



## Warm 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 Warm Springs Rural Citizen Advisory Board held on July 13, 2022, at Regional Shooting Facility, 21555 Pyramid Highway, Palomino Valley

**1. CALL TO ORDER/ DETERMINATION OF QUORUM** – A quorum was determined. Members include: Susan Ambrose, Karenne Smith, Hugh Ezell, Marshal Todd, Pam Roberts (alternate). Absent: Kevin Cook

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

### **3. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT –**

Nancy Brown said I've lived in Palomino Valley for 12 years. I love this community. I love a rural life. I just have two comments. So I would hope the CAB would consider in the future. I think two of our biggest concerns in our community is the infrastructure. Even what's happening in Spanish Springs is impacting Palomino Valley, traffic, and possibly water. Today, I saw where a Nevada geologist is doing water surveys, and one of the topics was, are they going to transport it now? This could be rumors to Spanish Springs. So I think it would be great to have NDOT. And now maybe I've missed because I was gone a few months having NDOT talk about what they're gonna do with the congestion on Palomino Valley. I mean, the Spanish Springs that impacts our traffic and what TMWA has planned for water in our community. And then I also want to thank Mr. Brown for taking the time to talk to our community about Washoe County.

Kathryn Snidegar said, first of all, I would like to inform everybody that code enforcement cannot come onto your property unless you invited them or they're coming with a warrant and a sheriff. They cannot arbitrarily come onto your property by the zoning violation and say no, you're guilty. So I wanted to get that out of the way. Second thing is the health department has published new restrictions and fees for permits on burning your wood stove or your pellet stove. I went to the county commissioners yesterday and informed them that since I am a nonperson, a nonresident, and an un-enfranchised Natural Woman, I will not be following these things. And I will not buy a permit that says I am exempt from buying a permit. So I just wanted to make that really clear. I use my woodstove for my soul-source of heat, and I will not be buying a permanent one. Thank you.

Renee Santos said I was also at the county commissioners meeting yesterday, and there was some discussion about some plans that will affect us here, but it also was about the water. About transporting water from here so the builders can keep building in Spanish Springs. The other one is the Donovan Pit. Yes, he wants to put 145 houses on that property. And there's no access to the properties except for one. And if there's a fire, everyone will be trapped over there. They looked into another access, but it doesn't qualify. So that's not going to happen. And also, most of the public was against it because of Pyramid Highway and the two lanes there. Because we might have 145 houses, but with the economy the way it is, there could be six families on each property; we're talking maybe six cars, so we could have a lot of congestion out there. I would like to know what we can do about that. We had two commissioners that voted against it. Jeanne Herman and Hartung because they were concerned not just about the water but the traffic and the access to the land. So maybe Commissioner Brown could speak to that a little bit more to us when he speaks that. It seems like whenever something is voted down; it's about brought back again and passed at the commissioners' meeting. So I have a concern about that because we're not totally opposed to the growth as long as they take care of the infrastructure and the water. So we want to make sure that's happening. Thank you.

**4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF MAY 11, 2022 [For Possible Action] - MOTION: Marshal Todd moved to approve the minutes of May 11, 2022. Karenne Smith seconded the motion which carried unanimously.**

**5. ELECTION OF 2022-2023 CAB OFFICERS – [For Possible Action]**

**MOTION for Chair: Susan Ambrose nominated Marshal Todd for Chair. Karenne Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

**MOTION for Vice Chair: Marshal Todd nominated Susan Ambrose for Vice Chair. Karenne Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried in favor 3 with one abstention.**

Susan Ambrose explained how the nomination process happens. The public member expressed interest in serving on the CAB. Mr. Todd explained the application process, and Commissioner Herman appoints the applicant. Mr. Ezell encouraged anyone interested to run.

Kathryn Snidegar said I don't like the idea that two members of Ms. Ambrose Alliance that is closed to the public are on this board. They've been working with the county for years. And I don't like this because they don't reflect what we want and go behind our backs and work with the county. It's a formal rejection.

Ms. Ambrose said the alliance was disbanded over a year ago, and that's public information. Ms. Snidigar requested she sends that information again.

