



North Valleys Citizens Advisory Board  
Minutes of the regular meeting of the North Valleys Citizens Advisory Board held  
on April 13, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the Reno Stead Airport.

## **1. CALL TO ORDER/ DETERMINATION QUORUM**

Present: Chair Scott Finley, Vice Chair Aaron Jennings, Roger Edwards, Susan VanNess,  
and Daniel Yriarte

Absent: Krystal Ayers, Shelia Herring

## **2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

## **3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF March 9, 2026**

There was no public comment on this item.

Member Yriarte moved to approve the March 9, 2026, North Valleys Citizens Advisory Board minutes as written. Member Edwards seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved on a 5-0 vote with Members Ayers and Herring absent.

## **4. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

Troy Regas said he was running for the District 3 seat on the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) and provided a brief personal history. He hoped that Michael Clark, himself, and a good candidate from District 5 would be elected to change the political makeup of the Board.

Veronica Cortes spoke about her history in Sun Valley and her pizza business. She noted she was running for Nevada State Assembly District 27, and she described the boundaries of that district. She spoke about food scarcity challenges and safety concerns in Sun Valley while she said County leaders take trips to Europe. She felt the district needed someone who wanted to move in a positive direction.

Katherine Yriarte noted she was running for the Commission District 5 seat. She listed the endorsements her campaign has received, saying she hoped to secure more moving forward. She wanted to be a louder advocate on the dais for the people in this district, addressing issues such as protecting seniors and facilitating responsible growth. She spoke about an April 20 meeting on the new development and zoning change on 600 Lemmon Drive. She felt that infrastructure should come before development, and she wanted issues at the Cares Campus to be addressed.

Tammy Holt-Still indicated she was also running for the District 5 seat. She pointed out that the BCC will hear a presentation at its April 14 meeting regarding development within Washoe County. She said developers who apply for grants for affordable housing do not need to hold

public hearings, and there is nothing in County Code requiring hearings for zoning changes. She thought members of the public needed to ask the Commission to clean up the code before approving it.

Monty Turner spoke about a 450-apartment development near his home where there are no County services. Citing the backup materials for a later item, he wondered how many people died in this area waiting for an ambulance and how many calls went unanswered. He said the Sheriff's Office does not dispatch to his part of Sun Valley at all. He expressed frustration about a criminal who was not apprehended for 11 months. He expressed doubt that Commissioners will listen to members of the public. He repeated his concerns about long wait times for medical services. He described where in District 3 he lived.

## **5. COMMISSIONER/CAB CHAIR NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

## **6. PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATES**

### **Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District**

Division Chief Joe Schum reviewed the agenda packet materials provided for this item, including statistics related to February's incident totals. He promoted a green waste collection event on May 2 at the Silver Lake Station, where firefighters will either mulch, burn, or haul away waste.

Responding to Board member questions, Chief Schum said green waste cannot be placed in bags; it should only be organic material. Two-by-fours will also not be accepted. He offered to have a conversation with one of the public commenters about the concerns raised during public comment. He stated that Sun Valley's fire station has an ambulance which travels in tandem with a fire truck to emergency calls when available. When it is not available, the Regional Emergency Management Service Authority responds to emergencies, and whichever vehicle arrives first provides service.

Information about the green waste collection event, Chief Schum continued, is available on the District's website. He indicated that root balls are generally not accepted at these events because they can damage the chippers. He pointed out that this has been the hottest winter on record, and snowpack is at 5 percent of normal. 2017 was the last year that conditions were this green this early, and that was a bad fire season. He encouraged everyone to ensure that there was sufficient defensible space around their homes, which he broke down into 30-, 50-, and 100- foot areas. That space will minimize the impacts of fire on people's homes.

In response to questions from members of the public, Chief Schum noted the types of vegetation allowed at the green waste event are available on the website, though he felt hay might be more desirable to be used in composting. There is no limit on the amount of green waste that can be brought to the event, and the District partners with Waste Management to help haul away certain materials. He noted that piles of chipped waste away from buildings were safer than loose debris near homes since piles contributed less to fire spread than dead, standing material. He warned that piles of mulch can spontaneously combust. Trees with diameters less than eight inches will be accepted, he added.

## **7. COLD SPRINGS PARK LIGHTING REMOVAL DISCUSSION**

Division Director of Operations Aaron Smith said the three Cold Springs parks were developed by Lifestyle Homes when they developed the land. During development, lighting was desired for the park, but the County typically does not provide lighting, both for cost purposes and because County parks close at sunset. The purpose of this item was to discuss an agreement between Woodland Village Homeowners Association (HOA) and the County to remove the lighting at the parks. The proposal was driven by increased vandalism and ongoing maintenance concerns. The agreement is cost-neutral as the HOA would cover the costs, and this proposal would eliminate power and maintenance costs moving forward. He indicated the Washoe County Sheriff's Office (SO) was in support, as was the HOA board. Any Board comments will be brought to the Board of County Commissioners.

Responding to questions from members of the public, Director Smith stated the lights mentioned were the ones inside the parks and were separate from sidewalk park lighting. There are still requirements for sidewalk lights. He said the lights have been attracting after-hours use and vandalism. He recognized the concern that removing lights could result in safety concerns, but an SO patrol captain saw no issue with their removal because pathways will still be lit. The lights are expensive to maintain, and he thought that money could be better spent repairing the playground. He explained that the lights are being vandalized by people removing copper from them and breaking the bulbs and platforms themselves. Other vandalism in County parks includes graffiti and the theft of wood from bridges.

