



Warm Springs/Rural Minutes of the regular meeting of the Warm Springs/Rural Citizen Advisory Board held on March 13, 2024 at 6:00 P.M. via ZOOM

- 1. CALL TO ORDER/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM [Non-Action Item]** Larry Chesney (Chair), Marshall Todd (Vice Chair), Kevin Cook, and Hugh Ezell were present. Pamela Roberts was present via Zoom.

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

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

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.

There was no general public comment.

- 4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF JANUARY 10, 2024 [For Possible Action]**

Hugh Ezell moved to approve the minutes. Marshall Todd seconded that motion. The minutes for January were approved unanimously.

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

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District

James Solaro, Chief from Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, informed the community that April begins open burning in Washoe County, weather permitting. He then went over the strategic plan for Truckee Meadows Fire that had been approved by the Commission recently, which will direct their activity over the next five years. The top goal is serving the community, followed by building a safer and more resilient community and workforce, and third, creating a sustainable future for Truckee Meadows. There are three new recruits who will be coming onto the fire line in July. He then provided statistical information on calls over the past two months; one fire call, 24 EMS calls, 1 public assistance, 2 motor vehicle accidents, a hazmat call and 6 good intent calls. With daylight savings time upon us, this is a good reminder to change the batteries in your smoke detectors. Chief Solaro then introduced Brett Taylor, who is the new wildland urban interface coordinator for Truckee Meadows Fire. Mr. Taylor discussed his background and encouraged the community to become fire-adapted and mitigate risk, noting that fire will happen, but the goal is to allow fires to move through and not damage anything. He offered his business card and encouraged people to contact him for a visit for a defensible space inspection.

CAB Chair Chesney asked about a box switch that he had recently installed and asked about putting that onto a hood card. Chief Solaro encouraged Mr. Chesney to visit Station 46 off of La Posada and give them the code for entry.

Washoe County Sheriff's Office

Washoe County Sheriff's Office Sergeant Lisa Cook introduced herself. She shared the State of the Sheriff's Office document that is available on the Washoe Sheriff's Office (WCSO) website. She highlighted the pillars of Sheriff Balaam, to include pillars on burglaries, which is a carryover from last year, and new for this year is increasing arrests for DUIs. There were no questions of Sergeant Cook.

6. WASHOE COUNTY MANAGER UPDATE – Washoe County Manager Eric Brown will provide an update regarding happenings in Washoe County. [Non-Action Item]

Washoe County Manager Brown introduced himself and indicated that he enjoys doing an annual visit to the CAB meetings to go over accomplishments from the previous year, and a look-ahead for the upcoming year. 2023 was laying the foundation for generational change within the County. Still lingering effects from COVID, but we are now looking to pivot to living life as normal, and discussed how the County may now leverage the federal funding that came in to improve our infrastructure and social services in the community. He highlighted regional dispatch of EMS, 911 phone system, to Hexagon, the common dispatch platform, which will be integrated this fall. Manager Brown went on to discuss elections concerns, citing the advice from an outside consultant who provided best practices of similar sized communities around the country. We learned that our Registrar's office was understaffed and were encouraged to rethink how duties were assigned to part- and full-time employees. We have hired and are now fully staffed in the Registrar of Voters office. We were also advised to create standard operating procedures to assist temporary workers to have a greater understanding of operations. Third, the state is implementing a new top-down voter registration and election management system due to the system being outdated, at 30 years old and not being supported by vendors anymore. Manager Brown acknowledged the county having waited too long to update their technology. There will be bumps in the road, which we hope to solve during the primary in June to avoid larger issues in the general election in November. He praised the solid Registrar of Voters team we now have in place. He discussed the reporting glitch from the Secretary of State's office during the Presidential Preference Primary. Manager Brown then went on to discuss the climate resilience initiative of Washoe County, highlighting how the County has hired its first sustainability manager. Washoe County is taking the lead amongst Reno and Sparks with environmental concerns such as heating and cooling, vehicles, and so on, are being reevaluated for recommendations. He then discussed the Master Plan update, Envision Washoe 2040. A citizen asked about the feedback, but never having seen the final plan. Manager Brown and Chair Chesney indicated this can be found on the Washoe County webpage. Manager Brown went on to discuss Senior Services, which will include facilities update and what best practices for senior programming are around the country. On the opposite side of the spectrum, Manager Brown discussed childcare being a concern in Washoe County and discussed the recent approval of 250 childcare slots in the community. He shared information about the emergency preparedness software tool introduced in 2023, Perimeter, which appeals to people who are visiting and locals alike and can react in the moment to quickly changing situations. Manager Brown updated the community about the broadband initiative in Gerlach, and what this will look like in the future and how that will impact the Warm Springs community. He went on to share information about the Washoe County Leadership Academy and its successes, as well as sharing the information about new hires in leadership within the county. Financially, the County is in a good position, but we are being cautious moving forward. He touched on the Cares Campus and the OUR

