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**Sun Valley Citizen Advisory Board**  **Minutes of the regular meeting of the Sun Valley Citizen Advisory Board held on September 7, 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]

Carol Burns shared that the Sea Dragons exhibit will be at the Nevada Museum of Art for the next 18 months, featuring the Ichthyosaur and encouraged community members to visit the exhibit and take their children and grandchildren.

Washoe County staff member Candee Ramos provided public comment that the Commissioner Support team would be presenting to the Board of County Commissioners the following Tuesday, September 10, regarding the CAB program and a possible reimagination of the program to increase community engagement, outlining that there is poor attendance at CAB meetings. Invited the community come and make public comment if desired.

Veronica Cortez made public comment as a new attendee of the CAB and an owner of Bi-Rite market. Mentioned her nonprofit organization called Sun Valley Amigos that teaches people about livestock and the outdoors. Encouraged people to get involved and even volunteer as community service hours if needed for court.

1. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETINGS** of August 10, 2024. [For Possible Action]

Heidi Soper made a motion to approve the minutes and Mary Esposito seconded. A vote was taken and the motion passed 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]

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District representative Sam Hicks provided an update that said it had been busy in Sun Valley due to the many structure fires that the valley had seen recently, as well as the intense heat over the summer. Wildland fire is still a risk currently and our local resources are being shared with other communities experiencing fire throughout the west. He then provided an update on the chipping program, outlining those applications for curbside chipping is available now online and this is made for disabled and low-income elderly individuals. The chipping will be available from October 14 through the 23rd.

Heidi Soper said that her fire extinguisher in her kitchen is expired and asked what to do about this. Mr. Hicks responded that she could take it to a fire extinguisher company that can service it and update the expiration.

Veronica Cortez thanked the Fire team for their quick response to a wildfire near Valley Amigos Ranch. Mr. Hicks thanked the Sheriff’s Office for their support in keeping citizens who are curious and wishing to take photos a safe distance away so that they can do their work.

Washoe County Sheriff’s Office Deputy O’Brien provided an update, beginning with the request to place a radar reader on Sun Valley Blvd. He stated that the Boulevard is Nevada State Police’s jurisdiction and so that this would be within their purview, however north of 7th Avenue is indeed WCSO’s jurisdiction. He then went over the “big 5” offenses, commercial burglary was consistent year over year at one. For grand theft auto, statistics show that the Valley is down from 5 to 1, in a year over a 3-year average. Residential burglaries were down by 1, from 2 to 1. Robberies were down from 1 to zero, and for vehicle burglaries the area was down from 3 in a 3-year average during the month of August to one. He credits directed patrol into the area. Also shared that there was a full time DUI unit working now and averaging 4 DUI arrests per week and that is exclusively the work he does. Currently he is training to be a Drug Recognition Expert to look for signs of other impairment besides alcohol.

Carol Burns asked about the speed reader sign that former Commissioner Kitty Jung had said she purchased for use in the Sun Valley area. The Deputy clarified that the speed trailers that are purchased are spread around the County and are not purchased for a single area. Staff reiterated this and that former Commissioner Jung had provided the trailer with it starting in Sun Valley, but that the item could not be restricted for use only in Sun Valley. Ms. Burns said that the traffic in Sun Valley was terrible and that the residents really need help. The Sheriff’s deputy said that only the organization that approved the growth of the area can be responsible for the associated growth of traffic. Community member Mark Neumann commented on the reputation that Sun Valley had previously where one must drive 35 miles per hour or else they would be cited. Deputy O’Brien reiterated that the area north of 7th Street is the jurisdiction of WCSO, but anything south of that is the Nevada State Police. The Deputy outlined that there are 8 deputies on per shift, for the entire County and that they are encouraged to be everywhere for visibility as much as possible, but that they are working a balance between patrolling the various areas and targeting crime. Ms. Burns asked about adding more deputies and Deputy Burns responded that there are always recruitments and academies occurring but there is also attrition, and that policing is changing, and many people do not wish to be Police Officers anymore. He said that Ring video camera footage does help. A citizen, Cindy Leslie, commented that the areas near the schools during pick up and drop off times are difficult because people park illegally and hinder traffic. Deputy O’Brien encouraged her to go online to make a complaint at the school district webpage. CAB member Mary Esposito asked about the recent incident on Sidehill Drive. The Deputy responded that the subject was in custody and that the area that needed to be contained for safety concerns. Ms. Esposito asked about the ongoing problem at the property which now has many tagged vehicles with flat tires, to which the Deputy responded that the law will now take its course, and that the situation is still be adjudicated.

