



Spanish Springs Citizen Advisory Board  
Minutes of the regular meeting of the Spanish Springs Citizen Advisory Board held  
on January 7, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the Spanish Springs Library.

## 1. CALL TO ORDER/ DETERMINATION QUORUM

Present – Brandon Partain, Jason Evans, Bradley Young, Bonnie Billings, Renate York  
Absent – Shannon Martell

## 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

## 3. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Tom Green spoke in opposition to the Regional Transportation Commission's proposed road over the mountain, expressing concern that it is too late and poorly planned. He acknowledged the seriousness of traffic congestion but argued the most logical first step should have been widening existing roads, which was not done. He said the proposed one-lane-each-way road would funnel traffic from the North Valleys onto local roads that were never designed to handle that volume, especially during accidents or weather events. Green cited existing traffic diversions through Palomino Valley, Nixon and Fort Sutcliffe as evidence of this pattern already occurring. He characterized the proposal as a continuation of past failed planning efforts and urged commissioners to push back and pursue better alternatives.

Donnie Olsen expressed strong opposition to the proposed road, calling the concept of a two-lane highway with limited access points unsafe and unrealistic, particularly in emergency situations. He questioned why the road would not include multiple lanes in each direction given ongoing development and raised concerns about speed, noise, and whether emergency vehicles could safely use it. Olsen emphasized that the area is rural and family-oriented, with horses, school buses, and children traveling along nearby roads, and warned that additional traffic would worsen already difficult conditions on Pyramid Highway. Olsen described the proposal, including a potential extension toward Golden Eagle, as a "disaster," urged more common-sense planning, and encouraged consideration of alternative solutions such as rail or park-and-ride options.

## 4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF November 5, 2025

Brad Stanley motioned to approve the minutes of the November 5, 2025, CAB meeting. Brandon Partain seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

## 5. CAB LEGAL POLICY UPDATE

Deputy District Attorney Jen Gustafson provided an update to the Spanish Springs CAB on upcoming revisions to CAB legal documents. She explained that following 2025 updates to Washoe County Code Chapter 5, staff is now working to update the standard CAB bylaws

and the individual resolutions that establish each CAB, including revisions to CAB boundary maps. The bylaws are being updated to reflect current practices, open meeting law requirements, and new federal digital accessibility requirements, which will require more lead time for agenda materials to ensure compliance. A draft of the standard bylaws is expected to be posted for public comment by the end of February, with Board of County Commissioners approval anticipated in April or May. Gustafson also noted that CAB boundaries must be adjusted to align within a single commissioner district, which may result in expanded boundaries, with BCC approval of those changes targeted at the end of June.

## **6. REPORT ON REQUESTS FOR SERVICE FROM PREVIOUS CAB MEETINGS**

Bonnie Billings explained that the CAB's approach to public comment is rooted in dignity and respect, emphasizing that when residents speak, their voices matter. While the CAB cannot respond during public comment, it makes a point to follow up at future meetings by placing items on the agenda when appropriate. She highlighted the use of the QR code on meeting agendas as a key tool for submitting input and shared a summary of recent community feedback received through the portal. Examples included requests for a Dark Skies Initiative presentation (now scheduled), concerns about housing development outpacing road and traffic improvements, and calls for more biking, park, and trail infrastructure of which were routed to the appropriate county departments. Additional input included requests for broader opportunities to weigh in on regional issues, topic-based text alerts, and better follow-up on submitted comments. In response, the CAB and staff have expanded outreach options, coordinated with the Communications Department on future text and chatbot tools, and added features to the input portal to allow residents to provide contact information and receive direct follow-up.

## **7. DIGNITY INDEX DISCUSSION**

Bonnie Billings introduced a discussion on the Dignity Index, framing it around the shared experience of being met with contempt in workplaces, families, and public meetings, and how that contempt creates division. She shared a personal example to illustrate how strongly held opinions can make conversations feel unsafe and silence participation. Billings explained that the purpose of introducing the Dignity Index is to address these dynamics and foster more respectful dialogue. She noted the discussion would begin with three short videos, followed by a board conversation focused on how principles of the Dignity Index could be integrated into future CAB meetings.

