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**Sun Valley Citizen Advisory Board**

**Minutes of the regular meeting of the Sun Valley Citizen Advisory Board held on May 04, 2024, at 10:00 A.M. at Hobey’s Casino, 5195 Sun Valley Boulevard, Sun Valley, NV 89433.**

1. **CALL TO ORDER/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM** Carmen Ortiz (Chair) was absent, Amy Owens, Mary Esposito, Heidi Soper, Michael Rider (Vice Chair) and Mark Neumann (alternate) were present.

A quorum was established, and the meeting was brought to order. Vice Chair Rider will act as the Chair for this meeting.

1. **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. [Non-Action Item]

Naomi Dewer introduced herself as a Reno City Council member and Reno vice mayor. She indicated she is running for State Senate District 15 as a democrat. Highlighted her previous work with the Sun Valley GID on issues related to water and debt management. She advocates for people by hearing their opinions and considers herself to be accessible.

Michael Rider read a written public comment from Diane Merrill about her concerns of building apartments and multifamily dwellings as being a bad idea because the infrastructure of the community is not set up to accommodate those who are already living in the area.

Michael Rider also read a comment from Cindy Leslie who stated her belief that the Sun Valley Community Center needs more activities for seniors such as chair yoga.

Mark Neumann spoke as a citizen and member of the Senior Services board and agreed that there are more services that are needed for seniors throughout the community.

1. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETINGS** ofApril 6, 2024. (For Possible Action)

A correction was made that the public safety update was provided by James Solaro from TMFPD and from Michael O’Brien from WCSO. With this amendment, the minutes were approved unanimously.

1. **PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATES –** General community updates from public safety representatives; including

but not limited to Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, Washoe County Sheriff’s Office, and others [Non-Action Item]

Washoe County Sheriff's Office **-**

WCSO Lt. O’Brien provided an update about a partnership that the WCSO is doing with the University of Nevada, Reno, for the 2024 Office of Justic Programs Community-Based Violence, Innovation and Prevention Initiative grant. The money would stay in Sun Valley, which has had a higher level of community violence with the most calls for service and most violent crimes. If achieved, the grant would allow for a greater presence of police within the area. A community member requested additional information, where Lt. O’Brien explained that strategic policing would include identifying a specific area and allocating appropriate resources. A community member asked for clarification on what Lt. O’Brien meant about violent crimes, where he said that this includes all violent crimes including robberies and domestic battery, and having civilian victim’s advocates is helpful for this. CAB Alternate member Mark Neumann asked about ARPA funds that the Sun Valley GID had received to update Gepford Park including upgrades to dugouts, and if the grant would possibly fund cameras for the park. Lt. O’Brien said he was unsure of if the money could go to this cause but agreed that having officers patrolling and able to see in open dugouts would be a benefit. Community member Ellen Chapin asked if the WCSO had statistics on speeding tickets on Sun Valley Boulevard and that an officer placed there could bring in a lot of income to the community by issuing fines. Lt. O’Brien said that Sun Valley Blvd. is a state highway, and therefore it is a Nevada Highway Patrol (Nevada State Police) road and so he did not have the statistics. Lt. O’Brien indicated that at times when people are stopped, they are warned without a fine, and other times people are fined. CAB member Mary Esposito asked about a recent incident including gang activity in the Sun Valley Walgreens. She asked if there is a lot of gang activity in the area and Lt. O’Brien answered in the affirmative. He discussed the various law enforcement jurisdictions serving Sun Valley where a discussion was had among attendees about the confusing jurisdictions.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District –

Truckee Meadows Fire Department Battalion Chief Sam Hicks was present to provide statistics on calls in the area including 230 calls in the Sun Valley area. Open burning closed on April 30 and green waste disposal days will resume this fall. Announced rookie firefighters that are joining their team in August and new paramedics. Chief Hicks said that wildland fire season is imminent, and that TM Fire is doing training to prepare for this regionally. A member of the community asked about the Fuels Group within TM Fire. Chief Hicks said that there are grants that provide for a collaboration between TM Fire and NV Energy. The new wildland urban interface coordinator within TM Fire is working to secure additional grants to reduce fuels. CAB member Mary Esposito asked about curbside chipping for seniors. Chief Hicks said there is an application process for people who are disabled and elderly who cannot chip for themselves can apply for assistance by visiting TMFPD.us. CAB Alternate Mark Neumann added that while TMFPD can do the chipping for those who qualify, the homeowner must remove the chippings themselves. Community member Naomi Duerr asked about the hazardous incidence calls and requested additional information. Chief Hicks did not immediately have the details available but said this could be something from a natural gas leak to an oil spill. Community member Duerr said that the County had added a sustainability manager and had recently supported a community clean-up of hazardous materials and gave kudos to Commissioner Garcia and County Manager Eric Brown for supporting these initiatives.

