



Warm Springs/Rural Minutes of the regular meeting of the Warm Springs/Rural Citizen Advisory Board held on May 8, 2024 at 6:00 P.M. via ZOOM

- 1. CALL TO ORDER/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM** [Non-Action Item] Larry Chesney (Chair), Marshall Todd (Vice Chair), Kevin Cook and Pamela Roberts, were present. Hugh Ezell was absent.

A quorum was established and the meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** [Non-Action Item]

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.

Pam Roberts made a comment on behalf of the Citizen Advisory Board, as a board member. Noted that May is Older Americans Month and there are many activities for seniors aged 60 and over and encouraged attendees to look online for the many opportunities available for seniors.

Emily Stapledon, an online attendee, said that she is working with Washoe County in the sustainability team and is hosting many listening sessions in the upcoming months to better understand the community's input on the county's first-ever climate action plan. Reno is the fastest-warming community in North America and encourages participation in the climate action plan, either in the listening sessions or in an online survey.

Chair Larry Chesney shared that Palomino Valley General Improvement District (PVGID) had held a recall of a board member and that this was a success, in a two to one vote. Praised the community for being a part of the democratic process and all of the hard work that went into this activity and mentioned the rarity of the success of such a recall.

- 4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF MARCH 8, 2024** [For Possible Action]

Marshall Todd moved to approve the minutes. Pam Roberts seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- 5. PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE** – General Community Update from Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and/or Washoe County Sheriff's Office. [Non-Action Item]

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District

A Battalion Chief of Truckee Meadows Fire provided an update on calls for service (8 total; 2 medical emergencies, 1 accident, 1 medical assist and 4 good intent calls). Discussed the individuals who are currently in training to become a part of the fire service. Board Member Pam Roberts asked about the training received, and the Deputy Chief provided information on the preparation.

Washoe County Sheriff's Office (WCSO)

Captain Amelia Galicia introduced herself and said that she is a new face to the area with Captain Zirkle retiring. Provided stats for the first quarter of 2024, with the first quarter being slightly higher than normal over the past 4-year period in the Palomino Valley area. Over the 3-year average, things remain consistent in the area. With Memorial Day weekend approaching, Cpt. Galicia said that WCSO is working closely with BLM rangers to ensure that those who are celebrating the holiday remain safe. Any open cases are being closed out quickly and providing closure to victims of crime, which primarily occurs outside of the immediate area. CAB Member Kevin Cook asked about the 58 calls received over the previous quarter with Cpt. Galicia answering that the stats are destruction/damage/vandalism, DUI, drugs, larceny/theft, liquor law violations, motor vehicle thefts – generally the crimes were property crimes. She then went over the goals that the Sheriff has identified for the region which are burglaries, which have gone down in April for all burglaries, thanks to specific deployments in specific areas. Warm Springs only had 1, which is very low. CAB Member Cook asked if the cases remain open, or if they are closed only after they are solved. Cpt. Galicia said that crimes are given a period of time to remain open with information gathered and shared with sister agencies, and only after a long period of time with no leads are the cases closed. Chair Chesney expressed concern regarding Moon Rocks activities, especially over long weekends. Asked if there is a special number to call to inform law enforcement about overflow from Moon Rocks onto private property. Cpt. Galicia noted to call non-emergency number unless there is a true emergency, in which case a person would call 9-1-1. Cpt. Galicia asked for more information and Member Chesney said that very loud sound systems cause disturbances in the community. Cpt. Galicia suggested that when calling in a noise disturbance, the reporting party will need to sign a citation and the WCSO would deliver the citation, possibly attend court.

Community Member JJ Phoenix asked if the WCSO and BLM was curious about the master plan for the area so that visitors and attendees are aware of parameters for enjoying the weekend. Cpt. Galicia said she was uncertain as to what the BLM was putting out, but said that WCSO and BLM are working together internally with planning documents to collaborate, however with the main event being in the jurisdiction being with the BLM, she would defer to them. On Pyramid Highway, the Nevada State Police (NSP) will be the primary responding entity, but Cpt. Galicia is unsure how the BLM is working with NSP.

