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**Warm Springs/Rural Minutes of the regular meeting of the Warm Springs/Rural Citizen Advisory Board held on September 25, 2024, at 6:00 P.M. via ZOOM**

1. **CALL TO ORDER/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM** [Non-Action Item] Kevin Cook, Pamela Roberts, Marshall Todd, and Larry Chesney were present. Hugh Ezelle was absent.

A quorum was established, and the meeting was called to order at 6 p.m.

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE [Non-Action Item]**

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

1. **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT** –

Marshall Todd announced their candidacy for the GID, emphasizing the importance of maintaining the recent calm in the community and expressing a desire to avoid any disruptions.

1. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF July 10, 2024 [For Possible Action]**

Marshall Todd motioned to approve the minutes for the July 10th CAB. Pam Roberts seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

1. **PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE** – General Community Update from Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and/or Washoe County Sheriff’s Office. [Non-Action Item]

\*\*This item follows item 8 on the agenda.

Truckee Meadows Fire Department

Battalion Chief Ryan Rizzuto provided an update on the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) for August. The statistics showed a quiet month with only one fire, nine EMS calls, one car accident, and one good intent call. Rizzuto reminded the community that burning is currently closed, pending weather conditions, but green waste collection is ongoing, with details available on the TMFPD website. He highlighted a recent half-acre fire in Palomino Valley that was quickly managed with assistance from multiple agencies. Rizzuto noted that the year has been busy, citing various fires such as the Ironwood, Gold Ranch, Davis, Trail, and Sullivan fires. He expressed gratitude for the support received, especially from the six engines from Las Vegas that helped cover during the Davis fire, allowing local crews some much-needed rest while maintaining service continuity.

Larry Chesney raised a concern about potential regionalization of fire departments, recalling past issues where Reno sought to centralize resources to its advantage. He requested an update on whether this regionalization effort is genuinely being pursued or if discussions are taking place behind closed doors. Battalion Chief Ryan Rizzuto responded that while he couldn't provide extensive details without the Fire Chief present, he mentioned ongoing discussions about potentially expanding boundaries for resource allocation among neighboring agencies. Rizzuto indicated that these talks are still in preliminary stages and involve various officials, including elected representatives. He promised to relay Chesney's concerns to the Fire Chief for further follow-up and noted that updates would be available at County Commission meetings.

Pamela Roberts inquired about the potential for the Warm Springs Volunteer Fire Station to become a fully staffed fire station. She asked if there are any strategic plans or criteria that need to be met for this transition. Battalion Chief Ryan Rizzuto acknowledged the valuable role of the volunteer firefighters, noting their support during recent incidents. However, he indicated that decisions regarding the establishment or staffing of a new station would need to be directed to the Fire Chief and elected officials for clarification on the specific criteria. Roberts also commended Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District for their effective responses to recent fires, including the quick action during the Ironwood fire, which protected several structures. Rizzuto appreciated her recognition and emphasized collaborative effort with various agencies in managing fire incidents.

Kevin Cook commended TMFPD for their quick response to a recent fire on Dogskin Mountain. Battalion Chief Rizzuto emphasized that regional camera systems enable quick detection and response, allowing for timely aerial assistance. Collaboration with local dispatch enhances rapid action, ensuring air support is available to prevent small fires from escalating.

Washoe County Sheriff's Department

Sheriff’s Captain Avina apologized for not attending in person and introduced Larissa Renner, the supervisor of the Mobile Outreach Safety Team (MOST). He highlighted the strong community support during recent fires, noting that volunteers assisted with evacuations and resources. Despite challenges, the Sheriff's Department maintained regular police services during the emergency. Captain Avina emphasized the collaborative efforts between fire and law enforcement, and he handed the update over to Renner for more details on MOST's role, which includes responding to calls with deputies to provide community resources.