1. **REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION (RTC) COMMUNITY PROJECT UPDATE** – Paul Nelson, Government Affairs Officer for RTC, will provide a community update on the upcoming projects within Washoe County impacting Sun Valley. [Non-Action Item]

Paul Nelson of RTC provided a brief overview of the RTC Board of Commissioners. Discussed the major functions of RTC including metropolitan planning, engineering and construction of regional roads, and public transportation. The public transportation has offered 5.1 million rides over the past year with Sun Valley being one of its most important routes and would like to rebuild ridership which took a hit during the COVID-19 pandemic. A focus of the RTC is to provide sustainable transportation using hydrogen fueled buses. The FlexRide is a program that is growing and is on-demand, curb-to-curb service similar to Uber, and the BRT routes allow for stops every 10 minutes, making access to the community along major corridors easily accessible. He also introduced the Senior Ride Taxi Bucks program and the Vanpool program. The Senior Ride Taxi Bucks allows seniors to get a card that is automatically credited with $60 worth of taxi rides. The Vanpool program is a carpool for people who work near each other, with 340 vans available. Currently RTC is working on the 2050 regional transportation and the active transportation plan, which is futuristic and finds ways to increase walkability and bike-ability of neighborhoods. Bike lanes, cycle tracks, sidewalks and crosswalks are a part of this. Mr. Nelson outlined the many distribution centers and trucks that are in the area to find a safe and efficient way to move freight, identify and support needed infrastructure, and increase a thriving and diverse economy in Northern Nevada. He then went on to go over the Sun Valley Boulevard Corridor Study, which is meant to improve access, safety and community pride along Sun Valley Blvd. This would include sidewalk improvements and pedestrian crossing improvements. Specifically, Selmi Drive, Pyramid Highway, Scottsdale, 7th Street and Highland Ranch, with the possibility of expanding Disc Drive to Dandini Blvd. Highland Ranch Road red light problem will be cured with a “flyover” and creating a new road/route. RTC is requesting $25 million in grant funds to assist with these projects. Mr. Nelson went over the pavement preservation program which allows for the preservation of roads through patching which makes the roads seem new at a much-reduced cost than repaving. He introduced a QR code that can be scanned to provide input to RTC. Mr. Nelson introduced Amanda Caligari who is an engineering manager with RTC to answer technical questions.

Community member Ellen Chapin asked if there is any patching being planned from McCarran to past the University. Ms. Caligari answered that there is a project planned for McCarran this summer to provide preventative maintenance. Community member Carol Burns asked if Sun Valley Boulevard would have sidewalks on both sides of the road. Ms. Caligari said that while she is not certain, that would be the goal. RTC would work on outreach to the community to address the community’s goals and requests to provide input. Community member James Holcomb asked if there were any plans to address backed up traffic due to the morning school traffic. Ms. Caligari answered that she could speak with traffic engineers to ask if they are working on any projects to alleviate this issue. Community member Naomi Duerr said that other areas in the community near schools have similar problems. A community member outlined concerns for road changes over the years that he opined had been detrimental and a lack of staff within NDOT. Another member of the community asked about safety concerns. Ms. Caligari said that anything pertaining to safety concerns are a top priority and comments and concerns are researched and encouraged reporting them. Community member Carol Burns asked about The Ridges housing development and the backup of the road. Ms. Caligari mentioned the flyover interchange that Mr. Nelson had mentioned previously. All projects are analyzed using a traffic demand model to anticipate traffic demand and plan accordingly, down the road all the way to 2050. Community member Nadine Kennedy asked who did the study for Highland Ranch and when it was done. Ms. Caligari said that it was done through a partnership of NDOT and RTC and finalized in 2018. If individuals have any additional questions, constituents were encouraged to contact Paul Nelson or visit the RTC webpage.

