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Description automatically generated**  **South Truckee Meadows/Washoe Valley Citizen Advisory Board**

**Minutes of the regular meeting of the South Truckee Meadows/Washoe Valley Citizen Advisory Board on April 3, 2025, at 6:00 P.M. at South Valleys Library**

1. **CALL TO ORDER/ DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

Present – Marge Frandsen, Brad Stanley, Adolfo Correa, Penny Brock, Drew Ribar, Colleen Winans

Absent – Natalie Christopher,

1. **PLEGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The pledge was recited

1. **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT –**

A citizen shared their appreciation for the Washoe County Library System, emphasizing its critical role in supporting both children and educators. Over 14 years, they’ve used local libraries extensively as a parent, a teacher, and a grandparent. They noted that some elementary schools lack library funding, making public libraries essential. They praised engaging activities like a Dewey Decimal open house at the Northwest Library, which sparked curiosity in their grandchild. The citizen also highlighted the value of audiobooks and digital resources, especially for seniors, and encouraged others to explore the library’s modern offerings beyond traditional books.

Carol Hill expressed concern about plans to fence off Washoe Lake, which is a primary water source for wild Mustangs. Her daughter is involved in Mustang rescue efforts and helps maintain existing fencing, but the group lacks resources to manage additional fencing in remote areas. Carol emphasized that the Mustangs attract tourists, benefiting the local economy, and stressed the importance of allowing the horses continued access to water. She also urged that fencing efforts be focused along highways like Veterans Blvd and Highway 50, where horses are at risk of being hit by vehicles.

Julie Ullman, branch manager at South Valleys Library, highlighted upcoming celebrations for National Library Week and National Volunteer Week. She recognized the library's 20 volunteers who assist with shelving and community programs like knitting, bridge, mahjong, and book clubs—many of which are especially popular with seniors. She shared upcoming events, including visits from the Million Nevada Beekeepers and performances like the Retro Radio Dolls. Julie encouraged participation in a technology survey to help guide future services and reminded attendees that library cardholders can check out state park passes for free access. She also noted the library provides digital access to major publications like the *New York Times* and *Wall Street Journal*.

Iris Jehle-Peppard, a resident of unincorporated Washoe County, expressed strong concern about a fence being installed by the Department of Agriculture, which she believes will negatively impact wild horses. She described the action as inhumane and harmful, questioned its necessity, and expressed confusion about who to contact to oppose it. Iris emphasized the beauty of the horses and noted their potential to contribute to the local economy through tourism.

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF** February 6, 2025 **– [For Possible Action]**

\*This item occurred after item #6.

Brad Stanley motioned to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2025, CAB meeting. Marge Frandsen seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

1. **ELECTION OF CAB CHAIR AND VICE CAB CHAIR -**

Brad Stanley nominated Penny Brock for CAB Chair and Penny Brock accepted the nomination. The South Truckee Meadows/ Washoe Valley CAB voted unanimously for Penny Brock Chair. Brad Stanley nominated Marge Frandsen for Vice Chair of the South Truckee Meadows/ Washoe Valley CAB. Marge Frandsen declined the nomination. Penny Brock then nominated Brad Stanley as Vice Chair, and he also declined. Brad Stanley nominated Adolfo Correa for Vice Chair of the STMWV CAB, and he accepted the nomination. He was voted for unanimously.

1. **REPORT ON REQUESTS FOR SERVICE FROM PREVIOUS CAB MEETINGS -**Penny Brock read the report on requests for service from the previous CAB meeting. At the February CAB meeting, staff were asked about the timing of development meetings. Staff followed up with the CSD and learned that developers choose when to hold their meetings. Meeting materials are uploaded to the HUB afterward, and all other constituent requests were addressed during the presentation.
2. **PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE -**  
   Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District   
   Interim Fire Chief Dale Way provided an update on several topics. He discussed the Davis Fire, noting that while the investigation is complete, the final reports and public release are still pending, likely within the next two weeks. Regarding the Callahan Fire, he explained that its cause remains undetermined despite a thorough investigation. He also addressed Senate Bill 319, introduced by Senator Skip Daly, which proposes the creation of a fire district and includes a study on regionalizing fire services. Chief Way emphasized that the bill is still in committee with no action taken yet and a deadline approaching for it to advance. He stressed the importance of studying how regional fire services could be funded, as this has been a missing piece in past efforts. The public response to the bill has been mostly opposition so far, and he noted it's still too early to determine its future or potential costs.

