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Spanish Springs Citizen Advisory Board

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 regular meeting of the Spanish Springs Citizen Advisory Board held December 1, 2021, 6:00 p.m. at the Spanish Springs Library at (7100A Pyramid Lake Highway).

1. *CALL TO ORDER/ DETERMINATION OF QUORUM – The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sam Metz, Bruce Parks, Matt Lee, Greg Coppola.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Stan Smith (excused), Ken Theiss (resigned from the CAB)

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

3. *GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT AND DISCUSSION THEREOF –

Lisa Durgin, Bridle Path resident since 2004, stated based on where we live, she wanted to know about the traffic signal at the intersection at Egyptian Drive and Pyramid. She stated it's a dangerous intersection. She voiced her opposition to removing flashing lights on Pyramid. Large rock trucks are traveling at high rates of speed on Pyramid, and it's helpful for them to have a light to indicate to slow traffic down. It's important not to treat the whole state of Nevada the same. She said we need to consider keeping those lights.

Alan Tom, Bridle Path resident, stated he agrees with Lisa about the yellow traffic lights. He spoke about the recent accident in Carson City. If you remove the yellow lights, you will have the same thing happen, if not worse. This is a recreational road to Moonrocks and Pyramid Lake. He said you would have more deaths and injuries. He said he tows the toy hauler and relies on those lights to slow. He said that without those lights; he will have less reaction time. He said the residents and truck drivers rely on those lights. More residents are living here now. Please do not remove them. Don't make us all the same in the State of Nevada. Do not remove traffic signal lights. Sam Metz asked if those flashing lights encourage people to speed up through the intersection. Mr. Tom stated there will always be some people who will speed through. He said he doesn't believe it's intentional. The majority rely on those lights; we rely on them to slow down whether you are towing or driving a big truck. He said we have heavy traffic here. He doesn't believe they are speeding through because of the yellow flashing light. Semi-trucks need the lights to help stop.

Deanne Endemano agreed with Alan and Lisa. She said she is in her 80s; she has always been a careful driver. She said her son drives a semi-truck, and those lights are useful. She said we would still like the recommendations to go to the County Commissioners. She thanked the Board for their service.

James Schivally stated he is a civil engineer who works on the railroad. There are warning lights at train crossings; they need that warning light for time to slow down. There have been accidents because they sped up to beat the flashing lights. We have a lot of heavy equipment with double, triple trucks. He said driving a train takes over a mile to stop.

Harvey Lacey, Pebble Creek resident, addressed Mr. Metz question about people speeding up. He said he is retired from law enforcement. He said you will always get people who speed through the lights, but they would do that without them. He said he believes those lights work. He thanked the Board for their service.

Sharon Thygesen stated she had lived here since 2014. He said there is a distribution center where the big trucks deliver goods. There is a lot more truck traffic than what was recognized in the past, especially with construction. She expressed concern about the removal of the flashing lights.

Jana MacMillan provided highlights of upcoming programs and events at the Spanish Springs Library, including a Maker Christmas workshop, author reading, and concerts for holidays. She also noted a Lego robotic program and Dungeons and Dragons program.

Stan Metz read an email from Stacy Miller to be read into the record. It's attached hereto.

Debbie Callus, a 50-year resident, stated she has seen this area grow tremendously. We need the yellow lights. She said the dividers are going to create more accidents and problems. People who live on the west side of the street cannot cross to go to the shopping center. They have to travel through the subdivision. She said she sees so many people U-turn, and there are accidents. There needs to be a stoplight to help slow people down and allow people to get out.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF OCTOBER 06, 2021 (for Possible Action)

MOTION: Sam Metz noted he didn't vote for the meeting schedule at the previous meeting, and it was recorded as a 'yea.' Bruce Parks moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Matt Lee seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

5. PYRAMID HIGHWAY US 395 CONNECTION PROJECT PHASE 1 –

Doug Maloy (RTC) provided a PowerPoint presentation on the planned capacity and multimodal improvements for Pyramid Highway between Queen Way and Golden View Drive.

Doug Maloy announced the public information meeting would be held on December 14, 4-7 p.m., with a presentation at 5:30p.m. at Lena Juniper Elementary School. He stated a mailer will be sent out. He noted there is a link for the public to attend virtually. He shared the ways people can provide public comment.

Alan Tom asked about restriction and lane flows during construction. Mr. Maloy stated a lot of work will be done at night. He stated it would take two construction seasons: two years. Mr. Tom asked about traffic flow and if they are looking at the future to anticipate increased traffic with development. Mr. Maloy stated we will reevaluate, but we are looking out to 2035. We can model those projections. The traffic does progress towards the core of the city and tapers out.

Maureen Boyer referenced the slide with the statistics. She stated she didn't see warning lights in the plan. Mr. Maloy stated it's his understand the one at Queen and Disc sight distance reasons. He said he rather not answer about the flashing lights but can find out the answer.

A public member asked where the snow removal would go if the walls are being constructed. Mr. Maloy spoke about drainage and curb and gutter improvements.

