



Gerlach/Empire Citizen Advisory Board



DRAFT: Approval of these draft minutes, or any changes to the draft minutes, will be reflected in writing in the next meeting minutes and/or in the minutes of any future meeting where changes to these minutes are approved by the CAB.

Minutes of the meeting of the Gerlach/Empire Citizen Advisory Board held July 28, 2011 at the Gerlach Community Center, 401 Cottonwood, Gerlach, Nevada.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** - The meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m. by Bobbie Barlow, Acting Chair.
2. **MEMBERS PRESENT** – Jeffrey Baker, At-Large, Bobbie Barlow, At-Large, Secretary, Matthew Ebert, At-Large, Alternate, sat in for Dave Cooper and Tina Walters, At Large.
MEMBERS ABSENT – Dave Cooper, At-Large, unexcused, Sylvia Fascio, Senior Citizen, Vice Chair, excused and Karen Valitzski, At-Large, Chair has resigned from the board.
3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – Tina Walters moved to approve the July 28, 2011 agenda as posted. Matthew Ebert seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Tina Walters moved to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2011 as submitted. Matthew Ebert seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
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.
 - Kevin Schiller, Director, Department of Social Services reported on the status of reopening the local medical center. Mr. Schiller reported that it looks like the reopening could be within the next two months. Mr. Schiller reported that the department is looking at funding and a program to fund some medical services at the clinic. Bobbie Barlow reported that the next time the physician will be in Gerlach in August 2011.
6. **WASHOE COUNTY UPDATES**
 - A. Commissioner Bonnie Weber was present to provide an update on County issues. Commissioner Weber provided some copies of the Washoe County Guide for Services. Commissioner Weber reported on the preview of the new clinic and reported that the BCC allocated \$60,000.00 for the clinic to be opened at least once per week. Commissioner Weber updated the status on the tax assessment refunds for Incline Village properties. Commissioner Weber added that the courts will not allow the refund to be deducted from future tax assessments. The refunds to the 8700 properties will amount to approximately 40 million dollars. Washoe County is in negotiations with employees in the effort to stay within budget. Concerns were raised that Gerlach property owners assessment has increased by 4% and citizens in Gerlach are subject to lower incomes yet Incline Village is an affluent area.
 - B. Lorrie Adams, County Liaison for Districts 4 and 5, is available to answer your questions and concerns. Please feel free to contact her at ladams@washoecounty.us (775) 328-2720. To sign up to receive email updates from the County, visit www.washoecounty.us/cmail. Monthly updates on County issues in your area are available online at www.washoecounty.us/cab (follow the link to your CAB).
 - C. Meet with Commissioner Weber for coffee the 3rd Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at the Sierra Sage Golf Course, 6355 Silver Lake Road in Stead. Coffee with Commissioner Weber will not be held in July or August, but will resume in September on the 3rd Saturday.
7. **GERLACH VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE** – Fire Chief Bill Gooch, Gerlach Volunteer Fire Department was available to report on fire safety issues and progress on acquiring new equipment. Chief Gooch reported that volunteer fire fighters are trained and available for services. Chief Gooch reported on the high possibility for wildfires. There may be paid responders added to provide medical emergencies assistance during the Burning Man event. Citizens are urged to clear defensible space in preparation for wildfire events. Chief Gooch reported that he is an EMT for the local area.
Comments and Concerns
 - Concerns were raised regarding the response time to a local medical emergency.
 - Chief Gooch reported that he has Epipen's available to treat life threatening allergic reactions.
8. **WASHOE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE ITEMS** – Neither Deputy Steve DeCarli nor Deputy Cole Bunyard, Washoe County Sheriff's Office were available to present a report on public safety issues within the CAB's area, to include 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. **Presentation by Rio Fortuna Exploration (US), Inc.** – Joe Kizis, President; provided information on the overview of the company's mineral exploration activities at the Wind Mountain Project, which is located east of

Empire Farms and north of the Empire Geothermal Power Plant. John Cox, Manager of Development; and Debra Struhsacker, Environmental Permitting & Government Relations Consultant for Rio Fortuna Exploration (US), Inc., Brady Wilson, Field Technician were introduced to the audience. (This item was for information only and no action was taken by the CAB.)

Comments and Concerns

- In response to questions raised, Mr. Kizis stated that they would have to purchase water to service the project.
- Ms. Struhsacker addressed questions raised regarding water issues.
- Mr. Kizis stated that this would be a smaller mine employing 100 to 150 individuals. Local personnel would be hired and they would consider looking for employees that would move to the area.
- Mr. Cox stated that they are looking at several years to get the company up to production.

