



Gerlach/Empire Citizen Advisory Board

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Gerlach/Empire Citizen Advisory Board held on May 19, 2022, at the Gerlach Community Center, 410 Cottonwood, Gerlach, NV 89412, and via teleconference.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ DETERMINATION OF QUORUM – Elisabeth 'Schatzi' Gambrell, Tina Walters, Andy Moore, Allen Nash. Absent: Kristy Evans

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – The Pledge was recited.

3. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT –

Greg Nelson said the Gerlach fire department is not on the Board of County Commissioner (BCC) agenda. We have another month without service. There is a single responder. It's a hazard to the community. Astonishingly, this is still going on.

Candee Ramos noted the Gerlach grant would be on the BCC agenda. Additionally, on July 5, applications for Washoe County leadership academy will be open. She said she would be in Gerlach on the 26th to visit sites to be included as part of the leadership academy. She said public members from Gerlach would get a hotel if they were interested in participating in the academy. It's an 8-month leadership networking program. They will be on Fridays, except for one day which will be held on Thursday. Get ahold of Candee Ramos if anyone is interested.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF February 17, 2022 and April 21, 2022 (for Possible Action) – Elisabeth Gambrell moved to approve the minutes from February and April 2022. Allen Nash seconded the motion, which carried unanimously in favor.

5. WASHOE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE –

Lt. Diaz, Washoe County Sheriff's Office, was available to answer questions. He said Deputy Burns would be in regular attendance at the CAB. Ms. Gambrell inquired about the traffic data. Lt. Diaz noted the speed trailer was placed at Empire in front of the store, catching northbound traffic. He said it was placed on February 3 and removed on February 16. During that time, the radar captured 4,414. The speed limit is 45 mph. During burning man, the NDOT drops the speed limit. 85% of traffic was during 48 mph. There was 1.5% or 66 cars that were doing 65+ mph. 4.3% were doing 55+ mph, 690 cars, or 15% were doing 45+ mph. Based on these statistics, there isn't a speed problem. The radar trailer acts as a speed deterrent. They see those numbers flash, and they slow down. He said back in February, he talked about asking NDOT to install the flashing speed signs. Mr. Nash asked if there is a system that doesn't have a deterrent to get a sense of the speed problem that we actually have? He said all we have is our speed trailer; we could break down the time of day and speed. Mr. Nash asked if there was anything we could purchase that could measure the speed and number of cars without the deterrent effect. Mr. Diaz said there are more expensive radar signs. Ms. Nash said he is looking for the data, not the flashing light, to find out what is actually happening. Ms. Ramos asked about permanent signs acting as deterrents. Mr. Diaz said you would see them in Antelope Valley; people shot at them and threw them into the desert. He said he could not guarantee it would work. Honest people will slow down, and some don't care and will accelerate to see how fast they can go.

Gerlach data: right after we moved it from Empire, we moved it to the main street. February 16 – March 11. 9,058 cars through the northbound route. The number of cars traveling at 25 mph was 2,366 or 26%; Those traveling at 35 mph+ were 661 or 7%; Those traveling at 45+ mph were 202 or 2%. 85%

were traveling at 32 mph, which is 7 mph over the posted limit at that time and place. Ms. Gambrell thanked him for having the trailer up here. She said she could talk to NDOT about having one up here. Mr. Diaz said he could bring one up for Burning Man. He discussed the Washoe County jurisdiction versus the NDOT. He said we also talked about having a crosswalk as well.

6. NV ENERGY REGIONAL UPDATE – Christina Bailey Shaver, Sr. Government Affairs Adviser & Laney Elmore, Regional Engineer, NV Energy. (Non-Action Item)

This will stay on the agenda for next month as part of the updates.

7. 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 (BCC). (Non-Action Item)

Commissioner Herman was not in attendance.

8. BOARD MEMBER ITEMS — This item is limited to announcements and/or requests for future agenda items by CAB members. (Non-Action Item)

Chair Walters congratulated Manager Brown on receiving the Community Services Award.

Ms. Gambrell requested a point of contact to discuss the lack of housing in Gerlach for town employees. The fire department got a mobile home on school district property. We know Washoe County will lease the property back since we gave it to them. Where do we get a mobile home to move onto that property? We need one if we are going to attract a full-time employee.

Ms. Gambrell requested an item for Sheriff, Fire Department, and Dave Solaro on the next agenda to provide updates. She said she would like answers regarding the GIA - what can they do with the property they are trying to subdivide or sell off so people could build.

Ms. Gambrell asked if we have been added to the planning board to review and approve Special Use Permits like we used to. Chair Walters said she heard rumors about a development up the road. Ms. Gambrell said there is a gold mine going in 60 miles away. Ms. Ramos spoke about the noticing requirements. She said she could invite them to attend the CAB to provide an update. Ms. Gambrell said other projects such as Empire Farms, Geothermal, and Burning Man 360 came before this Board because it is infringing on our natural resources. She said she heard someone build six houses in the mountains off of the 34. Ms. Ramos spoke about the neighborhood meetings but will ask Mr. Solaro since this is a unique CAB. The CAB said they would like to hear about development in the upper part of the County.

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 chairman. Comments are to be addressed to the Board as a whole. (Non-Action Item)

ADJOURNMENT – the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

CAB Program CAB@WashoeCounty.gov

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