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**Sun Valley Citizen Advisory Board Minutes of the regular meeting of the Sun Valley Citizen Advisory Board held on February 1, 2025, 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 – Carmen Ortiz, Heidi Soper, Michael Rider, Mark Neumann, Mary Esposito, Veronica Cortes
Absent – Amy Owens
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**The pledge of allegiance was recited
3. **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**Mark Neumann explained that while he was the National Automobile Collection, the Red Cross was giving out free smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. He has their phone number and stated that residents can also find their information on American Red Cross webpages.

Mary Esposito shared an experience about a gas meter malfunctioning a year ago. She went to Home Depot, where a young employee recommended purchasing a gas meter. Three weeks later, the meter detected a gas leak under her house, which had been filling the home with gas for three days. The technician who fixed the issue said if she had been a smoker, she would have been dead. She strongly advises everyone to get such a meter for their homes, as it likely saved her life. Michael Rider added that Red Cross is giving them for free with a 10-year battery life and will install them for free.

Carol Burns gave a round of applause for Heidi Soper who went the Strategic Planning Meeting from the previous week. Carmen Ortiz thanked Heidi Soper for her dedication and efforts on behalf of Sun Valley. Heidi attended various meetings, including the RCC 80, senior center, and Board of County Commissioners meeting. She also participated in a Sun Valley General Improvement District meeting and worked to increase awareness of the Citizen Advisory Board meetings by posting agendas at local businesses in Sun Valley.

1. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF** December 7, 2024

Carol Burns motioned to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2024, CAB meeting and Michael Rider seconded the motion. The minutes passed unanimously.
2. **PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATES

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District**

Battalion Chief Derek Reid provided a public safety update for January, reporting 268 fire calls, 210 EMS calls, 9 motor vehicle accidents, 3 hazmat incidents, 7 public assists, 31 good intent calls, and 4 false alarms. He also mentioned the retirement of Chief Moore and Battalion Chief Sam Hicks, with Chief Dale Way stepping in as interim. Additionally, five rookie firefighters graduated and will begin their probationary year at various stations. Lastly, Reid noted that the green waste program is expected to return in April, though the date is still pending.

Heidi Soper asked Battalion Chief Derek Reid about an email she received regarding a meeting on February 4th that discussed potentially combining Truckee Meadows Fire, Reno, and Sparks fire departments. She was concerned about potential tax increases and whether the information was accurate. Derek Reid responded that he could not confirm or deny any of the claims. He explained that while discussions about consolidating fire departments have been ongoing for years, such complex matters require careful consideration. He advised that the county commissioners would be the best source for updates and clarified that the meetings were still in the discussion stage, not action. He also mentioned past consolidations in 2001 and 2012 and emphasized the complexities involved in these discussions.

Mark Neumann asked Battalion Chief Derek Reid if the fire department is inspecting and replacing missing fire hydrants and flushing the system in Sun Valley to ensure proper fire protection.

Derek Reid confirmed that they do inspect and flush hydrants, replacing any that are damaged by cars or other accidents. He noted that while some hydrants in Sun Valley are part of an older system, they do their best to maintain and update them as needed.

Carmen Ortiz asked if the fire department only inspects fire hydrants after they have been damaged.

Derek Reid clarified that the fire department conducts an annual inspection of every hydrant in Sun Valley. He explained that they have a list of all hydrants, regularly lubricate them, and run tests to ensure they are functioning properly. Carmen expressed relief, saying she was glad to have misunderstood the previous information.

Carol Burns asked Battalion Chief Derek Reid about a private property that burned on July 3rd, mentioning that toxic materials from the fire are still present. She wanted to know if the fire department would take action against the property owners. Derek Reid explained that the fire department does not have jurisdiction over private property. He clarified that if the materials pose a risk, it’s up to the property owner, the HOA (if applicable), or code enforcement to address the issue. He noted that neither the fire department nor law enforcement can intervene on private property unless there's a specific risk, and code enforcement would be the proper authority to handle the situation.

