



## Sun Valley Citizen Advisory Board

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Sun Valley Citizen Advisory Board held on December 2, 2023, at 10:00 A.M. at Hobey's Casino, 5195 Sun Valley Boulevard, Sun Valley, NV 89433.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM** Carmen Ortiz(Chair), Amy Owens, Michael Rider(Vice Chair), Mary Esposito, Heidi Soper, Charles (Mark) Neumann

A quorum was established and the meeting was brought to order.

- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

- 3. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT** – Comment heard under this item will be limited to three (3) minutes per person and may pertain to matters both on and off the agenda. The Citizen Advisory Board will also hear public comment during individual action items, with comment limited to three minutes per person. Comments are to be made to the CAB as a whole.

Cynthia Badeen –Cynthia expresses concerns about the problematic road conditions, accidents, and the proposed apartment complex. The lands bill is putting a 200-unit apartment building at the top of the road. This is a dangerous area to build these. She highlights the issue of fire emergencies, lack of water pressure, and the presence of protected species in the area. They want to put a park behind us. There is a protected vegetation species.

Elise Weatherly - She expresses concerns about the difficulties in reaching the HOA board members and violations against her. With the situation she is in, regarding her HOA, she knows God is on her side. Elise discusses the negative impact of gossip and her frustration with the situation. She expressed concern about the contract for First Services Residential and the president's lack of response to their requests.

Mark Newman - He shared information about the free Christmas tree offer for veterans and the tree trimming at Galena Creek Park. You need to make reservations through the parks department.

Andrea Pelto – She informed the CAB about the Hanukkah Memorial Menorah Lighting event at the Sparks Marina on Wednesday, December 13th at 4.30 pm.

Richard Wharton - He expressed concerns about the land swap bill and specific lots that he believes should remain under federal government control.

Kelly Burns – She raised concerns about illegal dumping and suggested spreading awareness and starting campaigns to address the issue.

Citizen – Student from Hug High School. She discussed the problem of trash and abandoned vehicles, expressing their concerns and desire to find solutions. She suggests a community event to pick up trash. She also suggests recycling containers placed throughout the area. She saw 3 abandoned vehicles on the way to the meeting tonight.

- 4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING** of [November 18, 2023](#) (For Possible Action)

The attendees motioned and seconded the approval of the meeting minutes for November 18, 2023, with corrections.

The motion to approve the minutes passed.

**5. PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATES** – General community updates from public safety representatives; including but not limited to Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, Washoe County Sheriff's Office, and others [Non-Action Item]

Washoe County Sheriff's Office – There were 1,128 officer-initiated calls and they conducted 1,389 traffic stops. They generated 547 reports. 911 calls were at 241. That is much higher for the call center. There were 771 business area checks and 15 target shooting incidents. Suspicious people and vehicles were at 109. Traffic incidents are up to 84 and there were 30 abandoned vehicle reports. There have been 22 sexual assault initial reports. There has been an increase in burglaries. They discussed the increase in porch piracy and provided tips to prevent package theft. They mentioned the need for volunteers to help catch porch pirates and provided contact information for those interested. [tawilliamsjr@washoecounty.gov](mailto:tawilliamsjr@washoecounty.gov). They highlighted the increase in phone fraud calls and advised against following instructions from suspicious callers.

The process of investigating sexual assault cases involves initial investigation by patrol deputies, notification of detectives, thorough investigation at the detective level, and the lack of a specific timeline for case resolution. The Northern Nevada Medical Center is the location where evidence is collected for sexual assault cases. Victims can go there for an exam without needing law enforcement involvement.

Mark Neumann - The discussion revolves around a recent fatal accident caused by high speed on Sun Valley Drive, the challenges of enforcing speed limits, and the need for law enforcement presence to deter speeding.

Elise Weatherly – What is the best way to say thank you? I am thinking of possibly rice crispy treats.

Ellen Chainman – Is there a law against blocking bike lanes. The discussion includes concerns about blocking bike lanes and parking violations near Hug High school.

WCSO – Yes, there is. That will fall to Sparks PD.

Citizen - The participants expressed their concern about people warning others about speed traps in Sun Valley. They emphasized the importance of letting people get caught if they are not paying attention. They also mentioned the need to educate the community on how to report speeding.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District

The participants were informed about the results of the green waste events, with over a thousand loads of green waste collected district wide. They specifically mentioned that 96 loads were delivered at Lazy 5 Park on a single day. The participants discussed the availability of open burning permits and the process of obtaining them through the website. They also mentioned the importance of paying attention to burn windows and the burn line for updated information. The participants expressed concern about the increased risk of fires during winter and reminded everyone about safety measures when using home heating systems, including getting chimneys inspected and being cautious with portable space heaters.

