

SOUTHWEST TRUCKEE MEADOWS CITIZEN ADVISORY BOARD



DRAFT

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Southwest Truckee Meadows Citizen Advisory Board held March 19, 2009 at the South Valleys Library at 15650A Wedge Parkway, Reno, Nevada

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Steve Cohen, Chair.
2. **MEMBERS PRESENT** – Steve Cohen, Chair, Patricia Phillips, V. Chair, Nathan Robison and Diane Smith
MEMBERS ABSENT - Richard Wood. unexcused. Connie Moberg, Secretary has resigned from the board.
3. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA** – Diane Smith moved to approve the March 19, 2009 agenda as posted. Nathan Robison seconded the motion. The motion carried. Nathan Robison stated that item 10. C, will be rescheduled on the April agenda.
4. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF MEETING** – Diane Smith moved to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2009 meeting as amended. Nathan Robison seconded the motion. The motion carried. Connie Moberg was an excused absence. Nathan Robison asked that the written minutes reflect that under Item 7. Chief Heikka stated that they recognize fire or lease personnel asking for donations that it is in the official capacity of their department but they do not endorse any other agencies.
5. **UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE** – (CAB files and correspondence which are part of the public record are on file in the Washoe County Department of Community Development and are available for public review. Written correspondence and testimony will be included in the public record when a request is made to make the document a part of the public record and when a copy is provided to the CAB Chair, who forwards the document to the County. Copies of correspondence should be on file in the Washoe County Department of Community Development and are available for public review).
 - Steve Cohen asked citizens to consider serving on the SWTM CAB. Applications are available.
 - Steve Cohen noted that the CAB has an e-mail address at the bottom of the agenda for citizens to send comments to Washoe County.
 - Steve Cohen asked anyone leaving this meeting to use the exit door in this room and also asked anyone wanting to speak on any agenda items to complete the request to speak forms.
6. **PUBLIC COMMENT** - Comment heard under this item will be limited to items not on the agenda and will also be limited to three minutes per person. This three-minute rule shall also apply to public testimony given during an agenda item. The Chair may modify this time limit for all public comment and testimony at the beginning of the meeting, but the time limit per person shall be no less than three minutes. Testimony during an agenda item shall be limited to the subject of the agenda item. Comments are to be made to the CAB as a whole.
 - Allayne Everett thanked everyone for the very nice card and good wishes sent during her recovery from surgery.
 - Ginger Pierce reported on an attempted break-in to her home. Ms. Pierce announced that there will be a meeting on March 25, 2009 at the Pleasant Valley Elementary School with Teresa Aquila, Washoe County Sheriff's Department to address the issues.
 - Dale Kiriaze stated that Captain Kelly mis-spoke during the March CAB meeting. Mr. Kiriaze stated that Reno Fire Fighters Community Assistance Program has been soliciting 501 C donations for the last 15 to 20 years. The organization is non-profit and the program is run by fire fighters on their days off. Mr. Kiriaze noted to citizens that they need to confirm that the caller is from the Reno Fire Fighters Community Assistance Program.
 - Steve Cohen asked for further public comment and hearing none, closed this item.
- 7.* **FIRE SAFETY ITEMS** – A representative of the Sierra Fire Protection District was not available to address fire safety issues and recent calls for service.
- 8.* **WASHOE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT** – A representative of the Washoe County Sheriff's Department was not available to report on area law enforcement topics/issues, recent calls for service and announcements from the Washoe County Sheriff's Dept.
- 9.***COUNTY COMMISSIONER/COMMUNITY LIAISON UPDATES:** Sarah Tone, Community Outreach Coordinator was available to report on Washoe County events and issues and information from the Board of County Commissioners. Ms Tone announced a public meeting on the new internal process for the nuisance ordinance on April 21, 2009 at Bartley Ranch Park. April 28, 2009 the Board of County Commissioners will hear a presentation on options to make the CAB program more efficient. Information is available on the Washoe County web-site.
Comments and Concerns
 - Concerns were raised regarding possible reductions in hours of operation of local libraries.
10. **NEW BUSINESS** - (The staff contact listed on items for Community Development may not be in attendance but can be contacted with code and policy questions.)