- 6. BEST DAY FOR CAB MEETINGS** – CAB member Hugh Ezell will provide the results from his outreach to the community on which day of the week would be best for the community to join. [Non-Action Item]

Hugh Ezell was not present at the time however Vice Chairman Marshall Todd asked to discuss this as a board and community. Stated that the attendance of the CAB meetings have dropped, despite high-stature individuals in attendance at the present moment including a Battalion Chief of Truckee Meadows Fire, the Washoe County Commissioner Jeanne Herman, and County Manager Eric Brown. Shared that the reason he joined the CAB was with the purpose of keeping Warm Springs a rural community. Chair Chesney said that he agreed that the Warm Springs area should remain rural, but thought that this item should be tabled until the July meeting. Chair Chesney said that the purpose of the CAB meeting should be discussed at the next meeting, and agendaized, so that the CAB can make critical decisions on the purpose of the CAB. CAB member Pam Roberts agreed and wanted this agenda item to be a “for action” item.

When Hugh Ezell arrived at 6:47 p.m. he apologized for his tardiness and shared that the response to his community survey had been underwhelming and that only a few individuals had responded to his

request to know which days of the week would be best for the community to meet. He said that some had indicated Wednesdays work well, others believe that any day but Wednesdays work well, and others had said that any day would work well. There was no community consensus and the item ended without the call for a vote.

7. REVIEW OF LETTER FROM CAB TO COUNTY FOR PURPOSE OF INCREASING CAB PARTICIPATION – CAB Vice Chair Marshall Todd will provide the draft letter from the CAB written to the County to make the official request that development be brought back to the CAB. [For Possible Action]

CAB Chair Chesney noted that although this item had been touched on previously in this meeting with agenda item 6, Marshall Todd said that he had written numerous drafts of the letter but was unsure what the true purpose of the CAB was and so did not have a draft item to share in the moment because the CAB was looking for a “job” to do, but there was no apparent job. Community member JJ Phoenix referred to item 6, the day of the month when the CAB would be held and said that he had visited several CAB meetings throughout the County and found that the day of the week was not a deciding factor. Several people in the room agreed that Wednesday evenings are fine and the day of the week for the meeting is not the reason why people are not coming to the meetings. Chair Chesney said that with having the County Manager and County Commissioner, the member of the board, and only 2 members of the public, this is disappointing as there is not much for these decision-makers to hear from the community because they are not present. Commissioner Herman said that having consistent meetings are important. Community Member George said that it is easy to forget meetings when they are not consistent, and asked if the GID would allow for the CAB to post signs to remind the public. Vice Chair Todd said that there are signs that have been made, but the hanging of the signs have been placed on hold until the circumstances of the Board are cleared. Chair Chesney said that the signs will be posted in the near future.

County Manager Eric Brown asked the community to consider based off of learnings that topic-driven meetings are well-attended, whereas meetings that simply have public safety updates are not well-attended. Said that having the Registrar of Voters of a meeting or water rights will bring people in droves because these are topics that the community cares about. Development meetings are of interest to the community, however there are not many developments that are seen in the pipeline for the area. Manager Brown addressed that CAB meetings are limited by open meeting law, versus community meetings, which allow for more than 3 minutes of public comment and a better dialogue. Notes and minutes are available and that upcoming meetings are brought forward each time a CAB meeting is held.

The arrival of CAB Member Hugh Ezell at 6:47 p.m. brought this agenda item to a close so that meeting agenda item number 6, the day of the week for future CAB meetings, could be addressed. Refer to item 6 within these minutes.

8. NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT HUB – Staff to display the online for review by the CAB members and/or attendees to determine if there are new or existing projects for discussion. Specific questions and feedback will be brought back to the appropriate staff for announcement at the next CAB meeting. [Non-Action Item]

Community Outreach Coordinator for Washoe County, Candee Ramos shared how to search and find the Neighborhood Development HUB by visiting WashoeCounty.gov and searching for the word “HUB” in the search bar. She described the benefits of the HUB, including a map and listing of upcoming

meetings. There are no upcoming meetings in the area. Ms. Ramos explained the process of staying informed about upcoming neighborhood development meetings, the process of subscribing to email updates to receive notifications about neighborhood developer meetings. Chair Chesney said that subscribing to the email list is very useful to knowing what is taking place throughout the county, not only for development meetings, but for all of the various public meetings. CAB Member Roberts said that it only takes a few homes when large plots are sub-parceled to make an impact on the community because of the heavy equipment associated with development and the wear and tear on the roads, and the limited budget of the PVGID to maintain these roads. Asked if there is a way for the PVGID to be aware of the various developments in the area so that these impacts are known by the community. She indicated that there is a gap in communication from the advisory aspect of the CAB to the County when items are of a greater impact than what small developments may appear at first glance. CAB Chair Chesney encouraged Pam Roberts to suggest this as an upcoming agenda item.

