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**Sun Valley Citizen Advisory Board Minutes of the regular meeting of the Sun Valley Citizen Advisory Board held on October 6, 2025, at 6:00 P.M. at Hobey’s Casino, 5195 Sun Valley Boulevard, Sun Valley, NV 89433.**

1. **CALL TO ORDER/ DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**
Present – Mary Esposito, Heidi Soper, Veronica Cortes, Amy Owens

Absent – Michael Rider, Carmen Ortiz

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**The pledge of allegiance was recited
2. **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**
Trista Gomez introduced herself to the Sun Valley Citizens Advisory Board, stating that she intends to run in the next election for the County Commission seat currently held by Mariluz Garcia. Gomez said she has lived her entire life in Sparks and Spanish Springs and attended Sparks High School. She expressed concern over ongoing issues such as development and lack of resources affecting valley communities and emphasized the need for proactive solutions. Gomez described herself as a fourth-generation resident, loyal to and caring for local residents, and said she is closely following local issues such as grocery access, traffic, and development impacts along Highland Ranch Parkway. She invited community members to reach out to her directly, providing her contact information, and concluded by thanking the group for the opportunity to introduce herself.

Robin Patrick expressed concerns about a group of squatters living on Slope Drive near their home. They reported that the individuals have about 11 vehicles on the property, several filled with garbage and some without license plates, and that trash is scattered throughout the area, attracting rodents. Patrick stated that the squatters do not have access to a bathroom and have been stealing from nearby properties, prompting her to install security cameras at her own expense. They added that law enforcement previously tagged two of the vehicles for removal more than 72 hours ago, but they remain on-site. Patrick said she and her neighbors have repeatedly called the Sheriff’s Office but were told that limited action could be taken because the area is on a private road. They expressed frustration with this response, emphasizing the unsanitary and unsafe conditions, and questioned why residents are required to pay for waste services while others are allowed to dump trash freely. Patrick concluded by describing the situation as disgraceful and said it feels as though no one cares because it does not affect their own homes.

Another resident commented that similar issues are occurring on Fifth Street. They said they contacted Code Enforcement and the Health Department regarding squatters and trash on the property. Because the property owner lives out of state, action could not be taken until the owner officially trespassed the individuals, after which the Sheriff’s Office removed several trailers. The resident explained that Code Enforcement and the Health Department were both involved, with the Health Department citing the property owner and Code Enforcement documenting conditions with photographs. The speaker added that they live alone, feel uneasy about the situation, and described the surrounding trash as distressing.

Colleen Westlake, Washoe County School Board Trustee for District B, addressed the Sun Valley CAB. She noted that Assemblywoman Heather Golding sponsored legislation allowing abandoned vehicles to be towed and ticketed directly from impound yards rather than only at the site, streamlining the process for removing vehicles and keeping streets clear. Westlake encouraged residents to look into the bill for more information. She also described prior community clean-up efforts in Sun Valley, including work near Esther Bennett Elementary School with other officials and residents. Westlake announced she is running for re-election and emphasized her advocacy for Sun Valley schools and residents. She shared that she regularly reads to kindergarten students at Sun Valley Elementary and recently worked with the City of Reno to install pedestrian signage along Highland Ranch Parkway to improve safety for students walking to Desert Skies Middle School. Westlake concluded by inviting questions and expressing her continued commitment to the community.

Hedda, representing Great Basin Federal Credit Union, introduced herself and discussed banking services available to Sun Valley residents following the closure of the community’s last bank branch. She explained that Great Basin Federal Credit Union, established in 1951, offers full banking services and is committed to financial education through workshops, one-on-one coaching, and school presentations. Hedda noted that while the credit union cannot open a branch in Sun Valley, nearby locations are available in North Valleys (near Raley’s) and Spanish Springs (between McDonald’s and Slim Chickens), each about five miles away. She offered to hold sessions in community spaces in Sun Valley to help residents open accounts and access financial services. Hedda shared that she was born and raised in Sun Valley and that her parents still live there, which helps her understand the community’s needs and challenges with transportation and access to banking. She expressed empathy for residents’ frustration over the loss of local services and invited anyone interested to contact her, leaving informational materials for attendees.

Carol Burns reported that after repeated requests, a street sweeper came through Sun Valley about a week ago following her June call. She asked for clarification on staffing for street sweeping and for a schedule to clean county parkways, noting it is the county’s responsibility to keep them free of trash. She also requested renewed attention to litter along Sun Valley Boulevard.

1. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF** September 2, 2025

The CAB voted unanimously to move the approval of the minutes to the next meeting.
2. **PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATES**
Washoe County Sheriff’s Office
Lieutenant Nick Tone reintroduced himself, noting he now oversees all CABs and will attend Sun Valley meetings to provide updates and answer questions. Third quarter statistics are not yet published, and he expects to share them next month. He reported that a recent homicide on Chimney has been cleared with two arrests, and both suspects are in custody. He announced a community resource fair on October 18 at the Reno Town Mall with family activities and access to services, including information on homeless resources. He promoted a CERT academy running October 9 through 18, described CERT as a volunteer auxiliary team that assists with first aid, child ID, light search and rescue, and community events, and said the program has about 300 members. He added that a Joining Forces grant of 63,000 dollars was approved to increase traffic enforcement. He acknowledged regional highway work that is diverting traffic through the area and said the Sheriff’s Office will manage impacts as best as possible to improve road safety.