Place and Safe Camp homelessness campuses, each serving different populations. He mentioned the screening of the 'HOME' documentary, produced by Washoe County and SoSu productions, which discusses homelessness in Washoe County. Manager Brown discussed the "velvet hammer" approach outlining how the community has a lot of empathy, however we need individuals to accept the hand up and the programs that are here for them.

Chair Chesney asked about the evolution of homelessness in Washoe County and the fluidity of the problem and complimented the County on the people working to get individuals experiencing homelessness back into contributing members of the community. Manager Brown gave kudos to Dana Searcy, a member of the Washoe County team, who oversees homelessness and housing. He provided an overview of his and Ms. Searcy's visits to other communities to note what was going right and wrong, and we will continue to learn. Law enforcement is going to be a key component to improving the community. A community member asked about the 4th Street corridor and the businesses there. Manager Brown identified Grant Denton, who oversees the Safe Camp, as being vital to acting as a liaison with the community as opposed to law enforcement involvement.

CAB member Hugh Ezell wanted to know about what is attracting homeless individuals to the area. Manager Brown indicated that many of these individuals are from this area and became homeless (55%), rather than having moved here from elsewhere. Manager Brown also shared that over 50% of the homeless people we see are senior citizens, and that the County is working with the Chamber and Ann Silver to assist with the continuum of care in providing job skills training and assistance with job placement. CAB members shared concerns of the amount of drugs in the community. We have also seen a spike in deaths of homeless individuals, with a vast majority of them not being in a housed program, but rather dying on the street. The number of unhoused people is going down, however solid tracking is difficult.

Discussed the list of things that the County Commissioners have directed staff to focus on. EMS regionalization, and mental health services in Washoe County. Manager Brown shared that the County had purchased the West Hills mental health facility, which had closed two years ago. This will be key in treating those experiencing mental health problems, especially children, who currently have no bed treatment options in the area. The Commissioners have also tasked the staff with updating the courthouse, which is outdated.

Manager Brown opened a discussion regarding the community survey and discussions surrounding CABs. Would like to have a dialogue about the future of CABs. Indicated that the Commission Support team had been taking attendance for CABs, finding that when meetings are topic-driven, they are well-attended, however when they are not topic-driven, they are not well-attended. We would like residents to provide input to the County Commission so they know how the community feels about a certain topic. Survey has indicated that people do not care for in-person meetings and prefer electronic means of communication.

CAB member Marshall Todd said that the community and CAB would like a meaningful job. Their desire is to keep the area rural, and wishes for power to ensure that the area remains rural. Suggested catering meetings or offering coffee to increase attendance. CAB member Ezell asked what we meant by 'CAB improvements,' and if attendance was the litmus of success. In the past, development applications came to the CAB, but now there is no reason to come. CAB Chair Chesney said that if we want development back in the CAB, they can work with staff members to send that message to County leadership and Commissioners.

CAB member Kevin Cook asked about the broadband item and if this would impact cellular service. Manager Brown indicated that when private companies such as Verizon begin to see an opportunity for a business benefit, that this impacts for-profit cellular service.

7. REVIEW PLAN OF ACTION TO INCREASE CAB PARTICIPATION – Washoe County staff will provide a recap based on the brainstorm during the January 10 meeting of the Warm Springs CAB to advise the county on proposed next steps. [For Possible Action]

Staff provided the recap of the brainstorm that occurred in January, with the recap notes also having been placed under “additional materials” for the CAB. Chair Chesney said that if CABs want to see proposed developments back in the CAB, that is the message they need to send to county leadership and elected officials. He indicated that many people in the room grew up when face-to-face meetings were popular, however the younger generation likes to do things digitally and posed the question how to get more people from the area involved in the CAB and community.