**6. WASHOE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE – General Community Update. [Non-Action Item]**

**7. TRUCKEE MEADOWS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT – General Community Update. [Non-Action Item]**

A TMFPD representative provided an update. District 46, ran a total of 148 calls, 9 of which were motor vehicle accidents. 139 of those were EMS emergency medical calls. 2 were fires. 8 were public assist or good intent calls, one hazmat, and then 23 false alarms. In the Warm Springs area, there were 15 incidents total, 10 EMS incidents, 4 assist good intent calls, and one false alarm.

I mentioned that we have an ambulance stationed outside of Spanish Springs behind Savemart. That ambulance serves this community as well as Spanish Springs. It will auto aid into the City of Sparks because they are right next door to us. But their primary responsibility is Spanish Springs clear out here to Palomino Valley. We do have two more ambulances in the district, one in Sun Valley, which will come over into Spanish Springs. And sometimes, if that's the closest ambulance, we'll come to Palomino Valley. And then we have one down in the south district at Bowers station, off the old highway 395. That primarily serves the south end of the district up to see Mt. Rose highway, all of those ambulances can go to other places, what we do try and keep them in their respective jurisdictions to serve the communities that they're housed in. We have two ambulances; two new ambulances are on order. They've been on order for a year, with Covid and shortage, parts, delays, and things like that, it keeps getting pushed back and back. That was supposed to be here this month, and it's been pushed back to October. But we have two more ambulances in reserves; hopefully, they'll get here, and they will go into the frontline, or they'll be reserves because things do break down. That's the plan right now. We may expand it in those discussions.

Ms. Snidegar asked why we don't have the volunteer EMTs anymore. The TMFPD said we do. Palomino Auxiliary stationed at the equestrian center, are in this district. They respond to events out here. We keep them in their home district. We have 9 volunteers Fire Fighters/EMS. They aren't there

every day. Some live in Palomino Valley or Sparks. They come in when there are big events. They are focused on wildland fires. A community member asked about the training. Chief Isernhagen explained the training process for wildland fires and refresher courses. He said 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of every month there is some kind of training at different stations. The initial training is twice a year; on boarding in the Fall and Spring. In response to Ms. Snidegar, Chief Isernhagen said we have a water tender truck out here. We have 9 water tender trucks. The volunteers are on all dispatch if they are in the area. They aren't sitting there all the time. They could respond to the fire in their own vehicle, but they don't have the tools.

Mr. Ezell spoke about a burn area between Nixon and Fernley. He said he realized it was a control burn. He said that seemed like a good idea. Why don't the fire departments institute a control burn on the roadside in the spring? Why don't we do control burns out here? Division Chief Isernhagen said we do control burn quite frequently. He said it's a manpower issue. He said we are focused on fuels around homes. He said we did some around Whites Creek, Dog Valley. The TMFPD representative spoke about land ownership. He spoke about prescribed burns in other states that got away. He spoke about the paperwork required for burning on other land.

A public member asked about the preventative measure. Do you ask volunteers to clear the sagebrush with their tractors? Mr. Isernhagen said yes, but not necessarily with their equipment. He said his crew, when they aren't fighting a fire, focus on fuel reduction. He said NV Energy would pay for defensible space around power lines. He spoke about cheatgrass and tumbleweeds. He advised against dragging around your property and spreading those seeds. You could be making it worse.

**8. CAB CHECK-IN** – Washoe County Manager, Eric Brown, will be present to request feedback from the CAB and community members regarding the community-focused CAB format and the development meeting HUB interface. [Non-Action Item]

Mr. Brown introduced himself and said he wanted to check in and get input.

Pam Roberts thanked him for coming out here. She said the bi-monthly meetings is working out well. She said I'm concerned that my life partner of 32 years, who has immune compromised, would participate if this was available via zoom. If we have large groups, it's too large for the fire station. This is a big area, or have health reasons and cannot attend. Mr. Brown said her request is being acted upon.

