



Gerlach/Empire Citizen Advisory Board

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Gerlach/Empire Citizen Advisory Board held July 6, 2017
at the Gerlach General Improvement District – Community Room, 410 Cottonwood, Gerlach, NV

1. *CALL TO ORDER/ DETERMINATION OF QUORUM – The meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM.

MEMBERS PRESENT – Elisabeth ‘Schatzi’ Gambrell, Allen Nash (filling in for Sonya Deforest), Lisa Nash, Tina Walters, Matthew Ebert, Brooke Covey.

ABSENT MEMBERS (Excused): Sonya DeForest,

2. *PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – The pledge of allegiance was recited.

3. *PUBLIC COMMENT –

Cameron Hall spoke about Pat. She said when the volunteers resigned she never thought he could bring them back together, and we are back. He did amazing thing and brought us together. The audience agreed.

Jason Walters asked if there has been any explanation of the firing of Pat.

Gary S. showed a map of Gerlach. There has been an issue brewing for 30 years. Survey of Gerlach, the community development map show property lines going through structures. It’s been an issue that hasn’t been solved. It’s grossly negligent and liable. Building and community development retired employees are ready to testify. There is one solution; they can pay a lot of money. The County highway through town is identified as 60 feet wide, which would cut through buildings on both sides. By Bruno’s, the road is marked as 80 feet. We need to do an abandonment of the part of the highway they aren’t using. The county needs to abandon the road. They have to adjust the County line. It’s been a problem for a long time. We are going to file an abandonment.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 6, 2017: Matthew Ebert moved to approve the agenda for **JULY 6, 2017**. Lisa Walters seconded the motion to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF MAY 4, 2017: Matthew Ebert moved to approve the minutes for **MAY 4, 2017**. Elisabeth Gambrell seconded the motion to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

6. *UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE –

Chili cookoff/race day – October 14-16, 2017

7.* PUBLIC SAFETY AND COMMUNITY REPORTS/UPDATES

7A.*Gerlach Fire –Al Rogers, Director of Management services provided an update. He said at the request of the chair, it was a standing item.

Yes, last Wednesday, we released the Community Services Coordinator for not reaching probational period. That’s our policy not to discuss. Any position, any personnel, is that of the organizations’. No one can answer the questions. Al said, out of 30 years, this was not the best day for him in this organization. We will move in a forward direction with training and accomplishments. Washoe County is committed to provide fire suppression resources in this area. We will still focus on volunteers. We are in a better position today than a year ago. We built this system to be sustainable no matter who comes in.

Elisabeth said Al mentioned we look forward in 5, 10, 15 years. Will you decide and tell us, did Pat's evaluations met or exceeded expectations. She asked if we will be informed what the future will look like. The man who worked for a year to get volunteers, helped the seniors, and this community was told to leave town in one hour. That's unacceptable.

Lisa Nash said we want a voice at the table. We want to determine what we look like 2, 3, 5 years down the road. It's hard to attend Commission meetings. Let us have a voice at the table. Our CAB fought to have this meeting back. It feels that Washoe County dictates to us.

Elisabeth thanked Al for having the minutes online.

Vicky Maltman asked about releasing someone before their probational period. How can you use that as a point of why it was let go. Al said any personnel decision is within the organization. It appears to be non-transparent, but that's the procedure and process. It was an organizational decision. Vicky said she is having trouble understanding.

Matthew said it's not that he didn't successfully complete his probational period, it was something happen during his probational period that severed his employment. Lisa said they can't speak about the reasons for his termination. It's an HR rule. Al said there are different terms and compliance.

Jason Walters said rumors flourish. Pat was a two term commissioner in the other town over, and he wanted to run for the County Commission, and suddenly he is gone. Al said the County doesn't have a civil service commission.

Gary said he ran for commission. The county charter says the county commission hires and fires one person, the County Manager. The County mMnager can hire and fire anyone – at will, not at will. He said he wanted to change the charter to change the hiring process with hiring managers. it's should be for all county heads.

7B.*Washoe County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) – A representative of the Washoe County Sheriff's Office may be available (unless on a call for service) to address public safety questions and concerns. For more information call (775) 328-3001 or online at www.washoesheriff.com (This item is for information only and no action will be taken by the CAB.)