Bonnie Billings played three videos on the Dignity Index:

1. **The Dignity Pledge** video emphasizes that strong relationships and healthy debate are essential to solving problems in a democratic society. It argues that democracy depends on open, respectful dialogue and that growing division in America is driven by contempt, which silences others and erodes trust. The video highlights the real-world consequences of dehumanizing language, including fractured families, declining mental health, and a loss of confidence in the country's future. In contrast, it presents dignity as the foundation for constructive debate, encouraging people to speak their views in ways that invite others to do the same. The message calls on individuals, including educators, elected officials, and community leaders, to commit to treating others with dignity rather than contempt, stressing that cultural change begins one person at a time.

2. **The Cause of Division Is Contempt** video argues that division in families, communities, and the nation is not primarily caused by large external forces like social media or political disagreement, but by contempt in how people treat one another. It explains that contempt silences dialogue and deepens divides, while dignity has the power to ease conflict and restore relationships. The video emphasizes that recognizing contempt as the root cause of division is empowering, because it puts change within individual control. By choosing dignity over contempt, people can improve personal, civic, and political relationships and work toward unity that respects and honors diverse viewpoints.
3. **Overcoming Contempt** focuses on personal responsibility in difficult conversations and recognizing one's own role in escalating conflict. The video explains that contempt often arises from emotional pain and a natural impulse to assign blame. By learning to recognize words and phrases that signal contempt, individuals can pause, reflect, and adjust their behavior in the moment. Rather than directing contempt outward, the video encourages acknowledging emotional pain, stepping back, and choosing more constructive responses. It frames this self-awareness as an opportunity, not just to reduce harm, but to improve relationships and conversations beyond where they were before.

Spanish Springs CAB members discussed practical ways to apply the Dignity Index in meetings, centering on the idea of “be curious, not furious,” especially around emotionally charged issues like traffic and road planning. Members emphasized asking more questions of agencies such as RTC and NDOT before reacting in anger, noting that while everyone shares the same frustrations, curiosity can lead to better understanding and solutions. The board suggested several ways to integrate dignity principles into CAB operations, including encouraging use of QR codes and feedback tools to direct concerns to the appropriate agencies; exploring whether a dignity commitment could be incorporated into CAB bylaws; adding a brief dignity reminder to public comment rules on meeting agendas; and continuing the chair’s follow-up reports on prior public input as a sign of respect and accountability. Members also discussed showing short Dignity Index videos at the start of meetings to encourage open-mindedness, willingness to consider other perspectives, and the possibility of changing one’s mind. Overall, the board favored a trial approach, testing these ideas over several meetings and gathering feedback from constituents to see whether the Dignity Index is helpful and well received by the community.

Tom Green said he was a naysayer on incorporating the Dignity Index, cautioning that it could become a slippery slope in a public forum governed by First Amendment protections. He emphasized that CAB meetings, as an extension of government, must allow residents to express opinions that may be abrasive, uncomfortable, or critical, and warned against anything that could be interpreted as discouraging or regulating speech. Green also raised concerns about the political associations of individuals promoting the Dignity Index, arguing that any perceived partisanship undermines its credibility. While he acknowledged that the discussion made him personally reflect on his communication style, he did not support formally adopting or integrating the Dignity Index into CAB meetings.

Joni Hammond questioned what specific problem the Dignity Index is intended to solve, noting that while emotions can run high during discussions about traffic, she does not see that as inappropriate or unusual. She expressed concern about the limited time available during CAB meetings and cautioned against dedicating too much agenda time to the topic. Hammond

supported a light-touch approach, such as a brief reminder to treat one another as neighbors, but emphasized that any effort should avoid infringing on First Amendment rights or creating the perception that speech is being regulated.

Renate York said she did not view the Dignity Index as a restriction on First Amendment rights or an attempt to police speech. She explained that, in her understanding, the intent is not to silence “prickly” or angry comments, but to encourage residents to focus criticism on the issue rather than attacking individuals. York emphasized that hard and emotional concerns still need to be voiced so problems can be addressed, especially when frustrations are high. She noted that the CAB and commissioners are only one part of a larger system, and that tools like QR codes can help route concerns directly to the appropriate agencies. Overall, she viewed the Dignity Index as guidance for respectful engagement, not a limitation on what people are allowed to say.

A CAB member characterized the Dignity Index as a gentle reminder to treat neighbors respectfully during discussions, while emphasizing that residents fully retain their First Amendment right to use strong or “prickly” language if they choose. The member noted that the intent is not to restrict speech, but to encourage awareness of the community context in which comments are made. Bonnie Billings agreed with that framing and reinforced Renate York’s point, summarizing the core principle as “attack the issue, not the person,” and asked that this perspective be captured as part of the discussion.

