



## Sun Valley Citizen Advisory Board

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Sun Valley Citizen Advisory Board held on February 03, 2024, at 10:00 A.M. at Hobeys Casino, 5195 Sun Valley Boulevard, Sun Valley, NV 89433.

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

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

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

3. **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]

Charles Stockford expressed concern that Sun Valley was not mentioned in the Presidential Preference Primary sample ballot and no mention of the Republican caucus; one must go online to find that information and many people do not have a computer. He went on to speak about Quartz Lane and the concern about green waste being dumped in the area and becoming a fire hazard. CAB Chair Carmen Ortiz offered anyone who did not have a computer the opportunity to use her computer.

Donna Klontz spoke on behalf of the Washoe County Senior Advisory Board and shared information about seniors getting out of the house to socialize. There is a February Senior News and Events brochure which she brought and placed onto the back table. There are opportunities such as assistance from AARP to help with tax preparation, poetry workshop, driver safety training, and Rebuilding Together which assist with things in the home that need fixing. Also spoke about the homeless situation in the County and the police symposium she had recently attended. She invited people to get involved in the homelessness situation at Paradise Park, there are ways to get involved.

Mark Neumann shared information about the Sun Valley GID to allow seniors to swim for free on Tuesdays and Thursday from 11 until noon, for any senior. BMX track is also moving forward. New lighting at the Sun Valley Park so it is no longer dark, and there is a fence near the t-ball field.

Carol Burns made a public comment that she had received an email from RTC regarding the Sun Valley Boulevard corridor improvement project. There will be a public meeting to have a better understanding of how the drainage will impact the community.

4. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETINGS** of January 6, 2024. (For Possible Action)

Michael Rider made a motion to approve the minutes. Another CAB member seconded the motion and the item carried unanimously.

5. **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 – Lieutenant Walker spoke about being the new patrolman in the area. Confirmed that calls to the area are higher this year than in previous year, with the top service calls being for commercial burglaries, grand theft auto, and residential burglaries. If you have items of value in your yard, lock them up. Discussed the MOST team, Mobile Outreach Safety Team consisting of social workers and caseworkers helping those in mental crisis. Encourages the community to follow the Sheriff’s Office on Twitter so that people may be kept apprised of activity in the area. Informed the community that trail use is increasing and with that, car “smash and grab” thefts. Discussed providing warnings as education to speeders in traffic. Encouraged the community to call in on people who appear to be driving under the influence as at times it is someone experiencing a medical emergency. Went over Sheriff Balaam’s goal to reduce aggravated assaults and domestic violence. There is an increase in forgery and counterfeiting, and also fraud in bitcoin transactions or impersonating an officer and requesting personal information. Kidnapping and abductions are down, as are weapons violations. Bookings in the jail are up, as is the average population at the jail, however the length of stay is going down.

CAB vice-chair Michael Rider asked if there is any truth to the rumors that young people in the area are being stalked and followed. Also, there are possibly drones scoping peoples’ back yards. Lt. Walker confirmed that a call had come in recently about being followed. Encouraged people taking different routes home each day, particularly if they feel they are being followed. Also, told people to call in their concern. With drones, there are rules as to where people can fly drones and no-fly zones. For those who are concerned their home is being cased by would-be burglars, the Lt. suggested going out to confront the drone so that those who are flying it are aware you are watching.

Commissioner Garcia mentioned that she had the opportunity to ride along with the Hopes team and that soon there would be a no-camping ordinance coming before the Board of County Commissioners in the near future. The Lt. said that the Sheriff’s Office is aware of the various encampments and that resources are available to those in need and eventually the resources will find them.

Mark Neumann mentioned that people can hear shooting in the Valley. The Lt. said there is the opportunity to possibly enclose the shooting range. Mr. Neumann said that the police cannot do anything about things they are unaware of and encouraged people to call in their concerns to the Sheriff’s Office.

Lt. Walker said that Sheriff Balaam’s priority over the next few years is to prioritize technology through license plate readers.

A citizen said that he will call the police to make a complaint about a disturbance and that he has been told to confront the person, but he does not feel comfortable doing so. The Lt. said that the person may make a complaint report and the Sheriff’s Office can deliver the complaint. Also, said that when he is not dressed as a Deputy, that he has asked neighbors to keep the noise down and they have complied.

Carol Burns asked about traffic assistance including making the traffic lights longer. The Lt. confirmed that all four local law enforcement agencies have expressed there are not enough police to patrol, and their job is to enforce the traffic, not to put into place additional stop lights or change the algorithm of the lights.

A citizen named Nadine made the comment that hidden cameras can capture the license plates of the vehicles in question. The Lt. said that oftentimes the cameras can catch the license plate to the car, but not the driver. Reiterated the goal to leverage the technology at the disposal of the Sheriff's Office, but they are only as good as what they have.

CAB Chair Carmen Ortiz said that the onramp near Sun Valley Boulevard and McCarran is closed during hours they are supposed to have it open and would like RTC to do what they had promised to do. She also said that when she first moved to Sun Valley, people expressed angst about driving on Sun Valley Boulevard due to the number of police along the road and fear of getting a speeding ticket. Would like to bring those days back. Also shared a story of someone who had been murdered and wanted to know about requesting a public record request. Staff suggested that she make a public records request to Washoe 311 to do the work on her behalf.

