



Sun Valley Citizen Advisory Board Minutes of the regular meeting of the Sun Valley Citizen Advisory Board held on December 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

Present- Amy Ownes, Michael Rider, Heidi Soper, Mark Neumann, Mary Esposito (late), Carmen Oritz (late)

Absent- Deneta Thomas

A quorum was established, and the meeting was brought to order at 10:01 a.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was recited. A moment of silence for Pearl Harbor followed the pledge.

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]

Carol Burns addressed the Sun Valley Boulevard Phase 2 project. She mentioned previous communication with Jessica Dover regarding an updated funding requirement of \$80 million, which was a significant increase from the \$28.4 million originally discussed. Burns highlighted that when the project was first included in the 2015 Regional Transportation Plan, drainage issues were not part of the scope. However, as the project progressed, it became clear that addressing stormwater improvements was necessary, leading to a revision in the project's scope and cost estimates. The Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) had also applied for a grant to help fund the project, with additional funding expected if the grant was awarded. Future amendments to the transportation plan would reflect these updates.

Mark Neumann's comment covered two main topics. First, he discussed the Highland Ranch Boulevard project at Pyramid Highway, noting that the project is now part of the City of Sparks. He learned that the Highland Village project does not have to make improvements to Highland Ranch Boulevard until 650 homes are built, and since fewer than 60 homes are currently occupied, it could be a while before any work begins. Neumann also acknowledged a community cleanup event led by Commissioner Garcia, where he helped clean up over 170 tires with the assistance of the fire department, who provided a truck and trailer. He praised Garcia's efforts and her son's hard work throughout the event.

Susan Severt's, (chair of the Sun Valley General Improvement District) comment provided updates on several ongoing projects and communication efforts. She mentioned an upcoming annual update from the Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility (TMWRF), where they will discuss progress, financial matters, and how water-related funds are being used. She also highlighted the active website (svgid.com) where minutes, announcements, and quarterly newsletters are posted. Additionally, Severt encouraged people to follow the organization on Facebook for the latest updates.

She noted that the organization is providing water for the Highland Ranch and 5 Bridges projects, which will include infrastructure improvements such as a new pump station and pipes. Upcoming construction work on 4th Avenue and Highland Ranch Parkway were mentioned, with minimal disruption expected. Severt emphasized the ongoing development in the area, including apartments and other projects, and encouraged the public to stay informed through their website.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETINGS of October 5, 2024. [For Possible Action]

Heidi Soper motioned to approve the minutes and Mark Neumann seconded the motion. The minutes were approved 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 Mike O'Brien provided a public safety update focusing on holiday season precautions. He urged people to avoid leaving gifts visible in their cars, recommending that they be stored in the trunk to prevent theft. He also highlighted the importance of tracking online deliveries and ensuring packages aren't left unattended. If unable to be home, he suggested asking neighbors to pick up packages to prevent theft, known as "porch piracy." O'Brien reassured the public that the sheriff's office is actively working to address these issues. He concluded with a reminder to stay safe and wish everyone a happy holiday season.

Mark Neumann asked Mike O'Brien about concerns regarding the sheriff's department potentially accessing private Ring doorbell cameras without permission, which some people find alarming. O'Brien clarified that the department would only be able to access cameras with the owner's consent. He explained that there would be a campaign to request permission from homeowners, and that the goal is to use real-time policing to track criminals. O'Brien also emphasized that accessing such footage would be voluntary, similar to how Nevada's two-party consent law governs recording phone calls.

Mark Neumann asked Mike O'Brien about a jurisdictional issue concerning Highland Ranch Road, specifically whether it was still under Washoe County's jurisdiction or if the City of Sparks had annexed it. O'Brien confirmed that the City of Sparks had annexed a portion of the road, though there had been confusion about the exact boundaries. He explained that while Washoe County can handle matters anywhere in the county, Sparks' jurisdiction now covers the area of Highland Ranch Road. This change primarily affects how accidents and local traffic issues are handled, with Sparks taking responsibility in certain areas. Despite the change, O'Brien assured that there wouldn't be much impact on daily operations and emphasized that Washoe County would continue to respond throughout the county as needed.

