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**Sun Valley Citizen Advisory Board Minutes of the regular meeting of the Sun Valley Citizen Advisory Board held on April 5, 2025, at 10:00 A.M. at Hobey’s Casino, 5195 Sun Valley Boulevard, Sun Valley, NV 89433.**

1. **CALL TO ORDER/ DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**
Present – Amy Owens, Mary Esposito, Heidi Soper, Carmen Ortiz

Absent – Veronica Cortes, Michael Rider

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**The pledge of allegiance was recited
2. **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

Pat Davison, a resident of North Valleys, shared comments regarding the County’s CAB reorganization process and wanted to inform other CABs of her suggestions. She recommended that agendas include a list of current development projects, in addition to those listed in the Neighborhood HUB, since formally submitted projects are not shown there. She also encouraged more marketing and outreach for CABs through HOAs and social media, noting that many residents are unaware of their existence despite the valuable two-way communication they provide. Additionally, she suggested incorporating the Dignity Index into the CAB handbook to promote respectful dialogue and ensure all voices are heard without restricting opinions. Davison concluded by expressing appreciation for Heidi’s hard work and dedication, calling her a “rock star,” and thanked the board before leaving.

Carol Burns, a Sun Valley resident, expressed concern about an increase in homeless encampments moving north from Reno and Sparks. She described a recent situation on Rampion Way involving multiple vehicles and tents, which she and neighbors reported to the Washoe County Sheriff. While there was no immediate action, she eventually spoke with Sheriff Balaam and Commissioner Garcia, who visited the site and observed the encampment begin to clear out. Burns noted the group left without leaving trash behind but emphasized the fire risk posed by encampments in grassy areas. She urged the community to stay vigilant and report such activity to the Sheriff or Code Enforcement to prevent dangerous situations.

1. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF** March 1, 2025 -
Mary Esposito motioned to approve the minutes of the March 1st, 2025 CAB and Amy Owens seconded he motioned to approve the minutes**.** The minutes were approved unanimously.
2. **PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATES -**

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District
Shane Atkerson, Battalion Chief reported that in March, there were 196 calls in the Sun Valley CAB area, including 8 fires and 88 EMS incidents, bringing the year-to-date total to 543. He emphasized that open burning is allowed through the month of April, with permits required via [tmfpd.us](http://tmfpd.us). Permits are available to properties one acre or larger and come with safety requirements, including distance from structures, clear surroundings, water supply, and suppression tools. Residents must also call the burn line daily to confirm conditions. Akerson also noted there will be no spring green waste collection due to overflow from fall collections. However, residents can still dispose of up to four pickup loads for free at designated waste facilities.

Washoe County Sheriff’s Office
Sergeant Natasha Schuette introduced herself as the lead of the Homeless Outreach Proactive Engagement (HOPE) Team, which includes two deputies and two part-time case managers. The team operates Monday through Thursday, responding to service calls and proactively assisting individuals experiencing homelessness. In 2024, they made 2,182 contacts, provided resources to 1,404 individuals, and successfully housed 144 people. The team offers a range of support, from helping individuals obtain IDs to connecting them with mental health, medical, and housing services. Community members can report concerns through dispatch or the HOPE Team page on the sheriff’s website.

Carmen Ortiz asked if they knew anything about tracking a road across Peavine. They responded that they did not know.

Mary Ordell asked if they are working to solve the fentanyl crises. Natasha Schuette responded that they are actively working on it and work to direct the homeless population that struggle with addiction to the best resources.

Brian Lauren expressed concerns about speeding and reckless driving—especially by ATVs, quads, and motorcycles—on Leon Drive, which is used as a cut-through from Spanish Springs. He described vehicles reaching high speeds, sometimes up to 80 mph, and asked if speed bumps or stop signs could be added.

Officer Schuette responded that while a speed-monitoring sign has been placed in the area before, residents should continue reporting incidents to customer service or dispatch so that the team can respond in real time.

A citizen asked about what would be happening to an RV that had been parked for over a year and caught fire. Schuette informed me that the RV had been moved already.

1. **REPORT ON REQUESTS FOR SERVICE FROM PREVIOUS CAB MEETINGS –**

Heidi Soper provided an update on two ongoing items. First, efforts are underway to schedule a senior scam prevention event in May, aligning with Older Americans Month. Second, a resident named Shawn raised concerns about traffic near the Dandini Apartments at South Valley Boulevard. A request for information was submitted to the City of Reno, but no response has been received as of late February.

Alexandra Wilson explained that as the liaison for the Sun Valley CAB, she maintains a living document that tracks all public and CAB member requests. The document includes notes on when each item was completed, denied, or addressed with an alternative solution. It covers the past year and is available for public reference. She also noted that supporting materials—such as meeting minutes, recordings, and presentations—are available upon request. The document will be updated monthly and kept online for easy access.