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Dawn Guyon asked about the expansion and wanted clarification as the traffic will back up there with all the units coming in. He stated it's being expanded out to Los Altos. He said this is the first phase. The reason for four lanes, the connector takes a huge amount of traffic off of Golden. He said the connector is a huge component. He said he hopes there is support in the future. He said it pushes traffic further along. He said the connector is just south of Pyramid Highway. There will be a connection to Pyramid, south of Highland Ranch Parkway.

Bruce Durgin asked if it's a lack of funds to increase the number of lanes to extend out past Los Altos up to Sparks Blvd. There is a mess out there. There are two gas stations, kitty-corner. He said there are accidents. To stop the three lanes at the church and to put up walls, those walls won't come down. Mr. Maloy stated those walls aren't past the church. He said it's part of the plan; this is a phase with a future phase, making this all work.

A public member asked about future phases. Mr. Maloy stated 2031-2050; however, the Regional Transportation Plan is a living document that can change as priorities arise.

Matt Lee asked who could answer the questions regarding the flashing yellow lights. Candee stated she would work with Mr. Maloy to get a response.

Sam Metz said he hopes he will pass along those comments to those who can answer the questions.

Bruce Parks asked who designed the Highland Ranch Parking lot. Mr. Parks asked about the median constructed that prevents people from being able to turn into the library. Mr. Maloy stated accessibility is a huge part of this.

Zoom:

Steve Grosz asked about the connector and future projects. Mr. Maloy stated there would be a southbound lane added on 395 out to Stead. This phase will add a lane southbound from Stead to the Spaghetti bowl.

6. OFF-LEASH DOG PILOT PROGRAM AT LAZY 5 PARK – Celia Walker, Park Ranger with Washoe County Regional Parks and Open Space, will introduce a pilot program for an off-leash dog area in Spanish Springs. (non-action item)

Celia Walker introduced herself and provided a PowerPoint slideshow with background information.

Lisa Durgin said it's a great idea and will be appreciated. She asked how will the rules be enforced. Ms. Walker stated for animal emergencies such as aggressive dogs; it would be Animal Control for any emergencies. They will patrol their off-leash parks. Rangers are stationed here; that is why we chose these parks as the pilot program for off-leash parks.

Bruce Parks asked if this would add to their workload. He stated you work hard for little pay. Ms. Walker stated it makes our job easier. It gives people an option. It's nice to be able to direct them to the dog park. Bruce Parks thanked her for what she does for the community.

7. WASHOE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE UPDATE - A Sheriff Department representative was not present.

8. FUTURE CAB SCHEDULE - Frequency of meetings & set date of next meeting (for possible action)

Candee Ramos, Washoe County, provided an introduction and provided background.

Sam Metz stated he wants monthly meetings. He stated bi-monthly seems like we are going backward. He said they need to remain on a monthly schedule. If we want to help neighbors and the community, we need it every month. He said they could be quick if we don't have many items.

Matt Lee stated if we won't have these presentations, we might not have anything on the agenda.

MOTION: Bruce Parks moved to have monthly meetings. Sam Metz seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Dana Caldwell asked a clarifying question about topics of concern. Ms. Ramos encouraged her to email CAB.

Bruce Durgin asked where this information would go. Greg Coppola stated minutes and information would go to the County Departments and County Commissioners.

9. ELECTION OF A NEW CAB CHAIR - Election by the CAB members will be held to elect the Chair for 2021/2022 term, elected officers will be effective immediately (For Possible Action)

MOTION:

Chair: Sam Metz nominated Greg Coppola to serve as CAB Chair. Matt Lee seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Vice chair: Sam Metz nominated Matt Lee to serve as CAB Vice Chair. Bruce Parks seconded the motion which carried 3-1. Matt Lee opposed but accepted Vice Chair position.

10. CHAIRMAN/BOARD MEMBER ITEMS- This item is limited to announcements by CAB members. (This item is for information only and no action will be taken by the CAB).

Matt Lee stated the lights were the hot topic.

11. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT AND DISCUSSION THEREOF –

Commissioner Vaughn Hartung provided an update and answered questions.

- Intersection at Pyramid/Sunset Springs/Egyptian
- Access to Lazy 5 Park
- Highland Ranch Parkway improvements
- 6-lanes to Sparks Blvd.
- Advance Signal Warning System (ASU)

A public member asked if we should contact the governor and head of NDOT. Candee Ramos stated to sign in and will send a link to the information.

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Ken Theiss stated the post office box on the east side Calle De La Plata needs to be addressed. Ms. Ramos stated the post offices are federal, but we will follow up. Jeanne, a public member, agreed and provided a solution with painting stripes.

Kerry P. stated where the new WinCo is located, three streets come out to Pyramid Highway. The one closest to Pyramid, there is no egress lane. He said he could see when people are leaving WinCo; many cars will be trying to get on Calle De La Plata. Someone needs to evaluate that.

Dana Caldwell stated an urgent care would go in there. She stated she hopes the egress improves with emergency vehicles will go in there.

Greg Coppola announced applications for two alternate positions.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Number of CAB members present: 4

Number of Public Present: 65

Presence of Elected Officials: 1

Number of staff present: 1