A. Special Use Permit SB09-001 (Martin and Kimble McClellan) – Martin McClellan, applicant presented the request to operate a bed and breakfast inn as authorized in Article 810 of the Washoe County Development Code. The project is located at 15030 North Timberline Drive, Reno, approximately eight-tenths of a mile north of the Mt. Rose Highway (State Route 431). The ± 1.5-acre parcel is designated Low Density Suburban (LDS) in the Forest Area Plan, and is situated in a portion of Section 34, T18, R19, MDM, Washoe County, Nevada. The property is located in the Southwest Truckee Meadows Citizen Advisory Board boundary and Washoe County Commission District No. 2. (APN 049-871-10) Staff Representative: Grace Sannazzaro, Planner can be contacted at 775.328.3771 with comments and concerns. Applicant/Property Owner: Martin and Kimble McClellan, 15030 North Timberline Drive. **MOTION:** Nathan Robison moved to recommend approval of SB09-001 based on the support heard from the audience and submitted comments. Steve Cohen seconded the motion. The motion failed with two in favor and two opposed. Comments will be forwarded to Washoe County staff.

Comments and Concerns

- In response to questions raised by Ginger Pierce, Mr. McClellan stated that they have to secure a landscape architect's stamp regarding water usage and they have sufficient water rights for the proposed project.
- Dale Kiriaze asked if the applicant has the approval of adjacent neighbors. Mr. McClellan stated that they have approval from some of the neighbors and had invited adjacent neighbors to preview the property and proposed project.
- Rusty Crook stated that he has previewed the property and supported this type of establishment as an advantage for the neighborhood.
- In response to questions raised by Patricia Phillips, Mr. McClellan stated that he is following the guidelines stated by the Department of Community Development. Mr. McClellan stated that they are taking measures to keep any negative impacts to a minimum.
- Mr. McClellan provided written comments from Roger and Mona Dible, Byron and Noelle Parks, Jim and Viv Zoellin and Donna Hamilton in support of the proposed project.

B.* Legislative Update – Sarah Tone reported on AB119 and AB54, bill proposals before the 2009 session of the Nevada State Legislature and provided printed information on these two bills. Ms. Tone stated that the full bills are available on the Washoe County web-site. Citizens are also encouraged to make their comments to their State Legislators. (This item was information only and no action was taken.)

Comments and Concerns

- Steve Cohen disclosed that he is the Chair of the STMGID and member of the Western Regional Water Commission. Mr. Cohen discussed AB119 citizen's initiative regarding planning growth based on sustainable water available.
- Patricia Phillips stated that AB119 as written does not protect domestic well owners and stated concern as to where water can be accessed. Does it mean that they take water away from existing domestic well owners.
- Steve Cohen stated concern regarding AB54 and there is no mention on how it will be funded.
- Patricia Phillips stated that she analyzes pending bills and stated concern that the bill states that it is for the good of health, safety and general welfare. Ms. Phillips stated that this bill lists penalties and other issues that will negatively impact property owners. Ms. Phillips stated concern that her property is listed to be required to connect to public water. Ms. Phillips stated her opposition to this bill due to the way it is written and the potential negative impacts to domestic well owners and does not benefit those who it is supposed to help.
- Questions were raised regarding whether groundwater is being saturated by septic systems.
- Ginger Pierce stated that she is documenting geothermal wells near her home with photographs that she will forward to Mike Widmer, Hydrogeologist, Department of Water Resources.
- Steve Cohen urged citizens to access the detailed information on the State Legislature web-site.
- Patricia Phillips stated that information and the full amendment is available on the Government Affairs web-site.

C.* NVEnergy – Scott Gerz, NVEnergy requested that this agenda item to present information on wind and solar alternative energy resources in Nevada including rebate opportunities, availability, and initial steps for interested residents will be rescheduled on the April SWTM CAB agenda. (This item was information only and no action was to be taken.)

11. OLD BUSINESS

A.* Sierra Fire Protection District Second Fire Station – Robert Parker, Ph. D. presented information on the status of a second fire station to be constructed at ArrowCreek at Thomas Creek and urged citizens support. Dr. Parker

provided a map of the local area indicating the location of existing fire stations and discussed response times for emergency calls for service. Dr. Parker stated that emergency response times need to be no longer than 6 minutes. Following his presentation, Dr. Parker was available to address questions. Citizens are urged to attend a meeting on fire safety on April 1, 2009 at the South Valleys Regional Library. Fire Chief Michael Greene was not available to attend this meeting. (This item was information only and no action was taken.)

Comments and Concerns

- In response to questions raised, Dr. Parker identified the nearest fire station to Zolezzi Lane.
- Dr. Parker stated that the Bowers Fire Station has approximately 40 calls for service each year.
- In response to questions raised, Dr. Parker discussed the political issues that need to be addressed between the City of Reno Fire Department and Sierra Fire Protection District.

