



## NORTH VALLEYS CITIZEN ADVISORY BOARD

**DRAFT:** Minutes of the regular meeting of the North Valleys Citizen Advisory Board held November 8, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

**1. \*CALL TO ORDER/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM** - The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Pat Shea. A quorum was present. Members of the North Valleys CAB include Teresa Aquila, Wendy Leonard, Craig Durbin, Derek Schoepf, Roger Edwards, and Wesley Johnson.

*NOTE: There was no audio until 24 minutes into the meeting.*

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – The pledge was recited.

### **3. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT –**

The audio began with a public member speaking about flooding and parts of his property being washed out. He stated he called 311 and didn't get a good response. He called the Road Department and Commissioner Herman. He stated the road department said there wasn't anything they could do about it. He said they came back out on Monday and worked on the issue. He stated this is ongoing and nagging the road department to clear out the ditch since 2017. He stated the culverts clogged under his driveway. He said the pipes under Marlin drive need to be replaced with a larger size box culvert.

Roger Edwards introduced County Manager Eric Brown.

Dwayne Hubbert, Lemmon Valley resident, asked when the Hesco barriers would come down. There have been accidents out there. He said we are waiting on the County to make a decision. Weeds are growing, and soon we will have snow. It was supposed to be gone.

Patrick Coleman spoke about abandoned cars. He stated he knows the Sherriff's office is working on it. They are stolen and stripped down, and left on lots. He asked how we could report them. He stated Sheriff's office contacted him to view his camera footage. He asked whatever we could do to help with that.

Mr. Armstrong said he lives behind Lemmon Valley. He stated he couldn't get ahold of anyone. He spoke with Bonnie Weber. He asked what the plans were for Lemmon Valley. He stated he had lived here for 33 years. Who approved this mess. There will be warehousing in the middle of Lemmon Valley with flooding. He said he is tired of looking at the sand wall. He goes around Stead. He said flooding had happened several times. It's a flood plain. He said this whole thing was a lake at one time. He said they built all the warehouses and pits. The snow gets done in the pits. Those lakes should have been dredged. That lake should have had a walking path around it.

### **4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF MAY 10, 2021 (For Possible Action) –**

Wendy Leonard moved to approve the minutes of May 10, 2021. Derek Schoepf seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS** - Elections by the CAB members will be held to elect the Chair and Vice-Chair for 2021/2022 term, elected officers will be effective immediately (For Possible Action)

**Chair:** Teresa Aquila volunteered to be chair person. The motion passed unanimously.

**Vice Chair:** Roger Edwards volunteered to be vice chair. The motion passed unanimously.

**6. WASHOE COUNTY STAFF MEMBER PRESENTATION** - Alexandra Wilson introduced the new CAB format and her team. She spoke about the two-track system and overview of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding

A public member asked a show of hands of who is from Cold Springs. She complimented a development out there. She said her husband is an engineer. She spoke about volunteering.

John Dire, Silver hills resident, asked if the neighborhood meetings are subject to Open Meeting Law. Ms. Wilson spoke about the requirements and format of the neighborhood meetings. John spoke about accountability by the developers. Ms. Wilson stated the meetings are recorded.

A public member made everyone aware there is a sign-in sheet. He stated he has been on the CAB before, and there is a speaker system available for the CABs.

A public member asked how many CABs were there? Ms. Wilson stated 9 CABs.

A public member stated he lives behind the fire station. He asked when development was going to begin. Ms. Wilson stated she could follow up.

A public member inquired about Stonegate. He asked where they were going to get the water. Another member stated he could follow up with him about that.

Roger Edwards encouraged everyone to follow the Planning Commission. They are the first meeting the developer goes to after the CAB.

A CAB member asked if the developer would still come to the CAB. Ms. Wilson stated this is track one. We are encouraging CAB members to attend the developer-led meetings. She stated we are still working out the details.

**7. FUTURE CAB SCHEDULE** - Frequency of meetings & set date of next meeting (For Possible Action)

Wendy Leonard asked the public members what they would like regarding the frequency of CAB meetings. The community requested monthly meetings. The CAB discussed the start time. They polled the community members who expressed 6 p.m. start time.

**MOTION: Roger Edwards moved to recommend 6 p.m. meeting start time. Teresa Aquila seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.**

**MOTION: Roger Edwards moved to recommend hosting monthly meetings. Teresa Aquila seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.**

The CAB discussed hosting the CAB meetings on the second Monday.

The CAB discussed developer-led neighborhood meetings. Roger Edwards stated our commissioner voted against taking the developments out of the CAB's responsibility. He encouraged the public to be engaged.

**8. WASHOE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE UPDATE** – Ms. Wilson notified the CAB that the Sheriff's office was short staff and couldn't attend.