Community Member Geroge said that parks and recreations tax expenditures from residents in the area should be revised to be a PVGID road fee, versus paying for parks which are not in the immediate area. County Manager Brown said that the building that the CAB meeting is being held in, the Regional Shooting Facility, is a “parks” building. Said that he is not dissuading the argument of where tax dollars go should be compensatory, however it should be said that “parks” are more than simply parks.

JJ Phoenix said that in the Tribe that those businesses who damaged the roads would have to fix the roads that they damaged.

CAB member Roberts said that she has a great deal of respect for the County Manager and would like to have coffee with him in the future.

9. WASHOE COUNTY COMMISSIONER UPDATE- Washoe County Commissioner Jeanne Herman may be available to provide updated information on discussions and actions by the Board of County Commissioners. [Non-Action Item]

Washoe County Commissioner Jeanne Herman was present and said that she was available to listen to constituents. She said that CABs are important.

10. CAB MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS/REQUESTS — This item is limited to announcements and/or requests for future agenda items by CAB members or the Washoe County Manager Eric Brown. [Non-Action Item]

CAB member Pam Roberts requested an agenda item to have a discussion of continued viability of the CAB, and that we should revisit frequency of CABs, that ways to communicate between the CAB and GID should be discussed through a conduit. CAB Member Todd said that he would ask the GID to post meeting signs on their existing posts.

CAB Member Kevin Cook would like to learn more about the Net-Zero program of Washoe County would be a good future agenda item. Chair Chesney agreed, and CAB Member Pam Roberts said that having community meetings are good for having a dialogue on the topic of the climate action plan. CAB Member Kevin Cook wanted to touch on projects that are happening within Warm Springs versus those that impact Warm Springs.

CAB Member Roberts said that there are activities taking place within the area in different legal jurisdictions in the community where there should be more done to communicate across jurisdictions

to protect those who live in the community. Chair Chesney said that there are often fireworks and illegal activity in the area near Moon Rocks and near Pyramid Lake and that the BLM is possibly negligent in prevention of tragic incidents. Suggests the coordination between the BLM and the County and suggests there should be a discussion and action item on an upcoming Warm Springs CAB agenda. Request is made to have a discussion, with possible action, for specific activity that could take place to reduce reliance on Washoe County resources on BLM land adjacent to private property of Washoe County residents.

CAB Member Ezell said that he is concerned about fireworks that go off on summer holiday weekends and has fire concerns. Requested clarification on coordination between entities such as BLM and the County. Chair Chesney explained that there are regularly-scheduled activities on BLM land that are worrisome to residents that live within Washoe County and that this item should be addressed at the next CAB meeting.

CAB Member Ezell asked about the area plan updates for the community. Fellow CAB members Cook and Chesney suggested that Mr. Ezell visit the area plan on the Washoe County webpage for a better understanding about development codes. Also asked about homelessness and expressed concern for Tesla layoffs and asked Manager Brown to address future concerns. Manager Brown said that he was unable to address this in the moment as this was not on the agenda. Chair Chesney acknowledged that there is a homelessness problem in Washoe County, and Member Cook suggested that the September CAB meeting can possibly have homelessness and what the area can do about this on that agenda. Vice Chair Todd said that the rural part of the Warm Springs CAB area are not attractive to the majority of the homeless population. CAB members Ezell and Roberts suggested to have this as a future agenda item. Chair Chesney suggested that the Tribe might have an interesting point in discussing of these items and encouraged community attendee JJ Phoenix to invite other members of the tribe to join in the Warm Springs CAB.

CAB Member Roberts expressed concern surrounding the complaint-based code enforcement protocol and asked if an anonymous individual can bring a complaint to the CAB and have the CAB complain on their behalf. Community member JJ Phoenix said that it has to be the individual. CAB Chair Chesney said that at times the person complaining must participate in a code enforcement administrative hearing.

11. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT – Limited to no more than three (3) minutes. Anyone may speak pertaining to any matter either on or off the agenda. The public are requested to submit a Request to Speak form to the Board Chairman. Comments are to be addressed to the Board as a whole. [Non-Action Item]

Community Member George asked if the County had done anything to improve internet service in the area. Washoe County Manager Eric Brown said yes, however this portion of the meeting is for public comment rather than Q&A. However, did note that the County is working to improve broadband in the community and so far the County had focused its efforts on Gerlach, Red Rock area, and the Warm Springs area.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.