**Logo

Description automatically generated**

**Sun Valley Citizen Advisory Board**

**Minutes of the regular meeting of the Sun Valley Citizen Advisory Board held on June 08, 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), Amy Owens (absent), Mary Esposito, Heidi Soper, and Michael Rider (Vice Chair) were present.

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

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The pledge of allegiance was recited. Chair Ortiz shared that the American Flag was missing and there are other changes taking place within the host site, Hobey’s. The new contact at Hobey’s has been asked to include the CAB dates on the digital marquee.

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]

This item was moved up on the agenda from item 11 to item 3 to accommodate the Commissioners’ schedule. Commissioner Garcia shared that Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) has a new initiative that will allow children and college students to ride free on the bus. The Commissioner also shared that she had spent time with the students at Sun Valley Elementary School to participate in their field day. Members of the community asked questions about the RTC free rides, including if there is an upper or lower age limit for children riding the bus for free. Seventeen and younger ride free, children 6 and younger must have an adult guardian with them. College students must provide identification.

Commissioner Herman encouraged people to vote in the primary election coming up next week, June 11.

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]

Elise Weatherly provided comment that she had been unable to get items she wanted on the Highland Ranch HOA agenda and was squeezed off of the board of directors. She then opined on standing up for what is right and the truth.

Chair Ortiz reminded public commenters that personal attacks on individuals during public comment should be avoided.

Andrea Pelto commented on upcoming senior citizen activities in the community.

Emily Stapleton provided public comment from Zoom, sharing that she is an employee of Washoe County and is helping to develop the County’s first community climate action plan. She invited attendees to provide feedback on this plan by submitting an online clean air survey which is available through July 3. People may also submit feedback by participating in listening sessions, including one coming up on June 17 at the Sparks Library at 11 a.m. There is also a virtual listening session taking place on June 26 starting at noon. Additional listening sessions will take place at the South Valleys Library and in Incline Village. Ms. Stapleton said that Reno is the fastest-warming metro in the country with direct impacts being seen on public health and the environment. She invited attendees to visit the Washoe County sustainability webpage for more information.

Cindy Leslie said that she had expressed concerns for the senior center and that the County had hired a part time person to manage activities at the senior center in Sun Valley and in Cold Springs. Chair Ortiz suggested that seniors would like a pickle ball court in Sun Valley. Ms. Leslie said that she had shared with senior center staff that items that are donated to the County for seniors, such as fans and items within the Stuff a Bus, do not make their way to Sun Valley.

Sharon Angle shared that she is running for Senate District 15 and that she has concerns about public safety. She would like to address this from a state level. She encouraged people to vote and said she would be around after the meeting for one-on-one conversations.

Brian Beffort provided a comment via Zoom, saying that he is an employee of Washoe County overseeing the sustainability efforts of the County. He said he wished to piggyback on what Ms. Stapleton had said about the climate action survey and encouraged people to share their concerns pertaining to the environment. Chair Ortiz asked how those without computers or the internet can participate and requested hard copy surveys at the Sun Valley Community Center. Mr. Beffort said that he could do that or provide an in-person senior listening session. He answered in the affirmative and said he would work with staff to make this happen and promote it in advance.

CAB member Heidi Soper said she had created hard copy surveys for members of the community to fill out to better understand how they wish to be communicated with, and what items they may wish to see on future agendas. She encouraged people to take a survey and let them know what they want to know about.

1. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETINGS** ofMay 4, 2024. (For Possible Action)

Vice Chair Michael Rider moved to approve the minutes and CAB member Heidi Soper seconded the motion. 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) **-**

