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**Sun Valley Citizen Advisory Board Minutes of the regular meeting of the Sun Valley Citizen Advisory Board held on June 7, 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 – Michael Rider, Heidi Soper, Mary Esposito, Amy Owens, Carmen Ortiz, Veronica Cortes (late)

Absent – Mark Neumann

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**The pledge of allegiance was recited
2. **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**Carol Burns stated that the County doesn’t have funding to pay overtime for staff attending Saturday meetings, but she believes meetings should remain on Saturdays because weekday traffic in Sun Valley makes it hard for people to attend.

Andrea Pelto announced that the updated Elder Services guides are available, with verified phone numbers and many changes. She encouraged people to take copies for themselves or their neighbors and to contact her if they need more.

Carmen Ortiz explained that meetings were moved from Monday nights to Saturdays because many attendees didn’t like driving at night. She encouraged people to share their preferences in public comment and discuss with neighbors before deciding on meeting times.

1. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF** May 3, 2025 –

A CAB member motioned to approve the minutes for the meeting of May 3, 2025, with and edit to the date for the upcoming BCC meeting from the 13th to the 17th of June. Michael Rider seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.
2. **PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATES –

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District**
Battalion Chief Derek Reid reported that in May there were 304 calls for service in the Sun Valley district, including fires, medical calls, motor vehicle accidents, and other incidents. He reminded the community to be cautious during the summer months, highlighting the increased risk of heat-related illnesses, especially among the very young and elderly, and noted that most wildfire causes are human-related. He also announced that Chief Edwards will start as the new District Chief on July 1.

Carol Burns asked for an update on using goats to clear vegetation on BLM land around Sun Valley. Derek Reid explained that the goat program is managed by BLM, not the county, and that other fuels reduction efforts are ongoing. He offered to provide BLM contact information so Carol could follow up directly. Alexandra Wilson added that she can provide the contact information of the person they email in 311.

1. **CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF NORTHERN NEVADA -**

Marie Baxter, CEO of Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada, shared that Sun Valley has long been a high-need area for their services, especially for families and seniors. They recently moved into a new building on Gepford Way after losing their previous space at St. Peter Canisius Church, which expanded. The new facility offers a client-choice pantry and support services and has been remodeled, with plans for further improvements including a potential community garden.

Elizabeth De La Torre described the services offered at their Sun Valley office, including crisis support, case management for benefits like SNAP and Medicaid, a food pantry open three days a week, rental assistance, and referrals to other agencies. They also help with reading documents, senior services, home visits for those unable to travel, and assistance in Spanish. She emphasized their strong community ties and commitment to helping local families and seniors.

Marie Baxter explained that their Sun Valley client-choice pantry operates like a grocery store, allowing people to select fresh food that fits their needs. They also offer workforce development support, a poverty reduction program in partnership with Notre Dame, and a grant-funded senior home modification service for safety improvements. She encouraged people to visit their offices for help rather than relying solely on online resources.

Heidi Soper asked if the minor medical services she saw at the grand opening were still offered. Marie Baxter confirmed they still provide immunizations for seniors, adults with disabilities, and children through free state vaccines, and their nurses also offer nutrition and diabetes education at the Sun Valley pantry. Heidi Soper also asked if they provide any other medical assistance and Marie Baxter explained they refer people needing broader medical care to other providers but can offer screenings, blood pressure checks, diabetes questionnaires, and referrals. Their nurses also deliver limited food boxes to seniors who can't come to the pantry, which seniors can visit twice a month. She expressed her personal connection to Sun Valley and passion for serving the community.

Veronica Cortes shared her deep ties to the area and asked about the percentage of Hispanic clients served, emphasizing the need for more Latino community involvement and mentioning past concerns of discrimination. Elizabeth De La Torre responded that about half their daily clients are Latino, affirmed the growing Hispanic presence, and emphasized they respect and serve everyone equally.

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

Alexandra Wilson stated there are no upcoming events for the area but mentioned ongoing projects tied to budget issues and offered to discuss any specific projects further if needed.

Carmen Ortiz asked about traffic delays from Highland Village 2 construction and when they might end. Alexandra Wilson did not have an update and noted that they believe Ken Crater is the project contact and they will gather an update on the timeline. Carmen Ortiz noted that projects often present plans years before breaking ground, and by the time work starts, the community forgets details from initial presentations. She requested updates on numerous developments in Sun Valley. Alexandra asked for a list of what projects they would like an update on and would be able to provide any updates to them.

Michael Rider suggested attending Sun Valley General Improvement District meetings to get updates on local projects, since they handle water and sewer approvals. He noted the next meeting is Thursday at 5:30 p.m. and said it's a good way to stay informed about developments.