Sheri Roach asked about dealing with unlicensed cars and excessive trash in her neighborhood, including motorhomes and trailers on her dirt road. Derek Reid responded that if a fire occurs, the fire department would respond to put it out. Regarding prevention, he explained that if the road is considered a state roadway, unlicensed or uninsured vehicles can be towed. He emphasized that the situation depends on whether the road is designated as a public roadway, and then the appropriate actions can be taken.

Washoe County Seriff’s Department

Lieutenant Michael Bryant from the Washoe County Sheriff's Office provided a public safety update for Sun Valley, sharing crime statistics for the 4th quarter. He noted that arson increased from 1 (3-year average) to 2, and assaults saw a slight increase from 54 to 56. Burglary decreased from 12 to 5. DUI offenses went up from 19 to 23, but he emphasized that this meant more offenders were caught. Drug violations decreased, with equipment violations dropping from 27 to 22 and narcotic violations from 29 to 18. Family offenses also decreased from 11 to 8. Fraud offenses went down from 24 to 12, partly due to phone scammers. Human trafficking increased from 0 to 2. This is due to efforts by the "Hero" team that is out helping victims now, which naturally will make the number of cases go up as they catch more perpetrators. Theft offenses decreased from 30 to 27, and motor vehicle thefts dropped from 11 to 6. Weapon violations decreased slightly from 8 to 7, with a focus on removing guns from the streets in 2025. Total calls for service increased from 3,354 to 3,607, which Bryant attributed to either more community reporting or increased law enforcement activity.

Sherry Roach shared an incident where a bullet went through her wall, though it didn't go all the way through. She was unsure of what to do and hadn't reported it at the time. Lieutenant Bryant responded by encouraging her to call and report such incidents immediately. He explained that reporting would allow them to investigate the trajectory of the bullet, trace where it came from, and possibly recover the bullet. He emphasized the importance of reporting immediately so that law enforcement can respond properly, even if it’s a bit late for evidence collection. Bryant also urged residents to report shooting activity, especially in areas where it’s common, like nearby canyons.

Tamara Sternod asked what DOP means, and Lieutenant Bryant informed her that it means Destruction of Property.

1. **WHAT TRIGGERS A NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT HUB ITEM**

Trevor Lloyd, the Planning Manager for Washoe County, provided a detailed overview of the updated process for neighborhood meetings related to development projects. He began by recognizing that the Sun Valley Citizen Advisory Board (CAB) has been meeting on Saturday mornings for years and that the process for neighborhood meetings has changed to improve public engagement. Lloyd explained that, several years ago, the development process changed to maximize public feedback, allowing more opportunity for community input before a development project goes to a public hearing. This shift was aimed at improving the public engagement process, especially given tight state-mandated timeframes for development applications. He detailed the steps involved in the process. Initially, when a developer or property owner plans a project, they meet with the Planning Department, either in a pre-application or pre-development meeting. The pre-application meeting is an initial sit-down with a planner to discuss the project's process, while the pre-development meeting involves a larger group of agencies like health, fire, and engineering to discuss the implications of the proposed project. During these meetings, it is determined whether a neighborhood meeting is required. Neighborhood meetings are typically needed for larger projects, such as commercial developments, special use permits, or subdivision plans, as these projects may have greater impacts on the community. The benefit of the updated process is that the neighborhood meeting takes place before the application is officially submitted, allowing developers to adjust their plans based on community feedback. Smaller projects, such as those involving single-family homes or minor permits, do not require a neighborhood meeting. However, larger projects trigger this requirement to ensure the community has a chance to voice concerns early on. Lloyd also emphasized the importance of outreach for neighborhood meetings. Developers are required to send notices to at least 30 of the closest neighbors to inform them about the meeting. In addition, the Planning Department sends out email blasts to anyone who has signed up for updates about upcoming meetings in their area. These notices and email blasts are meant to ensure that as many people as possible are informed and can participate in the process. Once a neighborhood meeting is held, the project documents and details are posted on the neighborhood meeting hub website, where the public can view the project plans, provide comments, and even take surveys indicating whether they support or oppose the project. These comments are then passed on to the relevant boards and commissions, such as the Board of Adjustment or Planning Commission, for consideration during public hearings. The website also offers information about upcoming events and provides links to meetings, which can sometimes be held on Zoom for greater accessibility. This new process, Lloyd explained, ensures that community input is an integral part of the development process and that projects reflect the needs and concerns of the residents.Carmen Ortiz expressed concerns about the neighborhood notification process for development projects. While she appreciated the ease and accessibility of the new system, she felt the requirement to notify only 30 of the closest neighbors was inadequate. Ortiz argued that the notifications should be based on proximity rather than a fixed number of neighbors. Her main concern was that a large population of senior citizens in Sun Valley do not have internet access. She emphasized the importance of catering to the needs of seniors, especially since they often don't like to drive at night and may not be able to attend evening meetings. Ortiz also pointed out that the CAB meetings are held on Saturdays to accommodate these seniors, and she questioned how people without internet access could participate. Trevor Lloyd responded by acknowledging the concern about seniors without internet access. He explained that the 30 closest neighbors are still sent physical notifications, in line with state law for public hearings, though it is considered a courtesy for most applications. He mentioned that the county is working to address the issue, and highlighted a partnership with Spectrum to help advertise meetings to seniors.