B. Regulatory Zone Amendment RZA11-003 (Black Rock Station) – Mike Railey, Rubicon Design Group introduced the request to amend the High Desert Regulatory Zone Map. The amendment request would re-designate a ±200-acre parcel from the regulatory zone category of General Rural (GR) to the regulatory zone category of Specific Plan (SP) located at 88 Jackson Lane; approximately 20 miles north of the town of Gerlach in northern Washoe County; 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 Specific Plan will provide the regulatory tools, a table of uses and additional guidelines necessary to implement the development of the Black Rock Station. The applicant is seeking input and comments from the CAB members and citizens. Once the Washoe County Planning Commission hearing is scheduled, the CAB will have another opportunity to comment on the proposed Regulatory Zone Amendment. Guinn Yarbobough, Burning Man and Staff Representatives: Don Morehouse, Planner, 775.328.3632 Email: DMorehouse@washoecounty.us were available to address questions and concerns. Also contact Grace Sannazzaro, Planner, 775.328.3777 Email: GSannazzaro@washoecounty.us with comments and concerns. Mr. Morehouse stated that there is not submittal ready to present at this time. This first phase is the Wallapi Valley parcel only. (This item was for information only and no action was taken by the CAB.)

Comments and Concerns

- Mr. Railey stated that the living quarters would not be permanent residences.
- In response to questions raised, Mr. Railey stated that any amendments to the request would be reviewed by the GECAB and community.
- Jason Walters asked that as Burning Man expands, will they make roadway improvements due to the increased use of the roads particularly on BLM (Bureau of Land Management) land. Mr. Railey stated that roadway improvements would be at the recommendations of the traffic engineers and that would be on public roadways not on private roads.
- A local resident stated that he does not see any benefit to Gerlach related to development of property for the Burning Man event.
- In response to questions raised, Mr. Railey stated that residents would only be allowed for 12 weeks or less, and the intent is for employees only. Mr. Railey stated that Burning Man hires employees during the Burning Man event.
- Concerns were raised that the Burning Man event is not trustworthy and this looks like another disregard by Burning Man for negative impacts to the residents of Gerlach.
- Mr. Walters stated that he does not see that Burning Man would have a negative impact on the water in Wallapi Valley.
- Commissioner Bonnie Weber asked citizens to contact her with any comments and concerns.
- Elizabeth Jackson asked Commissioner Weber to allocate one or two dollar from each ticket sold to Gerlach to mediate some of the negative impacts. Ms. Jackson stated that there could be a box on the event ticket asking for donations to the local community.
- Commissioner Weber stated that Burning Man has given back some benefits to the community. Commissioner Weber stated that local citizens could ask for donations to benefit local senior citizens.
- Ms. Jackson stated that she feels that Burning Man has a moral responsibility to contribute to the community, give something back. Ms. Jackson stated concern that Burning Man took her idea and there is a box on the Burning Man ticket asking for donations to the Black Rock Arts Foundation and not a donation to benefit the Gerlach community. Ms. Jackson suggested that funds could be allocated to local senior center, fire department, health center and the water treatment plant and sewer.
- Commissioner Weber commented on designating a toll road during the Burning Man event.
- Quinn Yarborough representing Burning Man stated that Burning Man does give to this community in several ways and yet there are continued requests for more and more donations to the community. Mr. Yarborough stated that in his opinion, he thinks that Gerlach would be dead without the Burning Man event. Mr. Yarborough stated that Gerlach needs to identify where they would like donated funds to be allocated. Mr. Yarborough stated that he would take Ms. Jackson's concerns back to the organization and citizens can draft a request for allocation of donated funds to present to the organization at any time.
- Ms. Jackson suggested that funding allocations could be designated by the GID and the GECAB.

C. Election of Officers – Elections were held to elect the Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary for the 2011-2012 term of office. **MOTION:** Bobbie Barlow moved to elect Tina Walters, Chair., Sylvia Fascio, Vice Chair., and Bobbie Barlow, Secretary. Should Ms. Fascio decline from serving, an election would be scheduled on the next GECAB agenda. Matthew Ebert seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Possible Cancellation or Rescheduling of the August 18, 2011 regular GECAB meeting date. – Discussion was held regarding possible cancellation of or change of the August 18, 2011 regular meeting date for the GECAB. **MOTION:** Bobbie Barlow moved to cancel the August 18, 2011 meeting. Matthew Ebert seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

10. OLD BUSINESS – There were no Old Business items scheduled for review.

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. Public comment and/or testimony, as applicable, will also be allowed under each individual agenda item and will likewise be subject to the same two minute limitation per speaker. 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.

- Jason Walters commented that local citizens should consider the economy when reviewing applications for new development in the community.
- Commissioner Bonnie Weber presented Matthew Ebert with a certificate of appreciation for his past service on the GECAB and to the community.

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

- **Next agenda items:** There were no items suggested for the October agenda.

13. ADJOURNMENT – **MOTION:** Matthew Ebert moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m. Tina Walters seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by: Allayne Donnelly-Everett, Recording Secretary

**Please note: portions of the audio were disrupted.