

# NORTH VALLEYS CITIZEN ADVISORY BOARD



## DRAFT

Minutes of the regular meeting of the North Valleys Citizen Advisory Board held June 14, 2010 at the North Valleys Regional Sports Complex Community Building 8085 Silver Lake Drive, Reno, Nevada

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by, Sarah Chvilicek, Chair. Sarah Chvilicek led the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **MEMBERS PRESENT** – Eric Arentz, Cold Springs, Sarah Chvilicek, District 5, Francine Donshick District 3 (arrived at 7:18 p.m.), Earl Walling, North Valleys, Linda Walls, North Valleys and John White, North Valleys.  
**MEMBERS ABSENT** - Mark Gallegos, District 3 Alternate, unexcused and Frank Schenk, Cold Springs, excused.
3. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA** – Eric Arentz moved to approve the June 14, 2010 agenda as posted. John White seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
4. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** – John White moved to approve the minutes of the joint meeting of May 24, 2010 meeting as submitted. Earl Walling seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. John White moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 24, 2010 meeting as submitted. Earl Walling seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- 5.\* **REPORTS AND UPDATES** – The following reports and updates were informational only and no action was taken. The reports will be limited to five minutes each.
  - A. **WASHOE COUNTY UPDATE:**
    - Commissioner Bonnie Weber was present to provide an update on County issues. Commissioner Weber announced that Washoe County is looking for volunteers to greet people at the NACo's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary/2010 Annual Conference and Exhibition on July 16<sup>th</sup> through July 20<sup>th</sup>. Information is available on the Washoe County web-site. Cold Springs senior residents are meeting at the Cold Springs Community Center on Thursdays and Saturdays from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
    - Commissioner Kitty Jung was not present to provide an update on County issues.
    - Lorrie Adams, County Liaison for Districts 4 and 5, is available to answer your questions and concerns. Please feel free to contact her at [ladams@washoecounty.us](mailto:ladams@washoecounty.us) (775) 328-2720. To sign up to receive email updates from the County, visit [www.washoecounty.us/cmail](http://www.washoecounty.us/cmail). Monthly updates on County issues in your area are available online at [www.washoecounty.us/cab](http://www.washoecounty.us/cab) (follow the link to your CAB).
    - Coffee with Commissioner Weber will not be scheduled in July and August. Meet with Commissioner Weber for coffee the 3rd Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at the Sierra Sage Golf Course starting in September.
- 6.\* **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Comment heard under this item will be limited to items not on the agenda. Any time limits for this public comment item and for public testimony during an agenda item will be set by the Chair at the beginning of the meeting, but the time limit per person shall be no less than three minutes. The Chair may also grant additional time for persons representing a group at the beginning of the meeting. Testimony during an agenda item shall be limited to the subject of the agenda item. Comments are to be made to the CAB as a whole.
  - Sarah Chvilicek asked for public comment and hearing none, closed this item.
7. **SPECIAL BUSINESS** - (The staff contact listed on items for Community Development may not be in attendance but can be contacted with code and policy questions.)
  - A.\* **Application for Construction of At-Grade Railroad Crossing** – Tim Sweeney, Sweeney Architecture, representing Mr. Ujwal Bafna, managing member of Kranti LLC, presented information on the application to the Nevada Public Utilities Commission for the construction of an at-grade railroad crossing to be located at the extension of Heindel Road in Washoe County on the Reno Branch of the Union Pacific Railroad to serve future development on Assessor's Parcel No. 082-180-09, pursuant to NRS 704.300 and NAC 703.445, said crossing to be constructed entirely at the property owner's cost following a decision by the Nevada Public Utilities Commission. The Washoe County Commission continued this item at its May 11, 2010 meeting to allow public input on the proposal to adopt a resolution to submit the application to the Nevada Public Utilities Commission. Following the presentation, Mr. Sweeney was available to respond to questions from the CAB members and citizens. A copy of the May 11, 2010 Washoe County Commission staff report can be accessed on the North Valleys CAB website at [http://www.washoecounty.us/comdev\\_files/cab/north\\_valleys/051110\\_bcc\\_item\\_10b.pdf](http://www.washoecounty.us/comdev_files/cab/north_valleys/051110_bcc_item_10b.pdf). (This item was for information only and the CAB took no action, but comments from the CAB meeting will be provided to the Washoe County Commission.)  
**Comments and Concerns**
    - In response to questions raised, Mr. Sweeney stated that the proposed crossing would be the only way for the property owner to have access to his property.
    - Questions were raised whether new residential development would be allowed with only one ingress and egress available.