## **8. 2026 CAB MEETING SCHEDULE**

Bonnie Billings referenced the Spanish Springs CAB meeting schedule which was drafted at a prior meeting. She said she followed up individually with board members and received additional feedback, emphasizing the importance of remaining flexible and keeping meeting topics focused on current community concerns in Spanish Springs. Billings, for a possible action item, asked board members whether they still supported the proposal to not hold CAB meetings in August and December, and to explain their reasoning.

The CAB briefly discussed not having a meeting in August and December. Members agreed to keep it to the 10 meetings a year where they have with no meeting in August or December. Public commenters offered no opinion. Jason Evans motioned to keep the CAB dates the same, the motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

## **9. 2026 CAB TOPICS**

Bonnie explained that topics marked in red are already confirmed because they require advance planning and speaker commitments, noting that Commissioner Andreola and Candee worked extensively to secure those speakers. Confirmed topics include strategic planning in January and emergency preparedness in October. Billings shared feedback gathered from individual CAB members, particularly regarding the proposed March topic on coexisting with wildlife. She explained a desire to frame the discussion around coexistence with animals such as deer, coyotes, mustangs, and beavers, rather than permitting or hunting issues. She suggested potential speakers such as the Reno Fish and Wildlife Office or the UNR Extension team to help keep the focus on protection, coexistence, and appropriate relocation when needed, and opened the floor for further discussion on the March topic.

A member of the public asked for clearer definition of the proposed March topic on coexisting with wildlife, sharing examples from other communities, including wolf activity affecting ranchers in Sierraville and efforts by Fish and Game to provide nonlethal deterrents. The speaker also raised concerns about local issues such as coyotes, pets, and rattlesnakes near residential areas, questioning how residents can realistically coexist with wildlife while protecting their families and property.

Bonnie Billings responded that the intent of the topic is to address exactly those types of concerns by providing practical information on how residents can coexist with wildlife common to the area. She explained that the topic originated during earlier planning discussions as an issue of interest to Spanish Springs residents and is meant to focus on education, prevention, and appropriate responses to wildlife encounters.

Brandon Partain said the goal of discussing future CAB topics is to make sure meetings reflect what residents are interested in attending, noting that not every meeting needs to focus on roads or development. He supported including a mix of technical and community interest topics, such as wildlife, gardening, and other quality of life issues, which he said can draw strong public participation. Partain suggested that the May meeting would be a good opportunity for a simplified “Budget 101” presentation, timed after the county submits its tentative budget, to help residents understand the county budget and upcoming priorities. He also said he found a prior Planning Commission presentation particularly valuable and recommended revisiting that topic, specifically educating residents on “findings of fact” and how they can be used by the community when raising concerns about development projects.

A CAB member noted that county-hosted community meetings on development and infrastructure issues are typically well attended, citing multiple meetings they have personally attended on topics such as traffic, water, and power. Based on that experience, the member agreed that it makes sense to include those subjects in CAB programming and suggested that having two related presentations in a year, such as an initial presentation followed by a later update, would be a reasonable and effective approach.

Bonnie Billings said the previous planning-focused meeting was very popular and informative, helping her better understand the Planning Commission’s review process and the steps required before projects are approved. She suggested keeping a planning-related topic for the November meeting. Billings also supported the idea of a Budget 101 presentation, noting the complexity of the Washoe County budget and the value of explaining tools such as the open checkbook initiative. She indicated that, based on the discussion, the May meeting topic may shift from outdoor recreation and natural attractions to a Budget 101 focus.

A CAB member suggested swapping the November meeting topic with March’s. Bonnie Billings clarified with Candee Ramos if this would be possible acknowledging the difficulties of arranging speakers and complying with digital accessibility.

Joni Hammond said she would like to see more presentations focused on the Planning Commission and on how and where residents can provide public comment that is meaningful and timely. She explained that, based on her experience attending many public meetings, public input often feels ineffective because decisions are already made. Hammond emphasized that residents need clearer guidance on when engagement matters most and

which governing bodies are genuinely open to public input, so community members can use their time and voices more effectively.