Cheryl Burns asked Mike O'Brien for an update on arrests in Sun Valley for the past month. O'Brien responded that arrest numbers have remained stable, with no significant increase or decrease. He attributed this to the presence of more deputies on the street and their increasing experience. He emphasized that while the department is evolving and deputies are becoming more proactive, the overall situation in Sun Valley is steady. O'Brien also acknowledged the positive impact of ongoing efforts, such as involving the community in burglary investigations, and considered the plateau in crime

rates a win given the area's growth.

Mark Neumann inquired about a new motorhome that has been parked on the corner of Magenta for about a month, which has an orange tag on it. He mentioned that there is a special company responsible for removing dangerous fluids and tanks from motorhomes before they are towed. O'Brien suggested using the Washoe County Sheriff app to report issues like this, including graffiti, if needed.

A resident inquiry about the status of the abandoned vehicles on Quartz Lane. The response explains that there have been complications due to the way property lines were originally drawn in Sun Valley. Historically, the property lines extended to the middle of the street, making Quartz Lane considered private property, rather than county property. This has created bureaucratic red tape when it comes to handling abandoned vehicles. The speaker is unable to give a specific timeline for when the issue will be addressed by the Commissioners.

Charlie Stockford raised concerns about worsening conditions on Quartz Lane, where abandoned vehicles are increasing, trash is spilling into the roads, and some residents are double parking. He also mentioned that some trailers are being used for living, adding to the issues. Stockford notes that trash collection is inadequate in the area. In response, Mike O'Brien acknowledges the problem, noting that the land in question belongs to Washoe County rather than the residents, complicating efforts to address the situation. He commits to making the issue a priority with his team when he returns to the office, ensuring that the condition of Quartz Lane is addressed promptly.

A resident raised concerns about side-by-sides and ATVs speeding on Sun Valley Boulevard without obeying traffic laws. Mike O'Brien acknowledged the issue, explaining that while deputies couldn't chase these vehicles due to safety risks, they would act if they observed violations. He appreciated the residents' input and promised to address the problem.

Mike O'Brien explained to a resident that if they know where reckless side-by-side drivers live, they can report it. However, to take action, the resident needs to provide a clear identification of the driver, such as physical features or vehicle details. O'Brien suggested that the resident take photos or videos to help deputies in their investigation. He emphasized the importance of community cooperation, as this allows law enforcement to track down offenders and take appropriate action. He also noted that while deputies can't pursue every incident, they can investigate and gather evidence with the community's support.

A resident asked Mike O'Brien if the issue they were experiencing was both reckless driving and a noise disturbance. They described an incident where a large group came to their street, causing noise and disruptions late at night. Mike O'Brien explained that for law enforcement to intervene on noise violations or reckless driving, there needs to be a formal complaint from a resident. While deputies cannot act on their own if they hear or see disturbances, they can respond if a citizen reports a noise issue, such as loud music or a loud side-by-side vehicle. He clarified that Washington County has limited noise ordinances, mainly addressing construction noise, and explained how noise complaints must be handled by the affected residents.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District

Battalion Chief James Solaro provided an update on Sun Valley's fire and emergency statistics for November. There was a total of 263 incidents, including 187 EMS calls, 12 fires, 7 vehicle accidents, 5 hazmat incidents, and 49 public assistance calls. He highlighted an increase in structure fires due to

space heaters and extension cords as the colder weather sets in. He also mentioned open burning in the county for December and advised residents to check their smoke detectors and change batteries as needed.

Mark Neumann thanked the fire department for helping with the tire clean up for Jackie.

Susan Sievert asked Chief Solaro for an update on the investigation into the fatal fire on Second Avenue and inquired about fire hydrants in the area that were not operable. Sievert also clarified that the non-operable hydrants were owned by TMWA (Truckee Meadows Water Authority), but the Sun Valley Fire Department was able to connect to other nearby hydrants to provide the necessary water. Solaro currently had no information on the investigation.

