**North Valleys Citizen Advisory Board**

**Minutes of the regular meeting of the North Valleys Citizen Advisory Board held on August 14, 2023 at 6:00 P.M. North Valleys Library (1075 N Hills Blvd. Reno, NV 89506)**

1. **CALL TO ORDER/ DETERMINATION OF QUORUM** Teresa Aquila, Wendy Leonard(absent), William Robinson(absent), Kelly Orr, Roger Edwards, Aaron Jennings(absent), Wanida Black
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

1. **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT** – Comment heard under this item will be limited to three (3) minutes per person and may pertain to matters both on and off the agenda. The Citizen Advisory Board will also hear public comment during individual action items, with comment limited to three minutes per person. Comments are to be made to the CAB as a whole.

Citizen – The speaker discusses job opportunities for high school and college students at the Nevada Department of Transportation. They do not have to have a driver's license. Apply online.

Susan (citizen) - Alexis Hill went through a dialogue on Sam Shad's show. She is concerned with the need for public comment. The speaker expresses concern about not being able to go together in organized groups and plans to address it in the future. They mention that the auditorium was built by taxpayers for nothing. She discussed affordable housing and the need for open discussions. The speaker expresses concerns about the potential impact on ranchers and the local economy if the land is taken for affordable housing.

1. **APPROVAL OF THE** [**MINUTES**](https://wcwashoecms.admin.washoecounty.us:8443/renderfile/9d2334fa94ba79814bc49997a5868590/NV_CAB/2022/files/North-Valleys-Agenda_March-2022_draft-minutes.docx) **FOR THE MEETINGS OF** [June 12, 2023](https://www.washoecounty.gov/CABS/NV_CAB/2023/files/NV-CAB-Draft-Min_-June-2023.docx). [For Possible Action]

The meeting moved to the approval of the minutes for June 11th, 2023. The minutes were approved.

1. **PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATES –** General community updates from public safety representatives; including but not limited to Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, Washoe County Sheriff’s Office, and others as such [Non-Action Item**]**

Truckee Meadows Fire Battalion Chief - Christopher Black –

The Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District provides statistics on fire-related calls, medical calls, auto accidents, hazmat-related calls, and other calls for the month of July. Fire related calls were at 8 , medical calls were at 123, auto accidents were at 8, hazmat-related items were at 3, and there were 39 good intents.

The Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District discusses safety messages regarding open burning and evacuations. Open burning is closed. No burning at all. We are in the middle of fire season. We are currently fully staffed. We are sending our resources out to help our neighbors.

The board of fire commissioners has asked for an update on evacuations at this month's board meeting. The chief will be addressing it at the Board of County Commissioners meeting. The information will be provided at the next meeting.

Roger Edwards - How many people do you have out in other states?

Answer - Last week it was at 30. Now we are down to 15.

In the fall, there will be announcements for green waste disposal where people can drop off their waste. It is uncertain if chipping will be done in the fall or in the spring, as it depends on the evaluation of the spring program.

Sargent Randy Hill with the Washoe County Sherriff Office –

A new academy started a month ago with 22 recruits. Currently, there are six trainees expected to finish training in early October. The increase in staff is thanks to the help of the county commission to meet the growing needs of the population.

Assault offences and larceny/theft are up compared to the three-year average. Other major crimes are steady or declining. The total calls for service in the last quarter were 2,651, higher than the three-year average of 2,300. Vehicle burglaries and trailhead thefts have decreased, possibly due to the campaign of keeping valuables out of sight. There have been some instances of mobile fraud labs involving laptops, printers, and stolen mail.

Citizen - Are you cracking down more on credit card fraud?

Answer - Usually, those crimes happen due to mail theft, or stealing the cards physically. So we would go after those. There haven't been many card reader issues reported, but there have been instances of mobile fraud labs involving stolen mail and financial fraud. The regional information center shares bulletins about trends like these.

1. **ROUNDABOUT PUBLIC ART PROJECT –** City of Reno Arts & Culture Manager Megan Berner to present information on being awarded a National Endowment for the Arts grant and a Community Support Grant from Washoe County, for a public art project to be created and installed at the new roundabout, at the entrance to the North Valleys Regional Park. [Non-Action Item]

The City of Reno applied for a national endowment for the arts grant and received funding from Washoe County and RTC for the project. The cost of submitting artwork is free.

Discussion about the exposure gained from having artwork displayed and the experience required for being awarded a commission. The project is managed by the City of Reno. The project is funded by room tax and the commission covers the artist's payment and materials. There will be an outreach survey to help determine what the artwork will be. The artwork will be a permanent piece designed to withstand the elements. Discussion about the size and parameters of the artwork, which will be determined based on community input.