WCSO Lt. O’Brien provided an update about the Community-Based Violence, Innovation and Prevention Initiative grant. The money would stay within the Sun Valley community, and his team has been working with area businesses and their grant writer to attempt to gain funds for the purpose of improving the physical, social and economic conditions that drive violence in the community. He clarified that this would create more resources, not more deputies. He also said that the Washoe County Community Picnic will take place on Friday, June 14 as part of the GID’s “Dive Into Summer” activity, from 5:30 until 8 p.m. There will be static displays and the opportunity to meet Washoe County Sheriff’s Deputies. He then encouraged the community to call the non-emergency phone number to report graffiti. The graffiti may not be taken care of immediately, but it will be addressed. Chair Ortiz asked if a rumor she had heard was true, about people using new technology to jam the internet so that security cameras are not in use and are then able to commit a crime camera-free. Lt. O’Brien mentioned that there are frequently TikTok challenges where people are encouraged to vandalize property or assault people. He said that the times are changing, and hostage negotiators are now learning how to negotiate using text technology. CAB member Soper said that between 4th and 5th Streets and Chocolate Drive has seen an increase of young people using their motorbikes and inquired if this is still against ordinance. Lt. O’Brien confirmed that yes it is, and that the best thing to do is dial the non-emergency line and it will be assigned a priority. If it can be learned where the motorbike riders live or are originating from, an individual can attest to the behavior or get a recording of the behavior a ticket can be issued. The issue would then be addressed in court between the two parties, not the WCSO. Attendee Kay Dyer asked about placing objects in the way of people using the ditches for purposes other than water flow, such as jumps on motorbikes, and if there would then be liability on the part of the person who placed the object in the ditch. Lt. O’Brien said that this would become a civil matter. CAB member Soper expressed concern that there is a dumping area above Chocolate Drive where there are hypodermic needles and children are playing there. Lt. O’Brien discussed jurisdiction between various parties including BLM, Washoe County, City of Sparks and City of Reno. He suggested putting in a request for clean up to the non-emergency line. Commissioner Garcia noted that she is working with the BLM and staff to discuss mitigation of illegal dumping and quicker clean-ups. She expressed sadness that privately-owned homes, a church construction project, and other property being targeted by graffiti, but she was pleased to see the clean up crew in the area.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District –

Truckee Meadows Fire Department Battalion Chief Ryan Rizzuto shared information with the community, providing stats on calls. He reminded the community that with the weather being hotter, more people are heading outside and cooling off in the river. The river is moving quickly and is dangerous and encourages people to be safe. There is an increase in fires occurring due to fully cured cheat grass and encouraged people to report smoke quickly. He discussed the Hazard Mitigation Plan and an associated survey to encourage community input on the 13 identified hazards in our area. There are paper surveys in the room, along with QR codes for people to take the survey digitally. Community member Carol Burns said that there are weeds near the ditches in front of her home and asked whose responsibility it would be to clear the weeds as a potential fire hazard. Chief Rizzuto encouraged people to dial 311 to learn about property lines and areas of responsibility. He confirmed that Truckee Meadows Fire will be at the upcoming Dive into Summer event taking place on Friday, June 14. Additional community members expressed concern about abandoned vehicles. WCSO Lt. O’Brien said to call 311 to report the vehicles and to assess if the vehicle is on private property or not. Chair Ortiz reiterated the need to report crimes and abandoned vehicles to the WCSO so they are aware of what is taking place in the community.

1. **WASHOE COUNTY COMMUNICATION RESOURCES –** Community Outreach Coordinator Candee Ramos to present on the tools & resources that the County utilizes to both provide and receive information to the community. Non-Action Item]

Washoe County Community Outreach Coordinator, Candee Ramos, presented information to the community on the various outreach tools that the communications team employs to reach citizens. She went over the MailChimp email blast system, and how individuals may sign up to receive emails based on their interests and which lists they subscribe to. She encouraged people to follow Washoe County on social media where information is frequently posted. Ms. Ramos then described the Zencity listening tool which allows for the County to perceive community sentiment on specific topics based on what people are posting online. Zencity also has an “Engage” platform that is a survey tool for the community. She discussed using jurisdictional publications such as HOA newsletters to inform community members in targeted areas about issues specific to their neighborhood. She said that the Commission Support program within Washoe County helps citizens to have a concierge service when they have been unable to get answers to their questions or concerns. Ms. Ramos encouraged the use of calling Washoe 311, and then using the Commission Support team members for follow-up if they are not hearing back from other County staff. She provided her phone number to the room and encouraged them to contact her. She described the opportunity for eComment on topics that will be appearing in front of the Board of County Commissioners, and the ability to sign up online to make public comment in person without having to wait in line. Finally, she discussed the County website and how to use the search bar to look up anything needed. Chair Ortiz asked if the Dive Into Summer event can be shared using these tools. Ms. Ramos said that typically Washoe County only sends out information when it is a County event, however we may ‘share’ social media posts if it is a partnering event or an item of interest to the residents of Washoe County. Ms. Ramos discussed topic-based meetings that apply to an entire segment of the County as opposed to doing several, smaller presentations of the same topic to the eight CABs. The media outreach that Washoe County does to news outlets was explained, as was encouragement to visit the Washoe Life webpage and the Washoe Life podcast. She also shared that there are numerous boards and committees that Washoe County appoints to, and encouraged people to consider applying for appointment to the boards to make a greater impact. Ms. Ramos described the Washoe County Leadership Academy, which is open for applications through June 21. Thirty-five people will be selected and the County would like to see increased interest from Sun Valley residents. She explained the Commissioner “District Fund” process for nonprofits and government agencies that would like to have extra assistance. Finally, she shared the “Feedback” tab on the County webpage where people can send feedback directly to the communications team from the webpage they are on; for instance to report a broken link. Chair Ortiz asked how people without internet or computers may communicate with the County. Ms. Ramos shared that she is working with the Sun Valley GID and senior services to possibly host classes for seniors at the Community Center where computers and teachers will be able to provide basic knowledge courses for people to use computers and the internet. This was met with excitement by people in the room.