Drew Ribar asked whether NV Energy still plans to shut off power during high-wind events, as they had previously announced for late 2024, noting that despite recent strong winds, there haven’t been additional outages. Interim Fire Chief Dale Way responded that while he didn’t have a definitive answer, he believes NV Energy still follows this precautionary policy during heightened fire risk periods, a practice common across the western U.S. He explained that NV Energy's strategy is to prevent wildfires and avoid liability, referencing PG&E’s costly fire-related lawsuits in California. He added that NV Energy works closely with fire agencies on wildfire mitigation and has a dedicated team that can provide more detailed information, which is also available on their website.

Bill Naylor expressed concern about the cancellation of the spring green waste disposal program, which he sees as a valuable tool for wildfire prevention. He questioned the decision, citing reports that it was due to budget constraints, and argued that the benefits seemed to outweigh the cost. Interim Fire Chief Dale Way responded that while the program is indeed helpful, it is labor-intensive and more costly than it may appear, involving collection, processing, and burning of materials. He explained that past funding largely came from NV Energy, but recent changes imposed by the Public Utilities Commission now limit how NV Energy funds can be used—specifically restricting them to projects directly related to power line safety, rather than broader community efforts. When Naylor asked if grant funds awarded for fire mitigation along Eastlake Boulevard could be redirected to support green waste disposal, Way clarified that grants are tightly regulated and must be used only for the specific area and purpose for which they were awarded, making reallocation impossible.

Carol Hill asked if there was a projected reopening date for the Davis Creek area, noting it still appeared closed with barricades in place. Dale Way said he was unaware the area was still closed and did not have any information on a reopening date.

Val White asked Dale Way where the public could access information to better understand Senate Bill 319 and the reasoning behind a proposed regionalized fire department, especially for those not directly involved in local fire agencies. Dale responded that the bill itself is available on the Nevada Legislature’s website (NELLIS), but their agency has not taken a formal position on it yet, as it's too early in the legislative process. He explained that, in his role, he remains neutral and does not publicly express personal opinions. Val clarified they were simply seeking educational resources, including access to past studies on regionalization, which Dale acknowledged existed and should be public since they were created by public entities. Dale offered to help by providing those studies if Val shared their contact information, noting that while he doesn’t actively review them daily, he’s familiar with the missing elements those past efforts failed to address.

A citizen asked whether the community would receive better fire protection through a regional fire department or by maintaining the current system of independent agencies. They praised the effective coordination during the Davis Fire, where multiple agencies worked together, but noted the complexity involved and questioned which structure ultimately serves the public better. Interim Fire Chief Dale Way responded that, in his opinion, it’s too early to say without a thorough and properly conducted study. He emphasized the importance of fully vetting such decisions. Another resident raised concern that legislators might vote on Senate Bill 319 without access to past studies. Chief Way clarified that all previous studies are available to legislators and offered to share them with anyone interested, asking attendees to leave their contact information so he could email the documents.

Commissioner Mike Clark introduced Tom Daly, noting his involvement in legislative matters. Tom Daly then spoke about Senate Bill 319, clarifying that its purpose is to authorize a study on regionalizing fire services—not to mandate the creation of a regional fire department. He emphasized that the bill aims to gather updated information to better understand current fire service needs and funding challenges. Daly acknowledged previous studies but noted that conditions have changed, making a fresh analysis necessary. He underscored the importance of informed decision-making and reiterated that the bill is about research, not immediate structural changes.