Larissa Renner introduced the Mobile Outreach Safety Team (MOST), which has been integrated with the Washoe County Sheriff's Office since 2022. The team consists of herself, four clinicians, and a licensed clinician, operating seven days a week to address behavioral health crises and assist deputies on calls. They provide brief interventions and connect individuals to long-term support services. A caseworker is available five days a week to help navigate community resources. Renner emphasized their goal of supporting first responders and ensuring individuals receive the assistance they need.

Community member Jan Mortensen asked about the qualifications and experience of the clinicians on the Mobile Outreach Safety Team (MOST). Renner explained that all clinicians are licensed at a master's level, including licensed clinical social workers, marriage and family therapists, and professional counselors. They assist law enforcement in mental health crises, aiming to provide support rather than incarceration. Renner noted that the partnership with law enforcement allows them to address situations from both perspectives, focusing on helping individuals rather than solely criminal activity. Captain Avina emphasized this has provided increased education for deputies about available resources, ensuring a coordinated response to crises at any time.

CAB member Pam Roberts sought clarification from Larissa Renner about the role of MOST clinicians, noting that their responsibilities extend beyond crisis intervention for suspects; they also assist victims and families, especially when someone is taken into custody. Renner confirmed this, explaining that their interventions often involve educating family members seeking help for their loved ones. Even if someone is jailed, MOST can advocate for them and connect families to support services, including specialty courts. Captain Avina emphasized the importance of ongoing communication and collaboration with law enforcement to provide comprehensive support to individuals and families in crisis.

1. **UPDATE ON BROADBAND/CELL PHONE ZONE IN WARM SPRINGS/RURAL AREA** –

No update on broadband was provided. Candee said they will provide an update at the next CAB meeting.

1. **TRASH AFTER BURNING MAN** – For Possible Action

Community member Maeve Ambrose shared concerns about trash and debris left along the highway after the Burning Man event. Traveling from Cedarville to Palomino Valley, they noticed a significant amount of litter, especially broken glass near the tribal reservation, which she found disrespectful given the Tribe's efforts to maintain cleanliness with facilities and dumpsters. She suggested that Washoe County could allocate part of the ticket proceeds to improve waste management during the event. Additionally, she mentioned existing community groups that organize cleanup efforts, emphasizing that such actions shouldn't be necessary if proper measures were in place to manage waste effectively.

CAB Vice Chair Marshall Todd expressed concerns about the trash generated by the nearly 70,000 attendees of Burning Man. He emphasized the need for waste management services to be contracted to efficiently handle the trash, suggesting that Burning Man should be responsible for maintaining the roads and preventing littering on the way home. He noted that improvements like street lighting have reduced litter on certain routes, but that significant trash remains. Todd argued that if attendees had proper disposal options while at the event, they would be less likely to litter, and he insisted that the event organizers, who profit significantly, should bear the costs of Waste Management.

The CAB addressed the trash management challenges from Burning Man, suggesting solutions like toll roads to cover cleanup costs and improving trash disposal logistics at the event. CAB members noted insufficient drop-off points lead to littering and emphasized that organizers should be responsible for waste management due to their profits. They proposed more efficient drop-off systems and stricter enforcement of littering laws to promote accountability. The group plans to present their concerns to the Board of County Commissioners, advocating for a staff member to explore these options while recognizing the event's economic benefits. The CAB also proposed drafting a letter to the County Commission and potentially meeting with County Manager Eric Brown to present their grievances and seek assistance. A motion was made to authorize CAB president Larry Chesney to represent their community’s concerns in this meeting. Marshall Todd seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

**8.** **WASHOE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM BOOKMOBILE –**

**\*\*This agenda item was moved up to be after item 4, “THE APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES”.**

Jonnica Bowen introduced herself as the manager of the North Valleys Library and the new Washoe County Library Bookmobile, which started operating in February. She expressed excitement about visiting the community and shared that the Bookmobile aims to serve residents, especially those who have difficulty accessing a library. Currently, the Bookmobile has established regular stops and hopes to add a stop in Warm Springs by spring. Bowen encouraged feedback from the community on the best location for the stop.