Kelly Orr – Is it going to have any shade? There were many trees ripped out.

Answer – That is not part of our project, unfortunately. This project is just for structural artwork in the roundabout.

Randall (citizen) – Is this presentation going to be available on Zoom?

Answer – It will be made available. Thank you for letting us know it was not shown.

Dane Neason – I there a cost to submit your artwork?

Answer – It is free to apply.

Dean Neason – What kind of exposure would you get? Is this a good course of action for an upcoming artist?

Answer – You would probably need to have some prior sculptural experience.

Citizen – How much is this going to cost the taxpayers?

Answer – Nothing. It is fully funded from other sources.

1. **ENVISIONWASHOE2040 –** Senior Planner Eric Young to provide a brief overview of the next steps in the Master Plan process, highlighting engagement opportunities, and identifying how attendees can review the current documents and provide input online. [Non-Action Item]

The Envision Washoe 2040 project aims to update the master plan for Washoe County. The project involves a wholesale update of the entire plan using a repeal-and-replace concept. The Envision Washoe 2040 website, www.envisionwashoe2040.org, allows users to view and engage with the new document.

The plan consists of three chapters: chapter one (background information), chapter two (area plans and elements), and chapter three (implementation). The plan is to gather input from the community until October 16th, followed by adoption hearings on October 16th and potentially December 12th. Recreation opportunities and scenic resources are priorities within the North Valleys. Eric Young urges the public to comment and leave feedback before adoption. The discussion highlights the need for improving commercial services in the North Valleys area based on community input.

The discussion encourages participants to leave comments and provide feedback on various aspects of the plan, including background information, graphics, and maps. The discussion refers to the new maps that are being created and asks for feedback on their usefulness and clarity.

1. **NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT HUB –** Staff to display the online [HUB](https://neighborhood-washoe.hub.arcgis.com/) for review by the CAB members and/or attendees to determine if there are new or existing projects for discussion. Specific questions and feedback will be brought back to the appropriate staff for an announcement at the next CAB meeting. [Non-Action Item]

The Neighborhood Development Hub meetings have been moved out of the CABs and notifications are sent to interested individuals. Individuals can sign up on the website to receive notifications about the meetings in their desired district. The speaker mentions that neighborhood development meetings cover topics such as special use permits, changes in development code, and new property developments.

1. **BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS/REQUESTS/DISCUSSION** — This item is limited to announcements, requests for future agenda items, or discussion by CAB members and/or commissioner [Non-Action Item]

Roger Edwards - We are here to serve the public. The CAB member is motivated by the recent Sam Shad interview. The speaker expresses concern about limiting the public's voice in meetings and states their intention to ensure that the public's voice is not silenced.

Kelly Orr – Seconds the comments by the previous speaker.

1. **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT** – Comment heard under this item will be limited to three (3) minutes per person and may pertain to matters both on and off the agenda. The public is encouraged to submit a “Request to Speak” form to the Board chair. Comments are to be addressed to the Board as a whole.

Michael Rodriguez - The speaker raises concerns about three parcels being considered for a landfill and highlights their significance in terms of groundwater recharge.

Ed Lawson and Kate discuss the viability of the proposal, which took about 80 minutes to make the presentation. Ed Lawson really wants the proposal and has been working on it for the past three years.

Beck (citizen) - They express concern about seniors choosing between power bills and food, and invites representatives to come and listen to their concerns at the Cold Springs Community Center. Beth emphasizes the need for seniors to be heard and invites anyone to come and just listen to them at the Cold Springs Community Center.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm

**Meeting Summary**

The meeting officially began with roll call and the pledge of allegiance. Public comment was included in the agenda. Job opportunities for high school and college students at the Nevada Department of Transportation were highlighted. A request was made to prioritize a presentation for North Valleys and gather more information for the next meeting. Concerns were expressed about the need for open discussions and the lack of organized group activities. Commissioner Jean Herman was commended for fighting against a land bill. The minutes for June 11th, 2023 were approved. The Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District provided updates on fire-related calls, safety messages, and evacuations. Law enforcement staff has increased to meet the growing needs of the population. Crime statistics were discussed, including an increase in assault offenses and larceny/theft. Vehicle burglaries and fraud have decreased. The City of Reno received funding for a roundabout public art project. The Envision Washoe 2040 project aims to update the master plan for Washoe County, and community input is encouraged. The park plan and neighborhood development meetings were discussed. Concerns were raised about limiting the public's voice in meetings and the potential impact of landfill parcels on groundwater recharge. A proposal for District Five was presented, and concerns were expressed about senior distribution in Cold Springs.