



West Truckee Meadows/Verdi Citizens Advisory Board

Minutes of the West Truckee Meadows Citizen Advisory Board meeting held at Verdi Community Library & Nature Center, 270 Bridge St. Verdi, NV 89439 on May 15, 5:30 p.m.

1. **CALL TO ORDER/ DETERMINATION OF QUORUM** – Denise Colton (absent), Josh Bronitsky, Mac Rossi, Carly Borchard, Alice 'Tina' House, Cameron Kramlich, Barbara Fenne
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – The pledge was recited
3. **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT** –
Barbara Fenne spoke about fire-wise and fire-adaptive community grant.
4. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF [March 20, 2023](#)** – Concurrent meeting between the Washoe County West Truckee Meadows/Verdi Township Citizen Advisory Board and the City of Reno Ward 5 Neighborhood Advisory Board.

MOTION: Mac Rossi moved to approve the March 20, 2023 minutes. Alice House seconded the motion which carried unanimously in favor.

5. **PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATES** – General community updates from public safety representatives; including but not limited to Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, Washoe County Sheriff's Office, and others as such [Non-Action Item]

TMFPD Joe Schum, District Operations, provided an update. March and April service calls included 42 calls in March and 32 in April. 25 EMS calls for March; 14 EMS calls in April. No fires in either month. The remainder were good intent calls. The average is 28-34 calls per month.

He provided river safety tips. The water is rising, moving quickly, and it's very cold. Hypothermia is a risk. Be on the lookout for anyone who gets in the water. There are new obstacles in the river that didn't get washed down in the winter, and people could get caught up. Wear a Personal Flotation Device. If you are going to get in the water, do so in a group, and tell people where you are going to be. Reduce alcoholic consumption.

He provided a fire season preparation. He said the cheatgrass is turning purple. He said we will utilize TMCC's projector to help predict where fires could occur.

Open Burning closed for the Spring. It will resume in the fall, weather permitting.

He reported 400,000 pounds of green waste was collected. It was a huge success. He advised how to get wood chips – click on the banner on the top of the webpage. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Lemmon Valley station location for pickup.

In response to a public member's question, Chief Schum said District 40 has jurisdiction over Dog Valley.

Ms. House thanked the TMFPD for helping her friend from flooding with assistance with sandbagging.

In response to Mr. Kramlich's question, Chief Schum spoke about fuel, spreading potential, and not disrupting the ecosystem. He said he would connect with Cameron regarding his specific concern. He said the NV Energy defensible space debris was left to help with erosion. He said we don't want to make an erosion problem.

He provided the Fuels division contact phone number, 326-6000. You can hit 0 and leave a message, and we can call you back. We have a fuel management officer who coordinates NV Energy fuel crews. He said they have 40 fuel crew members now. It's all grant funded.

6. RAIL AUXILIARY TEAM (RAT) OVERVIEW – Program Coordinator and Rail Awareness Consultant Richard Gent will share information on how RAT provides training and education to individuals familiar with rail operations under the direction of local law enforcement to act as a force multiplier in helping keep their communities safe and secure. [Non- Action Item]

Richard Gent provided a PowerPoint presentation.

He addressed public member questions.

Chair Borchard said she remembered watching a video about train safety in elementary school, which made an impression. She recommended he provide a presentation to

Mac Rossi asked about AmTrak and Union Pacific coordinating schedules. Amtrak has priority.

He spoke about Buck Crossing. If you go to the Federal Railroad Administration Website and search buck crossing, it will provide a map and show you what the crossing is. He spoke about the railroad safe crossing bill.

He answered questions about derailments.

The CAB and Mr. Gent spoke about the train whistles as a loud nuisance. He advised how to get the whistles to get changed with a study of the area.

Ms. Fenne spoke about unsafe train crossing on a blind intersection. Mr. Gent spoke about crossing devices being recommended based on daily traffic count. She said they get a lot of traffic for the commercial center and fishing.

The video went quiet at 57:40 -1:00.

Ms. Bomberger said she reported RV parking and homeless camping. She said nothing seemed to happen when they called to get them removed. Mr. Gent asked her to send him the location of the issue. Ms. Fenne said she has dealt with the trailers by calling the Sheriff.

7. 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]

Alexandra Wilson provided an overview of the HUB site.

Ms. Fenne asked about City returning land of the Sphere of Influence to the County for annexation. Ms. Wilson said that is a great conversation for Commissioner Hill. Chair Borchard requested a future agenda item about the Sphere of Influence.

Ms. Wilson showed the Washoe Regional Mapping System (WRMS) website to show features such as the district and zones, planning development, Short Term Rentals, and jurisdictions. Ms. Fenne spoke about blocking access with large equipment. Ms. Wilson noted those parcels are City of Reno's jurisdiction. She showed the 'Corporate Area' on the WRMS webpage.

Ms. Fenne asked about the roundabout on 4th Street. Chair Borchard spoke about their presentation and the proposed re-route of Mayberry because of traffic congestion.

Ms. Fenne said when Mae Anne gets icy and slippery in winter.

8. BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS/REQUESTS/DISCUSSION — This item is limited to announcements, requests for future agenda items, or discussion by CAB members and/or Commissioner Alexis Hill [Non-Action Item]

Commissioner Hill provided an update:

The Board of County Commissioners has a Budget hearing tomorrow – conservative spending due to the recession, focusing on conservation measures, cost savings, infrastructure monies from the government, equity, and regional dispatch approach with the dispatch coordinator. There will be additional support services with Public Defender's and DA's office. We will ensure to provide services at the same level. We are hiring 12 new deputies for the jail system.

Ms. Fenne spoke about local improvements – she wants an answer about how much work will be done on I-80 by Verdi/Mogul and Summer Ranch Road. She asked where else they were going? She said they were going up the bike path. It would be nice to have an update on what is going on. Commissioner Hill said she is advocating with NDOT for two 'wrong-way' signs in Mogul and Verdi since there is confusion and on-head collisions. The NDOT Director has put those exits on prioritization. Chair Borchard thanked Barbara for her efforts in finding out about the projects. She said she had been in contact with the project manager at NDOT. Ms. Fenne said there are three different agencies involved. Commissioner Hill said she could follow up with her contacts with RTC. Ms. Fenne said we still have an issue with people not stopping at the stop sign at the eastbound entrance to Mogul. It would be helpful if they put up a 'cross-traffic does not stop sign' or a flashing light. Ms. Fenne said it's also on Silver Ranch and the freeway.

Mr. Kramlich said he heard NHP is reducing their coverage overnight on I-80. He said he assumes there will be coverage, but who will that be? Washoe County Sheriff or Reno PD? Commissioner Hill said the State is in a hard position. They are competing with Counties and Cities with pay, and that's the cause of the reduction. She said the sheriffs would get more deputies in the jail, which might put more sheriffs on the road, but she would look into it. She said she heard the State has 40% vacancies.

9. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT –

Alexandra Wilson announced we would be opening the leadership academy on June 1st. Look for it on the website (washoecounty.org/WCLA). Chair Borchard said the program is amazing. There is a ton of work. It's a time commitment, but we learned about a lot of things we wouldn't have known about.

Dan Lazzareschi said RTC has a good 4th Street/Woodland roundabout webpage. And about the Garson Road Access, it's a forest service road. The City of Reno Code Enforcement is managing that. Forest Service should be seeking to maintain that access.

10. ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.