1. **BOARD MEMBER/COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS/ REQUESTS/ DISCUSSION -**

Alexandra Wilson, on behalf of Commissioner Mariluz Garcia, shared several updates. The Sun Valley Bike Park project, originally set to break ground this spring, is still finalizing design details, with groundbreaking expected in fiscal year 2026 (starting July 1). Commissioner Garcia is also sponsoring a free swim day and popsicles for kids on July 5. Alexandra reported on the recent tire and TV cleanup, which filled dumpsters quickly and removed over 2,000 tires plus difficult-to-dispose-of tube TVs and issued waste vouchers to prevent illegal dumping. She said future cleanups will likely focus on tires and household hazardous waste. They suspect commercial dumping, particularly on Chimney Drive, and are working with the Sheriff’s Office and media on possible trail cameras and public awareness efforts to deter it. She encouraged the community to report any suspicious dumping activity.

Carol Burns asked about the senior swim schedule. Cindy Leslie confirmed it will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 a.m. to noon, starting the week after the pool opens next week.

Veronica Cortes shared that residents appreciated the tire cleanup and revealed a tire company was persuading locals to store tires, then abandoning them. She said they have the company’s details and are taking action. Alexandra Wilson confirmed they’re pursuing leads to address the issue at its source.

Ellen Chapin asked about unresolved issues with the signal at Clear Acre, noting it was supposedly referred to the right agencies but hasn’t been fixed. Alexandra Wilson responded that Commissioner Garcia contacted RTC, which said the City of Reno addressed the issue, though Ellen noted the problem still appears unresolved.

Alexandra Wilson explained that surveys to select a new date for Sun Valley CAB meetings are available online via QR code or link, and printed copies are also at the meeting for those who prefer paper. She encouraged people to share the survey with neighbors and noted the next meeting is July 12, when the new date will be announced along with the next quarter’s CAB schedule.

Cindy Leslie questioned why meetings were moving from Saturdays, arguing flex time could allow staff to work weekends and expressing concerns about seniors attending weekday evening meetings in winter. Alexandra Wilson explained Saturday meetings require straight overtime pay and are inconsistent with other CAB schedules. She noted weekday meetings allow better staff scheduling and said they’re open to community feedback on meeting times, including daytime options to address safety concerns.

Carmen Ortiz asked if meetings would remain at Hobey’s, and when surveys were due. Alexandra Wilson confirmed the plan is to stay at Hobey’s, with surveys due by June 22, and said they’d share the survey more widely. Carmen offered to help transport people if meetings move to evenings and expressed appreciation for having Hobey’s as a consistent meeting space.

Michael Rider announced he plans to step down as CAB chair in July and highlighted upcoming efforts, including installing cameras on water tanks and sharing park camera feeds with the Sheriff’s Department to help reduce dumping and graffiti. He encouraged attending the June 12 GID meeting for updates on development issues and noted the board works to ensure developers pay their share to keep local utility costs low.

Carol Burns asked if the development on Dandini will be part of the GID. Michael Rider explained it will partially involve GID, particularly for sewer services, and they are still negotiating to ensure the developer covers infrastructure costs. No agreement has been finalized yet.

Heidi Soper updated that the blue and yellow flags on Chocolate Drive mark water and gas lines and soil sampling, noting that the developer doesn’t yet have a business license. She also mentioned markings on Sun Valley Boulevard relating to an RTC project. Heidi reminded everyone about the June 17 County Commission meeting that will discuss CABs.

Michael Rider explained that survey work on Sun Valley Boulevard is to study utilities and drainage in preparation for moving utilities and burying ditches. He said they often seek out project info to answer community questions, even for areas outside GID jurisdiction, and promised to keep sharing updates on projects like Dandini.

1. **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT –**

Carol Burns shared concerns about unsafe walking conditions on Rampion due to gravel and debris, noting the county has only one street sweeper for the entire area. She criticized high salaries for county leadership, suggesting salary cuts could fund more blue-collar workers to address basic community needs like street cleaning.

Carmen Ortiz expressed concern that despite new sidewalks on Sun Valley Boulevard, speeding traffic makes it unsafe for children, calling the improvements too little, too late.

Cindy Leslie commented that they do a potluck every last Friday of the month for seniors and they would like to see new faces.

Veronica Cortes said she’s been attending County Commission meetings, believing that County Manager Eric Brown has delayed the open checkbook project, but she’s pushing for it and will keep the community updated.

Judy Jensen’s comment was read by Alexandra Wilson. She stated that she wants the meeting to stay on Saturdays and that Waste Management also sent postcards on household hazardous waste appointments with GrayMar Environmental. She also thanked staff for providing the microphone for the meeting. Additionally, she said she could help with the Highland Ranch Facebook page for the promotion of the survey and that Highland Ranch Homeowners Association are having yard sales in 15 of their homes.

Alexandra Wilson shared that Washoe County’s open checkbook is already online and announced a Budget 101 session on July 22 from 5:30–7 p.m. at the Commission Chambers on 9th Street, with formal announcements coming soon.

Michael Rider shared that the GID secured a backup meeting space at the senior center on the first Monday of the month, in case Hobey’s isn’t available. He noted they prefer to stay at Hobey’s but wanted to ensure there’s always a venue for meetings.

1. **ADJOURNMENT –**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am**.**