



# Gerlach/Empire Citizen Advisory Board



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Minutes of the special meeting of the Gerlach/Empire Citizen Advisory Board held October 1, 2008 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 Matthew Ebert, Chair
- 2.\* **MEMBERS PRESENT** – Bobbie Barlow, (Left the meeting at 6:14 p.m.) Matthew Ebert, Chair, Sylvia Fascio, Vice Chair, Karen Gooch, and Tina Walters, At Large Alternate sat in for Lisa McNeill.  
**MEMBERS ABSENT** - Lisa McNeill, Secretary, excused.
3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – Tina Walters moved to approve the October 1, 2008 agenda as posted. Bobbie Barlow seconded the motion. The motion carried.
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Bobbie Barlow moved to approve the minutes of the August 6, 2008 meeting as submitted. Tina Walters seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- 5.\* **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).
  - There were no updates, announcements or correspondence presented.
- 6.\* **COUNTY COMMISSIONER/COMMUNITY LIAISON UPDATES:** Lorrie Adams, Community Outreach Coordinator was available to report on Washoe County issues and events. Ms. Adams encouraged every to vote in the General Election on November 4, 2008.

Commissioner Bonnie Weber was available to report on Washoe County issues and events. Commissioner Weber thanked everyone for attending this meeting. Commissioner Weber reported that the Burning Man event was reported in a newspaper in Minnesota. Commissioner Weber introduced Andrea Quiruz who is serving as Commissioner Weber's Intern. Commissioner Weber reported on the Ruby Pipeline that should provide natural gas to Nevada. Citizens can contact Commissioner Weber for information on employment opportunities with the pipeline. Commissioner Weber urged citizens to consider long range plans for the Gerlach community.

- 7.\* **GERLACH VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE** – Fire Chief Bill Gooch, Gerlach Volunteer Fire Department was available to report on fire safety issues. Chief Gooch reported that the EMT class should soon be completed. Chief Gooch reported on recent events including the Burning Man. Emergency calls for service were down this year. Chief Gooch reported that there have been complaints regarding illegal burning of rubbish in town. Chief Gooch will be representing the Gerlach district on the fire council working on the master plan. The next meeting is scheduled in October.
- 8.\* **WASHOE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE ITEMS** – Deputy Jim McNeill, Washoe County Sheriff's Department was not available to report on law enforcement and safety issues and recent calls for service.
9. **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. There were no New Business items scheduled for presentation.
10. **OLD BUSINESS**
  - A. **High Desert Area Plan Update** – Matthew Ebert introduced this agenda item and encouraged members of the audience to state their comments or submit them in writing. Lisa Brosnan and Don Morehouse, Planning Staff were available to present information and hear possible recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners regarding an update to the High Desert Area Plan, to include discussion on the comments from the community during the recent Open House on September 11, 2008. The draft plan is available for viewing and comment at the Washoe County Department of Community Development: <http://washoecounty-consult.limehouse.com/portal> or by calling: 775.328.3668. Ms. Brosnan provided copies of the survey and draft area plan and reviewed some of the highlights of the draft plan. Mr. Morehouse reviewed some of the policies on potential power resources and new building with solar power. Ms. Brosnan reported on the departments and agencies that are review this plan and any changes will be noted on the draft plan. The draft plan is scheduled to be presented to the Planning Commission on November 4, 2008. Lorrie Adams reminded everyone that there are public comment opportunities at every public hearing. **MOTION:** Sylvia Fascio moved to recommend approval of

the final draft of the High Desert Area Plan as presented. Tina Walters seconded the motion. The motion carried.

### **Comments and Concerns**

- Matthew Ebert thanked Lisa Brosnan for her efforts and follow-through with the planning process. Mr. Ebert commented on the relaxing of the landscape and paving requirements in consideration of local resource availability and Mr. Ebert also supported the overlay district and study of infrastructure needs in the community. Mr. Ebert supported the draft plan at expressing the views of local residents.
- In response to questions raised, Commissioner Weber was advised that 60 residents responded to the survey and notices were mailed out to every resident in the community.
- Questions were raised regarding the boundary of the overlay and properties zoned residential on the other side of Dogwood did not want to be rezoned to commercial. Concerns were raised that citizens should consider that eventually the business overlay will extend beyond the current boundary.
- Support was stated for extending the commercial overlay along Main Street.
- Lisa Brosnan stated that Washoe County can only provide the support for the community to develop as the citizens have determined that they want the community to grow.
- Concern was stated regarding distrust of Washoe County stating that 'they' will come in and develop the community in a manner that citizens do not want.
- Commissioner Weber urged citizens to attend the public meetings and be involved in the planning process.
- Will Roger stated that he has been involved with the planning process and stated that the plan is a good beginning and commended Ms. Brosnan and Mr. Morehouse for their commitment to incorporating public comments into the draft plan.
- Arlo Stockham stated that on balance, he feels that the plan has reflected the comments from the community.

**11.\* 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.

- Elliot Sattler introduced himself and announced his candidacy for District Court Judge.

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

- Matthew Ebert asked that the CAB members consider a date for the next design characteristic work shop.
- **Next Agenda Items:** Update on the area plan.

**13. ADJOURNMENT** – Sylvia Fascio moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:27 p.m. Tina Walters seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by: Allayne Donnelly-Everett, Recording Secretary