



# Gerlach/Empire Citizen Advisory Board

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Gerlach/Empire Citizen Advisory Board held May 4, 2017 at the Gerlach General Improvement District – Community Room, 410 Cottonwood, Gerlach, NV

**1. \*CALL TO ORDER/ DETERMINATION OF QUORUM** – The meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM.

**MEMBERS PRESENT** – Elisabeth ‘Schatzi’ Gambrell, Allen Nash (filling in for Lisa Nash), Tina Walters, Brooke Covey (filling in for Sonya Deforest).

**ABSENT MEMBERS (Excused):** Sonya DeForest, Matthew Ebert, Lisa Nash.

**2. \*PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – The pledge of allegiance was recited.

**3. \*PUBLIC COMMENT** –

Sherman Boxx said he is a candidate for Washoe County Sherriff. He said he is concerned with the resident deputy program up here. The current deputy has to commute up. He said there are no resident deputy during the week. There needs to be someone here for you every day. It’s a concern. The new guy coming is in training. He went through the field program. That should have been done 6 months ago before David’s time expired.

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 4, 2017:** Elisabeth Gambrell moved to approve the agenda for **MAY 4, 2017**. Brooke Covey seconded the motion to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

**5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 2, 2017:** Elisabeth Gambrell moved to approve the minutes for **FEBRUARY 2, 2017**. Brooke Covey seconded the motion to approve the minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

**6. \*UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE** –

- Elisabeth said were approved for CBGB grant. We were in the pool and we won it.
- We received correspondence from Nevada Hopes for June 16.
- Gerlach “happenings” newspaper will go back into publication

**7.\* PUBLIC SAFETY AND COMMUNITY REPORTS/UPDATES**

**7A.\*Gerlach Fire** – Pat Irwin, Gerlach Fire Services Community Coordinator, will provide information regarding the Gerlach Combination Fire Department and calls for service in the area. (This item is for information only and no action will be taken by the CAB.)

Pat Irwin gave a quick overview:

- Main focus: EMT class – it’s been a long process. We appreciate the extra time and effort. All the provisional’s are there. Several of you went up to the disaster training at the airport to make sure you have incident command property. This group learned a lot and networked. REMSA gave a ride-along after. June 2 & 3 is testing. Running an EMR test is a requirement of a Fire Fighter.
- Community services – attending the food bank and meeting with seniors.
- June 16 is the Nevada Hopes health fair. Compression CPR.
- 12 volunteers took hiatus from training to prepare for burning man. Fire fighter training will resume after burning man.
- Some issues at fire station; we have put in for grants and budget approval.
- The sidewalks aren’t really sidewalks; putting in cement to keep the water away from station
- Cooperative agreement with burning man

- Received the Gurney grant and HGH will do the install for free.
- Requesting a forestry grant for wildland training and equipment
- Sparks fire dept and Chester fire donated supplies
- Budget is flat from last year;
- Continue retention and recruitment
- Elisabeth thanked Pat for the tree problem which is a safety problem. Pat said we are working to take down the tree that is falling down. It was a team effort with friends of black rock, burning man. Elisabeth said we appreciate it.
- Elisabeth asked about gurney install – will we be without a ambulance. Pat said we will bring in a reserve.
- Elisabeth asked about the budget – is it for fire personnel or operation. Pat said its all encompassing. Pat said this is the normal process. He explained the different taxes and revenues from different sources. He said we are on track, and nothing is delayed.

**7B. \*Washoe County Sheriff's Office (WCSO)** – A representative of the Washoe County Sheriff's Office may be available (unless on a call for service) to address public safety questions and concerns. For more information call (775) 328-3001 or online at [www.washoesheriff.com](http://www.washoesheriff.com) (This item is for information only and no action will be taken by the CAB.)

**Dave Evans, Washoe County sheriff's office gave an update:**

- He said we have more people coming through as it gets warm; he has been giving citations for speeding
- Kids will begin hanging out at the Empire store as school gets out
- People are out camping and coming in for burning man; he advised to be equipped with GPS.
- There has been some land disputes with the ranches
- He said we have had success with the drug problem
- Elisabeth asked about the inmates; Dave said the sheriff's office, county yards, fire station, inmate workers have been used for low level security levels. The workers can pull weeds for county owned property. Inmates come up every 4 months. Tina asked if the senior center can be involved.

**7C. \*Washoe County Emergency Management** – Aaron Kenneston, Washoe County Emergency Manager with the Office of the County Manager will provide information regarding recent flooding and snow events. Please feel free to contact Mr. Kenneston at (775) 337-5898 or via email at [akenneston@washoecounty.us](mailto:akenneston@washoecounty.us). (This item is for information only and no action will be taken by the CAB.)

**Aaron Kenneston, Washoe County Emergency Manager gave an update:**

- He said he loves coming up here
- He said Allen Nash had asked him about the culverts. Aaron said he went back to talk to CSD about the culverts in January, we had atmospheric rivers and flooding back in January. FEMA was up here looking at culverts and we may ask them to assist with funding from the flooding.
- Weather service said we had 200% of normal moisture year.
- He brought information about earthquake and fire
- He said he is proud of EMS program. Thank you for being part of emergency drill. Neighbor helping neighbor – as we get away from the city, ready access is more difficult. He said we appreciate the citizens being prepared.
- We are thinking about wildland season.
- Curious about playa and how that will dry out.
- Spent morning with earth quake crew

- Allen Nash said he drives by the culverts and they are full. Aaron said we are facing that everywhere. The federal government has issued 2 presidential declarations for the January and February flooding. They have pledge to reimburse 75% and help clear culverts. Benefit cost analysis – repair versus replace. He said it’s not happening as quickly as we would want. Our hazards are centrally located and short duration. In this case, it’s widespread of long duration. He said this has been taxing on us.