Colleen Winans asked for clarification about the IXP study mentioned earlier. Tom Daly responded that the IXP study focused solely on emergency dispatch services. It concluded that having a single dispatch agency, rather than multiple ones, would create efficiencies and economies of scale. He noted that currently, Reno dispatches for emergency medical services and for Truckee Meadows Fire, and is well-regarded in the dispatch field, suggesting Reno could potentially serve as the unified dispatch agency.

Kendall Greenland, a resident near Thomas Creek, shared his experience with wildfire risk and defensible space. After two fires came dangerously close to his property, he proactively cleared about a quarter acre of dense vegetation, removing a full 40-yard dumpster of bitterbrush and sage at a personal cost of around $3,000. He emphasized the need for greater awareness among homeowners about managing wildfire risk on their own properties and suggested a public awareness campaign, such as a PSA, to encourage others to take responsibility. Interim Fire Chief Dale Way commended Kendall’s efforts and acknowledged that many residents, especially in Northern Nevada, maintain a strong sense of landownership and may not take proactive steps until it’s too late. He shared an example from a Washoe County leadership class where a business owner had not taken basic fire mitigation steps despite being in a fire-prone area. Dale explained that current code enforcement is limited, especially for properties built before certain regulations were in place, and that stricter enforcement would likely require policy input from the County Commissioners. He also detailed the department’s communication efforts, including frequent media outreach led by Adam Mayberry and the use of social media and news appearances to promote safety messages. When Kendall asked if there could be materials to distribute to neighbors, Dale responded that such resources likely already exist and could be shared. Sally Johnston added that a presentation on defensible space had been previously given and could be reposted for public use.

A resident, who serves as a Firewise coordinator for their neighborhood HOA and works with Firewise USA, spoke about the importance of neighbors educating themselves on defensible space and wildfire preparedness. They referred to work with Brett Taylor from Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District on community presentations and encouraged others to reach out to him for guidance. They noted that Truckee Meadows Fire and the UNR Cooperative Extension provide helpful pamphlets and online resources on defensible space. The discussion emphasized that clearing flammable vegetation, like sagebrush and ladder fuels, is more effective for fire prevention than removing large trees, and the speaker encouraged greater community awareness and engagement in wildfire risk reduction.

Washoe County Sheriff’s Office   
Lieutenant Tinseth of the Washoe County Sheriff's Office provided a comprehensive public safety update. Over the past month, the county received 2,288 calls for service, up from 2,021 the previous month. Traffic accidents also increased to 148. On the positive side, major crimes like aggravated assaults, burglaries, motor vehicle thefts, and simple assaults saw a decline. However, DUI arrests, drug offenses, and property destruction increased. Of the sheriff's four annual goals—reducing vehicle burglaries, stabilizing other burglaries, reducing aggravated assaults, and increasing DUI arrests—three were met. Vehicle burglaries and general burglaries dropped by 14%, and DUI arrests increased by 36%. However, aggravated assaults rose by 15%, which is harder to prevent due to their spontaneous and often domestic nature. In the southern part of the county, a few crime series were highlighted. The Thomas Creek area experienced vehicle burglaries, mainly targeting unlocked cars with visible valuables. Trailheads remain a concern as warmer weather draws more hikers, prompting proactive measures like public notices and mobile camera deployment. Glen Creek experienced multiple window-smash thefts over the winter, which have since stopped. A serial graffiti vandal at Little Washoe Park and Green Creek Park has tagged public property with “777 slots,” and efforts are underway to identify the individual. Tinseth also warned about unlicensed door-to-door solicitors who often come from out of state. These individuals must carry a business license issued by the Sheriff’s Office and present it if asked. Residents were advised not to allow unlicensed solicitors into their homes or engage in business with them. Finally, he warned of persistent fraud schemes, including phone scams impersonating law enforcement. Scammers often use spoofed numbers that appear legitimate and trick victims into paying large sums of money, sometimes their entire savings. Tinseth emphasized that the Sheriff’s Office will never demand payment via phone and urged residents to verify any suspicious calls and educate others about these ongoing scams.