Deputy Darren Evans said he has received numerous complaints about staffing. He said Dave isn't the resident deputy. He said he is the only resident deputy. He said there are replacements coming in. He said there won't be a training period. He said they don't want to give them on-call pay. Deputy Burns is supposed to take full time deputy. And Michael Fox will replace Evans. They are good cops. He invited people to call him on his cell phone before he leaves. Evans said he is sorry he can't finish his obligation.

7C. *Washoe County Emergency Management – Aaron Kenneston, Washoe County Emergency Manager with the Office of the County Manager will provide information regarding recent flooding and snow events. Please feel free to contact Mr. Kenneston at (775) 337-5898 or via email at akenneston@washoecounty.us. (This item is for information only and no action will be taken by the CAB.)

He said he is excited about the rise in the school numbers up here.

He gave an update about the following:

Wildland fire season

Working through flooding. He said he noticed flooding in parts of the playa.

We do have hazards. We are slowly watching water recede and working on what we need to do for next year. We are still in danger with the fire season; 4 active fires right now. He urged people to make a plan and make a kit, and stay informed by visiting www.readywashoe.com – tips for emergency plan in event of a natural disaster. He gave the CAB a 3 day kit as a starter package. He said the hope is to spur the conversation of what we need to do as the community in the event of an emergency. Studies show that less than 15% is prepared. He asked everyone to help him change that. Stay informed and have supplies to be prepared. Take positive steps to make our community better to be prepared. He asked for volunteers for the fire station up here. He offered himself as a resource. If you have an interest in being prepared, please call him.

Elisabeth Gambrell asked about volunteer fire department. She wants to know about the status of the volunteer fire station. He said Al has that update. Everyone is committed for the success of the Gerlach Fire Department. He said people change, and organizations change. We make sure the service will continue at top rate. He said his committed to support the community to make sure it's safe.

Brooke Covey said it's the perception that Pat Irwin was let go. There wasn't any training in this community, and Pat got that done. Aaron said we need to make sure we don't deal in perception. He said he isn't here to talk about personnel issue. There was a probation period, and both parties decided not to continue.

Allen Nash asked about culverts that cross route 34. It will snow and water will keep coming. Aaron said he will get a more comprehensive answer about this topic. We have projects to build culverts and clean them. He said they are discussing this topic – the engineers have been out here to survey the area. We have a crew to work on it. They are working on culverts in Washoe Valley up to the Oregon border. He said these roads have not being forgotten. He said they are working on the timeline. It will be contracted out.

Gary Schmidt said Aaron said he was committed to the 'fire department.' He said you left out the word 'volunteer.' Aaron said he is for both. He said the idea is the combination – 2 full timers, part timers, and volunteer base. The others are here to roll fire trucks. Gerlach combination fire department.

8. Fly Geyser update: It was bought over a year ago. We set up a website to give an update who is interested. We have formed a management group – they have been mapping, flora, fauna, ranch, and overall property and what we can do. How do we development, and do what's good for the community and property. Clean up property, fix fences, work with other groups, organize tours, and protect what's out there. We have a website: flyranch.burningman.com. You can sign up for emails, letters, and volunteer opportunities. We don't want to make any quick decisions. Let your voice be heard to determine what this looks like in the future.

9. *PUBLIC OFFICIAL REPORTS

A. *WASHOE COUNTY COMMISSIONER – Washoe County Commissioner, Jeanne Herman, may be available to provide updated information on discussion and actions by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). Following her presentation Commissioner Herman may be available to address questions and concerns from the CAB and the audience. Commissioner Herman can be reached (775) 501-0002 or via email jherman@washoecounty.us.

She said Commissioners have certain power, but she said she often overrun. She said they are using Masons law, instead of Roberts rule. The chairman has more power to do things. She showed the map of the Gerlach/Empire CAB area. We decided to approve the map. She spoke about the Lands Bill.

She wanted to congratulate those who passed the test.

She said she has received a lot of phone calls. She said she has known Mr. Irwin for a long time. He was a commissioner for a long time. He has done a lot of things. She said she can't believe he could have made any

mistakes to be put in that position. She said she is disappointed. She can't say the reasons – she will be requesting an audit. She said she will raise money to hire one herself. This town has been misjudged.

10.*COUNTY UPDATE – Al Rogers, Washoe County Management Services Director with the Office of the County Manager will be available to provide an update on County services. For additional information please feel free to contact Mr. Rogers at arogers@washoecounty.us. (This item is for information only and no action will be taken by the CAB.)