Larry Chesney said he had been involved for 17 years. This CAB has grown. There are a lot of new faces and people. The information we are getting on our agenda is extremely valuable. I see this CAB grow as the valley grows. He said he knows Candee is working on getting internet out here so we can host CABs via zoom. It's going very well. Better than before. Mr. Brown said we are working on broadband service out here. He said it's being addressed.

Pam Roberts said Candee Ramos had been an incredible support for this CAB. The communication has been excellent.

Kathryn Snidegar said she is glad the CABs are back. She said she went to CABs for 31 years and they became too restrictive. Spanish Springs and Gerlach get everything. We are the speedbump. She appreciates the broadband out here. She said we need the CAB every month. Mr. Brown spoke about broadband service. He said he has been working with the State Office of Science and Technology, the FCC, and the Department of Commerce. They have money floating around for rural communities. We have done additional work to get additional fiber strands for Gerlach. We are pursuing another provider to come up to Pyramid from Spanish Springs. You may see a mix of wired and wireless solutions due to the size of the properties out here. There have been a lot of advances.

Mr. Todd said he has ATT hot spot. He said it's worked for him, and it's fast. Mr. Brown said ATT has a line down Pyramid.

A public member asked about broadband in the school district. Mr. Brown spoke about a broadband coalition with the school district, RTC, and public safety agencies. They are mapping state and federal locations. Those locations will be the first to get fiber connectivity. They are inviting local municipalities to provide input on the need for broadband. It will include hospitals, clinics, and schools will be involved. The public member thanked Mr. Brown for attending. It's very refreshing. Mr. Brown said the Board of County Commissioner meetings isn't designed to exchange ideas. It's not the place you want to go to ask questions and expect to get an answer. This is a much better forum. He said he wants to ensure you have a forum when you have an issue to address. Your commissioner attends your meetings which isn't true to all CABs. Kudos to Commissioner Herman. That is what the CAB is designed for. If you feel we are getting away from that, hold us accountable. We are using a lot of resources. This is one of the most important ways we can improve outreach.

Mr. Todd asked Mr. Brown to speak about the Development Hub. Ms. Roberts said we had developments out here. When the hub site was developed, we were getting notices for development, but since we live in this big wide area with big parcels, the noticing of 750 feet is only 5 people. She spoke about commercial zoning changes in the SPA. They only noticed a small group of people. She said she attended the planning commission meeting. She said she believes in good communication, transparency, and input from the community. It must be fair. She said she complained that only a small group of people knew about the development meeting. She said she is now on the distribution list. She said no everyone realizes they can get on the distribution lists. She said she printed out the first notice that goes to a small group of people, 20 people received the invitation. There were probably about 10 people who showed up. She said she read the summary drafted by the developer who wants to get their project through. Ms. Roberts said we are now getting notices for all the Districts. Mr. Brown said it's a new recent change; some people sign up to receive all the developments in the district. Mr. Brown said development meetings could be included in your CAB meeting. Just request it.

Ms. Smith said she is concerned with safety. There is development going on along the Pyramid highway. I'm concerned we are backing ourselves into a situation we saw in Paradise. She requested the emergency response plan but was denied a copy due to terrorist concerns. She requested the emergency manager attend to discuss the response plan. Mr. Brown said they do this. We will work with them to be on the agenda.

**9. OUTDOOR BURNING IN WASHOE COUNTY** – August Isernhagen, Division Chief – Wildfire/Fuels, Truckee Meadows Fire & Rescue and Brittany Lemon, Fire Prevention Captain, will provide information about open burning in Washoe County, how burn permitting is determined, and answer community questions. [NonAction Item]

Division Chief Isernhagen provided information regarding pile burning and green waste. Agricultural burn is anything other than recreational and pile burn. It's ditches and fields.

Ms. Snidegar spoke about her pile burning in a deep, wide hole. Below ground burning.

Ms. Roberts spoke about pile-burning restrictions and fuel reduction. She asked them to be flexible on non-windy days. Division Chief Isernhagen said his teams chase false alarms when pile burn opens.

Mr. Todd said you may want to consider providing a phone number for when we burn so you are aware when we burn. Division Chief Isernhagen said we have those layer maps showing where the active permits are.

Ms. Snidegar said she calls all of her neighbors when she is burning. Ms. Lemon said we encourage you notifying your neighbors.