Director Smith remarked that the minutes from the HOA meeting indicated was been no public comment, and the vote to approve the agreement was unanimous. Bob Corrado, President of the Woodland Village HOA, stated the HOA spent more than \$7,000 one year fixing lights in the community. The lights in Village Center Park had already been changed out to solar lights, and they were already gone. Anyone in the parks after dark is trespassing, and this problem has been ongoing for two years.

Board Member Yriarte inquired about contingency plans if removal of the lights does not eliminate vandalism. Director Smith responded that park rangers have citation authority for those trespassing after hours, and staff relies on the SO to patrol those areas. In general, lit parks attract more vandalism than unlit parks because they are seen as being open.

Earl Stemple discussed the history of several developments and said the lack of law enforcement is the problem, not lighting. Monty Turner recommended the use of trailers with lights and cameras that can be monitored by the HOA and the SO. He opined that constituents pay HOAs, so the funds for removing the lights would ultimately come from them.

## **8. THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DISCUSSION AND DEBATE**

Chair Finley introduced Dr. Amy Pason, Associate Professor at the University of Nevada, Reno, who conducted a slideshow presentation and reviewed slides with the following titles: Communication Patterns in Chronic Conflict; Shifting Communication Purpose to Address Wicked Problems; Let's Work to See the Whole Picture; Principles and Practices for Dialogue (3 slides); and Where Can I Learn More?

Dr. Pason lauded everyone attending these and other meetings for sharing their perspectives and interests so the elected leaders could make the best decisions. Failing to do so could result in negative side effects. She noted how some people did not want to come to meetings like this and make public comment because they feared possible responses, and some elected leaders do not hold town halls because they do not want to face angry constituents. One way to address wicked problems, she continued, is to shift from debate to dialogue. She suggested that people running for office utilize the principles and practices for dialogue to work better with their constituents.

Dr. Pason framed each of the different principles in the context of the previous discussion about lighting. She discussed the importance of recognizing the responsibility to communicate in a certain way and respect others engaging in the same spaces. Good communication encourages and supports other people contributing.

Member Jenkins asked about ways to engage civilly with those who have opposing political beliefs. Dr. Pason said if the person involved is a friend or family member, there are reasons to work to maintain those relationships. For strangers online, it is worth considering whether to engage with them just to win an argument, and it is probably not worth it. For in-person situations with people who hold opposing beliefs, she suggested asking them why they held the beliefs they did. This helps to reach a better understanding of the other people in the discussion. In response to a question about trying to keep conversations on target and not devolving into tangents, Dr. Pason emphasized the importance of active listening. Paraphrasing can be helpful in redirecting the conversation.

Casey McDonald indicated that when he speaks to friends with diametrically opposed beliefs, they try to humanize each other first and find commonalities next. Dr. Pason responded that the Living Room Conversations model stresses getting to know each other before moving on to concrete questions, which can help in finding shared interests.

## **9. NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT HUB & OTHER ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

Casey McDonald reviewed the following upcoming events listed on the Neighborhood Development Hub: a neighborhood meeting in District 2, a district-wide community meeting regarding agrotourism, and a District 5 neighborhood meeting regarding 600 Lemmon Drive. He noted there were openings on the Washoe County Board of Equalization and the Library Board of Trustees. He demonstrated how to access the Community Input Portal on the County's website and how North Valleys residents could submit input specific to their district. He said he checks those submissions weekly. He discussed receiving feedback about roads in poor condition and forwarding it to the Nevada Department of Transportation.

Member VanNess recommended that residents provide suggestions for topics to be discussed at North Valleys Citizens Advisory Board meetings. She urged people to share the hub with their neighbors.

## **10. CAB MEMBER/COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS/REQUESTS**

Member VanNess requested that representatives from the Nevada Department of Transportation and the Regional Transportation Commission attend each North Valleys Citizens Advisory Board meeting to be available to answer questions.

## **11. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

Veronica Cortes spoke about the public hearing scheduled for April 14 to consider the possible adoption of an ordinance pertaining to the Master Plan and housing incentives.

Tammy Holt-Still indicated the Regional Transportation Commission is holding a meeting on Friday, and she recommended anyone wanting to speak about the realignment of Lemmon Drive attend the meeting. She thought \$88 million was a lot of money to spend on a two-lane road.

Monty Turner discussed the three radio towers near Chickadee Drive, noting that the parcel housed a bunker that could be used by the U.S. President because it would still receive satellite feeds. As such, he felt Chickadee Drive needed to be maintained better so access to that area was still available. He thought the use of quads and firearms in the area both needed to be addressed immediately, but law enforcement was an issue. He discussed the types of stations received by the radio towers, which he added would be in service for a very long time.

Referencing prior requests to the Washoe County Sheriff's Office to increase speed enforcement on Lemmon Drive, Vice Chair Jennings wondered whether residents had seen any improvement. It was pointed out that the speed limit was increased between the elementary school and Military Road. A brief discussion ensued regarding speeding on the road.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Vice Chair Jennings moved to adjourn the meeting. Member Yriarte seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:13 p.m.