



Sun Valley/District 3 Citizens Advisory Board
Minutes of the regular meeting of the Sun Valley/District 3 Citizens Advisory Board
held on June 1, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at Hobey's Casino.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ DETERMINATION QUORUM

Present: Chair Heidi Soper, Vice Chair Amy Owens, Members Michael Rider, Mary Esposito, Carmen Ortiz, Mark Neumann*

Absent: Members Veronica Cortes

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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Community Outreach Coordinator Alexandra Wilson indicated that the camera crew who was present in the room was filming B-roll footage for a video aimed at getting more involvement with citizens advisory boards.

3. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Carol Burns read from an online article that the west and northwest regions of the country are forecasted to be the hottest this summer, with interior western states like Nevada expected to have a 50 to 60 percent chance of above-normal temperatures. She urged residents to clean up their properties to reduce fire danger because Sun Valley was in a critical fire zone.

Cindy Leslie spoke about a program offering free fans for seniors and mentioned that a different program would offer rides to seniors from the Senior Center to WinCo on June 2. The latter program will be discontinued, she noted, without more participation.

Dawn Mooneyham spoke about the deterioration of Sun Valley since she moved there in 1979, and she wondered why the County did nothing to address it. She felt that the many complaints made to the County about one property had not resulted in any action.

Steve Marlowe thought the power company and nearby warehouses were increasing the fire risk, noting that the company had caused one fire. Wooden pallets were being stacked near a gas line, but it was determined that there were no violations. Something needed to be done to address the matter. He brought up a recent fire on 7th Avenue, adding that Code Enforcement said they could not do anything about the warehouses' code violations because they were grandfathered in.

Sean McGrath promoted a community clothing fair at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints on McCarran Boulevard. Residents can drop off items on June 12, and the fair will be held on June 13. He remarked that volunteer opportunities exist.
Chair Soper announced that Agenda Item 7 would be heard next.

7. WASHOE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE (WCSO) - CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN: AWARENESS AND PREVENTION

Detective Sergeant Joseph Digesti noted there was a lot of interest in the community about this topic due to events involving children in the community. Many children were visiting schools and hospitals with different types of injuries and explanations for them that did not make sense. He listed the following telltale signs of child abuse or neglect: repeated injuries, injuries without good justifications, children making excessive medical visits, adults answering for children when asked how they were injured, and changes in the child's temperament.

Sgt. Digesti stated children are often unable to care for themselves, and he encouraged members of the community to listen to their natural instincts and report things to appropriate agencies to investigate. Reports can be made to the Washoe County Sheriff's Office or any law enforcement agency, Child Protective Services, or by calling 833-900-SAFE, a 24-hour child abuse and neglect hotline.

A child crimes investigator acknowledged that kids are frequently injured, but the Crimes Against Children division focuses on injuries to multiple body parts at one time. Often times, the children involved do not know the abusive behavior is wrong. Another thing to monitor, Sgt. Digesti added, was instances of multiple bruises on a child in different states of healing. Reports can be made anonymously, and he urged members of the public to speak up.

Member Owens inquired about internet safety. Sgt. Digesti encouraged anyone who cares for children to monitor what they do online using parental control apps like Bark. Those apps allow parents to limit inappropriate content and notify them when their kids are looking at that content. He described the internet as a dangerous place for children, as some sextortion cases involve children who believe they are talking to other children. He also encouraged parents to talk to their kids and try to get them to unplug from the internet for portions of their day.

Responding to questions from members of the public, Sgt. Digesti stated his team typically responded to a couple of child abuse cases and a couple of child sexual assault cases each month throughout the entire jurisdiction, but many people would be surprised at the number of calls the Child Crimes Unit receives. The division does not encounter many child trafficking cases, though they do receive cases involving adult trafficking. He indicated that a child dressed in long clothing during extremely hot days could be another sign that something is wrong. He provided the phone number for the Sheriff's Office.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF May 4, 2026

There was no response to the call for public comment.