Mark Neumann asked if the notification process had changed from notifying residents within 700 feet of a development to notifying only 30 people. He cited an example of a gas station with a carwash and vacuum cleaners that caused a lot of noise, but residents 710 feet away were not notified, even though they would be impacted. Neumann expressed frustration about not being notified or seeing such projects on the neighborhood hub site. Trevor Lloyd responded by confirming that the process still requires notifications to at least 30 of the closest neighbors and that notifications must go out at least 700 feet for public hearings. He acknowledged that in many cases, more than 30 neighbors are notified. However, for certain uses, like car washes in some locations, they are allowed "by right" based on zoning and may not require public hearings or notifications. Lloyd explained that while this system isn't perfect, most developments with significant impacts do involve public hearings and neighborhood meetings.

Tamara Sternod asked about the impact of neighborhood opposition on proposed developments. She wanted to know what percentage of the time neighbors' objections actually lead to changes in the project. Specifically, if 100 neighbors oppose a development, does their opposition lead to any real action or changes, or is it ignored? Trevor Lloyd responded by explaining that public opinion isn’t the deciding factor, as it’s not a "popularity contest." Instead, the focus is on whether the project meets required legal findings. However, he noted that in many cases, overwhelming opposition from neighbors leads developers to either significantly alter their plans or abandon the project entirely. He acknowledged that public input often results in changes to projects that developers might not have initially considered, making the process beneficial in mitigating potential issues.

Cindy Leslie raised a concern about how infrastructure issues, like the impact on schools and roads due to developments such as large apartment buildings, are addressed in the planning process. Trevor Lloyd responded by explaining that infrastructure and service availability are key factors in the planning review process. One of the required findings in the analysis is whether the site is suitable and if the development will cause significant detrimental impacts, including on infrastructure. He noted that if there isn’t adequate infrastructure to support a project, it may be halted before it even gets submitted for approval. He reassured that the review process isn't just a "rubber stamp" and that some projects are stopped early due to infrastructure concerns. He also acknowledged the concern about Sun Valley's limited roads and infrastructure, indicating that these issues are part of the consideration in the planning process.

Heidi Soper shared her frustration with a past development process. Despite strong opposition from the residents of Chocolate Drive, who voiced their concerns at the planning commission, the project was initially rejected. However, after the developers appealed to the Board of County Commissioners, the project was approved, leading to the construction of 240 apartments near her home. She expressed dissatisfaction with how the process unfolded, feeling that public opposition didn't have the desired effect.

Shery Roach expressed concerns about the impact of new developments on local infrastructure, particularly schools and roads. She noted that the developers claimed there was room for schools to accommodate new children, but they did not address the burden placed on nearby schools, like those on Second Street. She also highlighted the heavy traffic on local roads, which are already congested during rush hour. Shery, a longtime resident since 1969, feels that the current development plans are unfair to the people who have lived in the area for many years.

Kate Irons asked about the height of the buildings. A resident answered that Sun Valley has a two-story restriction. CAB chair Michael Rider reminded that that this is not a discussion and questions need to be addressed to Trevor Lloyd.

