

WEST WASHOE VALLEY CITIZEN ADVISORY BOARD



DRAFT

Minutes of the regular meeting of the West Washoe Valley Citizen Advisory Board held February 2, 2009 at Bowers Volunteer Fire Department, 3905 Old 395, Washoe Valley, Nevada.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chairperson Countryman called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.
2. **ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM** – Roll call was heard and a quorum of four members was determined. Chairperson Countryman announced Bob Rusk would be the alternate for Debbie Sheltra.
MEMBERS PRESENT – Jane Countryman (Chairperson), William Elliott, Rod Smith, Bob Rusk
MEMBERS ABSENT – Debbie Sheltra (excused)
3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 2, 2009** – Bob Rusk moved to approve the February 2, 2009 meeting agenda. Rod Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
4. **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FOR JANUARY 5, 2009** – Rod Smith moved to approve the January 5, 2009 meeting minutes. William Elliott seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
5. **UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE** – Chairperson Countryman announced the following:
 - ❖ She attended the January 28, 2009 Chair Meeting. The County Manager discussed budget issues and Sheri Ingley discussed CAB recruitment. Chairperson Countryman explained the CAB application process and reported there was a current vacancy on the SVCAB with two impending vacancies. Applications could be obtained at the Washoe County website or from Sarah Tone, Washoe County Community Outreach Coordinator.
 - ❖ The new e-mail input system for community public comment for individuals who are unable to attend CAB meetings was explained. Chairperson Countryman stressed that the Board cannot respond to the e-mails due to Open Meeting Law requirements.
 - ❖ Input was being sought regarding how to improve attendance at CAB meetings to increase community awareness. Chairperson Countryman suggested agendizing this issue.
 - ❖ Regarding the South Valleys Area Plan, representatives of the Weston Property have filed a petition for judicial review of the plan. The petition could be viewed on the Internet. The website name was provided. Chairperson Countryman requested this item be placed on next month's agenda.
 - ❖ The Board of Adjustments meeting regarding grading on property at Joy Lake would be held on February 5, 2009.
 - ❖ The Regional Planning Commission will review the South Valleys Area Plan on Wednesday, February 11, 2009.
 - ❖ Regarding a question about if approval of the South Valleys Area Plan would stop the requested extension of the TMSA (Truckee Meadows Service Area) boundary, Chairperson Countryman stated it would not, according to information she has received.
 - ❖ Regarding the follow-up with NDOT, Chairperson Countryman reported she talked to and received an e-mail from Thor Dyson about the decision to put up two wind monitors and that both US 395 and Old 395 would be closed until such time that wind monitors were in place and determined that wind conditions were not dangerous for traffic on Old 395. Chairperson Countryman noted NDOT could not make the Highway Patrol enforce the road closure.

Concerns/Comments

- Board member Rusk reported the South Valleys Area Plan would need to be referred to the City of Reno before it could be reviewed by the Regional Planning Commission because the Weston property was a part of the Reno Cooperative Planning Area.

6. **ACTIVITY AND INCIDENT REPORTS BY REGIONAL/COUNTY DEPARTMENTS**

A. Washoe County Sheriff's Office Items – Lt. Jim O'Connor reviewed calls for service last month. He encouraged individuals to lock RVs, even when in storage facilities. RV burglaries that recently occurred were due to unlocked RV vehicles. Lt. O'Connor also reported the Sheriff's Office was continuing their search for office space in the south area.

B. Fire Safety Issues – Battalion Chief Jim Marquist stated he was in attendance representing Chief Mike Greene, Sierra Fire Protection District. He commended individuals who attend CAB meetings to provide input. He reviewed calls for service last month. He reported the Sierra Fire Protection District was currently financially sound due to the tax override approved by citizens. They were working on keeping expenses under control and service delivery should remain constant. There were paramedic-engine companies in all three districts at all times. The Fire Master Plan was underway and information regarding the plan should be completed in approximately six months. Chairperson Countryman added public input on the plan could be made at the District website.

Concerns/Comments

- Board member Rusk requested information regarding a second fire station in the Mount Rose area. Chief Marquist reported it was under review.

7. UPDATES AND LIAISON REPORTS

A. Liaison Report – Ann York, EWVCAB Liaison, was not in attendance to present a report.

B. County Commissioner/Community Liaison Updates – Sarah Tone, Community Outreach Coordinator, reported meetings were being held regarding labor negotiations and how labor negotiations would affect budget cuts. She encouraged individuals submit budget suggestions at the Washoe County website survey.

Concerns/Comments

- Board member Rusk asked if a number had been determined for the 15% reduction in property tax. Ms. Tone stated it was still under review because it had to be determined property-by-property. She distributed the Board of Adjustment February 5, 2009 meeting agenda.

