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**Sun Valley Citizen Advisory Board**  **Minutes of the regular meeting of the Sun Valley Citizen Advisory Board held on August 10, 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** Michael Rider, Amy Owens, Mary Esposito, Heidi Soper

and Deneta Thomaswere present.

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

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]

Acting Chair Michael Rider shared that people should use the microphone for the purpose of everyone hearing and meeting minutes. He then provided an overview of the rules of public comment, to include no personal attacks and reminded attendees that they should wait until the end of any presentations to ask questions.

Elise Weatherly provided comment that she was working on a book about her HOA and encouraged people to do what is right and tell the truth.

A community member, Diane, shared that she did not believe that the elected commissioners are listening to people in Sun Valley because the residents in the area did not agree to apartments being built, and listed concerns including traffic and dangers for pedestrians.

Shawn McGrath provided information about apartments being built on Dandini Blvd. and expressed concern that infrastructure is not keeping up with growth and zoning changes.

An individua named Lindsey spoke on behalf of Angie Taylor’s campaign.

Mark Neumann provided information about upcoming Senior Services including transportation for elderly individuals. Provided background information about Chocolate Drive apartments, to include that only a single member of the current Board of County Commissioners who voted in favor of the project still sits on the Board; all others are new.

Carmen Ortiz provided public comment sharing her pride in having represented the Sun Valley CAB for a number of years, and shared that she is running for Assembly, seeking to continue to represent her neighbors in Sun Valley.

1. **INTRODUCTION OF NEW CAB MEMBERS** – A brief introduction of the new Citizen Advisory Board (CAB) members appointed to the Sun Valley CAB will occur. [For Discussion Only]

Michael Rider encouraged the new CAB member, Deneta Thomas, to introduce herself. She provided a brief introduction of herself and was welcomed by the community as a new at-large board member.

1. **ELECTION OF CAB CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR –** The CAB Chair and Vice Chair will be nominated and voted on for the July 2024 – June 2025 year. [For Possible Action]

Acting Chair Michael Rider opened the discussion for CAB Chair and Vice Chair nominations. Heidi Soper moved that Michael Rider become Chair for the year. Amy Owens seconded this motion. All were in favor with nobody in opposition.

Mary Esposito then moved that Heidi Soper be Vice Chair. Amy Owens seconded this motion. A vote was held, and it was unanimously approved.

1. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETINGS** of July 13, 2024. [For Possible Action]

CAB member Heidi Soper moved to approve the minutes and CAB member Mary Esposito 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 Deputy Garrett Bird provided a community update to include the number of calls to the area over the previous month. He shared that a key focus for the area are DUI drivers and there is now a specialized unit for this purpose. Addressed arson arrest in the area related to the fire that had taken place on Sidehill Drive. Resident Mark Neumann requested the speed trailer sign come back to the area. Deputy Bird said that there are several speed trailers placed throughout the County and agreed that Sun Valley is a problem area for speeding. Deputy Bird said he would request one of these signs be placed in the area.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District personnel were unavailable to provide an update.

1. **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT RESPONSE TEAM (CERT) -** Wade Campbell, Support Specialist at Washoe County Sheriff’s Office, will provide an overview of the CERT program and how citizens may become involved as volunteers and supporters. [For Discussion Only]

Wade Campbell with CERT provided an overview of the program, outlining the training that volunteers receive, and the kinds of emergencies that volunteers respond to, such as the recent Hidden Valley flooding. He highlighted the key concerns for the community, including fires and earthquakes and encouraged attendees to be prepared for such disasters, and that the CERT program can provide training and a “go bag” that would be useful when many regular operations area not running. Mr. Campbell answered a community question about the ages for volunteers, which is that people must be over the age of 18, but there is no upper age limit. He also went over the Rail Auxiliary Team (RAT) and the importance of the work they do on the rail system, and opportunities to volunteer with them.

Carmen Ortiz reminded people that there are computer camera covers available in the room and encouraged people to take them to provide privacy from hackers.

1. **WASHOE COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES –** Clinton Nelms, Animal Services Officer Lead with Washoe County Regional Animal Services, will provide information about statistics of Sun Valley calls for [animal control services](https://wcwashoecms.admin.washoecounty.us:8443/renderfile/9d2334fa94ba79814bc49997a5868590/SV_CAB/2024/WCRAS-August-CAB-Preso.pdf), and best practices. [Non-Action Item]

Clinton Nelms, lead officer with Washoe County Regional Animal Services (WCRAS), provided a presentation to the community that outlined the number of calls for animal services overall across the county, versus the number of calls to WCRAS. Sun Valley makes up only 4.65% of the population of the community, but over 17% of the calls to WCRAS are for incidents in Sun Valley. He outlined the various kinds of calls WCRAS receives and encouraged community members to license their animals by sharing the benefits of licensing. Many locations now offer microchip scanning which will shorten the time for unification between stray pets and their owners, while also reducing the strain on WCRAS resources. He shared ordinances for animals within Washoe County, including the maximum number of pets that homes can have and opportunities to request a variance for these restrictions, addressed common noise complaints from dogs and cats, but also unusual animals such as peacocks and roosters. He explained how complaints can be made, and what WCRAS does with these complaints and how they are addressed. Emergencies pertaining to animals should be addressed to 9-1-1. He responded to a community question about doggie daycare permitting, which would apply to business licensing. A community member gave accolades to the assistance that WCRAS has provided to her over the years with her cat colony, including hurt or deceased animals on her property. Officer Nelms answered a community member about snake removal from personal property, indicating that WCRAS can assist with removal of snakes if in a specific area where the snake may encounter people such as within the home or a shed, and, in response to the suggestions, discouraged shooting at a snake.