Mark Neumann shared his frustration about changes in Sun Valley's zoning laws, which originally did not allow apartments. He mentioned that the county commissioners changed the zoning, allowing apartments to be built. He compared the situation to a previous development, where residents successfully advocated for single-family homes instead of apartments. However, with the Chocolate Drive development, he described a developer from Indiana who dismissed local concerns, stating, "You don't matter," and proceeded with the project despite opposition.

Carmen Ortiz shared a past experience where a neighborhood meeting turned hostile. She explained that it wasn’t a CAB meeting but a neighborhood meeting, during which the developer referred to the Reno Master Plan for Sun Valley. The situation escalated because the developer was seen as condescending and dismissive, creating tension. Carmen pointed out that this incident is still talked about today and serves as an example of how CAB meetings should not be conducted.

1. **COUNTY MANAGER ERIC BROWN UPDATE**Washoe County Manager Eric Brown provided an update on the county's activities, highlighting key accomplishments and ongoing projects. He noted that while financial challenges exist due to tightening revenues, Washoe County remains financially strong, with an increased bond rating and a clean audit. However, there are concerns about the future, especially if revenue does not increase, so the county is focusing on controlling expenses and limiting new spending. For 2025, the county will continue with multi-year projects, prioritizing stability and efficiency in its budgeting approach. The county’s efforts also include supporting vulnerable populations through initiatives like the CARES Campus, which will provide affordable housing with $20 million in state funding. Additionally, the county is addressing the opioid crisis through an Opioid Action Plan and expanding the Crossroads program for both men and women. Brown also discussed the implementation of the Sequential Intercept Model, a behavioral health program for individuals with mental health issues in jail. The county continues to collaborate with agencies like the District Attorney’s Office and Public Defender’s Office to better address the mental health needs within the justice system.

Carmen Ortiz asked if there is a program similar to the Sequential Intercept Model for individuals in the homeless community or in shelters at the CARES Campus. Eric Brown responded that while there isn't such a program at the CARES Campus currently, plans for the Washington Behavioral Health Center (the former West Sills facility) include services that will support individuals in homeless shelters and other safety net programs.

Eric Brown shared that Washoe County is partnering with RTC to transition the management of Sun Valley Boulevard, which is currently a state-managed highway. This transition will involve Washoe County taking responsibility for maintenance, multimodal transportation improvements like bike paths, and infrastructure enhancements. The project includes a significant investment of around $40 million, primarily for drainage and infrastructure improvements at the southern end of Sun Valley Boulevard. Brown emphasized that this is an important step for the community, despite challenges with changing administrations and financial constraints.

Theresa Antisdel asked what counted as lower Sun Valley. She was answered that it is everything below 7th St if it stays as proposed.

Eric Brown continued to provide updates on several ongoing initiatives in the county. He shared that Washoe County has hired Julia Redd as a behavioral health administrator to address the region's inadequate mental health services. Redd will work on consolidating resources from state agencies and local departments to improve the system. He also addressed concerns around the senior center's food services, acknowledging the rebidding of the food vendor agreement and the challenges in meeting the quality expectations due to restrictions on ingredients set by grants. However, the county is committed to improving the food quality for seniors. In terms of infrastructure, Brown highlighted that Washoe County has secured a $14.5 million grant to upgrade the old West Hills Hospital. This funding will cover necessary repairs like the HVAC system, roofing, and utilities to bring the facility up to code, as well as the relocation of the tuberculosis clinic. Regarding elections, Washoe County has implemented a new voter registration and election management system after the previous software and hardware became outdated. This $6.5 million investment will enhance the county's election infrastructure. Furthermore, a recommendation for a new registrar of voters will be presented to the County Commissioners on February 11. Brown also mentioned the ongoing efforts in technology to improve communication between the county and its communities, such as the development hub for tracking projects, e-comments for submitting feedback, virtual meetings for hard-to-reach areas, and the introduction of a language translation tool for non-English speakers. Eric Brown discussed the importance of collaboration across various organizations and jurisdictions to ensure effective service for Washoe County residents, emphasizing that while there are challenges, such as egos and time constraints, the goal remains to serve the community. He assured that the community advisory boards (CABs) would continue to operate and evolve, with each commissioner having the freedom to adjust how their respective CABs function, whether on a monthly, bi-monthly, or quarterly basis. Updates to CAB bylaws and boundaries are planned for the end of February. Brown highlighted the ongoing development of the Washoe Behavioral Health facility at 9th and 6th, which will offer a range of mental health services. The project is supported by ARPA funds, which need to be used by the end of 2026, and will include services for juvenile and subacute adult mental health, aiming to alleviate overcrowding in jails and other facilities. The facility will also offer opportunities for training future mental health professionals. Additionally, Brown mentioned the county's plans to update emergency evacuation plans, with the help of improved technology, and to work with FEMA to revise floodplain maps in several communities, starting with Lemon Valley.