CAB member Marshall Todd suggested possibly changing the CAB meetings to community meetings so that the group is not limited by Open Meeting Law, which was recognized as a positive suggestion by CAB member Hugh Ezell. CAB Chair Chesney indicated that the Commissioner wants them to meet monthly. A citizen in the audience said that Zoom is difficult, and that in-person is much better. She asked how many people are online now, and it was noted that there was one person, a member of the CAB (Pam Roberts). Chair Chesney said that planning commission meetings and area plan meetings are well-attended. There is a concern about growth in the area, which he opined many residents do not want, which is why the CAB should have development back as part of their meetings. CAB member Ezell said that code enforcement should possibly have an ombudsman as a liaison between Palomino Valley and the County. The idea of an unincorporated town came up, with Chair Chesney saying that perhaps residents can meet with decision-makers in the community. Suggested that CABs are marginalized, but an ombudsman may be useful. CAB member Todd said that Commissioner Herman seeks to hold monthly meetings, with CAB member Ezell saying that he agrees and thinks that the community would come out for those. Mr. Todd said that if the CAB had “a job” that they could pull in the crowds. Members of the CAB agreed that they would like for developers to come in and speak with them, with CAB member Kevin Cook saying that the Zoom is a valuable tool and if more people can participate in that way, that could help. The suggestion of improving Zoom and in-person capabilities is desirable, as would be attracting younger demographics. Mr. Ezell opined that younger demographics do not care as much about what is taking place outside of their immediate area. Opined that the agenda should be opened up to the community as a whole to build a camaraderie, even people come purely to complain. Mr. Ezell suggested a board meeting followed by a community meeting, or taking place concurrently with a wall-divider separating the two meetings. He has a list of 70 email addresses that he could use and that offering coffee would be helpful in bringing people out as people like to be social.

Vice Chair Todd said that he would like to make a motion that the CAB write a letter to Manager Brown indicating that the CAB and community would like to be included in development decisions. A discussion ensued with Chair Chesney saying that understanding special use permits would be useful, and Mr. Ezell saying that if development proposals come back to their CAB, that the District Attorney’s office may mandate that development projects come back to all CABs. Marshall Todd reiterated his movement that he would like to write a letter to Manager Brown about bringing development proposals back to the CAB. Washoe County Community Outreach Coordinator Candee Ramos requested to speak, and Chair Chesney recognized her. Ms. Ramos asked if any of the participants in

this meeting had attended a Neighborhood Development Meeting previously. Several members of the CAB said that they had participated in these meetings. Ms. Ramos shared that these development meetings are giving the voice to the people on development projects, earlier in the development process, so that any agreements made during these meetings would be implemented into the project, earlier in the process. CAB member Kevin Cook said that he had participated in those meetings, that the system is fantastic and is very helpful, but reiterated that adding development back into these meetings would bring people to the CAB, also, to get more feedback from the public. Chair Chesney said that with the new Neighborhood Development Meeting program, the expense of hosting meetings is placed onto the developer rather than the County, and that the discussion notes from the meeting would be sent to the County for the planners to review, with the conditions of approval or disapproval on what was agreed upon by the development. The goal is to bring closer communication between the community and the developer and then give community feedback to the County. CAB member Ezell said that combining the Neighborhood Development Meetings with the CAB meetings would take care of both at one time. After this discussion, Marshall Todd repeated his motion to bring development back to the CAB. Chair Chesney requested input from County Manager Eric Brown, who said that the development meetings meet the goal that the CAB wants, which is to have community input in proposed developments and that the development meetings are communicated in the same manner as CAB meetings, plus postcards are sent to 30 addresses, or more. Ms. Ramos said that upcoming area neighborhood meetings are shown at each CAB meeting, as well as provided via email blast to those who wish to sign up for those notifications. Chair Chesney said that he has signed up to receive the notifications and he has received notifications for neighborhood development meetings from throughout the county. Chair Chesney brought Marshall Todd's movement to create a draft letter to the commission from the CAB back to the table for discussion. Hugh Ezell seconded the motion. All members voted in approval, minus Pamela Roberts, who had dropped off of the call. Marshall Todd will draft the letter and send to Ms. Ramos for inclusion in the upcoming meeting.