Mr. Ezell recommended getting the number of the residents in the valley to call to see where they are pile burning so you don't have to come out. Ms. Snidegar said that is what the volunteer fire fighters. Division Chief Isenrhagen said we could use volunteers for that, but it's a liability for a citizen.

Mr. Ezell said he likes to burn when it snows or rains, but it's always out of the burn dates. Division Chief Isenrhagen thanked everyone for their input. He said there are a lot of people who don't want any open burning.

A public member said she agreed with Mr. Todd. If there is a number to call to let the dispatch call and let you know we are burning.

**10. COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT) OVERVIEW AND Q & A** – Joe Olaciregui, CERT Program Coordinator, Washoe County Sheriff's Office, will share information about the CERT program, which is disaster preparedness and response training classes designed for the "general citizen" that provides a broad base of training in disaster preparedness, light search and rescue, disaster medical, fire safety and many other aspects of preparation and response. [Non-Action Item]

A representative from the Operations Support of Washoe County Sheriff office provided information regarding the CERT program.

We are taking people into the academy on the 21-23 and 28-30 of this month. He said it's on Spectrum road, Ripstick, Emergency Operation Center.

Ms. Roberts asked how many people are certified and how you get a hold of them. He said there are 263 volunteers with 44 paid personnel. He said we have five teams that cover Washoe County in Sparks, Washoe, North Valleys, Incline, and Red Rocks. He said there are emails that go out about Hot August Nights Health Department Family Health Festival. He said we are trained to help with Outreach, Crowd Control, Traffic, Fire Training, helicopter training, and search and rescue training.

Susan Ambrose said there is a handout about the emergency evacuation checklist, code red, and Living With Fire.

Nancy, a public member, spoke about Community Connect, a site where we register our family and animals. She wondered why they don't tell everyone about it.

**11. WASHOE COUNTY COMMISSIONER UPDATE-** Washoe County Commissioner Jeanne Herman may be available to provide updated information on discussions and actions by the Board of County Commissioners. [Non-Action Item]

Commissioner Herman said she wanted to add a few things to the CAB program. She said she fought to get the CABs back when they stopped. She said her five CABs meet 12 times a day. She said people could count on it and put it on their calendars. She said we would put signs out on the main road to announce the 'CAB meeting on the second Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m.' It was really handy. She said she would like to see the development come back to the CAB meetings.

**12. CAB MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS/REQUESTS** — This item is limited to announcements and/or requests for future agenda items by CAB members. [Non-Action Item]

Mr. Todd invited everyone to check out Palominovalleynv.com; there is a lot of information on that website.

Mr. Ezell requested future agenda items to discuss making the CAB meeting occur monthly. He also requested NDOT representative to come out to talk about the highway. He said he would also like to invite Lydia from TMWA to discuss the water. He said a Q&A with the TMWA representative would be good for interaction. Mr. Ezell said it would be a good idea to invite the health department representative about woodstove permits and new regulations. He said he would like to have an agenda item to talk about local fire response effort – a public/private response outside of the fire department. The public has some great ideas for responding to fires. Ms. Ambrose asked that we advise the fire chiefs. Ms. Snidegar said it would be a good idea to see if there is interest.

Susan Ambrose said TMWA finished the feasibility water study report, the hydrology portion of it. They have come to our CAB and held neighborhood meetings. We could ask them to come back. He said they have held meetings at the Equestrian Center as sort of an open house.

**13. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT** – Limited to no more than three (3) minutes. Anyone may speak pertaining to any matter either on or off the agenda. The public are requested to submit a Request to Speak form to the Board Chairman. Comments are to be addressed to the Board as a whole. [Non-Action Item]

Ms. Roberts said we can't flush out all of the ideas if there were too many items on the agenda. Mr. Todd said we are restricted to the Open Meeting Law. Ms. Snidegar said we need longer CAB meetings. Mr. Brown said 1.5 hours is the best practice. People get burned out when it goes too long, but you can make the meetings longer. Send agenda items to Mr. Todd and Candee.

**ADJOURNMENT** – the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.