Carol Burns asked Eric Brown if neighborhood meetings about development would be scheduled far enough apart from CAB meetings so that attendees could discuss what they heard at the neighborhood meetings during their CAB meetings. Eric responded that he would consider it but noted that sometimes deadlines for the development team might not allow for this flexibility, as they need to complete tasks on time.

Michael Rider expressed concern about staffing issues for senior assistant facilities, drawing from his personal experience with his daughters already involved in such services. He asked Eric about the county's plan to address these staffing challenges, given that staffing is already limited in the area. Eric Brown responded that the county is in discussions with providers and plans to design a state-of-the-art facility based on their input, offering it to mental health providers at an attractive cost. He mentioned that there is strong interest in this project. Eric also highlighted lessons learned from the CARES campus, where the need for strong case management was identified, and while VOA managed the campus, some functions like case management were not executed well. This led to the decision to bring that role in-house. He added that for the new facility, they would issue an RFP and invite providers to submit proposals.

Chris Ambriz, new to the area, asked whether Truckee Meadows Fire serves just the Truckee Meadows area or if it also supports Reno and Sparks, seeking clarification on its specific service area.

It was responded that Truckee Meadows Fire primarily serves the area around Interstate I-80, extending into northern Washoe County, including areas toward Susanville, and is separate from Reno and Sparks' fire services.

Carmen Ortiz asked if more counselors would be needed for a new program and suggested partnering with TMCC and UNR to prepare counselors in advance. She also noted her role on the TMCC Advisory Board and mentioned working with UNR's social services and behavioral health departments to be part of the effort. Eric Brown confirmed that they are indeed working with both TMCC and UNR's social services and behavioral health departments to ensure they are involved in the program. Carmen also commented on the improvement of Sun Valley CAB meetings, which are now held consistently and regularly. She suggested that, since the meetings are now predictable, developers who care about the community, like those from Highland Village and 5 Bridges, would be more likely to attend.

Cindy Leslie raised two concerns. First, she inquired about the financial aspect of housing for individuals who can't work or are disabled at the CARES campus, asking if the county would be reimbursed for their housing costs through disability or social security, or if they would live there indefinitely at taxpayer expense. Second, she noted that some seniors and unhoused veterans are hesitant to use the CARES campus due to the presence of drugs and alcohol, which they perceive as a safety concern, as the facility is not strictly policed like others. Eric Brown explained that the CARES campus is a low-barrier shelter, a federal designation meaning it cannot turn people away based on substance use. He acknowledged that this creates challenges, especially for seniors, and mentioned that additional supportive housing is being developed to provide more options. Eric confirmed that some residents would contribute toward their stay through benefits like social security, but others with significant mental health issues may not be able to pay. He also noted that these individuals had previously been supported by the state and that the county is working on a solution to address their care needs.

Mark Neumann expressed concerns about seniors at the CARES campus feeling unsafe due to drug use and violence, with some preferring to go to jail rather than stay there. He also asked about the balance between drug rehab and mental health services at West Hills Hospital. Additionally, he raised frustration over the lack of computers and Wi-Fi at the Sun Valley Senior Center after Washoe County pulled out, asking if this issue would ever be resolved. Eric Brown acknowledged the concerns, noting that West Hills would offer treatment for both substance abuse and mental health, and promised to follow up on the senior center's computer issue, mentioning state efforts to improve internet access for underrepresented groups.

