

WASHOE COUNTY COMMISSION
RENO CITY COUNCIL
SPARKS CITY COUNCIL
WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

JOINT MEETING

MONDAY

8:30 A.M.

FEBRUARY 6, 2012

PRESENT:

Bonnie Weber, Washoe County Commission, Vice Chairperson
Kitty Jung, Washoe County Commissioner
John Breternitz, Washoe County Commissioner

Robert A. Cashell, City of Reno, Mayor
Jessica Sferrazza, Reno City Councilmember
Sharon Zadra, Reno City Councilmember
Dan Gustin, Reno City Councilmember
Pierre Hascheff, Reno City Councilmember

Geno Martini, City of Sparks, Mayor
Ed Lawson, Sparks City Councilmember
Julia Ratti, Sparks City Councilmember
Ron Schmitt, Sparks City Councilmember
Ron Smith, Sparks City Councilmember

Ken Grein, Washoe County School District Board of Trustees, President
John Mayer, Washoe County School District Board of Trustees, Vice President
Dan Carne, Washoe County School District Board of Trustees, Member
Scott Kelley, Washoe County School District Board of Trustees, Member
Barbara McLaury, Washoe County School District Board of Trustees,
Barbara Clark, Washoe County School District Board of Trustees, Member*
Estela LeVario Gutierrez, Washoe County School District Board of Trustees,
Member

ABSENT:

Robert Larkin, Washoe County Commissioner, Chairman
David Humke, Washoe County Commissioner
David Aiazzi, Reno City Councilmember
Dwight Dortch, Reno City Councilmember
Mike Carrigan, Sparks City Councilmember

The Commission, Board, and Councils convened at 8:35 a.m. in joint session in the Reno City Council Chamber, One East First Street, Reno, Nevada, with Mayor Cashell presiding. Also present were Washoe County Manager Katy Simon, Washoe County Legal Counsel Paul Lipparelli, Reno City Clerk Lynnette Jones, Reno City Manager Andrew Clinger, Reno Chief Deputy City Attorney Tracy Chase, Sparks City Clerk Linda Patterson, Sparks Assistant City Manager Steve Driscoll, Sparks Assistant City Attorney Shirle Eiting, Washoe County School District (WCSD) Superintendant Heath Morrison, and WCSD Legal Counsel Randy Drake. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our Country, the Clerks called the roll for their respective entities, and the Commission, Councils, and Board conducted the following business:

12-114 AGENDA ITEM 3 – PUBLIC COMMENT

Agenda Subject: “This item is for either public comment on any action item or for any general public comment.”

Donna Clontz spoke on the proposed reduction in funding for Senior Services.

Connie McMullen, Senior Services Advisory Board Chair, urged the elected officials to preserve the general funds that were going to Senior Services. She said those funds leveraged federal and State grants and a reduction could result in the dismantling of certain programs such as the Senior Law Project and the Day Break Adult Day Care program.

Stephen Jacobs, City of Reno Senior Services Advisory Committee Chairman, commented that the senior citizen population in the County had grown, and he felt that services should be improved, not reduced.

Sam Dehne discussed the recent Republican caucus and the voting procedures in the County.

12-115 AGENDA ITEM 4 – AGENDA

Agenda Subject: “Approval of the agenda – February 6, 2012.”

On motion by Reno Councilmember Zadra, seconded by Sparks Mayor Martini, which motion duly carried with Washoe County Chairman Larkin, Commissioner Humke, Reno Councilmembers Aiazzi and Dortch, Trustee Clark and Sparks Councilmember Carrigan absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 4 be approved.

12-116 AGENDA ITEM 5 – MINUTES

Agenda Subject: “Approval of minutes – May 2, 2011”

On motion by Vice Chairperson Weber, seconded by Reno Councilmember Zadra, which motion duly carried with Washoe County Chairman Larkin, Commissioner Humke, Reno Councilmembers Aiazzi and Dortch, Trustee Clark and Sparks Councilmember Carrigan absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 5 be approved.

Reno Councilmember Sferrazza was under the impression that Animal Services and Senior Services would be on the agenda. She suggested scheduling another joint meeting specifically to cover those issues.

Katy Simon, County Manager, indicated that the County Commissioners would hear budget presentations during the month of April in order to make their decisions about funding levels. Councilmember Sferrazza requested the combined Board’s and Commission review their calendars in an attempt to schedule a joint meeting before the budget presentations.

12-117 AGENDA ITEM 6

Agenda Subject: “Update on Regional Economic Development efforts and consideration and action on a Statement of Intent to participate in a Northern Nevada Regional Effort on Economic Development (For Possible Action).”

