



# Gerlach/Empire Citizen Advisory Board



## DRAFT

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Gerlach/Empire Citizen Advisory Board held September 27, 2007 at the Gerlach Community Center, 401 Cottonwood, Gerlach, Nevada.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** - The meeting was called to order at 5:41 p.m. by Frank Peach, Chair,
2. **MEMBERS PRESENT** – Matthew Ebert, Sec/Treas, Frank Peach, Chair. Dave Pedroli, Donna Stammers (left at approximately 7:10 p.m.) and Joann Stroisch, At-Large Alternate  
**MEMBERS ABSENT** - Sylvia Fascio, V. Chair, unexcused  
**SPECIAL GUEST** - Commissioner Bonnie Weber was available by telephone.
3. **CERTIFICATION OF POSTING OF THE AGENDA** – Matthew Ebert certified that the September 27, 2007 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 September 27, 2007 agendas as posted. Donne Stammers seconded the motion. The motion carried. Frank Peach asked that the Election of Officers be heard right after Item 5.
5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Matthew Ebert moved to approve the minutes of the June 28, 2007 agenda meeting as submitted. Dave Pedroli seconded the motion. The motion carried.
6. **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 reported that a letter from Commissioner Bonnie Weber was received recognizing Deputy Bloom for his efforts in the recent neighborhood clean-up.
7. **COUNTY COMMISSIONER/COMMUNITY LIAISON UPDATES:** Lorrie Adams, Community Outreach Coordinator was available to report on Washoe County issues and events. Ms. Adams reminded everyone about the c-Mail availability on the Washoe County web-site. Officer training is scheduled on October 24, 2007. Ms. Adams asked the members of the CAB to set a date to schedule member training to be held locally.  
Commissioner Bonnie Weber was available by telephone to report on Washoe County Issues.
- 8.\* **GERLACH VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE** – Fire Chief Bill Gooch, Gerlach Volunteer Fire Department reported on emergency response to accidents and other emergency calls for service. Chief Gooch provided applications for a program to reduce the costs for Care Flight to transport those with life threatening emergencies to hospitals. Chief Gooch stated concern that many local senior citizens do not have insurance and are opting to take other methods of transportation. Chief Gooch stated that volunteers have been available for emergency calls for service but with increased needs in the area, the community will soon need full time trained personnel and equipment available to serve the community.

### Comments and Concerns

- CalStar was suggested as another program to help with emergency transport costs.
  - Commissioner Bonnie Weber was available by cell-phone to comment on the concerns and recommended that Kurt Latipow, Fire Services Coordinator be asked to attend a local meeting as soon as possible to address the concerns. Commissioner Weber urged scheduling the meeting by the first of November.
  - Mitch Agalve, Washoe County Road Department was available to comment on roadway issues and concerns and it was stated that approximately 156 emergency calls for services are anticipated during the next year. The increases in emergencies may be a result of increased public recreational use as well as scheduled events.
9. **WASHOE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE ITEMS** – Deputy Jim McNeil was available to report on law enforcement and safety issues and recent calls for service. Deputy McNeil reported that they have received two satellite phones to increase communications efforts.
  10. **NEW BUSINESS** - (The staff contact listed on items for Community Development may not be in attendance but can be contacted with code and policy questions.)
    - A. **High Desert Area Plan Update:** Please note: the audio (side one tape one) stopped right after Lisa Brosnan introduced herself and then resumed after approximately 8 minutes. Lisa Brosnan, Washoe County Community Development Department provided information regarding the proposed timeline for the area plan update, discussion by the CAB, and possible recommendations on the public planning process and communications between staff, the working group and local residents. Ms. Brosnan provided copies of the draft area plan for review and also reported that information on other area plans in Washoe County are available on the Washoe County web-site. Ms. Brosnan reviewed area maps and discussed area management planning.

### **Comments and Concerns**

- In response to questions raised, Ms. Brosnan encouraged holding local public meetings to continue development of the Gerlach-Empire (High Desert) area plan.
- Concerns were raised that previous planning was dropped by staff and the community is encouraged that Ms. Brosnan has brought the draft plan forward.
- Ms. Brosnan was asked to start fresh with the planning rather than trying to revisit what had already been drafted.
- Matthew Ebert supported coordinating the area plan and fire services meetings in order to get comments and recommendations from the community on both.

**B.\* Public Roadway Snow and Ice Removal** – Mitch Agalve, Supervisor, Washoe County Roads Maintenance Department Provided information on the County's public roadway snow and ice removal procedures and methodology. Mr. Agalve reported on the agreement with the Cities of Reno and Sparks pertaining to road maintenance and also discussed the equipment available for local roadways. Following his presentation, Mr. Agalve was available to address questions and concerns. (This item was informational only and the CAB took no action on this matter).

**C.\* CDBG Grant Process** - Gabrielle Enfield, MPA provided information regarding the CDBG (Grant (Community Development Block Grant) process. Ms. Enfield explained that this is a HUD (Housing and Urban Development) program and the primary goal is to provide improvements to living environments and expand economic opportunities. Eligibility includes community water supplies and community centers. (This item was informational only and no action was taken.)

### **Comments and Concerns**

- In response to questions raised, Ms. Enfield stated that ambulances and service programs would be eligible for grant funding.

**D.\* Burning Man Event** – A brief report was presented regarding the recent Burning Man event. Again, audio interference made comments inaudible on the tape recording. Please note: the audio (side two tape one) stopped when Donna Stammers asked for comments related to another agenda item be held. The audio resumed on side one tape two. (This item was informational only and no action was taken.)

