

# WEST WASHOE VALLEY CITIZEN ADVISORY BOARD



## DRAFT

Minutes of the regular meeting of the West Washoe Valley Citizen Advisory Board held January 4, 2010 at Bowers Volunteer Fire Department, 3905 Old 395, Washoe Valley, Nevada.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chairperson Countryman called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.
2. **ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM** – Roll call was heard and a quorum of four members was present.  
**MEMBERS PRESENT** – Jane Countryman (Chairperson), Bill Elliott, Bob Rusk, Debbie Sheltra  
**MEMBERS ABSENT** – Rod Smith, Mark Zane
3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR MEETING OF JANUARY 4, 2010** – Bob Rusk moved to approve the January 4, 2010 meeting agenda as presented. Debbie Sheltra seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
4. **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 2, 2009** – Debbie Sheltra moved to approve the November 2, 2009 meeting minutes as presented. Bill Elliott seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
5. **UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE**

- **A Community Forum will be held at Bowers Fire Station starting at 7:00 p.m. on February 1, 2010** – Discussion is open relevant to community concerns and information, updates will include, but not be limited to, status of retaining current career fire/emergency staff at Bowers Fire Station, volunteer recruitment and retention, and Weston law suit status regarding development at the north end of Washoe Valley. (Note: The Community Forum is not sponsored by either Washoe County or the West Washoe Valley CAB.)

Chairperson Countryman reported that at the last Community Forum held on December 1, 2009 a lengthy discussion was held regarding career and volunteer staff at Bowers Fire Station. She noted Chief Greene had provided a copy of the FEMA language which states they will not hold the County to the staffing that is in the application. She noted Chief Greene was working on issues with volunteers and equipment and the issue of the lack of water tender at the volunteer station.

6. **ACTIVITY AND INCIDENT REPORTS BY REGIONAL/COUNTY DEPARTMENTS**
  - A. **Washoe County Sheriff's Office Items** – Lt. Milt Perry reviewed calls for service which related mainly to weather accidents. He commented on a burglary incident that occurred today in Caughlin Ranch at a residence where the occupants were away for the winter months. He urged residents to report suspicious activity in their area to the non-emergency dispatch number, 832-4110 and provided some examples.
  - B. **Fire Safety Issues** – Captain Lucich, Sierra Fire Protection District, reported that the majority of service calls for the past month involved vehicle accidents. Avalanche training is currently underway.

7. **UPDATES AND LIAISON REPORTS**
  - A.\* **Liaison Report** – Betty Hicks introduced herself as the temporary liaison for the EWW CAB. She stated that she had no new items to report from East Washoe Valley.
  - B.\* **County Commissioner/County Liaison Updates** – Chairperson Countryman noted that she previously had distributed a written update. The report contains information from the Nevada Department of Transportation regarding the wind study. She commented that the CAB is now on the list of stakeholders to be notified of upcoming meetings.

### Concerns/Comments

- Gary Schmidt commented that if you have concerns regarding your taxes, you should contact the Assessor's Office and not the Treasurer's Office as is stated in the information distributed.
- Cliff Low commented on the wind study project's progression from something that was going to be conducted by NDOT to a project that now includes an outside consultant and the resultant eighteen-month study period.

C.\* **I-580 Project** – Board member Rusk stated a meeting was held with the Reno Rotary who reported there was no truth to recent allegations regarding the safety of the bridge. He reviewed portions of the project that have already been completed or are nearing completion. The overall project should be completed by December 2011 and the Galena Bridge should be completed by December 2010.

### Concerns/Comments

- Board member Sheltra asked if landscaping was being proposed for sandy areas. Board member Rusk explained landscaping will be completed.
- Ginger Pierce asked if there would be painting or staining. Board member Rusk stated that an update has not been provided; however, that has always been the intent.

D.\* **Weston Property Update** – Board member Rusk reported a meeting was held and Tom Hall was granted intervening status on both lawsuits, but there has been no agreement so far regarding open space.

### Concerns/Comments

- Gary Schmidt commented that an individual can appeal for another assessment of Mr. Weston's property taxes if new density increases were granted after the Tax Assessor's assessment was complete, according to Nevada State Property Tax Law.

**E.\* Retention of Current Career Firefighter/Emergency Staff At Bower's Fire Station** – Chief Mike Greene reported there will be a new Volunteer Training Captain and 12 college students who will be trained and used as a supplemental staff for each of the five fire stations. Alternative volunteer roles would be refined in order to better utilize current volunteer fire staff. They will complete some retrofit to the tender from Washoe County and it will be stationed in Washoe Valley. There will be an opportunity to review the draft summary of the Fire Service Master Plan. Operation cost of the station is approximately \$56,000. Next year, the cost will increase because cost for the Training Captain will be divided among the five volunteer fire departments.