***8:50 a.m.** Washoe County School District Trustee Clark arrived.

Armando Ornelas, City of Sparks Planner, explained that during the 2011 Legislative Session, the Legislature passed AB 449, which was a comprehensive bill changing the State’s approach to economic development. Among the many provisions, was the restructuring of the Nevada Commission on Economic Development to include the creation of the Advisory Council to develop a baseline study for the development of the State Plan for Economic Development; the creation of the Board of Economic Development; and, the creation of the Office of Economic Development within the office of the Governor.

Mr. Ornelas indicated that a meeting was planned with the County Commission Chairman and the Mayors from the Cities of Reno and Sparks and asked Katy Simon, County Manager, to explain that process. Ms. Simon confirmed that a special meeting was planned for February 24, 2012 for the elected county commission chairmen and the mayors throughout the region including Lyon County, Douglas County, Storey County, and Carson City. She said the meeting would be held at the Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC), but would not be a noticed public meeting.

Steve Hill, Governor's Office of Economic Development Director, commended the work that had been completed for economic development in the region. He said that AB 449 required the appointment of Regional Development Authorities (RDA's), and he felt that the RDA concept should be generated regionally and not appointed from the State. There had been conversations held to define the region and that plenty of participants were included within that conversation. He commented that the issue of cooperation would continue because specific instances would arise that may cause concern, but he felt there was the commitment within the region to work together. Mr. Hill said the State plan for economic development would be released on February 7, 2012 and would specify that economies and markets were regionally based. The State plan specifically dealt with the process of an RDA and explained that a Request for Proposal (RFP) would soon be released. In order to make appointments by the end of May, he would ask the regions to reply by the end of April and then work through the contract process by the end of June for funding in Fiscal Year 2013. To facilitate an open access for that process, temporary RDA appointments that would expire on June 1, 2012 would be provided for the purpose of responding to the RFP.

Mr. Hill explained that regional planning was dealt with in the State plan and that the status for all the different regions in the State would be reviewed. He indicated that the State plan had a six-step planning process and hoped that process would be used for regional planning. In moving forward with regional planning, he asked for the regions to focus on job creation.

Mike Kazmierski, Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada (EDAWN) President and CEO, distributed information pertaining to RDA's, which was placed on file with the Clerk. He discussed the results of the Brookings Report which identified what a RDA should accomplish. He explained that the ReCharge Nevada Coalition had established a task force that would move forward with strategic planning for the region. Specifically, the partnership between EDAWN, and the Northern Nevada Development Authority (NNDA) in working with the different sections of the region. He remarked that EDAWN was part of the State's strategic planning process and would be engaged with the planning requirements. Since the regional planning portion would take a variety of governmental representatives, key community partnerships and public input, a facilitator would be hired to oversee that process. Mr. Kazmierski indicated that the Brookings Report identified 11 areas, as listed in the handout, and noted that EDAWN used those 11 areas in moving forward. He explained that numbers nine and 11 were highlighted to show that those items had been addressed, but emphasized that EDAWN would continue to focus their efforts on all 11 priorities as defined by the Brookings Report.

Mr. Kazmierski remarked that the Brookings Report identified seven opportunities and 30 target areas with an emphasis on manufacturing and financial and intangible enterprises. He said the goal was to provide a draft strategic plan by the end of March. Mr. Kazmierski looked forward to working with the government entities and changing the economy in northern Nevada.

Commissioner Jung indicated that a Regional Jobs Team was in place and hoped that they would be involved with the regional plan. She commented that the Team had arrived at excellent strategies for the region, especially in attracting venture capitalists and investors. Mr. Kazmierski commended Commissioner Jung and everyone involved with the Regional Jobs Team. He said they offered expertise and, in moving forward, that expertise would be drawn upon.

Commissioner Breternitz said that EDAWN took a major role in the 11 areas defined by the Brookings Report and asked how that fit with NNDA. Mr. Kazmierski replied that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was drafted between the two groups and was being reviewed by their boards in order to delineate the areas of responsibility and cross-support. The goal was to mesh the two plans enabling EDAWN and NNDA to continue moving forward with planning. Commissioner Breternitz asked if the MOU and the definition of the relationship between the two entities met the State's criteria in their description of an RDA. Mr. Kazmierski stated that two RDA's would be in the region, which would work together in moving forward and address the 11 defined areas.

Reno Councilmember Sferrazza stated that the Brookings Report clearly identified education and diversification of the tax base. She asked how those would be incorporated in moving forward with the economic development initiatives. Mr. Hill replied that the education component was an important part of economic development. He said a large component of the State Plan was devoted to education and work-force development. In regard to the tax-base, Reno Councilmember Sferrazza asked if there would be any discussion for potential legislation to diversify that base. Mr. Hill replied that would not be a part of the state's economic development plan.