A citizen thanked the Sheriff's Office for their service but expressed concern about a lack of visible patrol presence and traffic enforcement, noting that speeding seems rampant. Lieutenant Tinseth acknowledged the concern and explained that the number of deputies on patrol has not increased in 16 years, despite significant population growth. Staffing remains a major challenge, tied to budget limitations and recruitment efforts, including running multiple academies annually. He noted that the Sheriff's Office is even covering some Nevada State Police duties due to their staffing shortages. Tinseth emphasized that the department wants to be more present and proactive but is constrained by resources. He encouraged residents to submit service requests through the Sheriff's Office website for persistent issues, such as habitual speeders in specific areas. He added that the newly led traffic division can deploy radar trailers and motorcycle officers, who are better equipped for catching speeders than marked patrol vehicles. Overall, he reinforced that the challenge isn’t a lack of will, but limited resources amid growing demand.

A citizen asked if there’s a way to view recent crime activity online. Lieutenant Tinseth responded that while weekly data isn’t available, the Sheriff's Office does publish a monthly “scorecard” showing crime trends and general statistics, though it doesn’t include specific case details or locations. He wasn't certain if it’s posted on the WashoeSheriff.com website but confirmed the information is public and can be requested. The citizen then asked specifically about incidents at the CARES Campus, expressing concern about the cost of using REMSA transports instead of involving law enforcement. Lieutenant Tinseth stated that law enforcement responded to the CARES Campus 118 times in the previous month and pointed out that these calls are tracked in a monthly report, along with other service locations like Our Place and Safe Camp. The conversation then shifted to crime reporting, where Tinseth explained that the Sheriff's Office submits data to the FBI under the NIBRS (National Incident-Based Reporting System), which includes crimes categorized under federal standards—even if they don't lead to arrests or don’t align with local statutes. He reiterated that while the monthly crime reports are public and not sensitive, he wasn’t sure if they’re always published online, but they can be accessed by contacting the Sheriff’s Office.

Brad Stanley asked Lieutenant Tinseth whether the Sheriff’s Office tracks the monetary cost of the 118 law enforcement responses to the CARES Campus. Tinseth explained that they do not calculate expenses per call for service, as deputies respond as part of regular patrol duties without additional staffing or cost tracking tied to individual incidents. Stanley also inquired about the nature of those calls and concerns about drug activity. Tinseth noted that many calls are related to trespassing, where individuals at CARES Campus are asked to leave for short periods due to noncompliance with facility rules. However, these situations often don’t meet the legal criteria for criminal trespassing unless a longer ban and formal complaint are involved. Addressing the issue of drug activity and broader safety concerns, Tinseth described the Sheriff's Office's "4th Street Project," a six-week enforcement effort targeting a section of downtown Reno. This was in response to complaints from local businesses about problems stemming from increased activity around CARES Campus. Deputies saturated the area, resulting in numerous arrests for outstanding warrants, stolen vehicles, and drug offenses. While the operation had a positive impact for nearby businesses, Tinseth acknowledged the ongoing and complex challenges in the area.

A citizen shared an encounter with a street vendor selling fruit without a business license, who claimed he didn’t need one because he was in the City of Reno. The citizen questioned whether this was accurate and asked if such activity should be reported. Lieutenant Tinseth confirmed that if the vendor is in an unincorporated area, it can be reported to the Sheriff's Office. He added that the department has conducted enforcement actions in partnership with the health department, especially when food safety concerns arise. He encouraged citizens to report any unlicensed or questionable roadside vendors so authorities can check for proper permits or take appropriate action.

