

# WEST TRUCKEE MEADOWS CITIZEN ADVISORY BOARD

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Minutes of the regular meeting of the West Truckee Meadows Citizen Advisory Board held July 12, 2010 at the Reno High School Alumni Association Center, 395A Booth Street, Reno, Nevada.

- 1.\* **WELCOME** – Commissioner Breternitz welcomed everyone to the re-established West Truckee Meadows CAB. He commented on the importance of public participation as the key to open government.
- 2.\* **CALL TO ORDER** – Board member Brussard called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.
- 3.\* **ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM** – Roll call was heard and a quorum of five members was determined. CAB members introduced themselves.  
**MEMBERS PRESENT** – Trudy Brussard, Ann Potts, George Georgeson, Lance White, Sean McCoy  
**MEMBERS ABSENT** – Andy Giddings (excused)
5. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR MEETING OF JULY 12, 2010** – Ann Potts moved to approve the July 12, 2010 meeting agenda as presented. Lance White seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
4. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS** – Ann Potts moved to postpone election of officers until the September meeting due to the absence of Board members and the appointment of new members. Sean McCoy seconded the Motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- 6.\* **UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE** – Board member Brussard reviewed the following items from the Washoe County Newsletter:
  - Washoe County libraries are changing their hours of operation effective today.
  - Citizens are requested to donate the cost of a year's subscription to a selected periodical at the library of their choice. If you wish to participate, please call 827-1885 or e-mail to [chillyard@washoecounty.us](mailto:chillyard@washoecounty.us).
  - Collection posts have been placed in various parks in the area for collecting donations for park maintenance. Donations will be used for projects ranging from general park maintenance and trail restoration to the purchase of doggie waste bags.
  - Residents are requested to vote for the new Galena Creek Recreation and Visitors' Center to be included in the National Geographic publication "Sierra Nevada Geo-tourism Map Guide". A website location for voting was provided.
  - Property tax bills will be mailed the week of July 19, 2010.
  - The Senior Center on Ninth Street will be staffed from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. More information can be obtained by calling 328-2575.
  - The groundbreaking ceremony for the RTC/Meadowood Interchange was held on June 2, 2010. Bids for the project have come in under budget and will provide over 100 jobs for the area.
  - Individuals can contact the new RTC traffic signal hotline at 335-ROAD to report faulty traffic signals.
  - Various streets in Reno are being reconfigured to reduce the number of lanes from four to two with a center turn lane, bike lanes and parking lanes.
  - The UNR Cooperative Extension is sending UNR representatives to Afghanistan to assist in rejuvenating their farming industry.
- 7.\* **UPDATES/LIAISONS REPORTS**
  - A.\* **Washoe County Sheriff's Office Items** – There was no one in attendance to present a report.
  - B.\* **City of Reno Report** – There was no one in attendance to present a report.
  - C.\* **CAB Liaison Reports** – Information from the update newsletter had been presented earlier during Agenda Item six.
- 8.\* **COUNTY COMMISSIONER UPDATES** – Commissioners Breternitz and Weber may provide an update on County issues.  
Washoe County Commissioner Breternitz reported:
  - The County Commission will discuss two ballot questions at tomorrow's meeting. One is the proposal from the Nevada Association of Counties that all Nevada counties adopt a ballot question requesting the State legislature not take local money for State needs. The other is regarding consolidation of services between Reno and Washoe County. He noted the City of Sparks has expressed no interest in participating in the consolidation. He reviewed possible services that may be consolidated and reported the first feasibility study will be completed on October 15, 2010.
  - The Reno City Council will discuss the Northgate Property issue at their July 14, 2010 meeting. Washoe County will contribute \$400,000 towards the proposed special assessment district (SAD). He noted 68% of residents were in favor of the SAD, which was 1% more than the required percentage needed.

- A final reading and public hearing of the modified False Alarm Ordinance will be presented at the last County Commission meeting held in July. He noted Washoe County residents will not be charged an annual fee, but fees will be charged for all false alarms in all Reno, Sparks, and Washoe County areas.

#### **Concerns/Comments**

- Board member Brussard requested to know if there is any constitutional language regarding how funds are supposed to flow from local jurisdictions to the State. Commissioner Breternitz stated the State Legislature can access some local money for State needs, but that the ballot question would let the State know how local jurisdictions feel about the removal of funding from their area.
- Board member Potts asked if a City Manager has been selected. Commissioner Breternitz replied no.

9.\* **PUBLIC COMMENT** – There were no public comment requests.

10. **NEW BUSINESS** – (The Staff contact listed on items for Community Development may not be in attendance but can be contacted for code and policy questions.)

**A. Fire Adapted Communities: The Next Step in Wildfire Preparedness** – Grant Nejedlo, from the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, will be in attendance to introduce a free workshop on fire adapted communities that will take place from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, July 28 at the Reno Fire Station at 3050 Skyline Boulevard. In collaboration with the City of Reno Fire Department and Nevada Fire Safe Council, the Living with Fire Program will present upon the benefits of fire adapted communities which exist when neighbors work together to implement important communitywide fire preparedness recommendations. Following these recommendations can greatly increase the likelihood your home would survive a wildfire, even with little or no assistance from firefighters. This workshop will provide homeowners the knowledge and skills needed to live safely in a high fire hazard area, including how to best prepare your home and safely evacuate your family should wildfire threaten the neighborhood.