CAB Vice Chair Marshall Todd suggested that the Bookmobile speak with Sue from an inaudibly named facility, as it is centrally located and would avoid noise interference from gunfire. Jonnica emphasized the importance of community input in determining the best stop locations. The Bookmobile offers a diverse collection of books for all ages, focusing mainly on popular fiction, but also includes nonfiction. Bowen mentioned that they curate materials based on community needs, like their upcoming stop at the Northern Nevada Veterans Home, where they'll tailor the collection to residents' interests.

\*\*06:55 An unnamed CAB member asked if there's a way to request specific books or materials in advance from the Bookmobile. Jonnica Bowen explained that patrons can place holds online using their library cards or call the library to request items. The Bookmobile carries a variety of materials, including DVDs and CDs. She noted that about 20% of their collection is curated based on patron demand, and they also offer an interlibrary loan service for items not available in their collection. Additionally, Bowen mentioned she can issue library cards from the Bookmobile on-site.

Community member George Boyce asked where the majority of their stops are. Jonnica explained that the Bookmobile operates on a four-week schedule, visiting different areas each week. The first week is spent in the North Valleys, the second in Pyramid and tribal reservation areas, and the third and fourth weeks focus on inner-city stops, including the Northern Nevada veterans’ home and local parks. The Bookmobile also participates in special events and parades. For information about its stops and services, patrons can visit the Washoe County Library website and refer to brochures like "The Explorer," which outlines upcoming activities and services available at library facilities. The Bookmobile schedule is also posted online.

CAB member Pamela Roberts asked how long the Bookmobile stays at each site. Jonnica explained that the Bookmobile operates on a four-week cycle, allowing patrons to borrow materials without incurring overdue fines. If a book is checked out from the Bookmobile, users can keep it until the next scheduled stop without penalty. However, items on hold from the main library do not include those available on the Bookmobile, meaning patrons can access popular new titles immediately. This makes the Bookmobile a great option for finding fresh, in-demand books without waiting on hold. Pamela then reiterated her question about how long they are physically at the stop. She responded that the Bookmobile typically stays at each stop for about two hours and makes two stops a day. There has been significant demand for the service, which was reintroduced after being discontinued during the recession. The Bookmobile's revival was driven by community requests during town halls, highlighting the public's desire for library access. After nearly four years of planning and grant writing, the service is back, and the team is excited to fulfill community needs.

CAB member Kevin Cook asked Jonnica Bowen about the Bookmobile's policy on accepting donated books. She explained that while they can accept a handful of books if space permits, the Bookmobile's primary purpose is to make it easier for people to donate without needing to travel to a library. Most donated books do not become part of the library collection due to modern cataloging practices; instead, they are often sold in used book sales to fund community programs. Large donations are better suited for other library locations, like the Friends of the Library facility at Reno Town Mall.

George Boyce asked what effect Question 2 (referring to the 2024 election ballot initiative) will have on the library. Jonnica Bowen discussed the impact of a ballot initiative related to a 2-cent tax, explaining that it is not a new tax but a renewal of an existing one that has been in place since 1994. The tax is set to sunset this year, and the aim is to continue funding in the same manner as before. She provided pamphlets with more information, noting that she cannot advocate for or against the measure but can share how the funds have been used previously. Bowen emphasized that the property tax itself will not change and encouraged attendees to seek additional information online.

Larry Chesney asked Candee Ramos if they can take a small break to get people signed up for library cards. The meeting recessed at 6:20pm. The meeting was called back to order at 6:34pm.

**9. NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT HUB-**

Washoe County staff member Candee Ramos announced the Neighborhood Development HUB during the CAB meeting, highlighting how attendees can access information about upcoming development meetings in Washoe County. She demonstrated how to find the HUB on the county's website and emphasized the importance of signing up for email updates. Ramos noted that neighborhood meetings allow for public feedback on development projects before they proceed, fostering better communication between developers and the community. She mentioned that past meetings have successfully addressed public concerns and encouraged everyone to engage with the new system for staying informed about local developments.