8. DISCUSSION OF FREQUENCY OF FUTURE CAB MEETINGS – Discuss necessity for schedule of Warm Springs CAB additional meetings for the remainder of 2024. [For Possible Action]

Chair Chesney asked if the meetings should remain bi-monthly or go to a monthly frequency. CAB member Kevin Cook said that there was no need to increase frequency until there is more participation. CAB member Marshall Todd suggested that the item be tabled, and Chair Chesney agreed. This item will appear on a future agenda, once changes to increase participation are implemented. This item was not voted on.

9. PLACEMENT OF CAB SIGNS – CAB Chair Larry Chesney to provide information on possible placement of the signs created to inform people of the CAB dates, with possible formal request from the CAB to Palomino Valley General Improvement District (PVGID) to share hanging location and existing structures. [For Possible Action]

Chair Chesney said that the County had large signs created to have posted in the community to advertise the CAB. Previously, the PVGID had allowed the CAB to use their infrastructure and existing poles to place these signs. Stating that the GID is embroiled in tension at the moment, he suggested that the letter requesting the use of the space come from Washoe County, as opposed to coming from the CAB itself. CAB member Marshall Todd volunteered to write the letter requesting the use of the space, send this letter to Ms. Ramos with the County. CAB member Hugh Ezell suggested simply creating posts of the CAB's own to post the signs. Ms. Ramos described the signs as being large. Chair

Chesney said that the existing posts and where the CAB would want to post the signs would be on a GID right-of-way and would need to officially request the use of the GID existing infrastructure for the CAB signs.

A member of the community asked if at an upcoming PVGID meeting, that at public comment a community member could make the request to begin a conversation. Chair Chesney said that currently the PVGID is very contentious, and the atmosphere would not be conducive to making this request.

Marshall Todd made a motion to write a letter that he would send to Ms. Ramos making this request; Hugh Ezell seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion was approved unanimously.

8. 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 for discussion. Specific questions and feedback will be brought back to the appropriate staff for announcement at the next CAB meeting. [Non-Action Item]

Community Outreach Coordinator for Washoe County, Candee Ramos, was unable to share her screen, however she described how to search and find the Neighborhood Development HUB. Ms. Ramos explained the process of staying informed about upcoming neighborhood development meetings, the process of subscribing to email updates to receive notifications about neighborhood developer meetings. She also encouraged individuals in the area to become a part of the 'Nextdoor' social media page for local updates.

9. 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]

Washoe County Commissioner Jeanne Herman was not available for comment.

10. CAB MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS/REQUESTS — This item is limited to announcements and/or requests for future agenda items by CAB members or the Washoe County Manager Eric Brown. [Non-Action Item]

CAB member Marshall Todd shared an update that the John Enloe, that he had reached an agreement with the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe regarding effluent return flow water, and with the Regional Water Reclamation Facility. This is regarding the proposal to irrigate the farm with TMWRF reclaimed water rather than groundwater. They are discussing mutually beneficial agreements, one of them being the Palomino Farms project, which the Tribe has had a positive response to. Some discussion ensued, until CAB member Pam Roberts interjected that this item is not on the agenda.

CAB member Hugh Ezell said that he was unsure if Wednesday evenings are the best time to hold these meetings. He indicated that he has an email list and he would make a query for the best nights to meet. Chair Chesney expressed concern about changing the day of the meeting now that the reflective signs had been made. CAB member Ezelle said that he would ask the community and bring the responses to the next meeting for discussion.

11. 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]

CAB Chair Chesney made a comment off of the agenda, regarding petition for the recall of the PVGID commissioner Tom Baker has been accepted. There is now an election day, which will be May 4 at the Spanish Springs Library. He also commented that he had interacted with the interim Registrar of Voters, and that it went well. He said that the Interim Registrar taught staff in the moment how to provide better service, which impressed him.

The meeting is adjourned at 08:15 p.m. with thanks and goodbyes.

DRAFT