Theresa Antisdel inquired about the collective bargaining units mentioned in the presentation, specifically asking for clarification on who the units are. Eric Brown explained that the largest unit is the Washoe County Employee Association (WCEA), but there are now seven units in total, including the nurses' bargaining unit within the health district. He also clarified that Truckee Meadows Fire has a separate set of negotiations. Eric offered to provide a list of the units, which is also available on the county website.

1. **REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION (RTC) LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR PROTECT GRANT**

Paul Nelson presented a request for support regarding a project to improve Sun Valley Boulevard, which is expected to cost at least $80 million. This includes addressing drainage issues, especially in relation to flooding during heavy rain. They are applying for a grant focused on resilience to weather events and natural disasters, and the Sun Valley Wash area is a key candidate for this funding. Nelson asked for a letter of support from the board, due by February 24th. He also invited input from the community about the project's potential impact, particularly in terms of safety and weather-related concerns. The project is a high priority for the community, though it has not been prioritized at the state level. The grant would cover about half of the project cost, with the remaining funds from the county and other local sources.

A resident raised concerns about pedestrian safety on Sun Valley Boulevard, specifically regarding the crosswalks with flashing lights, which they felt were inadequate. The lights were not bright enough, and they didn’t warn motorists far enough in advance, especially at night. The resident suggested improving the system by making the lights taller, brighter, or adding street lighting to enhance visibility. Paul Nelson responded, acknowledging the issue and emphasizing that the Sun Valley Boulevard improvement project would address pedestrian safety, including better facilities for crossing and other safety measures. He explained that the project is part of a "complete streets" program, which encompasses improvements to the roadway, drainage, pedestrian features, and transit infrastructure.

Mark Neumann raised concerns about cars swerving due to bus stops blocking lanes, suggesting that bus pull-outs be added to avoid accidents. He also proposed the idea of a park-and-ride, particularly near Larry's building, to help alleviate congestion on the busy bus route. Paul Nelson responded that the project is still in the 30% design phase, and they are considering solutions like bus pull-outs and possibly a park-and-ride. He mentioned that right-of-way acquisition might be necessary for the pull-outs, but such measures are already part of the planning process.

Tracy expressed concern that the current Flex Ride system does not serve Sun Valley, which is a significant issue for families like hers. She mentioned that her son attends a school in Reed but cannot get home because of the lack of transportation options, creating a burden on working parents. Paul Nelson acknowledged that the Flex Ride system is in place because there is no fixed route, but he agreed that Sun Valley needs better transportation connections, especially to Sparks and other areas. He promised to bring this concern to the transportation director.

Carol Burns asked about the plans for the intersection of Dandini, Sun Valley Boulevard, and Clear Acre, specifically in light of the proposed apartment complex and the traffic it might generate. Michael Rider elaborated, mentioning that the development could increase traffic pressure on that intersection, and that such issues are typically addressed by the planning department, which assesses traffic and population impacts when making improvements to roadways.

Cindy Leslie asked about the anticipated timeline for the expansion and widening of North Virginia Street, which is planned for 2027, and raised concerns about how much traffic from North Valley residents uses Sun Valley Boulevard as a secondary route due to ongoing construction on 395. She expressed concerns that this could create a bottleneck on Sun Valley Boulevard. Paul Nelson responded, explaining that the North Virginia project would not begin until Phase 2 of Highway 395 is completed, which may not happen until 2028. He acknowledged the challenge of managing traffic but emphasized efforts to work around these issues.

Sherry Roach asked where the public can access the plan for the Sun Valley Boulevard project and provide input. Paul Nelson responded that input can be submitted via sunvalleyboulevard.com, which also hosts the corridor study, and he confirmed it’s part of Phase 2.

Mark Neumann raised concerns about the significant increase in traffic expected in Sun Valley due to new developments, including apartments and homes, leading to an additional 20,000-30,000 cars. He asked if the expansion plans for Sun Valley Boulevard would account for this future traffic growth. Paul Nelson responded that the project is still in the design phase and planning works with engineers, though Nevada's approach tends to address issues after they become problematic. He also mentioned that the project manager's contact information is available for further inquiries.

A resident asked if the expansion of Sun Valley Boulevard would include improvements to bus stops, such as adding covers for people waiting and increasing the number of bus stops. Paul Nelson responded that bus stop improvements are planned, but the specifics are still undecided, as the project is still in its early stages**.**

Mike Rider asked people to submit their comments and questions.