B. Change of Meeting Schedule – Steve Cohen introduced this agenda item to discuss possible recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners to change the regular meeting schedule from once per month to once every other month. This item was continued from the February SWTM CAB agenda. Mr. Cohen stated concern about merging with the City of Reno Neighborhood Advisory Board and asked for opinions on this matter. **MOTION:** Diane Smith moved to recommend keeping the CAB meetings monthly. Steve Cohen seconded the motion. The motion carried. **MOTION:** Nathan Robison moved to recommend that the CAB's maintain their identity and not combine with the NAB's Patricia Phillips seconded the motion. The motion carried. **MOTION:** Nathan Robison moved to reorganize the geographic boundaries with GSCAB to better serve the community. Steve Cohen seconded the motion. The motion carried. **MOTION:** Nathan Robison moved to recommend that the Sheriff's and Fire Departments submit their reports in writing to be read by the Chair. Steve Cohen seconded the motion. Nathan Robison withdrew his motion. Steve Cohen withdrew his second.

Comments and Concerns

- Nathan Robison stated support for monthly meetings to provide a resource for citizens to submit their opinions to the Board of County Commissioners. Mr. Robison made the following recommendations that the SWTM CAB merge with the Galena-Steamboat CAB; the Sheriff's and Fire Department reports be submitted in writing to be presented by the Chairs and that the recording secretaries attend the meetings based on whether the meeting needs to meet with Open Meeting Law.
- Steve Cohen stated concern that the Citizen Advisory Boards are not the place for budget cuts and limiting the voice of the community is a potential dis-service to the public. Mr. Cohen also stated that the funds spent on the CAB program is great bargain that can't be beat for the service to the citizens.
- Patricia Phillips stated opposition to merging with NAB's (Neighborhood Advisory Board) and supported merging with the GSCAB. Ms. Phillips stated that the City residents are served by the Reno City Council and the Board of County Commissioners represents the city and county residents. There is no public body that represents the county.
- Sarah Tone stated that all departments have to cut their budget and although CAB's cancel some of their meetings, they would still have to budget for all twelve meetings. Ms. Tone reviewed the results of the comments made during the Chairs meeting to address the budget issues.
- Steve Cohen stated that the Chairs used to present the reports that the Community Outreach Representatives now present. Mr. Cohen also urged local citizens to attend the CAB meetings on a regular basis in support of the CAB program and community involvement.
- Nathan Robison noted that if a meeting is cancelled after the agenda has been posted or there is no quorum that a couple of members of the SWTM CAB would be willing to hear public comments.
- Diane Smith supported that having the recording secretary attend all meetings to keep the meeting in compliance with Nevada Open Meeting Law.
- Marge Frandsen discussed the historic background of the CAB's including the reason that independent contractors were hired to do the minutes of the meetings. Ms. Frandsen that prior to forming the Southeast Truckee Meadows CAB, their meetings lasted very long. Ms. Frandsen stated that the County Commissioners should respond to citizens concerns and if they do not, the CAB may be the only opportunity for citizens to be heard on the record.
- Beverly Osowski, Chair of Ward Two NAB stated some of the differences between the CAB's and NAB's including CAB's take action and the boundaries would be difficult to define. Ms. Osowski stated that she would oppose combining the CAB's and NAB's finding that the meetings would not be efficient.
- Ginger Pierce, Chair, Galena-Steamboat CAB suggested that there could be a split that would benefit both CAB's.

- Robert Parker, Ph. D. Vice Chair, GSCAB stated that he has offered to use e-mail notification of emergency and safety issues to local citizens and this could also send information on planning information. Dr. Parker supported keeping the CAB meetings to every month.
- Rusty Crook stated opposition to combining the CAB's and NAB's. Mr. Crook stated that attendance would increase if citizens felt that their voice could make a difference.
- Steve Cohen reviewed the public involvement with the Stations Casino and then the frustration when the City of Reno ignored the public recommendations and changed the height limits. Mr. Cohen stated concern that local citizens lose interest when elected officials ignore their voice.
- Sarah Thomas stated that there will be substantial fear during the current down turn that will significantly change people's lives. Ms. Thomas supported keeping the CAB program as it is.
- Support was stated for providing a forum for citizens to state their opinions for the record.
- Concerns were stated that the current budget issues will result in citizens bringing their issues to the elected officials and they need the CAB forum to voice their concerns.

12.*CHAIRMAN/BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

- Steve Cohen stated that the SWTM CAB needs to elect a secretary for the balance of the 2008-2009 term of office.
- Patricia Phillips asked for clarification from Washoe County's position on the property at Holcolm and Lakeside recently purchased by a company in Dubai and if the land can be given to the City of Reno.
- **Next Agenda Items:** Election of Secretary, NVEnergy

13. ADJOURNMENT – Diane Smith moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Patricia Phillips seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted By: Allayne Donnelly-Everett, Recording Secretary