Commissioner Andriola suggested a future CAB topic focused on clarifying government roles and jurisdictions to help residents better understand who is responsible for what at the federal, state, county, and city levels. She noted that community frustration often stems from not knowing which agency or elected body has authority over a specific issue, such as roads, ordinances, or animal control. Andriola said a high-level overview of how jurisdictions work together, rather than an in-depth breakdown, could help residents direct concerns to the right place and engage more effectively. She framed the idea as a way to support better communication and navigation of government, complementing tools like 311, and offered it for the board's consideration.

A CAB member suggested inviting someone from Washoe 311 to a CAB meeting to demonstrate the system and advocate for its use, noting that many long-time residents are still unaware of the service. The member described Washoe 311 as a valuable and underused resource and said it would benefit the community to better understand its capabilities. Commissioner Andriola agreed with the suggestion and responded positively, emphasizing that Washoe 311 is an important tool for helping residents connect with the right services and information. She supported the idea of highlighting the system at a CAB meeting as a way to improve awareness and community engagement.

Bonnie Billings said that, echoing Joni Hammond's comments, a common frustration for residents is not knowing what happens to their input or whether it has any impact. She noted that CAB meetings intentionally provide a feedback loop by reporting back on public comments at subsequent meetings and questioned whether similar follow-up is possible with other boards or commissions. Billings suggested a potential meeting topic focused on helping residents navigate government, including information about Washoe 311, but acknowledged the need to balance agendas and limit the number of speakers. She asked the board to consider which existing proposed topics might be removed if a navigation and 311-focused topic were added.

A CAB member asked about the February topic. Commissioner Andriola explained that the February CAB meeting will focus on homelessness response and navigation, featuring the Washoe County HOPE team and the City of Sparks HOPE team. She said the goal is to help residents understand who to call, what resources are available, and how the HOPE teams operate when people encounter encampments or individuals experiencing homelessness. Andriola described the HOPE model as a proactive, service-oriented approach that prioritizes outreach, mental health, and addiction support over incarceration, noting that Washoe County's program was modeled after Sparks' HOPE team. She said the joint presentation will cover how the teams work, how to access them, and what outcomes they are seeing across the region, including Spanish Springs.

Bonnie Billings said the February HOPE team presentation will be especially helpful for business owners in Spanish Springs by clarifying what support is available when homelessness impacts private property, such as encampments near businesses or service areas. She contrasted this with experiences in other cities where business owners felt they had no recourse, noting that in Washoe County there are tools and resources available to help address these situations.

Commissioner Andriola said the HOPE team presentation will be useful not only for business owners, but also for property owners and residents who want to know what actions they can take when homelessness issues arise. She emphasized that the presentation would help residents understand how taxpayer dollars are being used, how the HOPE teams operate, and what outcomes they are achieving. Andriola noted that homelessness is a complex, human issue, and said it would be valuable for the teams to share data, results, and frameworks such as the sequential intercept model to show the effectiveness of their approach.

Bonnie Billings walked through the proposed CAB meeting topics month by month and asked the community for feedback. She outlined confirmed topics, including the HOPE team in February, wildlife coexistence in March, RTC updates in April, a possible shift to a Budget 101 presentation in May, NDOT in June, emergency preparedness and Go Bag planning in July, no meeting in August, and emergency preparedness with evacuation planning in September and October. She noted that November is slated for a Planning Commission presentation, with the possibility of briefly including Washoe 311 to help residents better navigate government services. Billings also discussed alternative options, such as swapping the Planning Commission topic to March, and invited input on “softer” community interest topics like gardening, solar energy education, sewer system updates, Dark Skies, and forestry issues. She emphasized that while the board has already voted on the core topics, community feedback is being used to refine and supplement the schedule to ensure meetings remain relevant and useful to Spanish Springs residents.

A motion was made to swap March and November’s CAB meeting topics. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

CAB members discussed ways to help residents better navigate county services and be heard, agreeing that guidance on how to engage with the Planning Commission and use Washoe 311 would be valuable. Members suggested including a short Washoe 311 overview either alongside the Planning Commission presentation in November or as a brief addition to the February meeting when the HOPE team is scheduled, emphasizing that even a 10-to-15-minute presentation would be useful. There was consensus that Washoe 311 is an effective and underused resource that residents would benefit from better understanding. Commissioner Andriola responded positively to the ideas and supported exploring whether Washoe 311 could be added to the February meeting agenda. She advised the board to build flexibility into any motion approving the schedule, noting that community needs and speaker availability can change. She encouraged adopting agenda items with the understanding that adjustments may be necessary. The discussion concluded with agreement to move the Planning Commission topic from November to March, with explicit flexibility to adjust the schedule as needed.