**Concerns/Comments**

- Board member Sheltra requested to know which community college students would be trained, Carson City or Reno. Chief Greene reported it would be from Truckee Meadows Community College. Board member Sheltra requested students from Carson City be approached about training due to the proximity.
- Board member Sheltra asked how many gallons there was for the tender. Chief Greene replied 1,800 gallons. Board member Sheltra asked if the tender would be stationed at the volunteer station. Chief Greene stated it would be, but an agreement still needed to be finalized with Washoe County that the tender was a permanent loan.
- Board member Sheltra requested to know what the \$56,000 encompassed. Chief Greene reviewed operating costs.
- Chairperson Countryman requested clarification that college students would be a supplemental staff and not replacement staff. Chief Greene clarified that was correct. Chairperson Countryman asked how requirements would be met with a supplemental staff. Chief Greene stated they would be extra staff at the station and would still need to meet training standards before operating an engine. Chairperson Countryman asked if duties of career staff would be restricted. Chief Greene clarified there was an assessment of the EMS Program, but that recommendations to change EMS requirement because of the use of a paramedic service had been rejected.
- Board member Sheltra requested to know why individuals trained as Firefighter I or II could not be sent out with crews leaving the paramedic service at the station. Chief Greene stated he could not break up the current four-man crew on an engine for union reasons.
- Cliff Low stated he had concern about keeping student volunteers once training is completed. Chief Greene reported a training agreement will be signed with student volunteers and that concentrated training will begin within the first three months.
- Board member Sheltra asked if Sierra Fire Protection District will pay for the two-year programming for each of the students. Chief Greene replied no. The training will reduce credit costs.
- In response to Cliff Low's request for clarification regarding the sequence of events for the Fire Services Master Plan, discussion was heard regarding concern about the Executive Summary of conclusions being provided to the BCC in January with supporting documents to be posted at a later date.
- Cliff Low asked about the Environmental Review. Chief Greene explained an Environmental Review was required for the grant application. Mr. Low asked about the varying staffing options that were being considered. Chief Greene stated he was going to review the Master Plan to see whether the plan provides staffing for other stations.
- Board member Sheltra asked if they were prepared to complete another environmental review if another locale for the fire station was requested. Chief Greene stated if another locale was requested, the process would start over again. Board member Sheltra requested to know what will occur if the Master Plan does not provide a solution for the inequity of the funding. Chief Greene stated that issue would be addressed to the Board of Commissioners.
- Cliff Low asked if NRS precludes moving revenues from one area into Sierra Fire Prevention District without compensation from another area. Chief Greene stated NRS requires equal assessed evaluation for boundaries, but one fire board can contract with another fire board for revenue for service.
- Betty Hicks asked why there were so many fire districts for the same geographical land mass. Chief Greene stated it was due to the change in service delivery demands by residents.

**8.\* PUBLIC COMMENT**

**A.** Gary Schmidt made available flyers regarding his campaign for the State Senate. He distributed property tax appeal forms and stated individuals had until January 15, 2010 to appeal property taxes. He expressed his objection to property tax caps. He commented on the need for new elected officials.

**B.** Suzy Rogers, City of Reno Emergency Communications, reported the City of Reno has switched e-mail servers and that the new suffix is [reno.gov](mailto:reno.gov). She discussed use of 911 on cellular phones and requested that old cell phones be donated to organizations rather than given to children as toys.

**9. OLD BUSINESS** – There is 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. \*Presentation On Funding For Fire Prevention In West Washoe Valley** – John Copeland with NDF will make a 15-minute presentation regarding funding available for fire prevention work in the West Washoe Valley Area.

There was no one in attendance to make a presentation.

**B. \*Conversion From A One-Map Based Planning System To A Two-Map Based Planning System** - Bill Whitney, Senior Planner, with Washoe County Community Development will be present to discuss the conversion of the County's current planning system which relies on one map to represent both the master plan and zoning to a system that utilizes separate master plan and zoning maps. Staff will discuss the reasons for the transition, provide some details on how the new system will function and answer questions from the CAB members and public.

Bill Whitney, Washoe County Community Development Senior Planner, distributed and reviewed a PowerPoint® information packet regarding the conversion. He stated the change would require Comprehensive Plan amendments and development code amendments. More information regarding the conversion can be found at the Washoe County/Community Development website.

**Concerns/Comments**

- Board member Sheltra expressed concern about the allowable usage in rural residential. Mr. Whitney stated there was flexibility in rural residential, but zoning would remain the same. They would also review policies and incorporate policies into the Development Code.
- Ginger Pierce commented she has attended Planning Commission meetings where decisions were made in favor of developers despite opposition from residents and asked how that would be changed. Mr. Whitney stated this conversion would tie a project to a zoning change.
- Gary Schmidt commented that zoning changes can be tied to specific projects and conditions, but the Commission is not obligated to deny a zoning change without a specific project. He stated State law prohibits a condition change to the Regional Plan, which the Board of County Commissioners could have changed by submitting a BDR (Bill Draft Request).
- Betty Hicks asked if the Master Plan be codified to prohibit using the Plan to modify zoning. Mr. Whitney stated that one-map system was currently in place.
- Cliff Low asked what preceded the one-map system. Mr. Whitney stated it was the form of a two-map system. Mr. Low noted a one-map system had been the request eighteen years ago because of what had been in place prior. Mr. Whitney stated a one-map system had been requested because of its success in other areas. Mr. Low requested to know if there was overlap in regulatory zoning. Mr. Whitney replied no. Mr. Low asked if the regulatory zoning designations currently exist in the one-map system. Mr. Whitney replied yes.
- Ginger Pierce commented on how easy it is to make a zoning change and provided a personal example.
- Gary Schmidt noted agricultural zoning was not included in the current one-map system.

Chairperson Countryman requested this item be continued at a future meeting.

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

Board member Rusk requested Tom Hall make a presentation regarding the Weston Update at the March WWVCAB meeting because he would not be in attendance.

**Future agenda items:** (a) Presentation on Funding for Fire Prevention in West Washoe Valley; (b) Conversion from a One-Map Based Planning System to a Two-Map Based Planning System

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m. Bob Rusk moved to adjourn the meeting. Bill Elliott seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.