Heidi Soper requested enhanced traffic controls, specifically flashing stop signs with “cross traffic does not stop,” at Side Hill and Fourth, noting a similar setup exists at Leon and Stone. Lieutenant Nick Tone explained the process: residents should file traffic complaints with the Sheriff’s Office so deputies can collect data on stops and pedestrian activity, which is then reviewed by traffic engineers to justify improvements and potential grant funding. He cited Columbia Village’s Country Club Road as a recent example where community reports led to speed feedback signs, flashing signs, and a safer crosswalk. Soper expressed skepticism about relying on statistics and described a recent near-miss at 4th Street where a driver ran a stop sign in front of a deputy, who subsequently stopped the driver, adding that upgrades in that area would be welcome.

Kay Dyer reported a recent collision at Pearl and East 6th, noting it is the ninth wreck there since she moved in. She asked if stop warnings could be painted on the pavement because drivers claim they do not see the signs. In response, the Sheriff’s Office advised submitting a request via 311 so the Roads Department can evaluate the intersection for repainting pavement markings, replacing signs, and clearing any obstructions to improve visibility.

Veronica Cortes asked two questions. First, she asked whether 311 reports are routed directly to the Sheriff’s Office or if residents must contact the Sheriff separately. The response was that 311 logs citizen concerns, a staff member determines the appropriate agency and routes the report accordingly. Relevant issues are sent to the Sheriff’s Office, which then receives them. Second, she asked about progress on a parking garage at the Sheriff’s Office. The response was that there is no update available. The need is recognized, but it remains a capital project without a confirmed timeline.

Sean McGrath asked about handling recurring noise complaints when offenders turn music back up after deputies leave, suggesting deputies return 15 to 30 minutes later to verify compliance. The response explained that under Nevada law a noise violation is a misdemeanor that requires a complainant for citation because deputies’ peace cannot be the complainant. If the caller is willing to sign the citation, deputies will facilitate it. Deputies can circle back, when possible, but follow-up depends on call volume and limited staffing. Residents are encouraged to call the non-emergency line if the noise resumes so a citation can be issued, workload permitting.

Cindy Leslie asked two questions. First, she asked when it is appropriate to call about noise disturbances. The response was that in unincorporated Washoe County there are no set quiet hours and a person’s peace can be disturbed at any time, with some exceptions such as construction or routine business noise. If a caller is willing to be the complainant, deputies will take the report and handle the citation. Second, she asked whether Washoe County is taking over Sun Valley Boulevard from the Nevada Highway Patrol. The response was that NHP still has primary jurisdiction on the boulevard up to about 7th Street. The Sheriff’s Office conducts traffic enforcement and often arrives first, but collision reports remain with NHP.

Mike Refke asked whether suspects were identified or cited for recent damage at the Sun Valley BMX track caused by motorcycles. The response noted similar issues with dirt bikes and e-bikes countywide and indicated staff would follow up on the specific BMX incident and report back.

Veronica Cortes asked whether higher wattage e-bikes must be registered and about related school rules. The response explained there are three e-bike classes. Class 1 and 2 are pedal assist and treated like bicycles. Throttled, higher powered models function like motorcycles and can reach very high speeds, which may trigger different rules. The Sheriff’s Office emphasizes parent education and safe purchasing decisions for youth riders. Deputies asked residents to report reckless e-bike use so they can contact parents and provide education. A recent incident involved a juvenile on a throttled electric motorcycle who crashed into a car. The department noted a rise in juvenile injuries and fatalities nationwide linked to e-bikes and is prioritizing education and enforcement.

Kay Dyer asked whether helmets are required for riders under 18. The response indicated motorcycle helmets are required under NRS, but bicycle helmet requirements were not confirmed at the meeting. If an e-bike has a throttle and is classified as an electric motorcycle, then a helmet is required, and the vehicle must be registered and operated by a licensed rider.

Mark Enwald asked if a driver’s license is required to operate an electric bike. The response was that it depends on the bike’s power and speed. Lower powered models may not require a license, but higher wattage models capable of greater speeds must be registered and require a licensed rider.