- Mr. Sweeney stated that costs for development would be sent out to bid and the applicant is currently asking or approval to only build the crossing.
- Linda Wall stated that she did not see any problem with the proposed project.
- Francine Donshick stated that she does not have any concerns regarding the proposed project.
- Mr. Sweeney stated that the crossing would support any kind of traffic and that he does not think that the property owner plans to flip the property to another developer.
- Mr. Sweeney stated that as soon as the crossing is safe, it would be open to public access.
- Sarah Chvilicek stated concern that there are approved subdivisions that have not been built. The applicants have gone bankrupt and the sites have become eyesores. Ms. Chvilicek stated opposition to any new development until existing applications have been built.
- Gary Feero stated concern that the Assistant County Manager is telling the board how to state their motion by already drafting a motion for approval. In addition, Mr. Feero stated that due to the economy, there are millions of square feet approved and not built and probably an equal number built and not being used. The same issue is with residential property approved and not built. Mr. Feero stated that increased traffic, the on to Virginia, Heindel Rd. and Lemmon Drives would create hazardous to vehicle traffic conditions. Mr. Feero stated that there is an approved child care facility at the end of Heindel Road. The contiguous land standards allows for a 300 foot buffer between industrial and residential development. Mr. Feero stated that he can not see where this project would not create a fiscal impact. Mr. Feero stated that residents of Horizon Hills have a single outlet. Mr. Feero added that there are already two railroad crossings, one at Golden Valley and the other at Horizon Hills and another crossing would add negative noise impacts from train horns for local residents. Mr. Feero addressed the costs of sewer and water infrastructure as well as compliance with cul-de-sac and contiguous standards.
- Sarah Chvilicek noted that this item is non-action and the language for a motion was prepared for the Board of County Commissioners and not the Citizen Advisory Board.
- Commissioner Bonnie Weber noted that the applicant requested that this application be delayed until the Citizen Advisory Board and local citizens had an opportunity to review the proposed project.
- Ms. Chvilicek added that any development application will be brought back before this board as an action item.
- Richard (last name inaudible), resident on Meyers Ave off of Heindel Road, asked if the applicant has acquired an easement on the private roadway and residents are on private domestic wells.
- Betsy Hambleton asked if the applicant has water to serve a proposed development project and advised the applicant that adjacent property owners are on domestic wells and septic systems.

**B.\* Washoe County Medical Reserve Corps** - Betsy Hambleton, Medical Reserve Corps Program Coordinator, provided a PowerPoint overview of Washoe County' Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), that included information about the MRC's mission and how the program builds resiliency into communities' disaster/emergency response programs. Following her presentation, Ms. Hambleton was available to answer questions from the CAB and audience. (This item was for information only and the CAB took no action.)

**Comments and Concerns**

- In response to questions raised, Ms. Hambleton stated that the MRC works cooperatively with the CERT Program.
- Sarah Chvilicek offered to work with the MRC program with volunteer liability issues.
- Ms. Hambleton stated that volunteers are subject to background checks.

**C.\* Washoe County Building & Safety Department Programs** – Don Jeppson, County Building Official, from the Building & Safety Department was not in attendance to present two new Building & Safety Department Programs. The "Got Permits?" Program is to educate the public about when permits are required and the value of having required permits. The Residential Amnesty Program beginning May 1, 2010 to October 31, 2010 will allow homeowners to obtain permits without additional penalties for projects completed without a permit and to have information recorded about the unpermitted work against the property. Penalties for work completed without a permit will be significantly increased and strictly enforced after conclusion of the program. This item will be rescheduled on a future NV CAB agenda. (This item was informational only; no action was to be taken by the CAB.)

**Comments and Concerns**

- Claudia Vanlydegraf asked who made the decision, who approved it without a vote of Washoe County citizens and stated concern that Washoe County was abolishing the grandfather clause for older structures.
- In response to concerns raised, Commissioner Weber stated that the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) adopted the building code and there is currently an amnesty period. Some of the codes will be reviewed by the BCC during future public meetings. Commissioner Weber also stated that this item was an agenda item and public comment was heard.

**D.\* Fire Adapted Communities: The Next Step in Wildfire Preparedness** – Grant Nejedlo, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension introduced a free workshop on fire adapted communities that will take place from 1 p.m. to

2 p.m. on Saturday, July 31 at the Red Rock Volunteer Fire Station at 16180 Red Rock Road. In collaboration with the City of Reno Fire Department, the Nevada Fire Safe Council and the Washoe County Fire Suppression Program, the Living With Fire Program will present upon the benefits of fire adapted communities which exist when neighbors work together to implement important community-wide fire preparedness recommendations. Following these recommendations can greatly reduce the likelihood your home would be destroyed by wildfire, even with little or no assistance from firefighters. This workshop will provide homeowners the knowledge and skills needed to live safely in a high fire hazard area, including how to best prepare your home and safely evacuate your family should wildfire threaten the neighborhood.

John Howe provided a written report on recent Silver Lake Volunteer Fire Department Activities. Mr. Howe reported that grass and brush is very dry and wildland fires will burn fast. The volunteers responded to two brush fires, seven medical emergencies and two vehicle accidents. Mr. Howe noted that they have had to respond to celebration bon fires lit by local students. Weekly training sessions included one officer completing an instructor course, three members completing apparatus operation, wildland refresher and the department participated in a public wildland fire awareness day on the Redfield campus. The annual BBQ fund-raiser was held on June 6, 2010. (This item was for information only and the CAB took no action.)

**Comments and Concerns**

- Concerns were raised regarding getting the information out to local residents with only one public event in the north valleys. Mr. Nejedlo stated that notices will be mailed to all of the residents.

**8.\* CHAIRMAN/MEMBER COMMENTS** - (This item limited to announcements of topics/issues posed for future workshops/agendas)

- Sarah Chvilicek requested a report from Washoe County regarding completion of the culvert construction on Silver Knolls Blvd.
- Gary Feero requested information on roadwork by the Forest Service on Peavine that is making vehicle traffic impassable.
- **Next Agenda Items:** Got Permits, County Road Dept. regarding completion of construction of the culvert on Peavine and Forest Service regarding roadways on Peavine.

**9. ADJOURNMENT** – Francine Donshick moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 p.m. Eric Arentz seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted By: Allayne Donnelly-Everett, Recording Secretary