Alexandra Wilson reminded the CAB that the current item for discussion must pertain to the PROTECT Grant and that Paul Wilson will be back to discuss other RTC matters.

Veronica Cortez expressed concern about the potential for increased speeding with the Sun Valley Boulevard expansion, noting that there were over 250 accidents reported last year. She questioned if additional law enforcement would be deployed to address this, as the current force is already understaffed. She also raised concerns about the sustainability of landscaping, given water scarcity, and emphasized safety issues, having seen friends get injured or killed on the boulevard.

Paul Nelson responded by assuring that safety is a top priority in the project. He mentioned plans for improvements such as sidewalks, multi-use paths, and bike lanes to enhance safety and accessibility. He also acknowledged her concerns and assured her they would be addressed as the project progresses.

The CAB motioned to sign the PROTECT grant unanimously.

1. **BOARD MEMBER/ COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS/REQUESTS/DISCUSSION**Commissioner Mariluz Garcia expressed gratitude to the leadership and RTC staff for their efforts and shared her excitement about several community initiatives. She highlighted her passion for mental health, including the upcoming Washoe County Behavioral Health Center, which will assist victims of child sex trafficking. Garcia also advocated for the transfer of a key 3-mile section of Sun Valley Boulevard to the county for better maintenance and operation, emphasizing the importance of the project and the support from RTC. She discussed her efforts to address illegal dumping in the community, including a plan for private property cleanups with volunteers. Finally, Garcia invited attendees to a special meeting about fire services and encouraged community involvement.

Heidi Soper shared several updates during the meeting. She confirmed that the Sun Valley CAB is not going away, as emphasized by Manager Brown, and encouraged attendees to fill out surveys with suggestions for future CAB activities. Heidi also mentioned a discount for residents over 70 with Waste Management, which she personally utilized, and encouraged others to do the same. She highlighted a meeting on February 6th about the Chocolate Drive project, where changes to grading would be discussed. Heidi emphasized her efforts to post meeting agendas in various locations and welcomed new attendees, encouraging their continued participation.

Veronica Cortes shared her experience with the Solace Tree, a mental health support group she attended in Reno after losing her assistant to suicide. She started bringing the group to Sun Valley and held their first meeting on Martin Luther King Jr. Day at Mendoza with a licensed therapist. The session was bilingual and helped attendees, including children. Veronica emphasized the importance of mental health in addressing drug addiction and behavioral health issues. She announced the next meeting on President's Day, February 17th, from 5 to 7 pm, which will be free and open to everyone in both English and Spanish. She is working to expand mental health support for Sun Valley residents.

Michael Rider thanked everyone for attending and encouraged new faces to continue participating and sharing their comments. He reminded the community about the Sun Valley General Improvement District's meeting on the second Thursday of the month, where updates on local developments are shared. He also highlighted the start of the recreational season, including baseball and soccer, and encouraged residents to support the youth in the community by attending games and enjoying the activities. He emphasized the value of watching local kids play and get involved in positive activities.

Mark Neumann asked Commissioner Garcia about the groundbreaking of the BMX track at the Regional Park? She answered that she didn’t know

A resident thanked the presenters and County Manager Brown for keeping the community informed, appreciating the notifications they receive. They requested that in the future, presenters bring paper copies of PowerPoint slides, as some community members may not have internet access. The resident also asked that code enforcement be invited to a future meeting to explain their role and provide guidance on how to contact them for various issues, as Sun Valley previously had a regular update from their officer, Burt Gracie.

1. **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**Carol Burns requested that an agenda item be added for a future meeting to have a representative from the Sun Valley General Improvement District (GID) come and speak with the community. She emphasized the importance of addressing concerns from residents on the east side of the valley, particularly regarding hydrant issues and fire safety.

Cindy Leslie informed the CAB that she has forms at the senior center for Waste Management discounts.

Josh Decker informed the CAB that they are going to have testimonials after the meeting to strengthen the language of the PROTECT grant.

1. **ADJOURNMENT**The meeting was adjourned at 12:07 pm