meeting was held the night before Thanksgiving at 6 PM, resulting in low attendance, with only five people present. He suggested that the planning department should work to make these meetings more convenient for the public, including offering virtual options like Zoom meetings.

#### **10. CAB BOARD MEMBER/ BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Penny Brock requested that the next meeting in February include a dedicated agenda item for South Valleys Regional Park. She mentioned that the Pennington Foundation had donated \$3.5 million to the park, and that a contract for the park's development would be awarded at the upcoming County Commission meeting. She also highlighted concerns over a local contractor being excluded from the bidding process. Brock suggested that the South Valleys Park item should become a standing agenda item for future meetings due to ongoing developments and community interest.

## **11. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT -**

Jennifer J. shared her positive experience with the local library, emphasizing that librarians are active and engaged, contrary to a previous public comment claiming they "stand around." She highlighted various library programs, such as homeschooling support, resume assistance, and tutoring, as well as the library's welcoming environment for community groups. Jennifer praised the library's services, such as free meeting spaces for local organizations, and its wide range of activities, including art, music, and exercise programs. She also noted the library's extended hours, making it accessible for both children and adults.

A resident expressed frustration that the County Manager failed to inform the Community Advisory Boards (CABs) about certain required meetings, which they believed violated the Development Code. The resident encouraged others to contact the County Manager about the issue. Additionally, the resident praised Commissioner Clark for voting against a specific amendment, suggesting that he should be acknowledged for his stance.

Wes Mewes shared that there will be a meeting to discuss the reimagining of the Community Advisory Boards (CABs) within the Commission. The meeting will solicit public opinion on what the CABs do, their influence on elected officials, and their ability to compel organizations to provide information to the public. He encouraged residents to attend and participate in the meeting, which is scheduled for the 19th.

A resident asked how to obtain a copy of the meeting recording. Wes Mewes responded that the recordings will be available on the Washoe County Citizens Advisory Board website. Users can select their CAB and find a section with recordings organized by year and month. The process of uploading recordings takes some time due to administrative procedures.

A resident expressed frustration over the uncertainty surrounding the development of a park or stadium, emphasizing that only the Washoe County Commission can decide the outcome. They encouraged people to attend the upcoming meeting on Tuesday to voice their opinions, stressing that if enough people speak up, they can make a difference.

## **12. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.