1. **CATHOLIC CHARITIES** **NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER** – Marie Baxter, CEO of Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada, will share information about the resources available at the new Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center in Sun Valley. [Non-Action Item]

Marie Baxter introduced herself as the CEO of Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada. She explained that after a successful capital fundraising campaign, they have purchased a permanent building in Sun Valley to provide services to the community. The building is located at 130 W. Gepford Way in Sun Valley. She described the set-up of the location and the shopping experience, with food and non-food items alike available for people free of charge, as well as fruit trees on the property that people can harvest from. The building is currently open on Fridays only until noon, but soon will be open five days a week. She described a new program called Elevating Families in partnership with the University of Notre Dame which is an economic mobility program. She noted that it is helpful if people bring their identification to the food pantry so that they can track who they are helping, but nobody will be turned away for a lack of identification, and the information they collect is for themselves and is not shared with other entities. Seniors can come twice a month and others once per month. People will also find a benefits enrollment center on site to assist people with getting enrolled in benefits programs. Ms. Baxter also pointed out the immunization program and the health checks that are available on site.

1. **NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT HUB –** Staff to display the online [HUB](https://neighborhood-washoe.hub.arcgis.com/) for review by the CAB members and/or attendees to determine if there are new or existing projects. [Non-Action Item]

Candee Ramos, Community Outreach Coordinator for Washoe County, shared the Neighborhood Development Meeting HUB. There are currently no upcoming community meetings for development in Sun Valley. The developer’s meeting occurs early in the development process. Chair Ortiz reminded the community how important it is for the public to join in these pre-development meetings. Chair Ortiz said that the community would like to tour the new apartments when they are finished. Ms. Ramos said that it being a private development, that would their decision, however she is certain they would be open to providing a tour.

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]

The Commissioner portion of this item was moved up in the agenda, to item number three. This portion of the meeting allowed for board member requests and comments. CAB Vice Chair Rider said that he was a member of the Sun Valley GID and that he had worked hand-in-hand with Washoe County on graffiti clean-up and encouraged reporting graffiti to the SVGID. Reminded attendees of the Dive Into Summer event. Finally, he encouraged everyone to vote in the upcoming primary election.

Chair Ortiz echoed Mr. Rider’s comment and encouraged residents to report graffiti.

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]

A citizen named Diana commented that at the previous CAB meeting in May, a gentleman named Eric Young from the County had presented information on the proposed three-story ordinance. She said that at the Planning Commission meeting, that Mr. Young had not represented the people of Sun Valley and had said that some people were interested in the opportunity for affordable housing in the area, whereas that is not what was stated during the May CAB meeting. She expressed that she did not want low-income housing in the area and was frustrated that she had not known about previous meetings where feedback could have been given. CAB members Ortiz and Rider encouraged the citizen to become involved in the community and that developments are handled through the developer meetings, and using the HUB is useful for this. Citizen Diana also stated she would like to see children have the opportunity to use the Sun Valley pool for free.

Commissioner Herman said that she had been trying to get CABs back after they were dissolved years ago, and that the CABs should have development back in them. She encouraged people to reach out to her at [JeannesLand@gmail.com](mailto:JeannesLand@gmail.com).

Citizen Andrea Pelto commented that she would like to see the CAB meetings and their agendas posted on the Sun Valley Facebook pages. Ms. Ramos said that CAB member Amy Owens shares information from her page to the Sun Valley community pages. Ms. Pelto said that there is a new program for seniors called Senior Rescue, which allows seniors to apply for aid to keep them in their homes. She also complimented Commissioner Herman for donating to the Circle of Life Hospice Foundation as it is the first hospice house in America.

Chair Ortiz said that the Wildfire item from the June agenda was rescheduled and will appear on the July agenda. She also reminded the audience that the July and August meetings will take place on the second Saturday of the month rather than on the first Saturday, which is typical. She encouraged people to fill out their surveys or provide suggested ideas for the CAB topics and to let them know how they like to be communicated with.

Carmen Ortiz said that she was acting as a citizen in this moment, rather than as a CAB member, and spoke in public comment on her campaign to run for Assembly District 27, which encompasses Sun Valley. She expressed concern that two democrat names appeared on the republican sample ballot, and her name was not on the republican sample ballot. She apologized on behalf of the County Manager’s Office and the Registrar of Voters office for this problem.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:46.