1. **EMERGENCY GO-BAG TRAINING AND INFORMATION SESSION**Gail Bursill, a 20-year American Red Cross volunteer, presented on disaster preparedness with a focus on creating a “go bag,” making a family plan, and staying informed. She urged residents to be ready to be self-sustaining for at least three days, keep essential supplies at home, work, and in vehicles, and include items such as water, medications, glasses, hygiene supplies, radio, first aid kit, manual can opener, pet food, chargers, and comfort items. She encouraged documenting important information and belongings by keeping printed contacts and medication lists, photographing IDs and home contents, backing up files to the cloud or a flash drive, and maintaining renters or homeowners insurance. Gail outlined local hazards including wildfire, flooding, earthquakes, extreme heat, and storms, and explained evacuation versus shelter-in-place, noting Red Cross evacuation sites and shelters, coordination with animal services, and the importance of taking pets. She emphasized knowing multiple evacuation routes, designating an out-of-area contact, and practicing home fire drills with a nearby meeting spot. She highlighted children’s preparedness programs, offered free smoke alarm installations (with guidance to place smoke alarms high and carbon monoxide detectors low, not combined), and reminded residents to test alarms monthly and replace older units. She noted options for wellness check-ins for people living alone, advised residents on oxygen to notify the Sheriff’s Office, and shared mental health resources via 988 for disaster distress. She closed by promoting Red Cross apps, Smart911 and Washoe County alerts, and available training such as Be Red Cross Ready and free hands-only CPR instruction.

A resident asked whether hard-wired smoke detectors need regular checks. Gail responded that hard-wired units still have backup batteries and should have batteries changed twice a year unless they are 10-year models. The Red Cross can install alarms; if existing wiring caps are available, they will place the new unit in the same spot, otherwise next to it. She advised having alarms in every bedroom or in the hallway serving bedrooms, on every floor, and not near kitchens or bathrooms where cooking smoke or steam can trigger false alarms.

Carol Burns asked where residents could obtain hand-crank emergency radios like those shown at a recent fire preparedness meeting. The response suggested checking Amazon, REI, or Scheels, noted that the Red Cross has distributed such radios at past events, and recommended other options such as crank or solar lanterns and plug-in flashlights that automatically turn on during power outages. Residents were encouraged to keep flashlights in multiple spots at home for safety during outages.

1. **NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT HUB & OTHER ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES**Alexandra Wilson announced there are two openings on the Law Library Board of Trustees, one attorney and one non-attorney, with applications due on Halloween. She highlighted programs such as Lawyer in the Library that provide free legal assistance and noted the library can help residents look up codes for civil and criminal matters. Interested applicants can apply online or contact her for help with the process.
2. **BOARD MEMBER/COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS/ REQUESTS/ DISCUSSION AND REPOTS BACK ON ANSWERED REQUESTS**Commissioner Mariluz Garcia thanked presenters and Trustee Colleen Westlake, noting Sun Valley has been historically underinvested and that organized cleanups prior to recent efforts dated back to the late 1990s. She reported on Sun Valley Boulevard improvements: the RTC’s $40 million PROTECT grant application is no longer available, so RTC will pursue a potential $25 million BUILD grant toward the $80 million project, with drainage costs driving the total. She described how repeated 311 reports and crash video led to planned safety upgrades at Leon and 7th Street, including flashing beacons, “stop ahead” signs, pavement markings, and vegetation trimming, and encouraged residents to CC her on 311 submissions so she can advocate. On grocery access, she said Grocery Outlet’s corporate real estate team is evaluating the former Scolari’s site and a local representative has engaged with the property manager; the small bank parcel nearby is under separate ownership, limiting county control. She addressed two problem properties, 520 Carnes and 179 Fifth, where owners are deceased and squatters and open fires have created hazards. At the next Board of County Commissioners meeting, she will direct staff, the District Attorney’s Office, and Code Enforcement to pursue declaring these parcels public nuisances to enable abatement. She also highlighted a broader issue of 37 privately owned “sliver” roadway parcels across Sun Valley that enable storage and dumping; she is exploring the public nuisance route for these as well. Garcia closed by urging continued use of 311 and direct communication with her to elevate issues for action.

Sean McGrath asked if the county could act on neglected properties with deceased owners by using unpaid property taxes as a trigger. Commissioner Mariluz Garcia responded that some of these parcels are not paying property taxes, probate has not begun, and she is exploring whether the probate process can be expedited while also pursuing public-nuisance options to enable abatement.

Veronica Cortes expressed frustration that seniors can lose homes over unpaid property taxes while squatters remain on neglected properties, and she urged consistent enforcement. She thanked Commissioner Garcia for proactive work on abatement near her property and encouraged residents to bring squatter and dumping issues to their county commissioner. Garcia responded that she is coordinating on abandoned vehicles with Assemblywoman Heather Golding under new legislation, noted some parcels have complicated ownership and will take time to resolve, and reaffirmed her focus on illegal dumping and neighborhood blight.
Veronica Cortes shared a new text service to help with stray dogs. Residents can text “LOST” or “FOUND” to 775-314-0787 and follow prompts to report an animal and upload a photo, which is then routed to contacts associated with animal control to help reunite pets and owners.

Heidi Soper thanked attendees and guests Ms. Presley and Ms. Rodriguez, noted that Monday night meetings are new, and asked residents and board members to submit agenda ideas. She invited suggestions for topics and guest speakers by phone, email, or via the green suggestion form available at each meeting. She added that the two guests would remain after the meeting to speak with anyone who had additional comments or questions.

1. **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT –**

There was no general public comment.

1. **ADJOURNMENT –**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 pm**.**