**9. WASHOE COUNTY COMMISSIONER UPDATE-** Washoe County Commissioner Jeanne Herman provided an update.

She expressed gratitude to the community members for attending the CAB. She said she has been pushing CABs for her tenure of 7 years. She said she wanted it back the way it used to be because it worked. She announced green waste was a huge success.

John Dire asked if the CAB program stopped, and it was reactivated. Roger Edwards confirmed.

A public member requested the Sheriff's Department to attend these meetings. He said there had been a lot of crime out here. Commissioner Herman stated there is a short-staff issue. Teresa Aquila stated they had been invited; however, calls are a priority over attending meetings. Regina stated there are officers that take care of calls and staff who handle Public Relations. Teresa stated they have one person, Sarah John. Sheriff Balaam is busy with committee meetings. Public safety takes priority.

Rosemary Hawthorn asked about a volunteer liaison. Teresa Aquila said that she would be here and she could not wear both hats.

Eric Brown, County Manager, spoke about Sheriff Office short staff. They have had an issue with finding additional staff. The County is growing. This is not a slight; they will come at future meetings. He addressed the questions about the CAB format. He stated Commissioner Herman had been the leader in bringing back the CABs. He said he is listening to the constituents. The development discussions – if you want your development brought before the CAB, please request it from staff. He said we are structuring this to meet your needs. These can be changed. they are designed to be for you. He said he is committed to it. He said he won't be a stranger. This is one of the most important things. It's important to hear from you – crime, community issues. A CAB member asked if the CAB meeting can be scheduled with a neighborhood meeting; schedule them to be co-occurring.

Ray Lake, former CAB member, public member, stated that we used to have quarterly meetings and developers would play the calendar, so they didn't have to come before the CAB. Development meetings are separate, and we have concerns about that. Mr. Brown stated it'd been requested to be scheduled together. Mr. Lake stated we can work to make these better. Mr. Brown said the CAB could not stop a project; you provide input. If the CAB doesn't like a project, it doesn't mean it won't be approved at Planning Commission.

Dwayne said we used to have satellite stations. He asked if you could work with the City of Reno to reactivate the satellite station. Roger Edwards stated they are facing similar issues. Mr. Brown stated he was happy to have that conversation with him.

A public member asked if the 'defund the police' has impacted the Washoe County Sheriff's office. Mr. Brown said absolutely not. We have increased their budget.

A public member asked if there could be funding for Sheriff's office. Mr. Brown spoke about eligibility for how to spend the money. He said this is an attempt to get realigned after the pandemic.

Roger Edwards spoke about flooding. He stated he wants to expand the sewer plant, which would help with effluent going into the lake. Mr. Brown stated as a region, sewer and stormwater infrastructure is a priority. He said \$91 million is a drop in the bucket. He said we are speaking with State about their ARPA money. He spoke about broadband issues. He said we are making great progress with the State office of technology and science who have money for broadband. We were one of the first County's to request funds to serve the County. We are pleased with the progress. ARPA might not fund it, but we are focusing on Sewer infrastructure.

Derek asked if the funds could go to Reno Substation in Stead. Teresa Aquila stated they rent that spot from a private party.

Mr. Brown stated ARPA goes a lot further when it's used regionally. He said this funding opportunity would force these conversations.

Mr. Brown commended Commissioner Herman for working tirelessly for the CABs. He said he is committed to it. He said he wants to make sure your needs are met. Teresa Aquila thanked him for being part of the process and commitment.

**10. CAB MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS/REQUESTS** — This item is limited to announcements and/or requests for future agenda items by CAB members. (Non-Action Item)

Derek Schoepf spoke about the church built in Cold Springs. There is a quota on how many plants they need to plant. They need 70 more plants. Teresa Aquila stated there is a landscaping standard. Derek Schoepf stated we are in the desert. He asked if we have zero-scape being allowed. He asked the County to adopt a zero-scape. He asked that we eliminate or lessen the standards and allow for zero-scaping. Teresa Aquila spoke about drought-tolerant native plants. She encouraged that we can review the code and suggested it to the County Commissioners. Roger Pelham stated commercial developers are required to provide landscaping. He stated you could go down and comment on these specific development requirements. Teresa Aquila encouraged them to go down and make a public comment. She said they have been updating the codes in the past few years.

**11. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT –**

Roger Edwards stated he received public comment from Kathleen Roger.

Kenji Otto agreed with Derek. The valley is under a moratorium on the use of water. He said he would work with Derek. The County should look at this. He said if you are in Cold Springs and want a CAB for our area, please share information.

Ray Lake stated when he was CAB chair; we used a PA system. Pat Shea left it with someone. He said it would be nice if it was used. Ms. Wilson stated she believes it's at the County office and will be brought in.

John Dire stated the green waste program was successful. He complimented the fire district for the success of that program. He asked if burning was allowed yet. Teresa Aquila stated no, that is why they have the green waste day. She encouraged him to check the website for when they open pile burning.