He mentioned that if you do not have a working smoke detector in your home, they are partnering with the American Red Cross to provide a free working smoke detector. They mentioned the availability of free metal ash cans for disposing of hot fireplace ashes.

It was mentioned that if there are concerns about someone burning on a smaller parcel and it may negatively impact properties, attendees can call 911 to report it.

**6. NDOT PRESENTATION WITH Q&A** – Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) representatives will provide an update on the U.S. 395 project affecting the North Valleys, an update on the Pyramid Highway construction, and a Q&A. [Non-Action Item]

The presenter provided an update on the current construction progress, including completed and ongoing work. Details about traffic control measures, speed limits, and expected congestion delays were shared.

Citizen - She expressed concerns about the removal of merge lanes and the difficulty of merging into traffic. Participants express concerns about the disappearance of a merge lane without notice, a bump on the road, and the appropriateness of the 45-mph speed limit.

NDOT - The speaker clarified that there are merge areas at every intersection, allowing drivers to merge into the third lane. Participants requested that their concerns be taken back to the designing boards.

Citizens – They discussed the development of plans for future phases, the collaboration between NDOT and RTC, and the master traffic study conducted in 2018. The speaker mentions a previous experience with an engineer and raises the question of whether reviews are being done by someone in charge of engineering.

NDOT - The speaker explains the design process, involving NDOT engineers and consultants, and the need for additional staff due to a shortage at NDOT. The speaker asks about the design engineers on the project and the importance of knowing who is responsible for the design.

Nadine Kennedy - Participants raise concerns about the lack of answers regarding the planning and engineering of the project, and the right-of-way restrictions.

NDOT - She discussed the future phases of road construction, the delay in completing the Highland Ranch Pyramid intersection, and the impact on traffic flow. They mention the ongoing design work for future phases of Sun Valley Boulevard by RTC. She clarified that Highland Ranch Road is managed by RTC and Washoe County.

They provide information on how to submit public comments, including a general comment platform on the RTC website.

Nadine Kennedy – She discusses a left turn signal that is blocking traffic. She suggests changing the timing.

NDOT – This is a city of sparks signal and a comment to them will help resolve this problem. 775-332-0047 is the number for RTC.

The speaker mentions the phase 2 project and improvements on North Virginia. The speaker explains the reasons for phasing the projects and the addition of general-purpose lanes and auxiliary lanes. The speaker provides details about the phase 1B project, including the addition of general-purpose lanes and a bridge and ramp at Panther to Golden. The speaker discusses the addition of three lanes in each direction, auxiliary lanes, and unwind improvements to improve traffic flow. The speaker mentions that NDOT incorporates aesthetic features in their projects to soften the impact of living near a freeway and maintain a visually pleasing appearance for years. The speaker discusses the phase 1B project between McCarran and Golden Valley.

The speaker provides details about phase 2 of the project, including the addition of extra lanes, sound walls, and drainage improvements. They mention that an auxiliary lane between Lemon and Stead won't be included based on modeling results.

The speaker explains the planning process and growth considerations for the project. They mention that RTC partners with NDOT to identify necessary improvements based on modeling and development projections. The speaker acknowledges the challenge of catching up with growth while trying to anticipate future needs.

Mark Neumann - A participant raises a concern about the potential impact of the pyramid project on the 395 Parr Boulevard bridge.

NDOT - The ideal one would keep the bridge right there. It would be nice to keep it. We need to get the cars through and if necessary, it will be taken down, but we are trying to keep the bridge.

Cynthia Fedinic - A participant raises concern about the maintenance of Hogue Road, highlighting the complex ownership structure involving Reno city limits, County, and Forest Service. They question whether the approval of Hogue Road parcels for the land bill would affect the maintenance responsibility.

NDOT – RTC and everybody involved will collaborate to determine who is responsible for maintaining the road.

Rodger Edwards - A participant questions why the bridge was not built with four lanes and considers it a waste of money. A participant raises concerns about the placement of the dotted lane under the bridge and the safety of making a left turn.

NDOT - The speaker explains that the bridge design was influenced by the deficiency of the existing bridge and clarifies the current designs for lanes and auxiliary lanes.

Citizen - This project was designed for SUV's. It is decided that the issues raised will be addressed and corrected. The participants expressed concerns about poor sight lines, high walls obstructing visibility, and the need for better decision-making for left-hand turns. Further concerns are raised about the concrete barricades, poor sight lines for left-hand turns, and the need for a signal at the intersection.

Citizen – Will you be fixing the concrete barricades that she is speaking about?

NDOT – We are addressing the issue. The timing issue may come with phase two. Part of building a bridge is listening to these types of comments and fixing the issues.