Member Rider moved to approve the May 4, 2026, Sun Valley Citizens Advisory Board minutes as written. Vice Chair Owens seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved on a 4-0 vote with Member Cortes absent.

5. PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATES

Washoe County Sheriff's Office

Lieutenant Nick Tone described his role with the Sheriff's Office (SO). He reviewed the first

quarter crime data, noting a drop in the three-year average for larcenies. Referring to the SO's Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) program, he stated the quarterly number of driving under the influence (DUI) offenses rose from 11 to 24. He believed that the actual number of DUIs stayed relatively consistent, but the SO has gotten better at discovering them. 14 of the department's 34 DUI arrests in May were courtesy of the ARIDE unit, he noted.

Lt. Tone discussed the Drone Team which, among other purposes, is used to patrol remote areas in Spanish Springs for incidents like arson and illegal shooting. He encouraged people to download the Washoe Sheriff app to overlay the user's location with a map showing acceptable places to shoot. The app also allows users to upload photos of graffiti and report other issues like illegal dumping to Washoe 311. He explained how complaints made through 311 are routed to the appropriate departments for responses. He commented that the app can also be used to report favorable or unfavorable behavior by deputies.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the report of shooting mentioned by Lt. Tone. The lieutenant talked about the Drone as a First Responder program, which is used to investigate areas that are difficult to reach and, as such, would result in delayed responses from patrol units. He said shooting becomes more common once the weather warms up.

Responding to a question about violations of the noise ordinance, Lt. Tone responded that the City of Reno has time limits for noise, whereas the County, including Sun Valley, does not. He reviewed the situations where misdemeanor citations are given for noise violations. He pointed out that Sun Valley averages 3,288 calls for service a year, but that number was already up to 4,499 in the first quarter of 2026, and there are only so many deputies to handle those calls. He attributed the rise in calls to increases in both permanent and transient populations.

In response to other questions from the public, Lt. Tone recognized that classifying something as 'disturbing the peace' is subjective. He described how the SO issues citations for those who are disturbing the peace, adding that his deputies have no issue telling people who are making too much noise to be quieter. The SO prioritizes calls for burglaries, traffic accidents, and crimes against persons or property over noise complaints. He reiterated that there are no specific times to reduce residential noise in unincorporated Washoe County, though there are rules for commercial and industrial noise. The Washoe County Code does include guidelines for times to shoot guns. He confirmed that the SO does not utilize ShotSpotter, nor were there any plans to get it as it was extremely expensive, and he felt there were better uses for those funds.

Lt. Tone recognized that Sun Valley has innate challenges because there are no parking lanes on the sides of the road. He encouraged people to reach out to him when there are significant numbers of parked cars, and he will notify the SO's traffic division. Traffic complaints can also be submitted via the Traffic Division's website, and traffic architecture issues can be relayed to the division, who can then conduct a traffic study to determine whether there are public safety issues.

With respect to Member Esposito's query, Lt. Tone indicated that the SO has license plate readers on their cars, though he was unsure whether the department's drones have them. He assured her that the drones do not fly around regularly to patrol, only to respond to specific calls. They can, however, identify vehicles by zooming in on their license plates. He said first responders typically handle traffic stops, but drones can be used to follow anyone who tries

to flee.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District

Division Chief Joe Schum with the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) reviewed the report included in the agenda packet for this item, highlighting the incident statistics for April. He emphasized the safety tips around the proper use of barbeques. He encouraged everyone to review the handout about defensible space that was included with the report, which also included helpful links about noxious weeds. He expected this summer to be hot and dry, adding that fires were already occurring in the area.

Chair Soper inquired about the cause of several small fires on 7th Street. Chief Schum thought those fires were started by a vehicle dragging chains. Fines could be issued in situations like that, and he noted that the TMFPD collaborated with the SO in such matters.

Steve Malone expressed frustration about things the power company was doing on its three properties. Chief Schum responded that there was a fire there, and the Fire Prevention Division is aware of the issue and is working through relevant processes. A brief discussion ensued about the specific property line of one of the properties.

