



# Gerlach/Empire Citizen Advisory Board



**DRAFT**

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Gerlach/Empire Citizen Advisory Board held December 11, 2006 at the Gerlach Community Center, 401 Cottonwood, Gerlach, Nevada.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** - The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Frank Peach, Acting Chair.
2. **MEMBERS PRESENT** – Matthew Ebert, Sec/Treas, Sylvia Fascio, and Frank Peach, V. Chair.  
**MEMBERS ABSENT** - Geraldean Martinson, excused
3. **CERTIFICATION OF POSTING OF THE AGENDA** – Matthew Ebert certified that the December 11, 2006 CAB meeting agendas were posted at the designated locations or e-mailed no later than 9:00 a.m. three working days prior to the meeting date and in accordance with the requirements of the Nevada Open Meeting Law.
4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – Matthew Ebert moved to approve the December 11, 2006 agenda as posted. Sylvia Fascio seconded the motion. The motion carried.
5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Matthew Ebert moved to approve the minutes of the September 28, 2006 meeting as submitted. Sylvia Fascio seconded the motion. The motion carried.
6. **PUBLIC COMMENT** - Limited to items not on this agenda; 3 minute time limit, however the Board reserves the right to reduce this 3 minute time limit, as well as limit the total time for public comment, if more than 10 people request to speak. The same applies to public comment on each agenda item. Written information provided for the record will be held at the Department of Community Development and available for public review.
  - Donna Stammers stated that during the last meeting, she requested that an item be put on this agenda regarding having a full time fire employee in Gerlach. Ms. Stammers suggested that support for this from the community could have a stronger voice to the elected officials. (Matthew Ebert addressed this under item 9.)
  - Gary Schmidt congratulated Patrick Flanagan for his election to District Court Judge. Mr. Schmidt also commented on the defeat of the sales tax initiative and the passing of the eminent domain initiative. Mr. Schmidt stated that he is filing complaints with the State Ethics Commission, Attorney General's Office, County Commissioners, Sheriff's Department and Regional Transportation Commission for violations of the State Ethics Law by the Sheriff's Department and Regional Transportation Commission for speaking on those two ballot measures. Mr. Schmidt went on to discuss some of the candidates he supported and opposed and stated concern that many citizens elected not to vote.
7. **UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE** - (CAB files and correspondence which are part of the public record are on file in the Washoe County Department of Community Development and are available for public review. Written correspondence and testimony will be included in the public record when a request is made to make the document a part of the public record and when a copy is provided to the CAB Chair, who forwards the document to the County. Copies of correspondence should be on file in the Washoe County Department of Community Development and are available for public review).
  - Matthew Ebert announced that Washoe County is forming a citizen committee to revise nuisance ordinances in the unincorporated areas of Washoe County. Citizens are encouraged to consider serving on this committee. Workshops are scheduled to be held in February and March of 2007.
8. **COUNTY COMMISSIONER/COMMUNITY LIAISON UPDATES:** Lorrie Adams, Community Outreach Coordinator was not available to report on Washoe County issues and events.  
**Comments and Concerns**
  - Gary Schmidt stated that he thinks that 'you' have seen the last of Ms. Weber at CAB meetings. Ms. Weber has stated that she will be obtaining information from the community from Lorrie Adams, Community Outreach Coordinator. Mr. Schmidt also stated that Commissioner Weber had stated that it would be inefficient for her and Megan Jackson, Intern to attend all of the CAB meetings. Mr. Schmidt noted that Ms. Adams was also not in attendance at this meeting.
  - Mr. Peach stated that in all fairness, this meeting date was changed from the regularly scheduled meeting date.
- 9.\* **GERLACH VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE** – Bill Gooch announced that there has been some progress in getting a new ambulance. Division Chief Joe DuRousseau reported that the purchase order was delivered to Washoe County this date. Jones West has been asked to do a thorough service of the vehicle. The emergency system and radio equipment will be looked at by the REMSA fleet mechanic to make sure the equipment is good. Chief DuRousseau stated that once the unit is checked out, it will be brought to Gerlach. Mr. Gooch stated that he expects to see the unit in February. Every part of the unit must pass state inspections. Chief DuRousseau stated that the new fire engine should be in service in four to six weeks. Mr. Gooch announced that they are interviewing volunteers fire fighters interested in joining the department. The volunteers would need to go through

background checks and training. Mr. Gooch stated that emergency calls for service have reached an all time high for Gerlach over the past fifteen years and the department is working to provide emergency services for the community.

**Comments and Concerns**

- In response to questions raised earlier in the meeting, Matthew Ebert stated that he contacted Chief Tim Alameda, Reno Fire Department and that he met with Commissioner Bonnie Weber to discuss the issue of a full time fire employee in Gerlach and Commissioner Weber stated that she is planning to advocate for that, but it would not happen over night. Mr. Ebert stated that he would schedule the issue on the next agenda.