Carol Burns - She expressed concerns about the lack of information and discussion on Sun Valley Boulevard and the need to involve RTC and NDOT in addressing the public's questions. Concerns are raised about the lack of sidewalks, especially for children coming from schools, and the need for development and improvements on Sun Valley Boulevard.

NDOT - The discussion mentioned the complicated process of finding money to support community projects. They talked about various sources of funding, including local funds and federal grants. They acknowledged that accessing federal grants can be difficult due to the attached conditions. It is mentioned that the planning and projects for Sun Valley Boulevard are primarily handled by Reno Transportation Commission (RTC) and Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT). They expressed the willingness to explore all available options to support the community.

CAB Chair Carmen Ortiz - We have tried to get RTC and NDOT in the same meeting. We will keep trying.

**7. NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT HUB** – Staff to display the online [HUB](#) for review by the CAB members and/or attendees to determine if there are new or existing projects. [Non-Action Item]

Candee Ramos mentioned that there were currently no upcoming meetings for developments in Sun Valley. Candee mentioned that in the past, developers would present in front of the Sun Valley Citizen Advisory Board, but now there is an opportunity to get involved before the project starts through the development hub. Candee shows how to sign up for notifications on future public meetings.

**8. BOARD MEMBER/COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS/REQUESTS/DISCUSSION** — This item is limited to announcements and/or requests for future agenda items by CAB members and/or Commissioners Mariluz Garcia and Jeanne Herman (Non-Action Item)

County Manager Eric Brown – He requests to have an item on the agenda in January and February to discuss the priorities for the community. He addresses the issues faced by Sun Valley Boulevard and assures participants that their concerns are being addressed. He mentions collaboration between the county and NDOT.

Commissioner Garcia – They introduced a resource center located on the CARES campus. The center provides various services for the unhoused population.

She mentioned the availability of vouchers and rental assistance programs. She highlighted the availability of emergency cots in the new resource center. Commissioner Garcia discussed the funding received from the AG's office for the opioid crisis. There will be 41 million dollars coming in over the next twenty years because of those settlements. She mentioned the plan and efforts to address homelessness and substance abuse.

Citizen – There has been a problem with security. How is that going to be addressed?

Manager Brown - The facilities are much better now after we have taken over the site. We have come a long way since then. He mentioned that Allied is responsible for security at the entire campus, including the resource center. He discussed the repairs made to the bathrooms and facilities at the CARES campus. They are also supported by WCSO and RPD.

Mark Neumann – With all the money coming in, are they going to build any rehabilitation centers or anything else to help with the drug problem?

Commissioner Garcia – Yes, programs to help the homeless are important. We need to be preventative, not reactive.

Commissioner Herman – She thanks all the people for coming out and participating. She wishes everybody a Merry Christmas.

Michael Rider - He mentioned the park's safety measures and improvements, including installing a fence, increasing lighting, adding cameras, removing a tree, and maintaining all the trees in the park. The vice chair encouraged people to bring park concerns to the GID meetings, as they are responsible for maintaining the parks in the area. They also mentioned other improvements like new scoreboards, walking paths, resurfaced basketball courts, and helping the BMX track with drainage issues.

Carmen Ortiz - The meeting schedule was discussed, mentioning the regular meeting time on the first Saturday of every month, with exceptions for holidays like 4th of July, Labor Day, and November (due to Veterans Day). They expressed gratitude for being able to continue meeting in the current room. She discussed the process of getting appointed to the board and encouraged interested individuals to fill out an application. The participants shared personal experiences of incidents in the neighborhood and highlighted the importance of looking out for each other.

**9. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT** – Comment heard under this item will be limited to three (3) minutes per person and may pertain to matters both on and off the agenda. The public is encouraged to submit a “Request to Speak” form to the Board chair. Comments are to be addressed to the Board as a whole.

Carol Burns - A participant asked about the availability of senior swimming time at the pool next year. Hopefully the projects from NDOT will be complete before we are all dead.

Mark Neumann – It was confirmed that the Senior Swim will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 to noon and will be free for all seniors, including non-residents.

Andrea Pelto - A participant informed the attendees that the City of Sparks City Council meets on the second and fourth Monday at 2:30 PM at Sparks City Hall. They encouraged attendees to come down and speak during the public comment section to address concerns related to the City of Sparks.

Todd Kincade - A resident expressed opposition to the lands bill trade, highlighting the importance of preserving Peavine Mountain as a truly wild place and the need for buffer space to maintain the area. He expressed support for the recommendation to remove three parcels from the lands trade. Todd mentioned that many people are busy working multiple jobs and may not be aware of the increasing costs of utilities and what's happening in their own backyard.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 am.