Responding to a question about wood chips, Chief Schum stated they were combustible, but a thin layer of decorative wood chips does not contribute to spreading fire very much. Taller weeds, sticks, and trees pose a greater fire risk. He said that one to two inches of wood chips is fine; anything deeper can create the risk of spontaneous combustion. He noted that wood chips can also prevent weeds.

6. KEEP TRUCKEE MEADOWS BEAUTIFUL (KTMB) – PROGRAM UPDATE

Darcy Phillips, Executive Director of KTMB, conducted a slideshow presentation and reviewed slides with the following titles: Great Community Cleanup (2 slides); Truckee River Cleanup; Highland Ranch Park; Cleanups 2025-26; and Illegal Dumping. She discussed how KTMB crews were able to remove trash further up in the hills, beyond what can be addressed by the Sheriff's Office (SO) work crews. She stated that the SO helped with the Estates Road cleanup. She said many cleanup events begin with a request from one individual, but cleanup events are not all KTMB does; it also plants trees and pulls noxious weeds. More than 2,500 tires were gathered as a result of a drop-off event in 2024.

Responding to questions from members of the public, Director Phillips spoke about some of the challenges in investigating abandoned vehicles. Vehicles that are abandoned out of view do not create the same level of concern as those in populated areas, but she said that trash attracts more trash. She cautioned people against towing abandoned cars, instead suggesting that they volunteer with KTMB, who gets permission from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the SO on which vehicles it can remove.

Director Phillips indicated that a group from Truckee Meadows Community College has adopted Highland Ranch Park and hosts several clean-up events each year. KTMB has an illegal dumping task force, she continued, which works with many partner agencies to strategize about where things are happening. She noted that Commissioner Mariluz Garcia provided the organization with funding to get a new truck and a trailer, and it plans to hire someone part-time to work with the SO's work crew to clean trash out of smaller areas. She remarked that there were several kinds of illegal dumping, including food trucks dumping

restaurant trash, green waste dumping, trigger trash, and abandoned vehicles.

With respect to a query about laws pertaining to abandoned vehicles, Director Phillips noted the Governor said he would not sign a bill closing loopholes on the private resale of vehicles which were ultimately abandoned. That bill would shorten investigation times and result in the ability to remove vehicles much more quickly. She acknowledged that tow companies make no money by removing abandoned vehicles. She briefly addressed the efforts made to contact a specific problematic property owner.

Mark Enwald wondered why BLM does not fund the cleanup efforts that take place largely on their land. Director Phillips replied that the Bureau has one dedicated member of law enforcement who covers a significant amount of land, and all agency representatives are responsive but overworked. She added that the Washoe County Sheriff's Office app has a place to report illegal dumping by sending a photo, which is then addressed quickly through geolocation.

Director Phillips mentioned that KTMB does not work on private property, so they are unable to help disabled seniors clean their properties, though she felt that a nonprofit organization could be set up to handle those situations. She encouraged people to volunteer with KTMB, and it was pointed out that school-age kids could volunteer, and that would count toward their community service volunteer hours.

A member of the public asked who was responsible for the cleanup of gutters on Quartz Lane. Director Phillips believed that complaints could be made to the Sun Valley General Improvement District or Washoe 311, adding that Washoe County was working to address some issues on private properties in that area.

8. NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT HUB & OTHER ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Community Outreach Coordinator Alexandra Wilson stated there were no Neighborhood Development Hub updates, and no meetings were scheduled. She indicated there was a current opening on the Washoe County Deferred Compensation Committee for previous employees who were currently benefitting from the County's retirement account, and there was a vacancy on the Board of Equalization as well, with applications being accepted until June 5.

Responding to a question about the intersection of Gepford Parkway and Sun Valley Boulevard, Member Rider replied that a 2,000-square-foot building is planned to be erected on at least part of that parcel. He said he will bring any information he finds on that matter to the Sun Valley/ District 3 Citizens Advisory Board.