6. COMMUNITY MEETING AND INPUT –

Alexandra Wilson provided an update on the community meeting held on November 2nd at Hobey's Casino, where 21 attendees gathered to discuss various topics with Commissioners Garcia and Herman. She shared information about several recent and upcoming events, including the Veterans Day breakfast, the GID meeting, a craft fair, and a successful community cleanup event organized by Commissioner Garcia. She also highlighted services like Sun Valley Appliance, which accepts appliances with prior notice, and the 311 service, where residents can report issues such as clogged ditches or illegal dumping, with follow-up provided through a tracking system. Wilson mentioned the Neighborhood Network of Northern Nevada (N4), a nonprofit that helps individuals with tasks they can't do themselves and promotes neighbors helping neighbors. She also discussed efforts to engage younger generations in community service and civic engagement. In response to concerns about infrastructure, Wilson noted a large grant for improvements to Sun Valley Boulevard is in progress. Additionally, there was conversation about the need for a central platform to consolidate information on local events and issues. Wilson wrapped up by addressing community concerns, including illegal dumping and the need for better infrastructure planning.

Mark Neumann clarified two safe spots in the area: McDonald's at the south end and Bi-Rite at the north end. He also mentioned an upcoming event on December 19th at 5:30 PM. The event is a meeting for current and former CAB members to discuss engagement and communication moving forward. The meeting will take place in Building B at the Northern Nevada Public Health Conference area, with parking recommended on the north side for easier access. Neumann also noted that security would be aware of the meeting and would assist attendees. The meeting is scheduled from 5:30 to 7:00 PM, and RSVPs are requested.

7. 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]

Alexandra Wilson had no updates for developments affecting the Sun Valley area. She mentioned the Sky Tavern Trails on the 16th of December. Mark Neumann commented that it is for off road and BMX

biking. Alexandra agreed and referred to the HUB description which also provides this information on what these meetings are about.

8. 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 shared several updates. She mentioned the Sparks Hometown Christmas Parade, which she would be attending. Garcia also announced that \$1,000 had been allocated to the Hug High leadership program to fund a youth-focused event in Sun Valley. She highlighted Assemblywoman Heather Goldie's recent election and her active involvement in addressing local issues such as illegal dumping and abandoned vehicles. Garcia praised the success of the November 23rd cleanup, noting the support from various commissioners and volunteers, and shared a memorable experience with her son during the cleanup. She also met with Senator Rosen's team about a federal grant and announced that the county commissioners had approved \$488,000 for the Sun Valley Bike project. Garcia ended her remarks by praising Amy for her dedication to public service and community contributions, offering her gratitude for the positive impact she has made.

Mark Neumann asked the amount of tires that were collected in total. Alexandra Wilson clarified that it was approximately 1000 tires this time with about 2200 at the previous clean up. Garcia noted that Sun Valley has a lot of tires and they pile up as they are expensive to dispose of.

Kate Dyer informed Commissioner Garcia that the ditches in the area are all problematic, with weeds and litter such as beer cans found on almost every street. She mentioned that she did not take photos because the issue is widespread. Garcia responded, emphasizing the importance of reporting these issues through the 3-1-1 system to flag them for action. She encouraged Dyer to report at least one intersection or area to help address the problem over time.

Mary Esposito raised a concern to Commissioner Garcia about illegal dumping at the corner of Leon and Second Street, where a trailer got stuck, and the area has now become a dump site. She asked how to address the issue and was advised to report it to 3-1-1. Esposito expressed frustration over the growing pile of garbage and her personal passion for tackling illegal dumping, even considering picking up trash herself while walking the trails. Garcia acknowledged the problem and emphasized the importance of community involvement, noting efforts by the GID and county to address the issue.

Commissioner Herman had no announcements and thanked Commissioner Garcia for all her good work.

Michael Rider provided an update on GID's efforts, highlighting several park improvements such as new lights, cameras, picnic tables, and safety fencing. They are also working on replacing the community center flooring. Additionally, the GID is involved in garbage and cleanup efforts, including helping with car removal and providing dumpsters for cleanup projects. A resident emphasized an electronic recycling place in Stead that recycles all electronics for free except TVs and monitors. Rider also mentioned his re-election to the board and plans to attend the community parade, where his family members will be participating. Finally, he reminded everyone about the next meeting scheduled for January 4, 2025

Mark Neumann asked Michael Rider if the January 4, 2025 meeting would involve voting on the schedule for the following year. Rider clarified that the schedule for 2025 had already been set, including the first quarter, and typically no vote is required. He added that if there were any changes, such as continuing Saturday meetings, it could be discussed and added to the agenda. Alexandra Wilson added that until December 19th CAB reimagination, things will remain the same for the first quarter.