CAB member Pam Roberts expressed concerns about the current notification system for development proposals, which only requires official postcard notices to be sent to properties within 750 feet of a project. She noted that this limited radius can exclude many residents who may be affected by nearby developments, especially in areas like Spanish Springs experiencing significant growth. Pam suggested expanding the notification radius to better inform the community. Candee responded by explaining it is a statute that prevents them from posting notices past the 750 ft and that the requirement is 750 feet and/or at least to the nearest 30 properties.

Larry Chesney expressed concern over the recent zoning changes in Spanish Springs that allow taller buildings and multi-family units in residential areas. He noted that residents feel ignored by the county, with many wishing for a return to more interactive neighborhood meetings that allow their voices to be heard by the Board of County Commissioners. He emphasized that community sentiment is that development decisions are being driven by the developer community rather than the needs of local residents, leading to widespread frustration and a feeling of neglect. Marshall Todd called for improved communication and transparency regarding development issues.

Candee Ramos pointed out the duality of the need for affordable housing and also not wanting more building. Larry Chesney made the point that developers and their attorneys hide behind affordable housing, when he opined it is not. He expressed frustration over the perception that development decisions prioritize developer profits over community needs, leading to a decline in neighborhood quality. Candee suggested inviting planning representatives to explain development processes and advocate for better management of growth to preserve the area's character and infrastructure.

**10. WASHOE COUNTY COMMISSIONER UPDATE** — [Non-Action Item]

Washoe County Commissioner Jeanne Herman did not have any updates to share.

**11. CAB MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS/REQUESTS**

Pamela Roberts emphasized the need to discuss the establishment of a park or community center in Warm Springs. She requested documentation about the management transfer of the shooting range facility to a private entity and how community access is affected. Pam expressed concern that residents are not benefiting from park funds and highlighted the lack of services like the mobile library in their area, despite paying the same taxes as other Washoe County residents. Additionally, she reminded everyone about the upcoming election for the Palomino Valley GID, encouraging the community to research candidates to maintain a rational and effective board.

Larry Chesney brought up the desire for a meeting with more general topics to be held before CAB meetings and to be off the record to avoid open meeting law. Candee Ramos informed the CAB briefly of the CAB reimagination and reassured that a good portion of it will include an opportunity for feedback.

The Warm Springs CAB discussed preparations for putting up signs. George will install a sign on Rangeland Road, and they received permission to use space from the GID, provided they don’t cover their postings. One member plans to measure and potentially add another signpost to allow for more community signage.

Larry discussed the need to have Truckee Meadows Fire provide information at a future meeting regarding the potential for their volunteer fire station to become a fully manned station. Pam expressed skepticism about the feasibility, given the area's population size, and questioned what criteria are used to determine if a station can be manned, such as population thresholds. She compared it to traffic light installations, which rely on specific studies and criteria. Additionally, she raised concerns about why a new station might be needed instead of staffing the existing one and suggested that there should be a long-term plan for fire services in the area.

**12. 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]

George expressed concern about the lack of road tax funding for the GID, despite the maintenance of dirt roads used by residents. He requested that this issue be added to the agenda for discussion. The CAB members acknowledged George's point but clarified that road tax distribution is primarily a matter for the GID to address with the county, rather than the CAB. Lori suggested that the CAB could act as a conduit for community concerns related to road issues, linking them with the GID's discussions. There was agreement on the need to include this topic in a future agenda to facilitate further dialogue.

Jan Mortenson brought up her desire to see more advertisements for the CAB meetings and praised it as very informative. The CAB maintained that they are trying to increase awareness by putting up signs, despite the challenges of maintaining them. Candee added how they use Nextdoor to send out invites to CABs to thousands of residents and that this meeting is their best attended all year with four residents.

**13.** The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.