Sparks Councilmember Ratti felt there may be some fatigue and/or skepticism in the community concerning economic development initiatives. She said that "Target 2010" was a significant effort toward a regional strategic plan that brought in an outside consultant similar to the Brookings Institute, which identified six target industries. She asked how the Brookings Report was different from Target 2010. Mr. Kazmierski replied that the community attitude was now different. When Target 2010 was prepared, he said things were already happening, but the energy, the concern or the 25,000 unemployed individuals were not present.

In regard to those topics, Mr. Hill said the list of opportunities needed to be reviewed in order to begin community conversations. He said future economic growth would not be just gaming and construction. Those would continue to be a part of the foundation, but not where growth in a vibrant economy needed to be generated.

As policy makers, Reno Councilmember Zadra questioned how the governing bodies could play a larger role in developing that partnership. She said during the last Shared Services Committee meeting, the next steps were being reviewed for the subcommittee to address, and she proposed those next steps be specifically related to economic development.

Sparks Councilmember Lawson inquired about the measured goals within the strategic plan. Mr. Kazmierski replied that outcomes and goals would be set to build a strategy and then measure the successes.

School Board Trustee Clark said in the past three years education in the community had been raised to entice businesses to come to the Reno-Sparks area and conduct business. A tremendous effort was being made in an attempt to build that workforce from kindergarten through the college system. Unfortunately, that would fall apart if the community could not appear at the legislature as a geographical area and have a tax-base that was diversified.

Commissioner Jung asked if EDAWN would be the center for job creation. Mr. Kazmierski replied that EDAWN had one focus, primary job creation, which would bring wealth into the region. Commissioner Jung suggested training students on becoming entrepreneurs since that component did not exist.

Robert Hooper, NNDA Executive Director, commented that this needed to become an actionable plan with an emphasis on implementation and that NNDA and EDAWN would work together to coordinate regional planning. Mr. Hooper indicated that the expected results of that planning were:

- A well-articulated clear vision of a region, one that all stakeholders could sign onto and agree that it supported the objectives of the region.
- The definition of the local sub-region, by county and by community for a commonality of economic purpose to be articulated.
- A complete assessment of regional conditions, assets and obstacles both for the Sierra region and for each defined sub region.

Mr. Hooper said there would be a three-year plan, particularly for the rural communities, which would be driven by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) called Stronger Economies Together (SET) and would produce an updated, consolidated economic development strategy recognized by the Economic Development Administration (EDA) and used for grant purposes by the Small Business Administration (SBA). He said NNDA was in support of the Governor's Office of Economic Development and their position to allow organization within the region to promote the partnership between NNDA and EDAWN.

Reno Councilmember Gustin stated that businesses were seeking lifestyle, livability and environmental advantages. He said those already existed in the region and asked where they fit in this scheme. Mr. Hooper replied that the areas lifestyle was always embraced, but noted it was the bottom line that made the decision for many new companies. For instance, the Chobani Yogurt Company decided against moving to northern Nevada because the area did not have enough cows for their production demands.

Mr. Ornelas concluded that EDawn and NNDA were working collaboratively to develop economic development plans that would be responsive to the direction from the State. He explained that a Statement of Intent had been drafted, which was not binding, but was a statement from local governments that they wanted to be part of the coalition.

For the City of Reno, on motion by Councilmember Zadra, seconded by Councilmember Hascheff, which motion duly carried with Councilmembers Aiazzi and Dortch absent, it was ordered that the “Statement of Intent” to participate in a Northern Nevada Regional Effort on Economic Development be adopted.

For the City of Sparks, on motion by Councilmember Lawson, seconded by Councilmember Smith, which motion duly carried with Councilmember Carrigan absent, it was ordered that the “Statement of Intent” to participate in a Northern Nevada Regional Effort on Economic Development be adopted.

It was noted that the Washoe County Commission had unanimously voted to adopt the “Statement of Intent” to participate in a Northern Nevada Regional Effort on Economic Development during their January 24, 2012 meeting.

12-118 AGENDA ITEM 7

Agenda Subject: “Presentation and Update on the Washoe County School District Strategic Plan.”

Dr. Heath Morrison, Washoe County School District (WCSD) Superintendent, conducted a PowerPoint presentation, which was placed on file with the Clerk. The presentation highlighted the WCSD Call for Reform, the Strategic Plan, the *Envision WCSD 2015 – Investing in our Future* to include: Academic Success; Highly Effective Personnel, Families and Community; Self-Renewing Culture; and, Performance Management Systems, improved student achievement, graduation rate, college and career readiness, the educational landscape, budget challenges and continuous innovation. He said the Plan was launched in August 2010 after a six-month process that included hundreds of stakeholder conversations, presentations, school visits, town hall meetings, committee meetings, and Board work sessions. It contained the five key goals designed to set high expectations, and included action plans based on the best teaching and learning methods.

