

WEST WASHOE VALLEY CITIZEN ADVISORY BOARD



DRAFT

Minutes of the regular meeting of the West Washoe Valley Citizen Advisory Board held May 5, 2008 at Bowers Volunteer Fire Department, 3905 Old 395, Washoe Valley, Nevada.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chairperson Struffert called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m., with a quorum of five members present.
2. **MEMBERS PRESENT** – Hans Struffert (Chairperson), Jane Countryman, Rod Smith, Debbie Sheltra, Bob Rusk
MEMBERS ABSENT – William Elliott (excused)
3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR MEETING OF MAY 5, 2008** – Bob Rusk moved to approve the May 5, 2008 meeting agenda. Board member Smith asked why the Reno Fire Department was no longer listed on the agenda. Chairperson Struffert explained the item was removed because it was an information-only item. It would be reinstated if there was information for the area. Board member Smith requested the South Valleys Area Plan be moved under Old Business for action on the item. Debbie Sheltra seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
4. **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FOR APRIL 7, 2008** - The following corrections were noted: (a) on page 2, under Concerns/Comments, first bullet, "473.40" should be changed to 473.100; (b) to change "MDF" to NDF wherever listed; (c) on page 5, after the fourth bullet from the top, "and that there a review" should be changed to and that there be a review; (d) on page 6, second bullet from the top, change "Scarpelow" to Scarepello wherever noted; (e) on page 5, last paragraph, third sentence, "Board member Elliott should be change to Board member Smith; (f) on page 6, second bullet from the top, the third line should reflect that the four home owners were not in attendance; (g) on page 5, after the fourth bullet from the top, "short fund" should be changed to short term; and (h) on page 6, item 8E, last sentence, "encouraged" should be changed to advised. Jane Countryman moved to approve the April 7, 2008 meeting minutes as amended. Rod Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried.
5. **UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE** – Chairperson Struffert reported the East Washoe Valley and the West Washoe Valley CAB meeting to review the South Valleys Area Plan had been moved to Wednesday, May 7, 2008 and May 28, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. at Bartley Ranch. The first meeting would introduce the plan for discussion; the second meeting would be for comments and recommendations. Chairperson Struffert explained recommendations would be made during the first meeting to expedite the process because the plan had already been reviewed. Discussion followed about the importance of attending the meeting.
6. **ACTIVITY AND INCIDENT REPORTS BY REGIONAL/COUNTY DEPARTMENTS** - These reports are based on need as determined by the departments as well as the availability of presenters.
 - A. **Washoe County Sheriff's Office Items** – There was no one in attendance to present a report.
 - B. **Fire Safety Issues**
 1. **Sierra Fire Protection District** - Chief Mike Greene reported lessons learned during the evacuation drill and the classroom portion had to do with access. The Volunteer Corp would be expanded and early warning training would begin next month. Grant funding was secured for the Fuels Program to hire an individual to do initial inspections for hazards and follow-ups on the west side of Washoe Valley and Truckee Meadows for a year. The district was still a 473 because an agreement was still being worked out whereby the state would assume additional financial responsibility beyond the initial attack cost. NDF would be paid to do fuels management in Little Valley with cooperation from the university. The state would also follow codes and ordinances once adopted related to fuels management. On May 13, 2008, the Board would officially receive the state's answer on the agreement and then decide on how to proceed. An ordinance would then be created by the County whereby the district becomes a 474 district by July 1, 2008. An increase from \$0.47 to \$0.52 was needed in order to get the \$1.2 million needed in addition to current revenue to maintain the current level of service.

Concerns/Comments

- Board member Sheltra asked if there was funding available to clean up the recognized hazardous areas. Chief Greene replied yes. Mike Heikka reported most of the funding was to minimize fire hazards on community property in order to reduce suppression costs, but the inspector would also educate the public on fire safety.
- Board member Sheltra asked how fuels management would be accomplished when there has been a lack of cooperation from the university so far. Chief Greene reported a fuel buffer would be created around the area if the university wanted to leave the area in its natural state.
- A question was asked about the estimate for an annual cost per house. Chief Greene replied the annual cost per house was based on the \$0.52 increase and would be in addition to what residents were currently paying.
- Board member Sheltra asked how the station would remain open or not reduce services if the increase was not agreed upon. Chief Greene replied that a decision would be needed on whether or not to enter into an agreement that was not adequately funded. Board member Sheltra asked if there

was feedback from the County Commissioners as to their willingness to equalize the tax within two and a half years when the agreement was re-negotiated. Chief Greene reported he would be holding meetings with the County Commissioners on that issue. Board member Sheltra asked if there had been a commitment made by the County Commissioners to the agreement. Chief Greene stated the commitment would be to long-range planning portion. He stressed the importance of citizen participation on the Board.

- A question was asked regarding what the role of the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District was. Chief Greene reported they could adjust boundaries when the 474 designation was given.
- Board member Sheltra stated for the record that, during a previous fire, the Reno Fire Department pulled up to her house and said "We're not going to defend you because we're not Forest Fire Fighters and we're not going to get trapped". The NDF guys came up and told her what to do, but they never said "We won't defend your house". Board member Sheltra asked how rates can be lowered if Truckee Meadows' rates cannot be raised. Chief Greene reported it would be adjusted by the economic scale in Truckee Meadows.
- Discussion followed about CAB members approaching County Commissioners on this issue.
- Board member Sheltra requested to know how air support would be covered with a downed RAVEN helicopter. Chief Greene reported the State has two helicopters and would provide one for the area once it could be staffed and funded with a helicopter manager. Board member Sheltra expressed concern with a reduction in air support. Chairperson Struffert pointed out one requirement of becoming a 474 district was to maintain the current level of service.
- Special events for Fire Protection Week were reviewed. Open burning for the district would end on Friday.
- Chairperson Struffert requested trees that had been cut down at Davis Creek Park be removed.