### **Comments and Concerns**

- Concerns were raised regarding negative traffic impacts on the local community.

**E.\* DRIVE - Community-Initiated Funding Program Presentation:** Lorrie Adams, Washoe County Community Outreach Coordinator, and Melanie Purcell, Budget Manager Washoe County Finance Department introduced Washoe County's new community-initiated funding program, DRIVE. The presentation included information on the purpose of the program; an overview of the program's process (for example, how to submit funding requests for potential projects); criteria for potentially eligible projects; explanation on how eligible projects are selected for funding and the CAB's role in the program. The CAB was asked to coordinate the submission of potential projects from within their CAB area and to arrange for the list of potential projects to be discussed at the next scheduled CAB meeting. Following the introduction, Ms. Purcell was available to address questions. (This item was informational only and no action was taken.)

**F. Improving CAB Meeting Effectiveness and Attendance Through Time Management:** Lorrie Adams, Washoe County Community Outreach Coordinator, asked the CAB to consider possible directions to the Chair regarding times certain to be placed on future agendas and time management approaches to assist in holding a more efficient meeting. Ms. Adams provided a list of suggestions for consideration by the CAB. This item will be scheduled on the next agenda for discussion and possible recommendations.

**G. LDC08-00002 (Spring Mountain)** – Arlo Stockham, General Manager for the Spring Mountain project presented information on a request for: (1) a Master Plan amendment from General Rural to Special Planning Area; (2) a zoning map amendment from GR (General Rural to PUD (Planned Unit Development); and (3) an amendment in a cooperative plan area requiring review by the City of Reno and Washoe County. The +/-6,105 acre site is located approximately seven miles east of U.S. Highway 395, five miles west of the Pyramid Lake Indian Reservation and is accessed on Winnemucca Ranch Road approximately 14 miles northwest of Pyramid Highway. Staff Representative from the City of Reno: Cheryl Ryan was not available to address questions and concerns. Mr. Stockham provided packets for this proposed project to CAB members prior to this meeting.

### **Comments and Concerns**

- In response to questions raised, Mr. Stockham stated that the plan addresses low impact development standards and particularly address ground water use.
- Concerns were raised regarding removal of trees and vegetation and the use of groundwater on landscape.
- In response to questions raised, Mr. Stockham stated that this development is a result of the Settlement Agreement between Reno, Sparks and Washoe County.
- Donna Stammers excused herself at approximately 7:10 p.m. and handed the gavel to Dave Pedrolí who was acting chair for the balance of the CAB meeting.
- Commissioner Weber stated that she met with the project managers and stated that this appears to be a very great project and also stated that there are some issues that the political agencies need to deal with.

- H. **Election of Officers** – Nominations were held and Donna Stammers was elected to serve as Chair. Matthew Ebert was elected to serve as Vice Chair and Dave Pedrolí was elected to serve as Secretary/Treasurer. Immediately following elections of officers, Frank Peach turned the gavel over to Donna Stammers.
- I. **Change of December Meeting Date** – Dave Pedrolí moved to change the regular GECAB meeting date to Thursday, December 13, 2007. The motion was seconded. The motion carried. Commissioner Weber stated that she could not attend the meeting but would be available for another tele-con.

**11. OLD BUSINESS**

- A. **E. M. Johnson K-12 Washoe County School Semester Start Date** – Lorrie Adams stated that she spoke with Nancy Sanger, Washoe County School District and she suggested that the community work with the E. M. Johnson K-12 school principal and the Deputy School Superintendent to change the start date of the school year so there would not be safety issues pertaining to the Burning Man event.

**Comments and Concerns**

- Frank Peach stated concern that with the numerous calls and e-mails to the School District, there was no response. It is not reasonable to send children to school during Burning Man or any other event that poses safety issues for the community. This should have been addressed three months ago and not ignored by the School District.
- Commissioner Weber stated that she would be sending a letter to the Superintendent of Schools, copied to the principal at Johnson Elementary School, Board of Trustee's and the CAB suggesting that the school start the Wednesday after Labor Day.
- Comments from the audience stated concerns regarding negative traffic impacts during the Burning Man event and the need for the community to protect the children and the community.
- Questions were raised on how to get the traffic safety concerns to the Burning Man attendees.
- Concerns were raised that there does not seem to be check points set up to identify drug and/or alcohol impaired drivers.

- 12.\* **PUBLIC COMMENT** - Comment heard under this item will be limited to items not on the agenda and will also be limited to two minutes per person. This two-minute rule shall also apply to public testimony given during an agenda item. The Chair may modify this time limit for all public comment and testimony at the beginning of the meeting, but the time limit per person shall be no less than two minutes. Testimony during an agenda item shall be limited to the subject of the agenda item. Comments are to be made to the CAB as a whole.

- Dave Pedrolí asked for public comment and hearing none, closed this item.

13. **CHAIRMAN/BOARD MEMBER ITEMS** - (This item limited to announcements of topics/issues posed for future workshops/agendas).

- **Next Agenda Items:** Time Management, E. M. Johnson K-12 Semester Start Date,

14. **ADJOURNMENT** – With no further business, Dave Pedrolí adjourned the meeting at an undisclosed time, (approximately 8:20 p.m.).

Respectfully Submitted by: Allayne Donnelly-Everett, Recording Secretary

Please note: Audio during the meeting was distorted due to some interference from cell phones or other equipment making comments made at a distance from the microphone inaudible.