C. I-580 Project – Board member Rusk reviewed items listed in the NDOT newsletter regarding the I-580 project. He reported the completion date was in late 2011.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Flossy Nelson stated she lives at the end of Bellevue Road. She asked about the surveyor work being conducted in the area. Pat Fox reported the Vernon Davis property was selling 150 acres on the southern half of the property.

B. Ginger Pierce expressed concern about the Gourley extension project of the Joy Lake dam due to the dilapidation of the area. She announced the project would be presented at the February 5, 2009 Board of Adjustment meeting at the Washoe County Health Department, Building B at 1:30 p.m. Chairperson Countryman clarified the extension was completed without permits or regulation and that the presentation at the February 5th Board of Adjustment meeting was to obtain permits after-the-fact. The argument is to have Joy Lake dam put back to its original state.

9. OLD BUSINESS – There was no Old Business agendized for review.

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.* What to Expect During a Defensible Space Evaluation – Dulcie Lilly, Wildfire Safety Coordinator with the Sierra Fire Protection District, will present information on what a resident can expect during a defensible space evaluation by the Fire District. Ms. Lilly will respond to questions from the audience and the CAB. This item is for information only and the CAB will take no action.

With a PowerPoint® Presentation, Dulcie Lilly, Wildlife Safety Coordinator, provided an overview of the Defensible Space Evaluation program. She stated it was a program offered by the Sierra Fire Protection District and was a grant-funded position with a 3-year extension. It was administered through the Nevada Fire Safe Council through funding from the Southern Nevada Lands Management. During an evaluation, residents can expect to be educated on and made aware of wildfire safety. She explained enforcement would be through the International Fire Code that was adopted by Washoe County in September 2008 and through references and guidelines from the Wildland Urban Interface. She reviewed defensible space guidelines regarding residences and vegetation. During an evaluation, photographs of the property will be taken and a printout including guideline recommendations to improve defensible space on the property, if any, will be returned to the resident. Additional programs offered by Sierra Fire Protection District include: free address signage; free curbside chipping program; and free home safety inspections. Ms. Lilly provided her contact information. Chairperson Countryman stated this item was agendized because fire danger may be a top priority this summer with the lack of humidity during this winter season.

Concerns/Comments

- Board member Rusk asked to know the amount of the grant. Ms. Lilly stated it was approximately \$82,000 or \$87,000 per year and funded her position including work-related expenses.

B.* Update on Fire Safe Council Funding – Pat Murphy will provide an update on Round 8 and Round 9 funding for the West Washoe Valley area, current projects and opportunities for assistance with fuel reduction management cost for qualified homeowners. Mr. Murphy or his representative will respond to questions from the audience and the CAB. This item is informational only; no action will be taken.

Pat Murphy stated he was the Project Coordinator for the Southern Sierra Nevada Project area and that his area was from north of Washoe Valley to Lyon and Douglas Counties within the Nevada boundaries. He reported the West Washoe Valley chapter was one of the largest chapters and reviewed the geographical location of the area. The chapter program included citizen participation and was to fire safe areas within each chapter. He reviewed grant funding available. He reported Round 8 funding was \$50,000 and that approximately \$2,800 was left. He reviewed action taken along Franktown Road which had been designated as a high-risk fire area. He reviewed past grant expenditures.

Concerns/Comments

- Pat Fox requested to know about plans for Round 9. Mr. Murphy reported there would be a continuation of Franktown Road up to Tom Hall's property and north to properties behind Bowers Mansion. He stated they would work closely with Sierra Fire Protection District and commended Sierra Fire Protection District for working one-on-one with residents about defensible space.

- Board member Smith asked what happened to private funding. Board member Elliott explained there was a \$10 fee to join the Nevada Fire Safe Council. Mr. Murphy explained this was a 2-1 matching program with homeowners and that he would provide membership applications at the next CAB meeting and an update, if requested.
- Board member Rusk commented that there was smoke in the mountains. Mr. Murphy clarified that was burning being completed by the University of Reno and State Parks. Discussion followed about hauling material for chipping cleared at a site to Carson City versus Loyalton.

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

Chairperson Countryman requested providing the CAB e-mail address on the agenda. It was suggested providing the e-mail address under the Announcement portion of the next meeting. The Board discussed to appoint CAB Board members to review the administrative permit process.

- **Future agenda items include:** **(a)** Discussion regarding how to improve CAB meeting attendance; **(b)** Discussion of Weston Property petition (possible action item); **(c)** Update on South Valleys Area Plan process; **(d)** Discussion of creating a citizens' group to review the Administrative Permit Process.

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m. Bob Rusk moved to adjourn the meeting. William Elliott seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.