**6. WASHOE COUNTY MANAGER UPDATE – Washoe County Manager Eric Brown will provide an update regarding happenings in Washoe County and a look-ahead for 2024. [Non-Action Item]**

Washoe County Manager Eric Brown shared that 2023 was the year that the county pivoted from the pandemic and came back to regular operations and getting the community back on its feet. Touched on ARPA funds allocated to assist with COVID recovery. Additionally, EMS dispatch was regionalized for a common platform to reduce response time for emergency services. Elections were also discussed, including the loss of the Registrar of Voters, Jamie Rodriguez, and the appointment of interim ROV, Cari-Ann Burgess. Manager Brown opined that the vote centers had never looked better and were placed far and wide throughout the county for the Presidential Preference Primary. Discussed the addition of new staff and the addition of standard operating procedures and a new voter registration system within the State of Nevada to all 17 counties. He then went on to discuss the climate initiative within Washoe County, the hiring of a sustainability manager, and the Master Plan that had recently been approved by the Board of County Commissioners which will direct the county for the next 20 years. Went over the improvements for senior centers and the inclusion of digital navigators for senior citizens and the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) that has been wildly successful, however the money funding this will run out in April. Manager Brown complimented the Commission Support team for running nearly 100 community meetings, facilitating constituent follow-up, the Washoe County Leadership Academy (WCLA), and encouraged people to apply for that program. Said that WCLA graduates are acting as ambassadors for the county within the community. Manager Brown then introduced new members of the leadership team within Washoe County, the health of the financial state for Washoe County, the Cares Campus and homelessness, the new resource center, behavioral health and substance abuse resources. He also mentioned the 50 units of affordable housing now being built to benefit those moving out of homelessness to aid with privacy and eventually, stability. Manager Brown touched on the various law enforcement agencies in town and playing to their strengths, including the Hope Team and the MOST Team to address the homeless population.

CAB Chair Carmen Ortiz requested if citizens could visit the Cares Campus. Manager Brown said that there are tours offered monthly and that commission support team can provide that information on how people can sign up to participate. Citizen Mark Neumann indicated that there are also resources such as computers at the Cares Campus. Manager Brown said that there is some dispute about the numbers of homeless individuals in the community, however there is a reduction in the number of unhoused in the community. Introduced the idea of HMIS, a database that allows for the tracking of homeless individuals. Ninety percent of agencies that touch on the homeless are able to access this

database, allowing for better cohesion of who the homeless are, where they are, their health and other needs, that many partners can access. Iterated that these are actual people with names, we know who they are and their needs for wraparound services. Manager Brown said that the area has received positive press, which he does not necessarily like, because problems will be sent our way due to our success. Manager Brown said that Washoe County had purchased West Hills Hospital, a mental health facility, for crisis intervention. Opioid money that has come into the community will be used, with input from the community, in conjunction with community-based partners and nonprofits. He then discussed the renovations to the courthouse, which is desperately needed, as well as an infirmary for the jail.

Citizen Carol Burns asked if Reno is receiving busloads of migrants or homeless individuals. Manager Brown said that no, Reno is not a sanctuary city and that we are ensuring that busloads of homeless are not entering the community.

Manager Brown discussed what will occur looking forward for community outreach including CAB dynamics to ensure the meetings are relevant and working. Stated that there is not a lot of attendance at these meetings, but that meetings are topic-based. If Chocolate Drive were the topic of the day, there would likely have been more attendance. Various attempts at improving attendance have not worked. Touched on that at times people do not want to come and present if they are treated poorly at CAB meetings, however the Sun Valley CAB has been respectful to presenters. Pointed out that there have been more CAB presenters than participants over the course of the past year. Shared that there has been frustration that development is no longer in the CABs, which has been taken out of the CAB meetings because they are now development meetings not restrained by Open Meeting Law. Discussed Chocolate Drive again, saying that if this project moves along, information will be provided at the CAB, although not necessarily the developer because it is not supported by statute to have the developer there. Manager Brown said he would like to put in a new position that will be a liaison between the Commission Support Team and Community Services Department, so that community members are aware of development meetings, can attend CAB meetings and go over the HUB. Warned that attorneys have warned that groups such as a GID or CAB that a vote on an item for or against a development implies an expectation on the part of the board. Encourages citizens to contact their commissioner to express their thoughts about a development. The responsibility resides with the Board of County Commissioners, and the citizens of Sun Valley do a great job of making themselves heard by their commissioner. If the Commission votes in a way that does not align with the wishes of constituents, it does not mean that they were not heard or that their point of view was not considered.

CAB Chair Carmen Ortiz asked about the noticing of a development meeting when a development is proposed, including postcard notices and the ability to sign up for emails. She said that many Sun Valley constituents do not have computers or smart phones. Expressed frustration that although only a handful of residents are notified, develops impact every person in the community. Manager Brown said that people who are not within the 750-foot radius may ask to be added to the postcard mailing list by calling 311.