7. UPDATES AND LIAISON REPORTS

A. Liaison Report – There was no one from the EWVCAB in attendance to present a report.

B. County Commissioner/Community Liaison Updates – Sarah Tone, Washoe County Community Outreach Coordinator, reported complaints regarding possible illegal activity on properties could be reported at 328-6016 or at the Washoe County website. On May 19, 2008, a public hearing would be held regarding the budget. All budgets were cut depending on priority and state-mandated services. On June 13, 2008, the Board of County Commissioners would decide on the number of CAB meetings per year. Meetings may be reduced to every other month due to the fact that the Planning Commission and the Board of Adjustments have been cut by half. Adding community forum meetings would also be discussed. Chairperson Struffert stated that he did not support the idea to cut CAB meetings. Board member Sheltra agreed because planning and special use permit requests would not be cut. Ms. Tone reported a special meeting would be held to meet project deadlines. Discussion was heard regarding concern about meeting costs and communication with residents.

C. Nuisance Ordinance (Proposed) - Board member Countryman reported the Citizens' Committee began review of Section 9. They also discussed wording to protect the cattle industry and open range per a request by the Federal Farm Bureau. There was also opposition to combining the fire arms area and the animal control area for congested areas under Section 9 because all the laws would then apply.

Concerns/Comments

- Cliff Low asked if the Nuisance Ordinance would apply to all parts of Washoe County. Board member Countryman stated it would.

D. I-580 Project - Board member Rusk reported meetings were no longer held because the focus was on project construction.

E. South Valleys Area Plan - Chairperson Struffert reported concerns with the new plan regarded: (1) requiring contiguous open space; (2) to allow for four units per acre when the County Commission had stated two units; (3) to allow the county to regulate air quality; and (4) that the county would evaluate proposals to remove waste water from the area.

Concerns/Comments

- Shawn Madoll stated he believed the county was given the authority to manage air quality. Chairperson Struffert replied the county had the authority and were required to maintain air quality to Federal standards, but the county could not set standards for certain areas.
- Board member Smith stated alternative one was okay, but he had concern with watching ridgelines and the need for more parks. There was also a correction that needed to be made because there was commercial development in the area of the interchange of I-580 and US 395. It was discussed that a 1,000-foot setback for commercial activity was needed for the area of East Lake Boulevard and 395.
- Board member Sheltra agreed the Weston property should not be singled out, but conformed to the area plan. She suggested the Board construct a policy statement. Discussion followed. Board member Sheltra suggested this item remain an action item on future agendas.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. It was reported the area of Franktown Road at 395 was cleaned up on Saturday.

9. OLD BUSINESS - There was no business agendized for review.

At this time, Chairperson Struffert announced there would be a five-minute break to set up for the next presentation.

10. NEW BUSINESS – Time for each item’s presentation is limited to no more than fifteen minutes to provide sufficient time for questions and comments. An extension may be granted by the Chair.

A. Illegal Dumping Task Force Presentation - Cliff Low will provide a 10-minute, information-only presentation discussing the problem of illegal dumping and what is being done in our community to address the matter.

With a PowerPoint® presentation, Cliff Low, Illegal Dumping Task Force, provided a slide presentation regarding the illegal dumping issue. He noted the Illegal Dumping Task Force was a multi-agency effort and reviewed agencies. The task force focuses on educating the community on the issue of illegal dumping and how to dump legally. He reviewed clean-up activities. This Saturday was the 2008 Great Truckee Meadows Community Clean-up. The dump voucher program was expanded to Washoe County residents. Mr. Low reviewed funding support. He cautioned individuals to call Waste Management to see if an item could be disposed at a transfer station or Lockwood Landfill for free. The public can help by calling 334-COPS in Reno, 353-2231 in Sparks, and Washoe County Environmental Health at 328-2434 to report illegal dump sites.

B. Presentation from the Nevada Highway Users Coalition - Melissa Duvall, Nevada Chapter AGC. A ten-minute presentation will be given to ask for support for putting additional resources towards highways and roads with a five-minute question and answer period to follow.

Shawn Madoll, Nevada Highway Users Coalition, explained there was a \$5 billion shortfall for state highways and that highway funding in Nevada had not increased since 1992. Handouts were distributed regarding the coalition and traffic congestion. Mr. Madoll reported the issue would be promoted to increase awareness.

Concerns/Comments

- Board member Sheltra stated she would not offer her support if the coalition was not ready to address to the Legislature the issue of restricting three-trailer trucks to the slow lane.
- Chairperson Struffert pointed out the Reno Gazette-Journal had an article listing the amount to bring existing roads up-to-date at \$3.8 billion with a weight distance tax to be placed on trucks. Mr. Madoll stressed the importance of trucks transporting materials to the area. He discussed how the RTC made up the difference from the gas tax which was pennies per gallon.
- Chairperson Struffert reported the presidential candidates were going to temporarily eliminate the gas tax, but in Nevada there was a law that states the state gas tax would be increased by the same amount that the Federal gas tax was reduced. Mr. Madoll stated that was to protect Nevada’s road projects that were dependent on Federal tax dollars. He went on to explain it may not be feasible at this time to address the issue at the next Legislative session given the current gas prices.
- A suggestion was made to create toll roads.

11. CHAIRMAN/BOARD MEMBER ITEMS – (This item limited to announcements of topics/issues posed for future workshops/agendas.)

It was requested to move the South Valleys Area Plan under Old Business as an action item.

- **Future agenda items:** (a) NDOT follow-up

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:54 p.m. Rod Smith moved to adjourn the meeting. Debbie Sheltra seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.