



Gerlach/Empire Citizen Advisory Board

DRAFT: Approval of these draft minutes, or any changes to the draft minutes, will be reflected in writing in the next meeting minutes and/or in the minutes of any future meeting where changes to these minutes are approved by the CAB Minutes of the Gerlach/Empire Citizen Advisory Board.

The regular Gerlach/Empire Citizen Advisory Board meeting was held on June 8, 2023, at 6 p.m. at the Gerlach Community Center, 410 Cottonwood, Gerlach, NV 89412, and via teleconference.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ DETERMINATION OF QUORUM – Elisabeth Gambrell, Tina Walters, Andy Moore, Russel Bierle. Absent: Kristy Evans, Allen Nash, Brandy Wilbur.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT –

Timothy “Reno” Renolay introduced himself. He said he part of the Burning Man Operations. Contact him through the Burning Man office or call in case of an emergency at 510-910-4747. Call or text.

A public member thanked Russel for his hard work at the park.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETINGS OF [May 11, 2023](#) (for possible action) –

MOTION: Andy Moore moved to approve the minutes of May 11, 2023. Elisabeth Gambrell seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

5. PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATES – A Washoe County Sheriff’s Deputy and/or members from the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe Fire Department may be available to provide a general community update on public safety (non-action item)

Deputy Burns provided an update on Burning Man coverage. He said we are reviewing the operations with the new employee and expect that to go smoothly. Ms. Gambrell asked about the upcoming 7-day event staffing levels for the event. Deputy Burns said we hadn’t been asked to work overtime. He said he would ask Sgt. Diaz for additional staffing.

Chief Pelt, Pyramid Fire, said he was out for three weeks for vacation. He said he doesn’t have the monthly status. Next month will be one year of the contract with Gerlach. We are looking forward to that. We are looking forward to additional staffing for Burning Man with Maurine Benson. We are looking at hiring additional firefighters with a grant through NV Energy. They will clear the power poles but work wildland fires when needed. We will get an additional 6 people for Gerlach for 3 firefighters per shift through a grant. We are looking forward to growing. Ms. Walters said that was exciting. Jonathan Pritchard said the Community BBQ is July 22. He noted we up staffed in the whole corridor for the past weekend events. The Mormon Crickets are turning our highways gold. The Department of Agriculture is working to take care of them with abatement. He said these weather events and thunderstorms are causing mud slides. It will be a problem for the next couple of days. If there is water over the road, turn around and go home. NDOT has limited resources. Ms. Gambrell asked if they are up-staffing for 4th of the Playa. He said we will be discussing that but anticipates it will be.

6. WASHOE COUNTY LEADERSHIP ACADEMY – Washoe County staff will provide a brief overview of the Washoe County Leadership Academy (WCLA) program including information on how to apply. [Non-Action Item]

Candee Ramos provided a PowerPoint Slideshow of the Leadership Academy overview.

Ms. Ramos responded to Mr. Bierle's inquiry; she said 30 seats were available for representatives from each area. She said we had 178 applications last year. She spoke about application tips.

7. ORMAT STANDING AGENDA ITEM – Board Members may wish to speak on updates pertaining to Ormat exploratory activity. This time is limited to 10 minutes of general discussion. (non-action item)

There were no updates.

8. NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING HUB STANDING AGENDA ITEM – Candee Ramos, Washoe County

Community Outreach Coordinator to share the latest community information on the Neighborhood Meeting HUB featuring development community meetings. (non-action item)

Ms. Ramos provided an update of the Neighborhood Meeting HUB website.

9. COMMISSIONER AND BOARD MEMBER ITEMS — This item is limited to announcements and/or requests for future agenda items by CAB members and potential general announcements from the county commissioner and county manager. (non-action item)

Andy Moore announced to the community that he is moving and therefore tendering his resignation from the CAB.

Ms. Gambrell called for an agenda item for a new vice chair. Ms. Ramos noted there will be an agenda item for the vice chair and chair position in July. It's proposed to make Mr. Bierle an at-large position vacated by Mr. Moore to make a full board. She advised to apply for the board on the Washoe County website.

Mr. Biele spoke about the telephone poles down in the road by the tamarack trees. The railroad sent people out after he called to make the report. He said the poles might as well come down after the fiber gets installed. Jonathan Prichard and Board members discussed the phone infrastructure fix. They discussed working together to get it resolved.

Mr. Moore asked for an agenda item for an update on the fiber installation.

Ms. Ramos noted we will have a BCC e-comment and fiber update on the next agenda.

10. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT –

A public member thanked Andy Moore for his Ormat project efforts. Best of luck on your next endeavor.

ADJOURNMENT – The board adjourned at 6:48 p.m.