A citizen commented that the CARES Campus is receiving a lot of attention for underreporting incidents but noted that this practice isn't unique—it has long been common in industries like gaming, where law enforcement is often bypassed in favor of internal handling to avoid negative publicity. The concern was that this results in a lack of accurate data about serious issues occurring within such facilities. Lieutenant Tinseth responded by acknowledging the comment and explaining how the CARES Campus has evolved since the Sheriff's Office took over from the City of Reno about three years ago. He highlighted improvements, including added capacity, transitional housing, and a health clinic with plans for 24/7 medical staffing. These upgrades aim to reduce the need for REMSA or hospital transport for minor issues. He also noted the addition of "Our Place," a nearby shelter specifically for women in crisis. Tinseth emphasized that the goal is to make the campus more self-sufficient and better equipped to provide care, ultimately reducing the need for frequent law enforcement involvement.

A citizen asked if the Sheriff's Office anticipated any issues over the summer involving Black Lives Matter or other activist groups. Lieutenant Tinseth responded that there have been no specific threats or indications of major demonstrations. He explained that the department's intelligence unit monitors social media and other sources for potential threats but has not identified any concerns. When asked about the Sheriff's Office’s relationship with ICE and Homeland Security, Tinseth clarified that while federal ICE agents operate out of the county jail, they are not part of the Washoe County Sheriff’s Office. The Sheriff's Office does not proactively enforce immigration laws or inquire about immigration status. They assist ICE only when requested, such as during detainee transfers, but otherwise focus on enforcing Nevada state law.

A citizen asked if the jail is currently at capacity. Lieutenant Tinseth responded that it is not. He explained that while the standard setup involves two inmates per cell, the facility can expand capacity through triple rooming and day room bunking. The jail typically houses between 1,000 and 1,100 inmates, starts to feel full around 1,300, and has a maximum capacity of approximately 1,600. He added that earlier in 2024, the inmate population had dropped as low as 800, showing that capacity can fluctuate significantly.

1. **TRUCKEE MEADOWS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT –**  
   This item was discussed during the beginning of item #7
2. **TRUCKEE MEADOWS COMMUNITY COLLEGE -**Jeffrey Alexander, Vice President of Academic Affairs at Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC), presented plans for a new Fire Rescue Training Center at the Redfield campus, which TMCC shares with UNR. The facility aims to expand fire suppression and wildland firefighting training, particularly in response to events like the Davis Fire, which disrupted regional operations and highlighted the need for enhanced local readiness. The project includes a Fire Rescue Training Tower and associated classroom and equipment bays. It is fully funded and has the support of the Washoe County Manager, the Board of Regents, UNR, and other stakeholders. The training tower will simulate dangerous, enclosed environments using steam-based technology rather than live fire or smoke, providing safe, realistic practice for cadets. This facility will replace TMCC’s reliance on limited access to a training site in Carson City. The center will also serve as a regional hub, welcoming students from across Nevada and neighboring states. Alexander noted the tower is part of TMCC’s broader public safety and emergency response training programs, which include fire science, emergency medical services, nursing, and radiology. These programs collectively support the full continuum of care, from first response to hospital admission. The presentation concluded with a show of broad institutional and regional support for the initiative, emphasizing its long-term value to community safety and workforce development.

A citizen asked if the program would be certified, and the question was acknowledged as important. Jeffrey Alexander deferred to Dr. Ellsworth Baker, who clarified that Firefighter 1 certification is the starting point of the training, indicating that the program is structured to meet standard certification requirements.

A citizen asked how TMCC’s proposed fire training facility differs from the existing regional training center at Rock Boulevard. It was explained that while the Rock Boulevard facility is used by multiple agencies and was once accessible to TMCC, it eventually became too costly and difficult to schedule. TMCC then shifted to using a facility in Carson City, which is also limited in availability—only allowing Sunday sessions with small class sizes. In response to a follow-up question about the need for multiple training centers within a 30-mile radius, TMCC representatives affirmed the need, citing regional growth. They referenced data from the Western Nevada Economic Development agency, which shows the area is already short by about 10 fire stations, a number expected to increase. As the region continues to expand in housing and industry, more training capacity is essential to meet public safety demands.