1. **WASHOE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM BOOKMOBILE** – Washoe County Library staff to provide information on thenew bookmobile, which will be on-site and available to visit. [Non-Action Item]

North Valleys Librarian provided information about the new Bookmobile, which is on-property for individuals to visit and check out books. She outlined the number of checkouts from the Bookmobile and book kiosks throughout the community, and that people can place a hold on a book and pick it up from the Bookmobile. The Library website tells where the Bookmobile can be found, and suggestions may be made for where the Bookmobile should visit next. Donations of books may be dropped off at branches that have their own building, such as Spanish Springs and Sparks. CAB attendees were encouraged to visit the parking lot at the close of the meeting to look at the Bookmobile in person.

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]

Washoe County staff member Candee Ramos provided an overview on how the Neighborhood Developer Meetings may be found on the Washoe County website but outlined that there are no upcoming meetings in the area. People may sign up to receive notification emails when Neighborhood Meetings are scheduled, and the way to sign up was also demonstrated. A citizen asked where the community meeting for the Dandini apartment project would have been found on the HUB. Ms. Ramos said that the City of Reno projects are not listed on the Washoe County HUB, and that she was unaware how the City of Reno does its promotion of upcoming projects or community meetings. A citizen asked that since the commissioners who voted for the approval of the Chocolate Drive apartments are no longer sitting commissioners, if the current commission can overrule the previous decision and stop the project from progressing. Ms. Ramos said she did not believe so, and Chair Rider suggested that the resident speak with the two County Commissioners who were present in the room after the meeting ends.

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 Herman provided a statement that she is for the CAB program because this provides the community with an opportunity to have their voices heard.

Commissioner Garcia gave kudos to the public safety officers and the broad reach of protection they provide throughout the County. She also thanked Carmen Ortiz for her years of service to the CAB, and highlighted new CAB member Deneta Thomas, noting her participation in the 9-month Washoe County Leadership Academy. Commissioner Garcia noted that the Sidehill Drive improvement funding came about because of RTC. She also noted that NDOT is working closely with the County to ensure pedestrian safety in Sun Valley. She thanked citizen Shawn McGrath for his involvement in the community and his presence in the room. She went on to discuss the recent ride-along with the BLM regarding illegal dumping, and that her priority this year is clean up in the area, to include on-demand clean up of illegal dumpsites, and general clean up of the community. Commissioner Garcia said she would be out of town for the next, September, CAB meeting, but she would Zoom in and reminded citizens that she is always available to them via cell phone.

Mark Newman pointed out that Commissioner Garcia was not sitting on the Board when the Chocolate Drive apartments were approved. Commissioner Garcia said that the complaints and questions surrounding the height and story discussions pertaining to that development have not landed on deaf ears, and that she and CAB member Soper have been in regular communication and that as your neighbor and Commissioner, that she is always available to speak with constituents.

Chair Rider gave kudos to Carmen Ortiz for all of the time and effort she has put into this CAB over the years. Encouraged people to participate in the CAB and to remember to vote. He also thanked CAB member Amy Owens for her work on promoting the CAB meetings on social media.

Heidi Soper expressed appreciation for making her the Vice Chair. She also encouraged people to sign in on the sign-in sheet and to fil in the survey of things they would like to hear about in Sun Valley at upcoming CABs.

Mary Esposito encouraged people to apply to work the upcoming election, where you can help the community while also getting paid.

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]

Judy Jensen shared her support for the Washoe County Libraries tax question that will appear on the upcoming ballot in November. She said that the question will not change how much people are taxed, only how much will be allocated to support the library. She also shared that she will be a volunteer for the Great Reno Balloon Race and that this year they have balloons going up on Thursday in addition to Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

Elise Weatherly expressed concern about the new homes being put in at Five Ridges and that she had reached out to the Sparks Mayor Lawson about her concerns surrounding traffic. Proposed the idea of having the medical examiner come in to provide a presentation to an upcoming CAB.

JJ Phoenix said that he has been trying to get involved in the community and expressed admiration for the people who show up at meetings to motivate people like him to become more involved himself.

Carol Burns said that the promotion surrounding this month’s meeting had been posted later than the North Valleys CAB which takes place later than the Sun Valley CAB, which received three days of exposure.

Mark Neumann thanked everyone who showed up for the CAB and said that the County management is thinking about changing the CAB program because of a lack of attendance. He also mentioned senior swim days are the Sun Valley pool are very popular. Michael Rider commented that more lifeguards are needed.

1. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:49 a.m.