**10. WASHOE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE ITEMS** – Deputies Tracey Bloom and James McNeill were available to report on law enforcement and safety issues and recent calls for service. Local residents were reminded that when they place a 9-1-1 emergency call for service that they need to identify that they are calling from Gerlach/Empire and not from Incline Village. Deputy McNeill also stated that the dispatchers are not controlled by any law enforcement agency. They are City of Reno employees. Deputy McNeill reported that their calls for service have been about average with less search and rescues so far this winter. There were also fewer arrests during the Burning Man event.

**Comments and Concerns**

- Questions were raised regarding whether dispatch can identify the location of emergency calls for service in rural areas of Washoe County. In response, Deputy McNeill explained that the dispatchers were well trained and educated on what is going on out here. Deputy McNeill also stated that he and Deputy Bloom work well together and with dispatch to identify locations and respond to emergency calls for service. They are now using the Tiberon Dispatch Program which allows for statistical analysis.
- Gary Schmidt discussed his opinions related to current and potential changes to the development codes and asked the deputies for their opinion on how codes should be enforced and whether this should be a function of the Sheriff's Department. Deputy McNeill reviewed the proactive stance that the Sheriff's Department has taken to work with local citizens with clean-up efforts.

**11. NEW BUSINESS** - (Staff contact listed on items for Community Development may not be the staff attending the meeting.)

**A. Amendment of Conditions – AC06-013 Black Rock City LLC – Amendment of Special Use Permits SW03-025, SB03-024, SW04-004, SW04-004, SW04-007 SW04-008 and SB04-009 Burning Man** – Roger Pelham, Senior Planner, Staff Representative presented the request to amend the identical conditions of approval on all approved special use permits to allow concurrent follow-up review of all permits by the Planning Commission at the same meeting and to phase out the requirement for financial assurances to assure clean-up of the site should the site be abandoned by the applicant located 20 miles north of the town of Gerlach in northern Washoe County, approximately one mile past the end of pavement of State Route 34, and one-half mile east of the intersection of State Route 34 and Jackson Lane. The site is addressed as 88 Jackson Lane. Mr. Pelham also stated that he is available to address code, policy and process questions. Mr. Pelham stated that the intent is to phase out the bond over the next several years and phase out the three year review of each special use permit. Dave Pedroli, applicant was available to address questions and concerns. **MOTION:** Sylvia Fascio moved to recommend approval of AC06-013, SW03-025, SB03-024, SW04-004, SW04-004, SW04-007 SW04-008 and SB04-009 Burning Man as presented, including the request regarding inspections. Frank Peach seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Comments and Concerns**

- In response to questions raised, Mr. Pelham stated that there was a complaint of violation of a height condition of approval. The violation was immediately remedied.
- Donna Stammers supported the great job that has been done, but asked that Washoe County continue with the inspection process.
- In response to questions raised, Dave Pedroli discussed the inspection process and the bond requirement for cleaning up the event site.
- In response to questions raised, Mr. Pelham stated that the bond was written specifically to address the unique situation three or four years ago. This is the only bond held for clean-up.
- Support was stated for the removal of the bond requirement and consolidation of the last inspection period.
- Mr. Pedroli stated that the event would be subject to regular and customary inspections that any business would have.

**B. Discussion of Countywide CAB Membership and Areas of Responsibility** - County staff was not present to solicit comments and thoughts on possible changes to the membership and area of responsibility of the CABs in Washoe County. Proposed changes may impact one or several of the county's sixteen CABs. Staff was also not available to discuss the possibility of increasing communication between the County's CABs and the City of Reno and City of Sparks neighborhood advisory boards.

**Comments and Concerns**

- Matthew Ebert explained that some Commissioners had fewer CABs than other, and there was a plan to redistribute them.
- Roger Pelham stated that a new Central CAB has been created and there are discussions about re-districting and possibly consolidating some areas.

- Gary Schmidt discussed his opinions regarding Citizen Advisory Boards including appointment of CAB members.
- C. Election of Officers** – Matthew Ebert announced that John Farnsworth has resigned his position as Chair and as a GECAB member and also confirmed that there is a vacancy on the CAB. Frank Peach agreed to serve as Chair; Sylvia Fascio agreed to serve as V. Chair and Matthew Ebert agreed to serve as Secretary/Treasurer.
- Comments and Concerns**
- It was suggested that the CAB consider discussing appointment of alternate members on the next agenda.
- 12. OLD BUSINESS** - There were no Old Business Items scheduled for review.
- 13. CHAIRMAN/BOARD MEMBER ITEMS** - (This item limited to announcements of topics/issues posed for future workshops/agendas).
- **Next Agenda Items:** Full Time Fire Employee in Gerlach, Appointment of Alternate members to serve on the GECAB when the regular CAB member can not attend the meeting.
- 14. ADJOURNMENT** – Matthew Ebert moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m. Sylvia Fascio seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by: Allayne Donnelly-Everett, Recording Secretary

Please note: The minutes were transcribed from audiotape with the assistance of written notes taken by Matthew Ebert.