



SMITH VALLEY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

Wednesday, January 7th, 2026, 6:00PM

Smith Valley Library

22 Day Lane, Smith, Nevada

Draft Minutes

1. **Call to Order** - Chair Tom Renner called the meeting to order at 6:00PM.
2. **Roll Call**: Determination of a Quorum. Tom Renner, Joanne Lawson, Mark Phillips, Keri Kidder, Rusty Williams, a quorum was established.
3. **Pledge of Allegiance**. Led by Tom Renner
4. **Invocation**. Led by Tom Renner
5. **For Possible Action**: Elect new Board Members for the 2026/2027 term:
 - Tom Renner motioned to nominate Mark Phillips to be the new Board Vice President. Joanne Lawson 2nd. All ayes. Approved
 - Tom Renner motioned to nominate Keri Kidder to be the new Board Secretary/Recorder. Rusty Williams 2nd. All ayes. Approved
 - Joanne Lawson said she would like to be Chair as well as Rusty Williams stated his interest also.
 - Mark Phillips motioned to nominate Rusty Williams to be the new Board President. Tom Renner 2nd. All ayes. Approved
5. **For Possible Action**: Approve Minutes of: December 3rd, 2025, Motion to accept by Joanne Lawson, seconded by Keri Kidder. Approved unanimously.
6. **For Possible Action**: Review and adoption of Agenda. Motion to accept by Rusty Williams. 2nd by Tom Renner. All ayes. Approved.
7. **Community Reports**:
 - **County Commissioner Dave Hockaday**: Reported that a Mason Valley advisory board is in the works, but lack of participation is holding that back. The data center and solar panels are moving forward in Lyon County off 95A north of the city. Dave voted against trying and support residents. Walker River Irrigation Conservancy wants to sell 530 acres, but no water rights will go with that. They will maintain AG hopefully. The Smith Valley Cemetery Board is the only one in the county that we take care of outside of the county.
 - **Planning Commission**: Mark Jones- Approved the solar with traffic studies.
 - **Sheriff Office: Ryan Powell** – December 2025 shop with the Sherrif had 50 children attend. Most of the money is earmarked when donations come through.

Yerington and Smith Valley Parades went very well. For the parades to happen they must get a permit that NDOT must sign off on. He said that the traffic volunteers are the reason why the parade can happen. Budget prep for 2026-2027 fiscal years has started. Commander Powell manages the budget for inmate medical care. There is an Honor Guard with the Sherrif department, and they will be more involved with local sports games, and the next one is at the Lincoln Day dinner. Stats on crime and arrests have increased especially at traffic stops in Smith Valley. He is trying to have more officers to be out in the community.

- **Fire Department:** No report
- **Other:** Senator Robin Titus is here tonight and is very impressed with the turnout. She acknowledged the Sherrif and how we need the officers for Hwy 208 speeders. She is also our county Health Officer. She is also our State Senator and has 6 counties that she represents and is very passionate about Wellington and Smith Valley. She let us know that Lyon County has 65,000 people living in it. She is passionate about the water in our Valley. The state water engineer was fired and there is a new interim engineer until a new one is hired.

8. Public Participation.

- Steven Singer- Winston solar project question to Commissioner Hockaday about the trucks driving on Ramsey Weeks Rd. Hockaday says that they must look at overall impact on roads. Steven also asked about the Libra(sp) solar project and the traffic patterns going through Yerington. East Walker Rd is the local public road, and the pavement will be re-paved due to previous sinking of trucks. He also asked Senator Titus about solar panels and if they are made in America and she said no.
- Mark Jones – He wanted to know how much more water will be “syphoned” out of our Valley. Commissioner Hockaday has said that because water rights have been sold there is nothing his office can do. He also commented on Sherrif program to shop and gave positive feedback. He also commented on the flag raising at Rosies and how nice that was.
- Dave Hockaday- Made comment on Shop with Sherrif and how positive that is. He also said that he has copies for the Cemetery clean up and asks that people volunteer.
- Rick Ferroni asked how many deputies are assigned to South command and where is that in the budget needs? There are 4 officers for the entire area of Weeks Bridge to California Stateline. Commander Powell explains that we are unique as we are the 3rd populated county in Nevada, but we have the lowest number of calls.
- Joanne Lawson asked about gas prices in Nevada. Senator Titus stated she met with the Governor through the Homeland Security Division and there is now a taskforce to discuss if there are shutdowns in Calif of power how we can have emergency fuel and where we would store it. Looking at a potential gas pipeline but will update.
- Senator Titus asked about the Cemetery and had many family members buried there and thanked Tom Renner for taking the Director role. Spoke of the Governor attending the next flag raising at Rosies.

- Judy Harker talked about clean-up days for the Cemetery and how rewarding that it is to see the plots clean and ready for Memorial Day.
- Cole Morteson spoke on how he will be running for Dave Hockaday position and how he has been here his whole life and wants to make positive changes.
- Mark Phillips (as citizen) is planning a 250-year celebration and will be handing out flyers for volunteers etc.6.

9. For Discussion Only: Review of Correspondence, email, other communications:

- Missing person, Ronald Littley, from Fernley since 2022. Rusty read the press release.

RECESS TO CONVENE AS THE SMITH VALLEY CEMETERY BOARD

10. For Possible Action: Elect new Director of Cemetery Board

- Mark Phillips motioned to nominate Tom Renner to be the new Cemetery Director. Joanne Lawson 2nd. All ayes. Approved

11. For Report Only:

A. Report on cemetery operations, to potentially include Plot sales and improvements to plots requested by plot owners (who and what has been requested). Tom also would like to make a schematic of who is buried there by name or family name and will be working on that. And Veterans.

B. Maintenance and activities, including a review of projects that need to be accomplished.

- Tom Renner also spoke about the rules and how each person who owns the plots (family) needs to be responsible for cleaning up of the plots. We will have a community clean-up day, but we really need to notify people that they are responsible.
- The costs for tree removals is very high so we must be careful not to cover graves with bushes etc. Also, the dead birds are an issue due to the local farmers who poison the birds and since they nest in our cemetery that's where they end up.

C. Review of Bills and Financial Report.

- We are given a budget of \$6000.00, and it is a use it monetary value.

12. Public Participation:

- Tom Renner (as citizen) spoke highly about Roger and how wonderful a job that he has done.

ADJOURN TO RECONVENE AS THE SMITH VALLEY ADVISORY BOARD

13.Public Participation: None

14.Board Member Comments:

- Mark Phillips thanks the Board for him being elected.
- Keri Kidder also thanked the Board for her appointment.

15.Adjourn. Motion to adjourn by Rusty Williams seconded by Keri Kidder. Meeting adjourned.