Citizen Mark Neumann said that he has signed up to receive neighborhood development notifications. Also said that he was curious about the Five Ridges project that had been approved to move forward.

CAB member Heidi Soper said that she lives on Chocolate Drive and had never received a postcard about the apartment development. Manager Brown asked if she had called 311. Confirmed that the address is what/who receives the postcard, despite if they are a renter or a landowner. Ms. Soper expressed concern that the owners of the land are not receiving the postcards as many renters do not care, and

the landowners do not know about proposed developments. Manager Brown said that the landowner would need to register to receive the email blast.

CAB Chair Ortiz thanked commissioners Herman and Clark for advocating for senior population of the community, along with Mark Neumann, Donna Klontz, Andrea Pelto and Thuy Tran. Ms. Ortiz then requested that once Registrar of Voters' standard operating procedures are finalized if they can be made available to the public. Manager Brown said it is not secret, however it is hundreds of pages long. Ms. Ortiz reiterated that there are those who would like to see it. He said he would think about this more based on the action plan from the consultant that Washoe County hired. Ms. Ortiz also asked about voter transparency and the cameras going down during the 2022 election. Manager Brown said that outages happen and discussed what had happened in the 2022 election, but that there are additional steps that have been put into place to provide redundancy so that these issues should not happen again. Security cameras that were around the space in question confirmed that there was nobody in the area or near the area. Manager Brown shared a personal account of his own family not being able to vote and this is why he is very committed to voter rights. Ms. Ortiz asked if Washoe County knew the difference between affordable housing and low-income housing. She then thanked the County Manager for spending within the budget and not raising taxes.

Manager Brown asked CAB member Michael Rider about the vote center at the GID building and that there was a concern with the location for the Presidential Preference Primary, but that coming soon we will have approximately 70 sites across the county and 60 early voting centers. Manager Brown then complimented the Sun Valley GID as the best run in the county. CAB Chair Ortiz invited everyone in attendance to attend the Sun Valley GID meeting and went over the date change to the second Wednesday of the month.

**7. BRIEF UPDATE ON CHOCOLATE DRIVE DEVELOPMENT** – Washoe County staff will provide a brief update on the Chocolate Drive development project. [Non-Action Item]

CAB Chair Carmen Ortiz read a statement by the Washoe County planning team regarding the Chocolate Drive development. There have been no changes to the project and the CAB will remain updated as the meetings take place. Ms. Ortiz was curious if community members can attend these meetings and expressed disappointment that the developer was not present to ask that question. Staff member Lydia Gutierrez said that the statement came from the developer themselves.

**8. NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT HUB** – Staff to display the online [HUB](#) 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 Lydia Gutierrez pulled up the neighborhood development HUB site. Ms. Gutierrez showed that there were currently no upcoming meetings for developments in Sun Valley. Ms. Gutierrez shows the project list and map and encourages people to sign up or visit the hub for updates and shows how to sign up for notifications on future public meetings.

**9. 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 Mariluz Garcia was present and said that she had also been curious about the Sun Valley voting center. Encouraged citizens to continue to call in the fire hazard issue on Quartz Lane. She said that the live feed of the voter's office is also easily found and showed how she found it. She then shared information about a large-scale community clean-up coming in Sun Valley. KTMB and Truckee Meadows Fire will partner with the county on April 27 to provide a clean up including many different stakeholders including dumpsters and drive-thru locations for tires, hazardous household items, electronic waste, junk vehicles, curbside chipping, etc.

CAB member Michael Rider said that the Sun Valley GID also does an electronic recycling program in April.

A citizen shared that there is a full dumpster by Virginia Palmer Elementary that needs to be emptied. Commissioner Herman said she had also called in an illegal vehicle, and she is a stickler on these things.

Commissioner Garcia said that she would elevate the drainage and culvert issues in Sun Valley within RTC and she had called in to Assemblywoman Angie Taylor. A citizen expressed concern about ditches being cleaned out due to possible flooding. Commissioner Garcia encouraged citizens to call in specific addresses to 311 and request a clean-up. A citizen asked about paving and slurry projects, to which the Commissioner answered that every county-managed road is on a calendar for upkeep and that the roads crew is very hardworking. The Commissioner encouraged people to call Washoe 311 and report their concerns, and if she is made aware of the request, she can help elevate it.

CAB member Michael Rider said that the Sun Valley GID has items within its minutes that may be of interest including distribution of ARPA funding to benefit the community, and developments that he was unaware of, on Lupin and near Lois Allen school. He will bring in a detailed list of the various developments.

Chair Ortiz said that the only time a community development meeting became contentious was when Chocolate Drive presented and was quoting the Reno master plan, instead of Sun Valley. Went over the various steps of a development including the planning commission and then commissioners. Encouraged forming a good relationship with your commissioner.

- 10. 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 provided information about affordable internet services. Encouraged people to write to their congressman to help protect the Affordable Connectivity Program.

Donna Klontz spoke about seniors who do not drive and encouraged people to go to RTC board meetings, which take place the third Friday of the month at 10 a.m. at the RTC office to make their feelings known. Zoom is also available.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:29 p.m.