Commissioner Jung thanked Dr. Morrison for changing the culture of the WCSD. She suggested the “Principal for a Day” program be reinstated. She also commended the Board of Trustees for being a progressive and strong Board.

Reno Councilmember Sferrazza echoed those remarks. She inquired about the funding for capital projects and if a list could be supplied for the repairs needed at the different school sites. Dr. Morrison explained that there were 17 school districts in the State with different ways to generate capital project money. However, Washoe County,

had only one way to generate those funds, which was a roll over bond tied directly to property taxes. He indicated that property taxes were estimated to fall between 4 and 7 percent and, as those fell, there would be nothing to bond against. The national standard for simple upkeep of basic building needs for approximately 100 schools would be a minimum of \$25 million. Dr. Morrison said that the School Board, working with the Governor and the State Legislature, created the School Works Bill that passed during the last session. That bill allowed the District to complete \$78 million worth of capital construction projects across northern Nevada and put 1,000 people back to work in the construction industry. Reno Councilmember Sferrazza requested that discussion come before the City Council so the School District could show those needs in the County.

Mayor Cashell asked how the other 16 school districts raised money. Dr. Morrison replied that there were Room Taxes and different rates of Property Taxes. He confirmed that he would supply the list of what the other 16 school districts used for funds.

12-119 AGENDA ITEM 8 – PUBLIC COMMENT

Agenda Subject: “This item is for general public comment.”

There was no response to the call for public comment.

Reno Councilmember Sferrazza requested a special joint meeting be scheduled to discuss Senior Services and Animal Control and hoped a meeting could be scheduled today. She felt that the public thought those issues were to be on this agenda.

Commissioner Breternitz stated that a process was in place to schedule such meetings and felt that process worked.

Sparks Mayor Martini indicated that the Mayors, the Commission Chairman and the respective Managers would meet during the month, and he said that another joint meeting would be discussed. Reno Councilmember Sferrazza stated the process had not worked and there were serious impending issues that needed to be addressed.

Vice Chairperson Weber said it was important to set dates, and suggested joint meeting dates be scheduled for an entire year. Reno Councilmember Sferrazza clarified that she was suggesting a special meeting be scheduled before the budget discussions occurred.

Mayor Cashell asked the Boards and Commission to check their calendars in order to set a special meeting date. Katy Simon, County Manager, remarked that it would be beneficial for the governing bodies to hear presentations about the entire budget.

For Washoe County, on motion by Commissioner Jung, seconded by Vice Chairperson Weber which motion duly carried with Commissioner Breternitz voting “no” and Commissioners Larkin and Humke absent, it was ordered that a special joint meeting be scheduled for March 19, 2012. It was further ordered that the meeting would be held in the Reno Council Chambers.

For the City of Reno, on motion by Councilmember Sferrazza, seconded by Councilmember Hascheff, which motion duly carried with Councilmembers Aiazzi and Dortch absent, it was ordered that a special joint meeting be scheduled for March 19, 2012. It was further ordered that the meeting would be held in the Reno Council Chambers.

For the City of Sparks, on motion by Councilmember Schmitt, seconded by Councilmember Ratti, which motion duly carried with Councilmember Lawson voting “no” and Councilmember Carrigan absent, it was ordered that a special joint meeting be scheduled for March 19, 2012. It was further ordered that the meeting would be held in the Reno Council Chambers.

For the Washoe County School District, on motion by Trustee Carne, seconded by Trustee Gutierrez, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that a special joint meeting be scheduled for March 19, 2012. It was further ordered that the meeting would be held in the Reno Council Chambers.

Paul Lipparelli, County Legal Counsel, said that at today’s scheduled joint meeting, Mayor Cashell accepted a motion from a county commissioner to set a joint meeting for March 19 which passed 2-1. Besides the problem of an official from another jurisdiction presiding over a vote of the county commission and the diminished ability of legal counsel to intervene, there was no agenda item on the posted agenda to allow such an action. That vote is void, or at the least voidable. Corrective action is needed. If the county commission wants to participate in a special joint meeting outside the process that was established for setting the regular joint meetings, the commission should place an item on a future agenda and vote on it in a public meeting.

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10:44 a.m. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:

ROBERT M. LARKIN, Chairman
Washoe County Commission

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

ATTEST:

ROBERT A. CASHELL, Mayor
City of Reno

LYNNETTE R. JONES, City Clerk
City of Reno

ATTEST:

GENO MARTINI, Mayor
City of Sparks

LINDA K. PATTERSON, City Clerk
City of Sparks

ATTEST:

KEN GREIN, Board of Trustees
President, Washoe County School District

ESTELA LEVARIO GUTIERREZ, Clerk
Washoe County School District

*Minutes Prepared by Stacy Gonzales,
Washoe County Deputy Clerk*