CAB Chair Bonnie Billings informed the CAB could only do one topic for the May meeting. Either it would be outdoor recreation or budget 101. The crowd expressed a greater interest in budget 101 for that CAB meeting’s presentation. Paul, a Spanish Springs resident, noted that there was strong support from attendees to hold a Budget 101 topic for the May meeting instead of outdoor recreation. He questioned what the purpose of a Budget 101 presentation would be if the budget is already largely decided by that point, expressing concern about discussing issues that residents cannot influence. Paul acknowledged that a Budget 101 presentation could still be valuable from an educational standpoint, such as understanding how the Washoe County budget works and how to use tools like the open checkbook. He

ultimately questioned how residents would be able to apply or act on the information after receiving it. A CAB member explained that the rationale for scheduling a Budget 101 presentation in May is tied to the county's budget timeline. The tentative budget is submitted to the state in April, making May a pivotal point to review what has been submitted and understand how the next budget cycle begins. The member said the goal is not to revisit decisions already made, but to build residents' knowledge of the budget process, available tools, and ways citizens can engage going forward. They emphasized that the value of Budget 101 is educational, helping the community understand where the process stands and how future input can be informed and effective. Renate York said that if the CAB presents Budget 101 in May, residents should be given a clear way to act on that information rather than feeling the budget is already decided. She emphasized that community members want to know how their input can still matter and be heard. York suggested pairing the budget presentation with tools such as QR codes or other submission methods that allow residents to immediately share priorities and ideas for the next budget cycle. Her goal was to ensure there is a clear feedback loop, connecting residents to the right departments and decision-makers at the right time so their input can inform future budgets instead of coming too late.

A motion was made to change the May meeting topic from Outdoor Recreation to Budget 101. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

## **10. 2026 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Bonnie Billings explained that the goal of this agenda item is to strengthen outreach and encourage more neighbors to attend CAB meetings. She framed the discussion as a marketing and connection effort focused on building community, improving feedback loops, and helping residents work together on local issues. Billings reviewed current outreach methods, including the Spanish Springs CAB webpage with agendas and videos, the District 4 email subscriber list, neighborhood social media such as Facebook and Nextdoor, flyers at the Spanish Springs Library and the City of Sparks building, and posting meeting recordings on YouTube. She also mentioned exploring HOA publications where available. She noted that average meeting attendance is about 23 people, a very small share of the Spanish Springs population, and invited board members to suggest additional ideas to increase awareness and participation. Bonnie Billings said they would contact the editor of a neighborhood HOA magazine they get in Spanish Springs to see if they would advertise the CAB for free.

A resident suggested listing CAB topics further in advance. Additionally, they suggested that they advertise the CAB on the Lazy 5 Park sign.

Veronica Cortes suggested food donations to drive up attendance due to people coming to meetings during a normal dinner hour, suggesting that the reason people don't come is due to the time of the meeting.

## **11. CAB MEMBER TERMS AND SUCCESSION PLANNING**

Bonnie Billings emphasized the importance of succession and continuity in community appointments. She explained that a handout outlines when current members' terms expire and noted that the terms for Shannon, Brandon, and Brad end in June. Billings encouraged interested residents to speak with the commissioner about serving on the CAB and highlighted

that there is currently a vacancy available.

## **12. BOARD AND COMMISSION OPENINGS**

There were no board and commission openings.

## **13. NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT HUB**

Candee Ramos explained that Washoe County shares information each month on upcoming neighborhood developer meetings to keep residents informed about proposed projects and development activity. She showed how residents can access this information through the Washoe County website by searching for “neighborhood developer meetings,” which links to a central hub with a map and project list of current and past meetings. Ramos noted that there are currently no upcoming developer meetings in District 4, though equine business meetings will be added soon. She also encouraged residents to subscribe on the county website to receive neighborhood developer meeting notices directly by email so they can stay informed and provide timely feedback.