Commissioner Garcia thanked the Deputy for the update and asked about the Catalytic Converter theft program and asked if there are any laws in place that prevent scrap metal shops from buying marked converters. The Deputy answered that yes, Washoe County has the same program here.

Community member Veronica Cortez asked about jurisdiction and why she sees so many different logos for various law enforcement agencies in the area. The Deputy explained that there are task forces in place that are made up of multiple agencies, and there are areas where jurisdictions coincide where the officer may still cite someone in an area if they have been pursuing them and they are stopped in a different jurisdiction.

A community member complained about law enforcement agencies driving poorly, to which Deputy O’Brien encouraged the community to call in situations like these and report these irresponsible police officers.

Community member Nadine Kennedy asked about Highland Ranch area and whose jurisdiction this is. She also complained about stolen mail and the poor response she received when calling dispatch.

1. **BMX BIKE PARK –** Possible presentation on the BMX Bike Park in the Sun Valley community. [Non-Action Item]

There was no one available to provide an update on this item.

1. **ACTIVITIES AT THE SUN VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER –** Possible presentation about the new activities taking place at the Sun Valley Community Center. [Non-Action Item]

Washoe County staff member Bill Sero introduced himself as the activities coordinator for the Senior Services program at Washoe County. He shared that there are several locations throughout the county, including in Sun Valley, where seniors can get a free lunch. He said the biggest part of his job is going to be communication, to let seniors know about all of the things taking place outside of the main Senior Center on 9th Street in Reno by being creative, building camaraderie among seniors, and encouraged attendees to join at the Center a few times per week, saying that those who are there are friendly and social which will help combat senior isolation and depression. He shared that there is a volunteer custom greeting card activity coming up on September 17, that there is an event at the McKinley Arts center taking place soon that a van from Sun Valley will take seniors from the area to the event, and that there are other new and fun activities coming up such as boxing to help with coordination, corn hole, and many other activities and encouraged people to come and check them out. Community member and senior volunteer Cindy Leslie added information about more activities coming up.

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]

Staff member Candee Ramos shared the Neighborhood Meeting HUB for the room to see and explained how to search the HUB for upcoming development meetings, of which there are none in Sun Valley.

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 thanked Bill Sero from the Senior Center for the enthusiasm he has brought to the Senior Center, and acknowledged Heidi Soper and Cindy Leslie for their advocacy. She then said that at the upcoming Board of County Commissioners meeting that an item up for vote would be a grant in the amount of $9,000 for the Sun Valley GID, and encouraged people to attend the meeting to provide public comment on that, if they wish. She also mentioned an update on the funding that had been approved for the BMX Bike Park, which was mentioned earlier in the meeting. She said that the project is moving along well.

CAB member Heidi Soper said that there is free document shredding taking place on October 12 at the Atlantis Casino parking lot. She also encouraged the community to go online to COVIDTEST.gov to order four, free covid tests to have on hand. She thanked Bill Sero for being so kind and easy to work with. She also encouraged people to attend the CAB reimagination presentation coming up on Tuesday for the Board of County Commissioners to provide public comment on the CABs.

CAB Chair Mike Rider said that parks are under the jurisdiction of the Sun Valley GID and that they are good to handle any issues relating to parks, in addition to water issues. He encouraged people to attend the SVGID meetings, which occur the second Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m. He also recommended that people get involved and register to vote in the upcoming election. CAB member Mary Esposito said that the Registrar of Voters office is still seeking poll workers, and that this is a good way to be involved and make money.

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 sits on the Regional Open Space & Parks Commission and encouraged people to visit the hiking trails and BMX park. He also said that the City of Sparks is doing an emergency go-bag stuffing event for seniors on September 25. Not only can people volunteer, but they can grab a go-bag for themselves.

Carol Burns said that she would like to invite the Nevada State Police to an upcoming CAB meeting since Sun Valley Boulevard is within their jurisdiction and to encourage the Nevada Legislature to develop a plan to ensure that roads and infrastructure are keeping up with development.

Cindy Leslie said that because Washoe County holds elections voting in the Sun Valley Community Center and early voting period goes on for a long time, that advance notification should be made widely available and promoted. It was notated that the voting period takes place from October 19 through November 1 and the general election will occur on November 5.

Andrea Pelto said that on September 11 there will be a large candle lighting remembrance ceremony to be held at the downtown Reno BELIEVE sculpture. She encouraged people to bring a photo of a person or animal who they lost and are grieving to add to the picture board. She also said on September 22 there is a fundraiser for the hospice guesthouse that will take place at the Reno Ace’s baseball game.

1. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:08 a.m.