

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA**

**RETREAT
9:00 A.M.
APRIL 7, 2008**

PRESENT:

Bob Larkin, Chairman
Bonnie Weber, Vice Chairman
Jim Galloway, Commissioner
Kitty Jung, Commissioner

Amy Harvey, County Clerk
Katy Singlaub, County Manager
Melanie Foster, Legal Counsel

ABSENT:

David Humke, Commissioner

The Board of County Commissioners met at the Spanish Springs Library, located at 7100A Pyramid Highway, Conference Room, Reno, Nevada, (Lazy 5 Regional Park).

AGENDA ITEM 1

Agenda Subject: “Public Comment. Comment heard under this item will be limited to two minutes per person and may pertain to matters both on and off the Commission agenda. All public comment for this meeting will be heard during this item. Comments are to be made to the Commission as a whole.”

There was no response to the call for public comment.

08-286 AGENDA ITEM 2

Agenda Subject: “Senior Services Strategic Plan: discussion, identification of issues and possible direction to staff on topics related to Washoe County’s senior population, which may include, but is not limited to Lifelong, Communities, transit and housing options, health care and healthy aging, County “age readiness”, and “aging in place.”

Katy Singlaub, County Manager, commented staff felt it would be valuable for the Board to have an in-depth briefing concerning some critical issues.

Grady Tarbutton, Senior Services Director, conducted a PowerPoint presentation, which was placed on file with the Clerk, that highlighted the Washoe County Senior Services Strategic Plan and Goals, a framework for action inclusive of seniors, and policies that support lifelong communities. He said the Adult Services Program of the Social Services Department matched Medicaid for people in nursing homes who received less than \$900 per month, which was the federally required match.

Commissioner Galloway requested the number of senior citizens living in nursing homes who could have remained in their homes if an assistance program was available.

Commissioner Weber said typically older citizens had homes that were paid for. She asked if there had been a study conducted involving “baby boomers.” Mr. Tarbutton stated he was unaware of a survey, but agreed that the different generations faced different obstacles.

Mr. Tarbutton explained a program being considered was the utilization of a Veterans Services Officer, certified through the U.S. Veterans Administration, to act as an advocate with Power of Attorney to aid a veteran applying for Medicaid benefits. He said this could be a benefit to the County and could potentially reduce an increase in indigent services. Commissioner Jung agreed that the Veterans Services Officer would be a good program for the County.

Commissioner Galloway inquired about the funding for subsidized affordable housing. Mr. Tarbutton replied that funding came from Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Chairman Larkin said many of the underlined assumptions were based on the traditionalist’s market; however, he was curious to see those assumptions since that entire demographic would be completely rewritten by the “baby boomers.” Mr. Tarbutton agreed that the whole scenario was changing and people would be willing to pay for services.

Commissioner Weber suggested utilizing senior citizens as volunteers for many of the County’s programs.

Mr. Tarbutton explained the recommendations and County-wide strategies. Chairman Larkin asked if there should be a centralized readiness plan for each department to implement. Mr. Tarbutton remarked the centralized plan was important for guidelines, but each department served their customers differently.

Chairman Larkin suggested the integration of a feasibility study to be conducted within Adult Services. He suggested returning to the Board in August for further discussion.

On motion by Commissioner Jung, seconded by Chairman Larkin, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Humke absent, it was ordered that:

- The Senior Services staff be directed to continue reviewing ways to encourage senior citizen independence in the community and Aging-in-Place;
- The County, as a municipality, review each department's approach to senior citizens and how those services could be enhanced to incorporate a scorecard and/or assessment to leverage the different partners including a Veteran Services Officer;
- The different utilities, and the Cities of Reno and Sparks be involved and utilization of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data to bring services to the areas of greatest need;
- Family support and responsibility be encouraged.

08-287 AGENDA ITEM 3

Agenda Subject: "Alternative energy and green community initiatives: discussion, identification of issues, and possible direction to staff on topics related to alternative energy and green community initiatives, which may include, but is not limited to solar, wind, geothermal and other alternative energy strategies, and waste reduction, recycling, and reuse alternatives."

John Berkich, Assistant County Manager, presented a PowerPoint presentation, which was placed on file with the Clerk, highlighting the definition of Clean Energy, Key Dates, Alternative Energy Fuels Greater Nevada's Conventional Economy, Nevada's Energy Goal, Nevada's Vision for Alternative Energy, Nevada's Natural Resources, Renewable Energy Zones, Concentrating Solar Power Prospects, Renewable Energy Incentives, Status of Energy in Nevada, Nevada's Energy Opportunities, Nevada's Energy Challenges, Nevada's Energy Opportunities, State strategies, Washoe County Renewable Generation Resources, Nevada Renewable Energy Sources, Wind Generation in Washoe County, Recycling Solid Waste into Biofuels, Waste Managements Green Efforts and Northern Nevada's Green Region.

Andy Goodrich, Air Quality Division Director, conducted a PowerPoint presentation, which was placed on file with the Clerk, highlighting the Washoe County Green Team, areas of opportunity, Green Team Goals, Green Team direction and the members of the Green Team.

Commissioner Jung asked how the employees were selected for the Green Team. Mr. Goodrich replied it was open to any individual that was interested. He said in reviewing other conservation plans external forces drove conservation and energy practices. Commissioner Jung questioned the amount each County department spent on bottled water.

Commissioner Galloway stated there should be a clear definition of “going green” and, if a resolution was submitted that involved alternative energy, there should be reference to the sustainability.

Chairman Larkin said as a part of the process and the goals a technical definition of “green” needed to be explained, which would include a net energy gain such as a list of examples to fit that definition. Mr. Goodrich stated the team wrestled with the term “green” as well as the term “sustainable” on whether that was universally understood and agreed it needed to be reviewed. Chairman Larkin stated he was in favor of the goals of the Green Team with the caveat of including a definition. He questioned if the County could be an exporter of energy or an exporter of energy technology.

Commissioner Weber asked if the County had requested information from the National Association of Counties (NACo) who had a committee to deal with this issue. Mr. Goodrich confirmed the committee spoke to NACo and stated they were very valuable. Commissioner Weber hoped the team would continue to work with Waste Management to develop a relationship for regional incorporation since they were important in the process.

Commissioner Jung requested language be included that “green” standards needed to be environmentally, economically and socially sustainable.

Commissioner Galloway moved that staff be directed to move forward with the recommendations; however, add “facilitation of financing.” He further moved to incorporate the comments heard and proceed with a draft for energy and waste strategic plan and a draft resolution. Commissioner Jung seconded the motion.

On call for the question, the motion passed 4 to 0 with Commissioner Humke absent.

08-288 AGENDA ITEM 4

Agenda Subject: “Identification of issues for future retreats: identification of issues and possible direction to staff related to topics for future retreat agendas.”

Chairman Larkin said the next retreat was scheduled for July 7, 2008.

John Slaughter, Management Services Director, stated ideas had been collected to review State-wide tax structures; however, there were no specific items scheduled at the present time.

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There being no further business to come before the Board, the retreat adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

The foregoing minutes represent the understanding of the Washoe County Clerk's Office of the discussions held during this retreat.

AMY HARVEY, Washoe County Clerk
and Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners

*Minutes Prepared by
Stacy Gonzales
Deputy County Clerk*