Grants: NNA grant of \$75,000 of the \$250,000 for an art trail. It's a two year project. He said they met with Burning Man representatives about art. There will be existing art with added art. There will be an application for monuments and art. There will be interpretation. We are happy to move forward. At the October meeting, we will have Gabrielle come up to talk about it. Lisa Nash asked about the local community involvement. Al Roger said there will be local involvement – Nevada land trust, KTMB, GID, CAB, and all points between here and Reno. That project will be moving over the next two years.

Last meetings requests – budget 101 will be moved to October with burning man update.

Elisabeth asked if the Master plan copies could be available and senior bus program to extend the route. Al said he spoke to Senior Services about going outside the boundaries to going Fernley instead of Reno which is doable. He said we need to get legal input. We need to explore the processes and liability. We will continue to work on that. We can go to Fernley and other areas. He said we need to look at intent for the trips – medical issues, versus pleasure trips.

He said he will follow up about Master Plan.

Elisabeth asked about Lands Bill. Al said it's not moving quickly, but it's not dead.

Allen Nash asked about the culverts cut 12 miles north, and why didn't those get filled. Evans said that is Pershing County. He said he has problem with that too. Al said we can follow up about that.

We will be giving an update regarding Gerlach Fire at July 25th Commission meeting. It will be live streamed.

Matthew Ebert asked about Community Block Grant. Al said we did receive the CBGB. We will discuss what we want to do out here for economic development. We will be in the initial planning phase. It may take one year of planning. It will take a full cycle of planning of CBGB. Gabrielle Enfield manages them, but we submit with the State. There are other coordination with other agencies to identify the project. It's delayed because of the cycle of the CBGB, which are restrictive.

Elisabeth said we are awarded, but haven't received a phone call from Gabrielle. Al said it's not held up at local, it's held up at fed level.

Al Rogers said we were working on a grant with State to get internet connection, but we were unsuccessful to get it this year.

NEW BUSINESS

11. FUTURE CITIZEN ADVISORY BOARD MEETINGS – Discussion and possible direction on changing the day and/or time of future scheduled Gerlach/Empire Citizen Advisory board meetings (Possible Action).

We can work with GGID and its moot point and leave it as is with regular dates and times.

12. *CHAIRMAN/BOARD MEMBER ITEMS/NEXT AGENDA ITEMS -This item is limited to announcements by CAB members and topics/issues posed for future workshops/agendas.

- Budget 101
- Updated status for 911 for rerouting of care flight calls – REMSA. Evans said it depends on the weather. Aaron said he will work with Al about getting an update on dispatch.
- Update about Radio/pagers not working out here. Aaron said he can give a presentation on how to make things better.
Brooke Covey asked about the issue with schools in Gerlach. 20 new homes by next school year. 20 new homes with at least 20 new students. The high school needs to be repaired. Bussing kids to the school 2-3 hours a day is not an option. Al Rogers said a representative can come in October, but we can get an update regarding any plans we aren't aware of.
- Elisabeth requested an independent audit of the fire department. She said she would like to thank him.

13. *PUBLIC COMMENT – Limited to no more than three (3) minutes. Anyone may speak pertaining to any matter either on or off the agenda. The public are requested to submit a Request to Speak form to the Board Chairman. Comments are to be addressed to the Board as a whole.

Garth Elliot said he is on the Senior Advisory for District 5. He said he ran for County Commission. He said if you have issues with Seniors programs or food program, he will take it to the County. He said he has been a staunch opponent of the County. He spoke about the history of the CAB. He said he is fighting for CAB and Seniors nutrition program.

Cameron Hall thanked Rich for his efforts.

Gary said he knows Garth for many years; he has been on the Sun Valley board.

Vicky Maltman said she serves on the Sun Valley CAB. She said they cancelled a CAB meeting without notice. She appreciates your meetings.

Elisabeth thanked Cameron Hall for touring red cross. She showed them several homes in Gerlach.

Rich Walsh said they have two extra smoke detectors at the fire department.

Brooke Covey said she has been concerned for dogs. You can't walk the dogs on leash when others with burning man let the dogs off leash. We aren't allowed to let our dogs off leash, so why can they. There is a leash law.

ADJOURNMENT - Meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

Number of CAB members present: 6

Number of Public Present: 26

Presence of Elected Officials: 1

Number of staff present: 2

Submitted By: Misty Moga