1. **NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT HUB & OTHER ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES -**Alexandra Wilson provided an overview of the Neighborhood Development Hub, a public resource for tracking planning projects and code updates. She highlighted an upcoming online meeting on April 16 regarding a master plan and zone amendment for District One and noted that the most recent Sun Valley-relevant update was the Article 610 code update from December 2024. Users can click into any project to view related documents, parcels, ordinances, and submit feedback. Projects removed from the Hub can still be tracked via an application portal, which shows details like case numbers, planners’ contact info, timelines, governing body decisions, and outcomes. Additionally, at Commissioner Andriola’s request, the site now includes info on board and commission vacancies. There are currently two openings in District 4—for the Board of Adjustment and the Planning Commission—and residents are encouraged to share with anyone who may be interested in serving.

Theresa Antisdel asked for clarification on how to access volunteer opportunities from her phone, noting it was difficult to navigate. Alexandra Wilson explained that from the Washoe County website, you go to the "Your Government" section, then click "Get Involved," and select "Volunteer Opportunities." There, users can find general volunteer programs like CERT, as well as a link to current board and commission openings.

1. **BOARD MEMBER/COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS/ REQUESTS/ DISCUSSION -**Commissioner Mariluz Garcia shared several community updates, beginning with her sponsorship of a bus for Latino Legislative Day through RTC. Although she couldn't attend personally, many participants experienced Legislature for the first time and gave positive feedback about learning how laws are made and engaging with lawmakers. She announced that the Bureau of Land Management will present illegal dumping at the upcoming Board of County Commissioners meeting, inviting the public to attend and offer input. She highlighted an ongoing issue on Stella Drive, a property in Commissioner Herman’s district that has seen significant illegal activity. With the help of community members like Veronica, she submitted a 311 report, and multiple agencies including the Sheriff’s Office, Hope Team, Animal Control, and Northern Nevada Public Health have responded. The property owners are unresponsive and face multiple tax liens, so the county is coordinating a long-term effort. Mariluz also spoke about a major cleanup on East 4th Street, where an abandoned motorhome and piles of garbage were reported through her social media post. The Sheriff's Office responded with an inmate work crew, and a nonprofit partner, Hero, removed the motorhome. She and five volunteers completed the remaining cleanup in under an hour. She encouraged residents to report illegal dumping through 311 and noted that many of the offenders are Sun Valley residents dumping behind their own homes. She emphasized that homeowners have access to four free dump days per year and urged people to take advantage of county cleanups. Looking ahead, she announced another cleanup at the end of May focused on tires and TVs, two common and difficult-to-dispose-of items. She asked for help spreading the word and shared a past success story of removing 192 tires from a senior citizen’s yard. Even with small volunteer groups, she said meaningful progress is possible and encouraged the community to continue working together to improve the cleanliness and wellness of the valley.

Carmen Ortiz asked whether the BLM prosecutes individuals if they have evidence that local residents are responsible for illegal dumping. In response, it was confirmed that when there is evidence—such as identifying information found in dumped materials—they do pursue accountability. It was also noted that some businesses in Sun Valley are responsible for dumping, and efforts are underway to hold all violators accountable.

Judy Jensen announced that the Sun Valley GID is sponsoring an electronics recycling event with Lifecycle Solutions in April. Residents can pick up a coupon at the GID office, which will allow them to recycle items like TVs and old computers. The event details are included in the current utility bill and likely available on the website. She confirmed that participants must be GID customers.

Carol Burns asked if Mariluz Garcia could get involved in addressing the Dandini apartment issue and help get a response from those responsible. Mariluz explained that it's under the City of Reno’s jurisdiction but said she would try to assist. They noted that the developer, Wood Rogers, hadn’t responded as of February. Although the project isn’t in the Sun Valley district, Carol emphasized that it still impacts the area.

Ellen Chapin expressed frustration about the mistimed traffic signals between McCarran and the area impacted by past construction on 395, noting that the light timing hasn’t been adjusted back now that traffic has lessened. She asked who to contact and was told to send an email so the issue could be formally escalated to RTC.

Lisa Lawhorn raised concerns about reckless driving in Sun Valley, noting that she’s seen drivers blatantly running red lights and driving aggressively, including tailgating and attempting to instigate confrontations. She asked whether there would be more enforcement or traffic cameras to address the issue. The response clarified that while complaints about speeding and off-road vehicles go through the Washoe County Sheriff's Office, traffic violations on main roads fall under the jurisdiction of Nevada Highway Patrol. Mariluz Garcia acknowledged the increase in aggressive driving across the region and the limits of local enforcement in these cases.