## **14. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

Rob Pierce, a Planning Commissioner for District 5, told attendees he represents a large area north of the river and also serves on the Board of Adjustment and several airport boards. He announced his intention to run for Washoe County Commissioner for District 5 and asked for community support. Pierce said he hears residents’ concerns about development and traffic and emphasized that he prioritizes safety in decision-making, stating he does not support projects that lack adequate police, fire, or other safety considerations. He noted that while development cannot be stopped, it can be made smarter. Pierce also shared information about the Reno-Stead Airport Master Plan update, inviting residents to a public meeting later in the month to learn more about the project. He offered to provide a Dark Skies presentation to the CAB, noting his strong support for the initiative. Finally, he encouraged residents to use the county’s development meeting hub to find planner contact information and said that emails and public comments to planning commissioners and board members are read and do matter.

Veronica Cortes, a member of the Sun Valley Citizens Advisory Board, spoke about long-standing community frustration with infrastructure, transportation, and government accountability. She said residents are tired of poor conditions, misleading information from agencies, and decisions that do not reflect lived realities in communities like Sun Valley and Spanish Springs. Cortes emphasized the need for transparency, especially around elections, budgeting, and how public funds are spent, urging residents to follow the county’s financial decisions and hold leaders accountable. She shared her personal background as a longtime Washoe County School District employee, small business owner, and community volunteer, explaining that she attends meetings consistently because she cares deeply about her community. Cortes said working-class voices are often dismissed, despite firsthand experience with affordability, transportation barriers, and access to services. She called for honesty, integrity, and local representation in Washoe County government, stressing that meaningful change starts with listening to residents and restoring trust.

Joni Hammond criticized the Regional Transportation Commission’s December meeting at Red Hawk, describing it as poorly planned and dismissive of public engagement. She said the limited seating, brief presentation, and lack of live public comment made the meeting

ineffective and frustrating, especially given the widespread community impact of traffic issues. Hammond expressed concern that key decisions, such as the proposed two-lane road over the hill, appear to have already been made, making requests for public input feel too late to matter. She recommended that future discussions include both RTC and NDOT together so agencies can be held jointly accountable. Hammond concluded that while she appreciates efforts to keep CAB meetings concise, issues as significant as transportation warrant longer meetings with ample time for questions and meaningful dialogue.

Tom Ziegler, a Harris Ranch resident, raised concerns about a proposed rezoning that would allow approximately 700,000 square feet of warehouse development north of the Donovan property between Pyramid Way and Harris Ranch. He said the proposal would significantly change the area's master plan, which was recently updated to envision the land as rural residential, not industrial. Ziegler noted that while the planning staff has been responsive, the application is complex and expected to go before the Planning and Zoning Commission as soon as February. He emphasized that written public comments are critical, as they are forwarded directly to commissioners. Ziegler described the proposal as an encroachment on residential zoning, warned of increased truck traffic and direct access to Pyramid Way, and encouraged residents to attend the upcoming meeting and sign a petition opposing the rezoning, which he said has received support from the vast majority of nearby residents.

## **15. CAB MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS/REQUESTS**

There were no CAB member announcements.

## **16. COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS/ UPDATES**

Commissioner Andriola thanked the board and community for participating in what she described as the first strategic planning meeting for a CAB, praising the effort and quality of ideas shared. She acknowledged strong community turnout and engagement, particularly around the recent RTC meeting, and encouraged residents to review the posted recordings and materials and to submit formal feedback before the deadline, emphasizing that comments become part of the public record and are reviewed. She clarified that RTC's presentation was based on a feasibility study and that transportation options, including rail, are still being evaluated, noting that decisions are not finalized. She encouraged residents to review the facts, watch the presentations, and directly contact listed staff with questions. Commissioner Andriola then discussed progress on updating Washoe County's equine ordinances, noting they have not been reviewed in more than 20 years and involve complex, overlapping regulations across multiple jurisdictions. She outlined upcoming opportunities for public input, including in-person and online meetings, and encouraged participation to help balance preserving Western heritage with the needs of a growing and diverse community. She also provided an update on the Dark Skies ordinance, explaining how the Board of County Commissioners prioritizes major policy projects and noting that Dark Skies has moved up in priority following completion of other initiatives. She emphasized the importance of staff capacity and sequencing work carefully to ensure thorough outcomes. She closed by encouraging continued community participation, reminding residents that topic suggestions are always welcome beyond this meeting, and wishing everyone well in the coming year.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

DRAFT