



North Valleys Citizen Advisory Board

Minutes of the regular meeting of the North Valleys Citizen Advisory Board held on October 14th, 2024, at 6:00 P.M. North Valleys Library (1075 N Hills Blvd. Reno, NV 89506)

1. CALL TO ORDER/ DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

PRESENT – Teresa Aquila, Aaron Jennings, Wanida Black

ABSENT – Roger Edwards

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES for August 2024 meeting.

The minutes for the August 12th CAB meeting were not approved due to a quorum not being established.

4. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Connor Conway, a candidate for judge in the upcoming November election, emphasized his extensive experience in the legal field. Currently serving as a court referee, he has 8 years of experience on the bench and 32 years in total, including 15 years as a public defender and another 15-16 years running his own law office. Conway expressed his desire to continue serving his community, stating that his knowledge of the law and experience make him well-suited for the role of judge. He asked for support in the upcoming election and offered campaign cards for those interested.

5. PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATES

TRUCKEE MEADOWS FIRE DEPARTMENT

Battalion Chief James Solaro provided several updates on public safety activities for the month. A Green Waste event took place on the weekend of October 12th and 13th at Lemon Valley and Silver Lake. Upcoming events include one on November 2nd at the VFD station in Red Rock, on October 20th at Lazy 5 Regional Park in Spanish Springs, and on October 19th at the Ironwood Event Center in Palomino Valley. Currently, open burning is not permitted due to insufficient moisture and ongoing fire restrictions. This will be reassessed once fuel moisture levels improve. A "Night of Gratitude" event will be held on October 15th at Greater Nevada Field, recognizing first responders and raising funds for local nonprofit organizations. Gates open at 5:00 p.m., with the event starting at 6:00 p.m. A new Fire Academy is underway in Carson City, with six recruits being trained to fill vacancies and replace staff leaving in early 2024. For the month of September, the North Valleys area (Cold Springs, Stead, Red Rock, etc.) experienced four fires. There were 138 medical calls, 10 motor vehicle accidents (MVAs), two hazardous materials incidents, and 39 good intent calls. Overall, the district handled 216 calls for service in September.

A resident asked how the Green Waste event went over the weekend and James Solaro responded that he did not know and hasn't heard anything yet.

WASHOE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Lieutenant J Avina shared positive updates for the community, highlighting the success of the Warm Springs CAB and the Mobile Outreach Safety Team (MOST). MOST is a partnership between civilians, clinicians, and mental health counselors, providing support from day to midnight. Jessica McGaha works alongside deputies to respond to calls, offering mental health support, particularly in critical situations such as suicidal individuals. The team can resolve many situations on the spot or through follow-up support via phone. Additionally, the speaker noted a decline in the number of "shots fired" calls in the area, particularly over the summer months, which is a positive trend. This decrease may be attributed to improved information-sharing, enforcement efforts, and alternative target shooting areas.

Jessica McGaha, a member of the Mobile Outreach Safety Team (MOST), explained the team's role in providing mental health support. MOST consists of licensed mental health clinicians who ride with patrol deputies, assisting with various calls throughout their shifts. Jessica shared examples of her work, including helping an elderly woman with dementia, assisting a suicidal individual, and supporting a young woman experiencing a psychotic episode. These interventions involved connecting individuals to resources, such as family, medical care, or emergency services. The team operates daily from 6:00 AM to midnight and works with a case manager to ensure ongoing care for individuals they assist. The goal is to build relationships and connect people with community resources to prevent frequent 911 calls and improve long-term support. The team has been active in Washoe County for almost three years, with the co-response model in place for over a decade, gradually gaining traction.

A resident asked if McGaha is staying with a deputy or if she is out on her own. McGaha clarified that she is assigned to a deputy for the entire shift, and they stay together throughout the day. If they receive a call, such as a traffic accident, both will respond to that first. However, if a mental health crisis call comes in, the deputy will temporarily pick up the clinician and take them to the new call while the deputy handles the previous incident. Avina mentioned that she works alone on her shift, with MOST operating seven days a week from day watch hours until midnight. If a crisis occurs outside her shift, deputies will respond and then send an email to MOST, allowing the team to follow up the next day. This ensures continuous support without gaps in care.

A resident asked whether this is a program with Washoe County or the City of Reno. McGaha responded that MOST operates as a partnership between the Washoe County Sheriff's Office, the City of Reno, and Sparks Police Department. Reno Police Department has its own team of clinicians employed by the city, while Washoe County's clinicians work with the Sheriff's Office, and Sparks PD has one clinician. MOST clinicians cover the vast area of Washoe County, which includes both urban and remote locations. When clinicians are far from a call, they use phone communication to assist deputies and mediate situations until they can arrive on scene. Avina added that the program has been praised as a valuable resource, with the presence of law enforcement combined with mental health support often de-escalating situations. Clinicians never respond alone but work alongside deputies or can provide follow-up support via phone calls.

or referrals. The program operates 24/7, ensuring no one falls through the cracks, and maintains constant communication to ensure timely follow-up.