1. **SENIOR SERVICES UPDATE** – Washoe County Human Services Coordinator, Abby Badolato, will provide information about Washoe County services available to seniors, including highlights of Older Americans Month. [Non-Action Item]

Abby Badolato, coordinator for Washoe County Senior Services, provided an update of the overall services offered to seniors by Washoe County, and more specifically the Sun Valley Community Center where congregate meals are served. She discussed the various locations where congregate meals are served. She also shared that there is a Washoe County Library branch at the Senior Center located on 9th Street in Reno, as well as the Senior Law Project with attorneys serving people over age 60. The Medicaid Assistant Program is a partnership that the County has with Access to Healthcare Network who assist people trying to navigate the Medicare system. Other programs they offer are activities such as bingo and billiards, nutrition program, and weddings can be hosted at the Senior Center. The Meals on Wheels program is for people over 60 who are homebound, which offers a friendly visitor to the senior’s home, oftentimes by volunteers who make up 60% of the home delivered meal workforce. This program also supports pets of homebound seniors. There is also a case management program to deliver wraparound services. Another program available is the Homemaker Program, which allows for light housekeeping, grocery shopping, and so on, to help keep seniors in their homes. In the past few years there have been as many as over 400 people waiting for homemaker services, whereas now there are 100 people on the waitlist, having doubled the amount of people being served. There is a Representative Program that assists seniors with financial management for those who need help. Upcoming upgrades include an expansion of the kitchen on 9th Street to accommodate the growing need, additional activities to all of their centers, including Sun Valley, with the possibility of a part time activities coordinator coming on board. Two additional employees have made homemaker services possible in farther areas including Gerlach and Incline Village. The senior Center on 9th Street has also had some general improvements to make the area more inviting for seniors. Technology classes for seniors are a part of what is coming in the near future. Ms. Badolato shared that May is Older Americans Month which will include a Senior Fair, and made booklets including calendars of events available within the room.

A citizen asked why the Daybreak program had been closed. Ms. Badolato said that post-COVID there were no more than 20 people participating and so the county chose to partner with More To Life to send individuals to that program so that the Senior Services team could focus their energy and funding where it made the most sense, which is how they secured the funding to provide homemaking services.

CAB Vice Chair Michael Rider asked how quickly the senior activities may be implemented into the Sun Valley Senior Center. Ms. Badolato said that the activity coordinator position is open now and they hope to have this filled soon and hit the ground running, with the hope of having these activities operating by the summer.

Constituent Deneta Thomas asked how the County is promoting the popular senior scams and how they can be avoided. Ms. Badolato said that literature and word-of-mouth being shared on a regular basis is a part of the Senior community outreach plan.

CAB Alternate Member Mark Neumann said that he is working on getting additional pool days and hours available for senior swim time.

1. **PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO CODE SECTIONS, ARTICLE 218 –** Eric Young, Senior Planner for Washoe County, will provide information on proposed Washoe County code changes, including amendments to Article 218, regarding changes to the Sun Valley area and development standards. [Non-Action Item]

Eric Young, Senior Planner for Washoe County, said he was there to share information about the proposed code change prior to the Planning Commissioner meeting taking place on May 7 so that the community would understand the genesis of these ideas and why the County Planning Department is coming forward with these proposed changes. He showed how people can access the staff report that has been written and submitted for consideration of the master plan updates and how they can provide feedback to the Planning Commission. Mr. Young indicated that the Planning department had been directed to move forward with the implementation of the master plan, including a series of packages to increase the amount of housing that is available in the unincorporated area, particularly affordable housing for single family and multi-family.

Community member Carol Burns commented that those who had views of the mountains may be losing these due to taller structures. Mr. Young reiterated his invitation to attend the Planning Commission meeting, to provide this input, and noted that the request to bring forward affordable housing was a goal of the County Commission.

A different community member said that the Sun Valley GID may run out of sewer and water capacity. Mr. Young said that there are upcoming limits and that the GID does not generate or treat sewer water on its own, however if there is no capacity to serve upcoming projects, they would not be approved. He then reiterated his invitation to join in the Planning Commission meeting and share their feelings.

Vice Chair Rider encouraged community members to get out and vote and become involved if they want to make a difference in the community.

1. **NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT HUB –** Staff to display the online for review by the CAB members

and/or attendees to determine if there are new or existing projects. [Non-Action Item]

Due to the length of the meeting at this time, the showing of the Neighborhood Development HUB was not shared.

1. **BOARD MEMBER/COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS/REQUESTS/DISCUSSION** — This item is limited

to announcements and/or requests for future agenda items by CAB members and/or Commissioners Mariluz Garcia and Jeanne Herman. [Non-Action Item]

Commissioner Garcia provided a brief recap of the success of the Sun Valley clean-up event, which was done in partnership with Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful, Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, Waste Management and several community volunteers. Thousands of tires were dropped off and several dumpsters were filled to capacity. There will be more opportunities like these coming up in the future. She also indicated that she is a new neighbor in Sun Valley, having recently purchased a home in the area.

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 public is encouraged to submit a “Request to Speak” form to the Board chair. Comments are to be addressed to the Board as a whole. [Non-Action Item]

Mark Neumann said that he is running for the Nevada State Senate.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned.