

SILVER CITY ADVISORY BOARD
Tuesday, September 19, 2023 at 7:00 PM
Silver City Schoolhouse Community Center
385 High St., Silver City, NV 89428

1. Call to Order:

Chair Erich Obermayr called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

2. Roll Call: Introduction of members/determination of quorum

Present: Chair Erich Obermayr, Secretary Jonathan Byrnside.

Absent with excuse: Vice Chair Kathryn Ataman.

3. Public Comment.

Cashion Callaway presented homemade bread to new citizens in town. Susan Stornetta voiced concerns about generating more community involvement at town meetings.

4. For Possible Action: Review and adoption of agenda.

Erich Obermayr moved to adopt the agenda as written, Jonathan Byrnside seconded, and the motion passed 2-0.

5. For Possible Action: Approve minutes of meetings of August 15, 2023.

Erich Obermayr moved to adopt the minutes as written, Jonathan Byrnside seconded, and the motion passed 2-0.

6. Correspondence:

There was none.

7. Reports:

A. Lyon County Board openings

Erich Obermayr reported that the Planning Commission vacancy was filled.

B. Commissioners/County officials

Commissioner Wes Henderson reported on several topics:

A zoning map amendment for a new subdivision was approved at the September 7 meeting and a presentation was given by Fire Adapted Nevada to educate about wildlife safety.

At the September 21 meeting there will be a presentation by NDOT concerning Highway 50. There will also be a discussion about a potential lands bill. Erich Obermayr referenced a draft map and Andrew Haskin clarified that the areas of concern are areas slated for disposal by BLM.

There was a meeting about Code Enforcement within the county and staff has been directed to develop recommendations for the Commission to improve its efficacy. Cashion Callaway asked about the Sheriffs responsibility with Code Enforcement and Wes Henderson responded that the Sheriff played no role and there is one Code Enforcement officer in Lyon County.

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Erich Obermayr asked about the use of RoundUp in town and brought up the poor condition of the roads in town. Andrew Haskin commented that roads are an issue county-wide but will mention the condition in Silver City to the county Roads Department.

Wes Henderson reported that there is a survey about regional hazards for the County Department of Emergency Management.

C. Lyon County Planning Commission

There were none given.

D. Lyon County Sheriff's Dept.

There were none given.

E. Lyon County Parks & Recreation

There were none given.

F. Silver City Volunteer Fire Dept.

Noël Chounet reported that the Virginia City Hill Climb was a success with two minor accidents and no injuries.

G. Silver City Arts Group

There were none given.

H. Silver City Preservation Society

Meg Burns reported that the Labor Day Rummage Sale was a success with \$2700 being raised for the cemetery fund and that there are ongoing improvements happening at the School House.

Chris Brown expressed gratitude for the functioning climate control system at the School House.

I. Cemetery Committee

Erich Obermayr reiterated that the Labor Day Rummage Sale was a success and that Cemetery Committee will continue to meet informally and that more members are welcome.

H. Lyon County Buildings and Grounds

There were none given.

- 8. For discussion only:** USEPA and NDEP update on the recent residential soil sampling efforts by EPA to provide information on the program which started with pilot project in December 2022, continued additional sampling in August 2023, next steps including opportunity for additional properties to have yards sampled and potential for clean-up/remediation of yards where contaminants mercury, lead, and arsenic are found.

Omer Shalev from the EPA gave a presentation summarizing the history of the Carson River Superfund Site and that the only significant risk to residents is for children under 6 who may eat contaminated soil.

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Cashion Callaway asked if properties are ever tested without the owner's consent. Omer Shalev replied that testing in this area only happens with the owner's consent. The presentation continued with discussion about the remediation process for properties that test above action levels and that there will be testing in Dayton and Virginia City in the future. Meg Burns asked if there were properties in town that require remediation. Omer Shalev replied that there were two. Melissa Sexton asked about future testing for properties on the truck route and the potential for danger to dogs. Omer Shalev replied that there was a possibility for properties in Silver City to still be tested and that there was no risk discovered for dogs.

- 9. For discussion only:** Code enforcement issues in Silver City, including but not limited to construction and other activities without proper permits and accumulation of trash, car bodies, and other debris.

Andrew Haskin discussed code enforcement in the county reporting that there are around 300 cases open at any time, that the program relies on community reporting, there is around an 80% compliance rate, and that code violations are misdemeanor criminal offenses. The county is considering a civil penalty process with fines to improve compliance rates. Susan Stornetta asked about a property on Main Street. Erich Obermayr reported that the property in question had been reported via the proper channels and that the District Attorney declined to pursue the case. Andrew Haskin said that potential ordinances may help with enforcement in such cases and reiterated that compliance is the goal as opposed to revenue generation. Wes Henderson commented that it is important that there is an appeals process. Quest Lakes commented that her property had been physically inspected, with no violation found, without her notification and consent. Andrew Haskin said that he would look into the issue as no properties should be inspected without notification.

- 10. For discussion and possible action:** OHV and side by side traffic through Silver City. Possible actions might include recommendations to Lyon County Staff and BOCC to consider the following:

- Eliminate OHV-side-by-side through traffic in Silver City
- Encourage alternate routes for OHV-side-by-side traffic between Dayton and Virginia City regions
- Request BLM and other organizations modify OHV-side-by-side travel maps showing designated routes through Silver City
- Instal signage limiting speed, showing designates as well as prohibited routes, and promoting responsible behavior

There was general discussion as to the state of the issue in town. Erich Obermayr will informally contact stakeholder organizations as a resident. Andrew Haskin will talk to the county signage department.

- 11. For discussion only:** Encourage wider participation in Silver City Citizen Advisory Board, including combined social event / meeting for the SCCAB in October.

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There was discussion about activities before Advisory Board meetings to encourage turnout and the current and former structure of Advisory Boards and how it affects community attendance and engagement. Andrew Haskin pointed out that the current Advisory Board structure is at the direction of the county and in compliance with the Nevada Revised Statute.

12. Public Comment:

There was none.

13. Adjournment:

Chair Erich Obermayr adjourned the meeting at 8:51 PM.