

WEST WASHOE VALLEY CITIZEN ADVISORY BOARD



DRAFT

Minutes of the regular meeting of the West Washoe Valley Citizen Advisory Board held March 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 7:00 p.m.
2. **ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM** – Roll call was heard and a quorum of three members was determined. Chairperson Countryman announced Bob Rusk would be the alternate for Rod Smith, who was ill.
MEMBERS PRESENT – Jane Countryman (Chairperson), Debbie Sheltra, Bob Rusk
MEMBERS ABSENT – William Elliott (excused), Rod Smith (excused)
3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR MEETING OF MARCH 2, 2009** – Bob Rusk moved to approve the March 2, 2009 meeting agenda. Debbie Sheltra seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
4. **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 2, 2009** – The following correction was noted: (a) on page 1, item 5, first bullet, "SVCAB" should be changed to WWVCAB. Bob Rusk moved to approve the February 2, 2009 minutes as amended. Debbie Sheltra seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
5. **UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE** – Chairperson Countryman announced the following:
 - ❖ The CAB is seeking new Board members. She encouraged individuals in attendance at tonight's meeting to consider serving on the Board or to let others know about the vacancies and stated more representation from all areas was requested. There will be three vacancies on the CAB as of July 1, 2009.
 - ❖ She has information on the table about A.B. 54 regarding wells and septic systems. She noted the bill has been revised and encouraged individuals to review the bill on-line.
 - ❖ On March 3, 2009, the County Commissioners are holding a special meeting. The meeting begins at 10:00 a.m. A public hearing is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Regional plans and open space is on the agenda. She noted the agenda can be viewed on the county's website.

Concerns/Comments

- Regarding the announcement about the special meeting to review open space, Board member Sheltra noted it had been requested at the joint meeting with the EWVCAB to remove the Cliff Brothers Road has a public access road, but it was not known if it has been changed.

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

A. Washoe County Sheriff's Office Items – Lt. Jim O'Connor reported the computer reporting system was being upgraded; therefore, the calls for service report was not yet available. He reviewed a grand larceny incident at the Pine Canyon/Franktown Road construction site and the suicidal standoff incident that occurred yesterday. Discussion followed regarding potential burglary incidents that have occurred.

Comments/Concerns

- Chairperson Countryman requested to know Lt. O'Connor's thoughts regarding attendance at CAB meetings versus furnishing a written report given the current budget downturn. Lt. O'Connor stated he could be in attendance at future meetings if not responding to a call for service.
- Board member Sheltra requested additional information regarding the proposal to combine regional forces with the Cities of Reno and Sparks. Lt. O'Connor stated he was aware of discussions taking place regarding the issue, but had no additional information to provide.

B. Fire Safety Issues – Chief Mike Greene reported consultants who are seeking input on fire protection issues have completed a preliminary survey of staff. They will also be meeting with the CABs. A preliminary report is due in May, 2009. Chief Greene commented that he is optimistic about the process. He reported that capital equipment purchases have been postponed, and instead the funds will be spent to fix needed items in the stations. No service delivery reductions are anticipated.

Concerns/Comments

- Board member Sheltra asked if the consultants have reviewed the feasibility of consolidating all of Washoe Valley into one fire district, which would include a paramedic service. Chief Green stated this was an area that needed to be addressed. He reported some Arrow Creek residents have also approached the Board to request a fire station for their area. He would return to the Board with some recommendations to provide this service. Board member Sheltra commented that she would want to keep this community-based service local.

At this time, agenda item 7C was heard.

7. **UPDATES AND LIAISON REPORTS**

A. I-580 Project (Formerly agenda item 7C) – Board member Rusk stated there was no new information to provide other than the fact that a portion of the project was caving into the creek below.

B. Liaison Report (Formerly agenda item 7A) – Chairperson Countryman reported there was no East Washoe Valley CAB meeting, so there would be no report.

C. County Commissioner/Community Liaison Updates (Formerly agenda item 7B) – Sarah Tone, Community Outreach Coordinator, reported:

- ❖ Permit applications that would be presented to the Board of Adjustments could be viewed on-line at the Washoe County website under Community Development.
- ❖ The county's bond rating has increased due to the proactive steps that have been taken, which will result in lower interest rates being charged.
- ❖ Next year's budget will need to be reduced by approximately \$47 million. She noted that in the past three years, \$64 million has been cut from the budget. Budget hearings will begin on March 11, 2009.
- ❖ A meeting is scheduled for March 24, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the structure of the CABs.

Concerns/Comments

- Board member Rusk requested to know the outcome of the meeting that was held last week regarding the future of the CABs. Sarah Tone explained the focus of the meeting was to obtain input on how the CABs could be more efficient and cost effective and to provide that input to the County Commission. The most favored suggestion was having a modified status quo. Discussion was heard regarding the cost of CAB meetings.
- Board member Sheltra requested Ms. Tone research if citizen input was still required to receive federal funding assistance, which had been the original intent for the formation of the CABs. She explained, for the record, that the bike path proposed by East Washoe Valley residents for the West Washoe Valley area was the issue that divided the area and called for two separate CABs given the diversification of issues within both areas.
- Cliff Low commented public safety should be funded first as it is the main function of government.
- Board member Sheltra suggested some meeting information be presented in written form rather than by County representatives.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Pat Kelly, Nevada Department of Wildlife introduced himself and provided information regarding a suggested burn plan being developed in conjunction with the Nevada Division of Forestry for the Scripps Wildlife Management area.