Kay Dyer raised concerns about large ATVs speeding and running stop signs near East 6th Avenue and Pearl. She identified specific vehicles and residents she believes are responsible and described how the riders meet up and use routes through local neighborhoods and BLM land. Mariluz Garcia and Alexandra Wilson explained that while the Sheriff's Office handles enforcement, it's not an emergency issue, so residents should report it through 311 or the non-emergency line. Alexandra added that video footage, such as from doorbell cameras, is helpful for follow-up. They encouraged repeated reporting to increase law enforcement attention in that area. Kay also asked if 311 could be used for fireworks complaints, and it was confirmed that 311 can route any concern, including fireworks and abandoned vehicles, to the correct department.

Veronica Cortes emphasized the importance of neighbors as a resource in addressing community issues. She shared her experience working closely with Commissioner Mariluz Garcia on the problem property on Stella Drive, noting that they coordinated effectively through simple communication like text messages and photos—no technology or online forms required. Veronica lives directly across from the property and has dealt with the issue for years. She knows the area and the individuals involved well and has taken a hands-on approach, including tracking animals and interacting with those on the property. She expressed gratitude for being included in the process, noting how it has helped her learn about government responsibilities, parcel identification, and the different jurisdictional levels (county, state, federal). She encouraged others to get involved and highlighted how community engagement can grow from simply attending meetings to taking meaningful action.

Mariluz Garcia announced that the County Commission budget hearing will take place on April 15 at 10 a.m. and encouraged residents to share their input on funding priorities. Comments can be made in person at the chambers or submitted online through e-comment. Online comments must be submitted between Thursday and 4 p.m. on Monday before the meeting, and they appear live to commissioners during the meeting, allowing them to see public feedback in real time for each agenda item.

1. **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT –**

Veronica Cortes thanked the Commissioner for all of her hard work for the community and for being a representative of the people.

Amy Owens praised the efficiency of the 311 system, sharing a recent experience reporting a large pothole on Sun Valley Boulevard. They explained that submitting a service request online took less than 30 seconds and didn’t require speaking to anyone. The system provided updates and redirected the issue to the correct jurisdiction, including contact information for follow-up. Owens emphasized that several issues they’ve reported through 311 were resolved in under a week and encouraged others to use the tool for problems like potholes, broken stoplights, or debris, calling it an underutilized but highly effective service.

Mary Esposito shared a positive experience with 311, describing an issue on an unpaved section of Leon between Gifford and 1st Avenue where a motorhome got stuck and the area became a dumping site. Although 311 initially said it was private property and their options were limited, the trash was eventually cleared and one of the motorhomes was removed. She wasn’t sure who was ultimately responsible but credited 311 for getting results and commended them for doing their job.

Carmen Ortiz clarified that the GID electronics recycling event allows customers to recycle up to two TVs, two computers, or one of each for free, with discounted rates for additional items. She recommended holding off on extra electronics until the larger cleanup event in May. She also explained the low attendance at the meeting, noting that many people, including board members, were likely at Cal Ripken baseball's opening day in Sun Valley. She thanked those who did attend.

Heidi Soper thanked everyone for attending the meeting, especially given the competing event of baseball opening day. She encouraged attendees to share any topics they’d like the CAB to cover in future meetings and noted that suggestion forms were available in the back. She offered to collect the forms and pass along the information for follow-up.

Veronica Cortes expressed appreciation for the community’s engagement and emphasized the importance of networking, especially around traffic safety and off-road vehicle concerns. She noted that there were 265 accidents on Sun Valley Boulevard last year and is eager to collaborate on solutions. As a longtime Sun Valley resident, she shared her personal experience with off-road vehicles and highlighted an upcoming educational initiative being planned in partnership with Park Ranger Celia Walker, who will soon oversee the Sun Valley Regional Park. The event, in coordination with BLM and other agencies, will focus on educating the public about off-road vehicle rules—where and how they can operate legally and safely. Plans include distributing trail maps, emergency contact information, and clear guidelines on legal vehicle use. Veronica stressed that many riders aren't being intentionally disrespectful; they simply lack awareness of the rules. She believes that community-driven education can reduce issues and ease the burden on understaffed enforcement agencies. She ended by encouraging continued community involvement and expressing optimism about upcoming efforts.

Carol Burns raised concerns about the lack of follow-up from Code Enforcement. She mentioned a hillside encampment that was supposed to be cleared by May 5, leaving people in dry grass for weeks. She also shared that a friend has repeatedly reported issues with businesses on Gifford Parkway (at 310 and 320) but has received no response. Carol expressed hope that bringing it up during the recorded meeting might prompt action, stressing the need for support in addressing these ongoing code violations.

A CAB member asked if a taco truck needs a permit. Alexandra Wilson answered that they need a food permit through environmental health.

1. **ADJOURNMENT –**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 am**.**