Adolfo Correa asked about the funding sources for the proposed fire training facility. The response explained that the project is already fully funded, with cash in hand to build the training tower. Funding comes from multiple sources, including state support, significant donations from the Redfield Foundation, and contributions from other private foundations like the Pennington Foundation. Additionally, TMCC generates revenue through auxiliary operations such as summer programs and maintains reinvestment bonds that can range from $1 to $5 million to support projects independently. The college emphasized its goal of financial self-sufficiency and only brings projects forward when they are fully prepared to proceed without needing city or county funds.

Drew Ribar asked whether Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC) is continuing its Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) programs amid recent political changes in Washington, D.C., and how these changes might impact funding. The response clarified that while DEI is not a central administrative focus, TMCC is an open-access institution committed to welcoming students from all backgrounds. The college supports student success through a range of services, including advising, counseling, clubs, and sports programs, all aimed at making students feel included. Regarding funding, most federal support goes directly to students through Pell Grants and loans, though the college also receives some federal grants for research and training programs, often in partnership with UNR. The administration is monitoring developments closely, particularly guidance expected from the U.S. Attorney General and the new Secretary of Education. TMCC has formed a response team to assess any potential impacts and is awaiting further direction expected in May.

1. **NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT HUB & OTHER ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES -**

Sally Johnston provided a walkthrough of how to access community information and resources through the Washoe County website. She explained that starting from the “Connect with My Commissioner” page allows users to find their commissioner's contact information and access various tools, including the Neighborhood Hub. From there, residents can view meeting listings, such as upcoming master plan amendments, and explore details by clicking through links. She also demonstrated how to sign up for email notifications by selecting specific districts or topics of interest like property taxes, parks, or legislation. Additionally, she highlighted where to find volunteer opportunities and current vacancies on county boards, encouraging community involvement. Sally emphasized that all these tools are easily accessible and help residents stay informed and engaged in local government.

1. **CAB BOARD MEMBER/BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS’ NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS  
     
   \*this announcement was made during item #7.**

Commissioner Mike Clark encouraged residents, especially those in homeowners associations, to organize small neighborhood gatherings to learn about wildfire safety and defensible space. He noted that Truckee Meadows Fire will send someone to lead a workshop if residents coordinate with his office or Sally Johnston. He also announced that Senior Rescue Magazine, with support from the local firefighters union and county funding, will offer free brush and vegetation removal services to seniors who can’t do it themselves. The union members will volunteer their time, and the county has allocated $7,500 for dumpsters and disposal costs. Commissioner Clark praised the fire department and sheriff’s office for their outstanding service and thanked the community for a strong turnout, emphasizing the importance of continued civic engagement.  
  
Brad Stanley commented on an ongoing debate about horse fencing and noted a significant project involving fencing from Hidden Valley to Geiger, funded by approximately $1 million in City of Reno funds. While the project includes installation, it does not cover long-term maintenance. He mentioned a proposed second phase extending the fencing across Washoe Valley and suggested adding an agenda item for a future meeting, either the next or the one after—to provide an update on the project. He recommended including input from the Nevada Department of Agriculture, Wild Horse Connection, and American Wild Horse groups to discuss both the successes and challenges of the effort, especially its impact on public safety and horse welfare. Penny Brock asked Sally to find speakers for the mentioned topic.   
  
Brad Stanley requested that a future agenda includes a discussion item inviting developers with active or upcoming projects to present at CAB meetings. He noted that while developers had attended in the past, there had been some pushbacks at the county level. His proposal is to create a welcoming, non-mandatory space for developers to voluntarily share information and receive community feedback—emphasizing it would be an invitation, not a requirement. He also sought clarification on how agenda items are set, referencing a previous request for senior services to appear, which had to be moved to the next meeting.