**8. \*VYA CONSERVATION DISTRICT** – For additional information on the District please visit [www.vyacd.org](http://www.vyacd.org). No representative was in attendance.

**9. \*PUBLIC OFFICIAL REPORTS**

**A. \*WASHOE COUNTY COMMISSIONER** – Washoe County Commissioner, Jeanne Herman, may be available to provide updated information on discussion and actions by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC).

Following her presentation Commissioner Herman may be available to address questions and concerns from the CAB and the audience. Commissioner Herman can be reached (775) 501-0002 or via email

[jherman@washoecounty.us](mailto:jherman@washoecounty.us).

She said she is working on the spraying for mosquitoes; the health department approved the spray. Aaron Kenneston said bad news is there is only enough spray for 250 acres. On July 1, the new fiscal year, we will have more money for spray. He said we had a meeting with Health District and State of Nevada, and we are pursuing resources. We will do more. Please wear long sleeve. Looking at FEMA for funds for spray. Aaron said there are active groups that are anti-helicopter spraying because of wildlife. This may be a year you will see it. The most effective treatment is larvacide to treat before they become mosquitos. Brooke said neighbors use marigold powder in their water. It’s safe for livestock. Brooke said it will help with the gnats.

Jeanne Herman spoke about the meals for the kids at the school.

**10.\*COUNTY UPDATE** – Al Rogers, Washoe County Management Services Director with the Office of the County Manager will be available to provide an update on County services. For additional information please feel free to contact Mr. Rogers at [arogers@washoecounty.us](mailto:arogers@washoecounty.us). (This item is for information only and no action will be taken by the CAB.)

- Al Rogers said VYA conversation district was kept on the agenda at the pleasure of the board. Jeanne gave her discretionary funds to VYA. He spoke about the agenda standing items.
- In terms for the future budget, we can provide a budget 101 presentation – what we provide for sheriff, fire, seniors, and how it affects day to day. We are seeing increase in taxes. Half of county’s revenue is property taxes; there were property tax caps. Property tax is going up 2.6 % which is a limiting factor to revenue.
- Little valley fire, flood incident in January and February – emergencies were \$8 million dollar events. It will take years to address it. The county will take the stabilization and rainy day funds to make sure we can pay for those expenses during recovery phases and hope to be reimbursed from federal government. We wanted to hold status quote for budget. We did request funds for additional services and those won’t be funded. He said we have asked departments to be creative and dive deep. Departments have looked at priorities and become flexible and imaginative. It’s been positive.
- Grants update: Gabriella Enfield had come to present to this board last year. We are waiting on the National endowment arts grant. CBGB grant has been awarded \$100,000 for economic development. We will start with assessment. Plan would be identify scope of work, award a vendor, and identify project.
- NEA grant was a \$200K ask grant. We don’t know if we will get that.
- Tina asked about the CBGB; Al said it can take a year to complete.

- Elisabeth asked about Washoe services bus and its limitations. She said it takes 2 hours to Reno and then comeback. It's a long day. She said they want to be allowed out to go to Cedarville and go outside of Washoe County for fun trips. Al said he can find that out.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**11. FUTURE CITIZEN ADVISORY BOARD MEETINGS** – Discussion and possible direction on changing the day and/or time of future scheduled Gerlach/Empire Citizen Advisory board meetings (Possible Action).

The board discussed if they want to stay on Thursday with the GID meeting; do we want to change time/day? Al Rogers said there are other CABs and we would work to reduce schedule conflicts. Changing the time would be a problem for people coming up or those who live here. Elisabeth said we would like to move it to Fridays. It's 4 times a year. Al Rogers said Fridays are doable. From a community stand point, if it's ideal, we can make it work. Allen asked the standing reports if Fridays would be difficult. Brooke said we often go to town on Friday afternoons, so it needs to be earlier. Mr. Boxx said he likes he can attend both GID and CAB so if it was two different days; he has to come up twice. Allen said he wants to continue to take input from the community.

**12. \*CHAIRMAN/BOARD MEMBER ITEMS/NEXT AGENDA ITEMS** -This item is limited to announcements by CAB members and topics/issues posed for future workshops/agendas.

Delay in getting the minutes and agenda– Al Rogers said we can put into practice to reach out to chair 30 days prior to the board meeting. The next meeting is the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of August.

**13. \*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.

Marjory Reynolds said she was working on a mural project in town. The current mural is about the immigrant trails and working on the land speed. She said we want to do projects that are educational, informative and people can learn from. She said she attended the Rural Round up in Elko. She said she learned about the community experience in tourism and marketing destinations. She said the travel Nevada and Nevada humanities are willing to help and give money to rural places. They know what we have. Dave from the Sherriff's department told Marjory to work with the Sheriff's department so that he knows it's a project and not graffiti.

**ADJOURNMENT - Meeting adjourned at 6:24 p.m.**

Number of CAB members present: 4

Number of Public Present: 10

Presence of Elected Officials: 1

Number of staff present: 2

Submitted By: Misty Moga