B. Board member Rusk reported a hearing was scheduled for tomorrow, March 3, 2009 regarding the amendments being proposed for Assembly Bill (A.B.) 54 regarding sewer and water hook-up to public facilities. Board member Rusk commented that, in his opinion, it was feasible, but there was concern that there were no resources to clean up domestic water if polluted by septic.

C. Board member Sheltra requested Sarah Tone review the Park and Open Space plan to ascertain if the Cliff Brothers Road was removed as a public access road.

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

At this time, Chairperson Countryman requested to hear agenda item 10B next. There were no objections.

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. Variance Case No. VA09-002 (Tom Hall) (Formerly agenda item 10B) -The WWW CAB will review and make recommendations regarding VA09-002 a project to increase the maximum retaining wall heights along a residential driveway from 6 feet to 8 feet. The project is located at 6000 Old Ranch Road, several thousand feet west of Franktown Road. The +/- 37-acre parcel is designated General Rural (GR) in the South Valleys Area Plan, and is situated in a portion of Section 9, T16N, R19E, MDM, Washoe County, Nevada. The property is located in the WWW CAB boundary and Washoe County Commission District No. 2 (APN: 172-020-01). Staff Representative: Sandra Monslave, AICP, Senior Planner, 775 328-3608. This application is tentatively scheduled for the April 2, 2009 Washoe County Board of Adjustment meeting.

Tom Hall reviewed the request and noted building was not planned in the near future for the area. Board member Sheltra asked about the life of the variance. Mr. Hall replied the variance would be good for approximately three years. Bob Rusk moved to approve the variance request. Debbie Sheltra seconded the Motion. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Update on South Valleys Area Plan (SVAP) (Formerly agenda item 10C) – Jane Countryman will provide an update on the South Valleys Area Plan status, upcoming review dates or relevant information regarding the finalization process. This item is informational only; no action will be taken.

Board member Rusk reported the Regional Planning Commission did not approve the South Valleys Area Plan, but would reconsider the plan at their next meeting. The issue was the placement of sewer or septic in some areas within the plan. Board member Rusk requested Sarah Tone find out if Washoe County Planning staff would support the TMSA request to move forward even though the County Commission did not approve the South Valleys Area Plan. Sarah Tone stated that she did follow up with Community Development and they said that it would be the County Commissioners that will make the recommendation.

Concerns/Comments

- Board member Sheltra requested to know if the Regional Planning Commission opposed of the plan because of concerns regarding the landowner that wants to develop his land. Board member Rusk stated he did not think that was the reason.

1. Update on Weston Property Petition – Chairperson Countryman reported this issue is at a standstill at the current time, but would be closely monitored. Discussion followed regarding legal action that could be taken regarding this issue. Tom Hall noted the CAB could not become involved in any lawsuit as it is only an advisory body.

C. NDOT Update on Road Closures in West Washoe Valley (Formerly agenda item 10D) – Jane Countryman will provide an update on wind monitors and status of road closures during high wind events in West Washoe Valley. This item is informational only; no action will be taken.

Chairperson Countryman stated this item had been agendaized because she was informed Thor Dyson had implemented road closures on 395 and Old 395 during high wind conditions, but that the action had been overridden by Mr. Dyson's supervisor. Therefore, implementation of wind monitors was still being waited on. Board member Sheltra noted she was working on an alternative solution and may have more information to provide at the next meeting. A discussion was held about issuing a letter of thanks to Thor Dyson for his efforts and the media coverage regarding the dangerous wind conditions on 395 and Old 395.

D. Actions to Improve CAB Meeting Attendance (Formerly agenda item 10A) – The WWW CAB will discuss methods and actions to help improve public attendance at CAB meetings. The CAB may take action to implement selected methods and may also make recommendations to the Washoe County Commission on how to improve attendance at future CAB meetings.

Discussion was heard about keeping meetings on schedule and holding informal community forum meetings in-between regular CAB meetings. Chairperson Countryman noted individuals could submit input via e-mail, but that attendance at CAB meetings was important. Board member Rusk noted it was difficult to improve attendance at CAB meetings unless there was a "hot topic" issue on the agenda. Tom Hall stated he appreciated county representatives attending meetings to discuss issues. Chairperson Countryman stated that, in her opinion, citizens rely on CABs to monitor issues and provide information on issues of concern. Tom Hall stated it may be an indication of CAB efforts that meeting attendance was low because problems were handled before becoming major issues.

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

- **Future agenda items include:** (a) Sun Valleys Area Plan; (b) Update on Road Closures in West Washoe Valley; (c) NDOT letter of thanks to Thor Dyson (action item); (d) AB 54 (action item)

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m. Bob Rusk moved to adjourn the meeting. Debbie Sheltra seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.