Marge Frandsen asked when the next STMWV CAB meeting would be, and Sally Johnston replied that it would be June 5th. Frandsen followed up by asking if they were going to have another election of offices and Sally informed the CAB that it wouldn’t be until August.   
  
Penny Brock expressed strong support for bringing developers back to Citizen Advisory Board (CAB) meetings, noting that they used to be required to attend but were shifted to Neighborhood Advisory Board (NAB) meetings, which the public is less aware of. She emphasized that during a joint CAB meeting in December, a key consensus among all CABs was the desire to have developers present at their meetings again. She argued that keeping development discussions in NABs leaves communities uninformed about what's planned in their neighborhoods. Penny concluded by stating that CABs will continue to push for this change and will ensure Commissioner Clark is made aware of the request.

A citizen with 25 years of experience working with developers through Western Nevada Supply shared insight on why developers may be hesitant to attend CAB meetings. He explained that these meetings are often perceived as hostile environments, where developers feel they're unfairly criticized, largely due to a "not in my backyard" (NIMBY) mentality. He urged attendees to keep an open mind if developers are invited, emphasizing the importance of creating a respectful and constructive atmosphere. He cautioned that developers are more likely to attend and engage if the initial experience is positive, warning that a single negative encounter could deter future participation.

Marge Frandsen acknowledged the concern that developers may feel unwelcome at CAB meetings but emphasized that such situations often result from a lack of proper meeting management by the board. She argued that having developers attend neighborhood meetings is crucial because it gives communities a chance to voice concerns early in the process—before projects reach the Planning Commission or County Commission. This early feedback can help developers adjust plans appropriately or, at minimum, give residents the opportunity to be heard without lengthy testimony at higher levels of government. She concluded by saying this perspective is based on her experience, including her time on the Planning Commission, and from conversations with developers.

Penny Brock discussed a recent executive order signed by former President Trump on March 25 aimed at overhauling U.S. election procedures. After expressing support for her political opinion on this executive order, Marge Frandsen reminded her that the comments are “inappropriate” as it does not directly affect the county as a whole.

1. **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT -**

Phil Stewart, speaking as both an employee of Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC) and a graduate of its fire academy, requested that the board place an action item on the next agenda to formally support TMCC’s proposed Fire Rescue Training Tower. He emphasized that the project is fully funded and will not require financial support from the board. Stewart highlighted the importance of the facility in training future firefighters, police officers, and EMS personnel—essential roles for a growing community. He also mentioned an upcoming defensible space class at TMCC, which will provide homeowners with information on fire safety and insurance, based on his own consulting experience. Stewart stressed that local agencies, including the Sheriff's Office and fire departments, are operating with staffing levels that haven't kept pace with community growth. He concluded by underscoring the value of TMCC as a pipeline for vital public safety careers and thanked the board for their time. He will email the contact information to Sally Johnston.

Brad Stanley asked Phil Stewart for contact information. He will email the contact information to Sally Johnston.

Cynthia Reed, a Firewise USA coordinator for her homeowner’s association, shared that she is working with Brett Taylor from Truckee Meadows Fire on a community fire safety presentation. The event will take place on April 28 at 6:00 PM in Gathering Room A at the Galena Library. The presentation will focus on how homeowners can protect their properties and reduce wildfire risk. Reed emphasized the importance of individual responsibility in defensible space efforts and noted that property evaluations are available for free by contacting Brett Taylor. She encouraged attendees to spread the word and attend the informative session.  
  
Penny Brock reminded attendees that Washoe County Commission meetings are held on the second, third, and fourth Tuesdays of each month, with the next meeting scheduled for the upcoming Tuesday at 10:00 AM at the 9th Street Washoe County facility. She noted that the public can make a three-minute comment at the start of each meeting. Brock encouraged participation, emphasizing that attending these meetings is a valuable way to learn about and engage in the county decision-making process.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.