9. CAB MEMBER/COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS/REQUESTS

Commissioner Mariluz Garcia stated she lives in Sun Valley, and she is available via phone, text, and email. She said she was part of the illegal dumping task force and encouraged people who wanted to help but could not volunteer to donate to Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful. She urged people to vote early but cautioned against sending their ballots in the mail as it may be too close to Election Day. Early voting was available until Friday, and the closest polling place was at the Sun Valley Neighborhood Center. She noted that the wait

times for each polling place were listed on the Registrar of Voters' website, and curbside voting was available for the first time ever.

Regarding illegal shooting, Commissioner Garcia said a code update aimed at reducing incidents in urban/rural interface areas will come before the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). She suggested that the Sun Valley/District 3 Citizens Advisory Board (SVCAB) possibly consider an agenda item to explore a potential noise ordinance. With respect to the old Scolari's building, she indicated that discussions with potential buyers were ongoing, and she would provide updates as she learned of them.

Commissioner Garcia stated that the abandoned properties whose owners were deceased are currently being addressed by closing a loophole that people have begun to abuse. The County is following the legal processes for eviction, and the properties are being cleaned. She encouraged patience. She promoted a three-week Food Truck series of events, which she hoped would bring the community together.

Steve Marlowe brought up his concerns about the fire danger posed by the power company. Commissioner Garcia said she was open to discussing a potential zoning change. Responding to another concern of his, she clarified that the Food Truck Event she is hosting will have Sani-Huts, but she does not oversee the regular food trucks in Sun Valley. The speaker expressed frustration that regular food trucks did not need to have those amenities. Regarding what happens to the abandoned properties mentioned earlier, Commissioner Garcia said that would depend on the property. She noted that an arrest was made on a Slope Drive property, and the County is waiting to hear about the property on Carnes Drive.

Chris Ambriz believed that different political parties could work together for common goals, and he thought Commissioner Garcia was trying to do right by the community.

Chair Soper promoted the Food Truck event, the 2026 Dive Into Summer event at Sun Valley Community Park, and a Food Bank summer lunch program for kids, noting that flyers for each event were available in the back of the room. She encouraged people to sign up to help plan Sun Valley's birthday party next August, and forms were available for people to suggest topics for future SVCAB meetings. Based on previous suggestions, Community Outreach Coordinator Alexandra Wilson would contact Code Enforcement, Nevada Highway Patrol, and the Nevada Department of Transportation about making presentations at future meetings.

Chair Soper stated she attended a BCC meeting where changes to the CABs were discussed. She read the document she provided as part of the backup materials for this meeting about the changes implemented by the BCC. She felt the SVCAB was the best CAB in the County. She reminded people to vote, adding that the next meeting of this CAB was scheduled for July 5.

Member Rider listed some of the events and attractions planned for the Dive Into Summer event, encouraging people to attend. He said the Sun Valley General Improvement District (SVGID) supports the cleanup events on Chimney Road. He clarified that SVGID has elected officials, and though it has influence, it cannot make the same decisions as a city council could. He urged people to reach out to the agency with concerns, and SVGID will put them in contact with the right people. He echoed the calls for people to vote.

Vice Chair Owens stated the Washoe County Leadership Academy would attend the Dive Into Summer and Food Truck events with resources about home hardening and wildfire

prevention.

10. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Cindy Leslie indicated there would be free swim for seniors on Tuesdays and Thursdays, starting on June 16 at the pool.

Tracy Dean, Director of Community Cats, discussed how her organization works with partner agencies to help people get their animals fixed and vaccinated. In 2025, they helped 1,900 cats and kittens, and they offer free neutering and spaying, vaccinations, and microchipping. She said flyers were available with contact information for her organization. She remarked that Sun Valley accounts for 40 percent of Community Cats' work, and she hoped to keep helping the Nevada Humane Society by removing obstacles. The organization also planned to attend the June 11 event.

Mike Revty stated that Bureau of Land Management land belongs to the public.

CAB Alternate Mark Neumann added that the free swim offer was for seniors only, not kids.

11. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.