- 9. 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]

Richard Garcia-Barbosa raised several concerns about road safety and infrastructure in his community. He pointed out the lack of sidewalks on some roads, particularly on Sun Valley Boulevard, which poses risks for pedestrians. He also highlighted dangerous ditches along roads, which could cause injury, especially in snowy conditions. He suggested adding streetlights, particularly in areas with poor visibility, and advocated for the installation of sidewalks and curbs to protect pedestrians. Additionally, Garcia-Barbosa mentioned the problem of parked vehicles blocking walkways, making it difficult for pedestrians, particularly students, to navigate safely. He also expressed concern about poorly paved dirt roads that can damage vehicles and create hazards, suggesting that improvements are necessary for both pedestrian and vehicle safety.

Heather shared her progress on addressing key issues in Sun Valley, including abandoned vehicles and sidewalks. She mentioned having productive discussions with Susan and Mark, particularly regarding abandoned vehicles, and expressed optimism about making progress on this issue. She also acknowledged Commissioner Garcia’s efforts in improving sidewalks. Heather is working with others across the state to make incremental advancements, hoping to achieve progress during the upcoming legislative session. She encouraged feedback and questions, providing her contact information to ensure open communication.

ADJOURNMENT -

The meeting was adjourned at 11:13 a.m.

Re: Sun Valley BLVD Phase 2

From: Carol Burns (daisymaeandcarol@yahoo.com)

To: jdover@rtcwashoe.com

Date: Tuesday, November 12, 2024 at 03:03 PM PST

Thank you for your note to me today, 11/12/24. I have a copy of a letter sent to Peter Buttigieg by one of our Sun Valley Citizen Board members requesting his approval of a pilot grant, I assume which is for funds to complete Phase 2 of our project. I was told that we now need \$80,000,000 to complete Phase 2. I refer you to our project update dated 10/6/2023, in which it is stated project estimate is \$28,400,000. Could you please clarify these numbers for me since this seems to be a huge increase in costs. We are glad to see this project moving along since it is long overdue for our community. Thanks for your assistance in understanding the ins and outs of all of this. This will help in our discussions at our meetings. Carol Burns

On Tuesday, November 12, 2024 at 10:02:13 AM PST, Jessica Dover <jdover@rtcwashoe.com> wrote:

Good Morning Ms. Burns, 11/11/24

Thank you for reaching out last week in regard to the Sun Valley BLVD Project.

You inquired if RTC is scheduled to attend an upcoming Sun Valley CAB mtg; RTC has typically been attending these on an annual basis – generally occurring in the Spring. RTC is not scheduled to appear at the December Sun Valley CAB mtg.

Regarding a Project update, as previously discussed, the drainage analysis and development of alternatives has comprised a large portion of our design efforts to date. Our Consultant will be submitting the 10% Conceptual design this Fall, and we are approaching final selection of the preferred drainage alternative. Once this is established, we will move forward with preliminary design efforts. We anticipate the 30% design by Summer 2025. Please feel free to reach out should you have questions, or need anything additional. Thanks,

Jessica


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Jessica Dover
From: jdover@rtcwashoe.com
To: Carol Burns

REC'D Tue, Nov 19 at 11:16 AM ☆

Hi Ms. Burns,

I apologize for the delayed response; I have been unexpectedly out of office due to personal matters.

Yes, correct. When this Project was originally included in the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) and approved per the 2024 Streets and Highways Program, the need to address regional drainage issues prior to implementing Phase II Improvements was not a part of the original scope. This need became apparent through the progression and completion of Phase I Improvements, and through progression of the Phase II conceptual design.

We are wrapping up the drainage design alternatives analysis and moving forward with preliminary design. As a result, the Project scope and high-level cost estimate have been revised to reflect conceptual design elements associated with the significant undertaking of implementing storm water improvements throughout Sun Valley BLVD/Clear Acre LN within the Project limits (Scottsdale RD to 7th AVE).

The RTC has recently submitted a Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) grant application, which included letters of support from various organizations, stakeholders and individuals within the community. If awarded, a large portion of the updated project cost would be funded by the grant; NDOT would also be contributing funds for Construction. Updated funding will be reflected in the RTIP as part of a future amendment. Please let me know should you have questions, or need anything additional. Thanks,

Jessica



Jessica Dover Q

jdover@rtcwashoe.com
+ Add to contacts

AD