A resident emphasized the value of the Mobile Outreach Safety Team (MOST), noting that it addresses situations that are often outside the typical responsibilities of police, such as mental health care. MOST is designed to be the entry point for crises, handling cases that don't necessarily require law enforcement intervention. Avina mentioned that clinicians on the team, although equipped with safety gear, are not commissioned officers and don't carry out law enforcement duties. Instead, they work alongside deputies or respond independently, particularly when mental health issues are involved. Calls for service are reviewed by deputies, and if the situation can be resolved through a phone call, MOST clinicians will attempt to intervene in that way. However, if the issue requires a physical response, deputies and clinicians will go to the scene together. This approach ensures that mental health issues are addressed by the appropriate professionals.

6. NEVADA GREAT BASIN TRIBES

James Phoenix, member of the Pyramid Lake Paiute tribe, a retired police officer and retired member of the Nevada National Guard, presented a discussion on Native Americans in the Great Basin, focusing on their history, tribes, and culture. Phoenix shared his personal experience working with the Mobile Outreach Safety Team (MOST) during 4 years of his 25 years with the Reno Police Department, noting how the program has reduced calls for chronic issues by involving mental health professionals. He then shifted to talk about Native American history in the region, specifically the Great Basin. He explained the geographical scope of this area, including the tribes who historically inhabited it: the Paiute, Shoshone, and Washoe. Phoenix highlighted significant archaeological sites like the Lovelock Cave and Wizard Beach, where remains dating back over 10,000 years were discovered, emphasizing the deep history of Native Americans in Nevada. Phoenix also discussed the three major tribes in the region: the Pyramid Lake Paiute, Shoshone, and Washoe, each with their unique histories, cultures, and current populations. He provided insight into the history of Native American reservations in Nevada, such as the Pyramid Lake Paiute Reservation established in 1874, and the Reno Sparks Indian Colony established in 1917, which was originally a camp for Native Americans on the outskirts of town. Phoenix also covered the concept of "urban Indians," referring to Native Americans who relocated to urban areas under government policies like the Relocation Act of 1956. He mentioned the importance of tribal sovereignty, explaining that each tribe has its own constitution, laws, and government, and operates as a nation within a nation. Finally, Phoenix touched on the history of Native American voting rights, noting that while Native Americans were granted U.S. citizenship in 1924, they also were finally granted the right to vote. He emphasized the significance of voting both in U.S. elections and tribal elections, which are run independently by each tribe. Throughout the presentation, Phoenix stressed the importance of storytelling in Native American culture and encouraged the audience to engage with and share the stories they learn about Native American history and experiences.

A resident asked about the tribe's relationship with Burning Man. James Phoenix explained the relationship between the Pyramid Lake Tribe and the Burning Man event, which many

participants pass through the reservation to attend. Over the past 25 years, the tribe and Burning Man organizers have developed a collaborative working relationship that improves each year. Phoenix, as a former chairman, described how the tribe and the event work together, with regular meetings and annual contracts to address issues like trash management, debris cleanup, and ensuring respectful behavior from attendees. The tribe briefs its council each year about the plans and logistics for the event, and Phoenix emphasized the importance of maintaining an ongoing relationship between the two parties for the future.

A resident raised the issue of voting access on tribal lands, noting that it had been a problem in past years. Phoenix responded that in 2024, things have improved significantly, with the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe being the first to establish a voting station on their lands. While progress has been made, Phoenix emphasized that it requires the tribe to take the initiative and build relationships with local and state authorities. The resident argued that the Nevada government should proactively ensure that tribal communities have everything they need, including voting access, rather than waiting for tribes to reach out. They also expressed support for the idea that the wider Nevada community should act as allies to help make these improvements. Phoenix agreed, emphasizing the importance of collaboration and community support.

7. NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT HUB

Sally Johnston provided details about upcoming community meetings related to local development projects. There is a meeting in Sun Valley on October 16th regarding a proposed 65-foot monopole project at 700 Apple Blossom Dr. Another meeting about a multifamily project on Chocolate Drive is scheduled for October 17th at 5:30 PM at Hobie's. Additionally, there is a meeting in Gerlach about a well monitoring project, but no further details were provided. These events are part of the District 5 projects listed on the Washoe County Hub website.

8. BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS/REQUESTS/DISCUSSION

No announcements were made.

9. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Pat Davison inquired about the rescheduling of the fire mitigation meeting that was canceled last month. They confirmed they are working on rescheduling it for next month, as the presenter is currently in Idaho. The meeting was originally planned for tonight, but JJ stepped in as a substitute. Efforts are being made to bring the presenter to Rancho Haven next month.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:42 P.M.