Grant Nejedlo introduced himself and distributed information regarding a fire preparedness workshop that will be held by the Caughlin Ranch Homeowners Association on July 28, 2010 from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Reno Fire Station #7 located on Skyline Blvd. He reviewed previous activities to educate residents about how to live in a high fire hazard environment and reported the Nevada Division of Forestry has provided additional funding for an expansion of educational activities in Washoe County. The goal of this educational outreach is to create communities that are capable of surviving a wildfire with little or no firefighter assistance. Five workshops are planned for different communities within the Washoe County area, but all workshops were open to all Washoe County residents.

#### **Concerns/Comments**

- Board member Brussard commented on the importance of including all residents in the workshops. Mr. Nejedlo agreed and noted public outreach for the upcoming workshops is being planned. Additional workshops will also be scheduled if needed or requested. Some CAB members volunteered to distribute information.
- Board member Georgeson requested to know if there are areas in Washoe County which are more prone to fires than other areas. Mr. Nejedlo reported information was available that determined the fire hazard risk level of communities.
- Board member McCoy asked if workshops will address steps that can be taken if a fire is heading towards homes. Mr. Nejedlo stated there are recommended steps that can be taken if there is time to do so. He commented on the importance of having a fire evacuation kit prepared at all times.
- Board member Potts asked if there was any appetite for volunteer fire departments within the City of Reno. Commissioner Breternitz reported contractual agreements with Reno fire departments do not allow for volunteer fire departments, but citizens can form similar type citizens watch groups. Mr. Nejedlo added this issue will be discussed at the workshops and was also the purpose of the Nevada Fire Safe Council.
- Board member Potts commented on the usefulness of hands-on demonstrations before an emergency occurs.

**B. Washoe County Medical Reserve Corps** – Betsy Hambleton, Medical Reserve Corps Program Coordinator, will provide an overview of Washoe County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) to include information about the MRC's mission and how the program builds resiliency into communities' disaster/emergency response programs. There will be a brief PowerPoint© presentation, after which Ms. Hambleton will answer questions from the CAB and audience. (This item is for information only and the CAB will take no action.)

Betsy Hambleton introduced herself and distributed information regarding the program. With a PowerPoint presentation, Ms. Hambleton explained the program was established after the September 11<sup>th</sup> tragedy and was to pre-screen volunteer healthcare personnel. An Incident Command System has also been established. Volunteer training is provided. Ms. Hambleton stated healthcare professionals and non-medical personnel volunteers are needed. She provided contact information.

#### **Concerns/Comments**

- A brief discussion was held regarding the need for coordination of the various emergency response entities.

**C. Request From Washoe County Public Works For CAB Input For Potential Pedestrian and Bike Projects** – Washoe County is soliciting input from the CABs to develop a list of potential pedestrian and bicycle projects to be located within public right-of-way of County maintained public streets. Washoe County has the opportunity to apply for

Transportation Equity Act (TEA) enhancement funds later this year. Projects for this funding source are transportation related and not recreational. As TEA enhancement project funding is limited to \$650,000 per project, a relatively small amount for construction, it is recommended that projects be segmented in sections of ½ mile (2640 feet). In the past, Washoe County has been granted one project on a 2-year funding cycle. Although County staff will not be at the CAB meeting, questions can be directed to Clara Lawson, P.E., P.T.O.E. with Washoe County Public Works by emailing her at [clawson@washoecounty.us](mailto:clawson@washoecounty.us) or calling her at 775 328-3603. Currently the WTM CAB has previously recommended: traffic calming on Plateau to be added to existing pedestrian and bike path. During the July CAB meeting, the CAB may discuss other possible areas for future pedestrian and bike paths. During the September meeting, the CAB will have an action agenda item on this topic to either recommend: (A) the top three community ranked priority pedestrian and bike path projects, or (B) forward all suggested projects for consideration.

Board member Brussard commented that there is not enough community members present to provide input. Board member Potts asked when input can be provided on the design of the bike path down Arlington Avenue to Skyline Boulevard. It was noted the design had previously been presented to the CAB. Commissioner Breternitz clarified that was a City of Reno issue and this issue regarded Washoe County seeking input regarding their roads. He suggested Public Works staff be in attendance at the September, 2010 meeting to discuss what input is needed.

**D. CAB Administration** - The CAB members may discuss and decide upon establishing new posting locations for agendas and request volunteers to post future agendas, setting time limits for public comment and public testimony items, establishing the maximum length of meetings, determining whether or not to postpone items on the agenda if a meeting runs beyond a certain time, and other administrative matters.

The Board discussed and decided for meeting time limits and posting locations to remain the same.

#### **11. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Approval of Minutes from the Verdi Township/West Truckee Meadows CAB Meeting on May 12, 2010** – Ann Potts moved to approve the May 12, 2010 VT/WTM meeting minutes as presented. Lance White seconded the Motion. The motion carried.

#### **12\* CHAIRPERSON/MEMBER COMMENTS**

- **Presentation To Former VT/WTM CAB member Len Crocker** – This item was postponed to the September meeting because Len Crocker was not in attendance.

Board member Potts noted future agenda items for the September meeting could be submitted by August 27 2010. She noted the Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful Litter Index will be held on Tuesday, August 17, 2010 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Del Monte Lane and was to track litter levels in the community and identify areas for clean-up.

**Next Agenda Items:** (a) Election of Officers; (b) Washoe County Public Works Staff Presentation regarding CAB Input For Potential Pedestrian and Bike Projects; (c) Presentation To Former VT/WTM CAB member Len Crocker

**13. ADJOURNMENT** – There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m. Ann Potts moved to adjourn the meeting. Lance White seconded the motion. The motion carried.