

# The Vistas Homeowners Association

## MEETING MINUTES

BUD BEASLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
July 26, 2012 - 6:00 P.M.

### Board Members Present

James Baldwin  
Margaret Powell  
William Wagner  
George Cammarota  
Larry Kleinworth - Absent

### Staff Present

Stacie Ciesynski, Community Administrator  
Jarimiah Klein, Compliance Officer

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## **I Call to Order**

Jim Baldwin called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.  
Introduction of Board members; Jim Baldwin, Margaret Powell, Bill Wagner and George Cammarota were present.  
Larry Kleinworth was absent. Four Board members were present so a quorum was established. The meeting was recorded as required by NRS 116.

## **II Membership Forum**

Homeowners present were given the opportunity to ask questions and make comments pertaining to items on the agenda.

## **III Council Representative and other scheduled guests**

- A. Mike Carrigan was not present.
- B. Jon Ericson, Transportation Manager with the City of Sparks was present.
- C. Lieutenant Eric Thomas, police officer with the Sparks Police Department was present.

Jon reviewed the list of questions that he received by email. Margaret Powell explained that the list was compiled from questions homeowner's had from previous meetings.

Question: Excessive speed and noise on Los Altos. Please explain when and why the speed limit was changed on Los Altos and is it possible to get the speed limit reduced?

J.E. Answer: Jon was not at the City when the speed limit was changed so he doesn't know why or when it was changed. He did explain that the City Council has the ability to change speed limits. There is a process in the manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices that Jon refers to that would also be used to determine if speed limits need to be reduced. Jon suggested that the homeowner's get in contact with Mike Carrigan, their City Councilman and see if the City Council has an appetite to review the speed limit on Los Altos.

Question: Why is the speed limit lower past Vista on Los Altos (Aspen Glen portion)?

J.E. Answer: Again, Jon was not with the City at that time, but was with the design firm that worked on that area. That particular segment of road has curves and was designed for a lower speed limit.

Question: Are the children walking home on Los Altos able to cross the street in a designated cross walk safely?

J.E. Answer: Jon said "yes, they should be able to cross safely". Jon also explained that there is not a school zone located on Los Altos since the school does not front Los Altos. Jon deferred the question to Lieutenant Thomas since the safety issue dealt with speeding vehicles.

E.T. Answer: Lieutenant Thomas explained that the City of Sparks traffic division consists of a Sergeant and two officers. This division handles selective enforcement issues, when individuals call about specific problems in specific neighborhoods. The best option is to contact the traffic Sergeant and explain the specific problem. In regards to crosswalk enforcement the police department works on grants for specific sting operations.

Lieutenant Thomas also explained that the City has 7 beat districts in Sparks and every shift has a specific officer assigned to that beat. Most of The Vistas is in beat 2. He said complaints can also be given to specific beat officers to try to come up with solutions for that area as well.

Lastly, homeowners can take down the license number of the speeding vehicle and file a report with the police department.

Jon Ericson commented on the safe routes to school program run by the Washoe County School District and suggested the association get in contact with MJ Cloud, coordinator for that program.

Question: What type of speed calming options are available?

J.E. Answer: Los Altos has already been identified as a primary response route for both the police and fire department and no traffic calming devices can go on that road that would slow emergency vehicle response times.

Question: Are there any restrictions for oversized vehicles using Los Altos?

J.E. Answer: Jon explained that there is an ordinance for truck routes. Ardena Perry said that Los Altos is not a truck route. Jon said he will need to double check the ordinance.

E.T. Answer: Lieutenant Thomas explained that he can have Sergeant Walsh contact someone regarding this issue.

Question: Excessive speed in and around Bud Beasley School and in residential neighborhoods. Jim asked if the school officials have anything to do with evaluating these areas and if they have an officer assigned to the school?

J.E. Answer: School Police are assigned to different beats and would handle multiple schools in the area. The only schools that would have specific officers assigned to them would be the high schools.

Question: Concern over excessive speed on Southview and vehicles ignoring the stop at Southview and Crestside. Jim gave an overview of the speeding issues and dangers on Southview.

Question: Alcohol bottles, trash and other debris found in neighborhoods indicating unwanted activity in our neighborhoods,

Question: Gang graffiti noted on electrical boxes in cement drainage area and other areas on Los Altos.

E.T. Answer: The demographics in the Sparks area over the last several years has changed dramatically. Gang activity used to be fairly isolated, but that has changed and gang members today tend to live everywhere in every community. The Sparks gang unit is very good and they keep a close watch on gang activity and where gang members live. Lieutenant Thomas explained the difference between taggers and gang graffiti and encouraged homeowners to report gang graffiti to the Sparks Police Department so that they can keep track of it. Gang graffiti is not very fancy and tend to be letters and numbers marking their territory. Taggers tend to be more artistic and will generally sign their name or tag. Anyone interested in starting a neighborhood watch program is encouraged to contact Officer Mendoza, Community Services officer.

Additional questions asked by homeowners:

Question: Why are the crosswalks on Los Altos painted on the uphill side of the intersection and why is there no crosswalk going across Los Altos at Santa Barbara?

J.E. Answer: Crosswalks are painted on the uphill side for the vehicles turning left going into the subdivision so that they do not have to stop. Jon also explained that there is not a state requirement to have marked crosswalks. A vehicle must yield to the pedestrian whether the intersection is marked or not.

Question: What about a sound wall on Los Altos?

J.E. Answer: I can't do anything about that, it would be something to bring before the City Council.

Question: Additional signage on Los Altos like walking path, kids present, radar signs, etc. Where do they come from?

J.E. Answer: The children at play and those types of signs were taken out of the manual because they gave a false sense of security to parents. Jon explained that the problem with electronic signs, like the radar signs, is that there is one traffic technician in the City of Sparks to maintain 110 traffic signals.

George Cammarota stepped out of the meeting.

#### **IV Approval of Minutes**

**Motion:** William Wagner made a motion to approve the April 26, 2012 general meeting minutes as written; Jim Baldwin seconded, motion carried unanimously.

#### **V Financial Report**

**A.** Financial Report –William Wagner gave the financial report for April, May, and June 2012.

**Motion:** Margaret Powell made a motion to approve the unaudited financial report for April, May, and June 2012; William Wagner seconded, motion carried unanimously.  
Financial statements were reviewed in accordance with NRS 116.31083 subject to the year-end audit.

## VI Reports

- A. Landscape/Maintenance Report – Stacie gave an overview of the report submitted by The Groundskeeper.

George Cammarota re-entered the meeting during the landscape report.

## VII Correspondence

- A. Owner Requests – Stan Miller, 4610 Goodwin Road, discussed weed abatement behind his house and the rabbit brush that is growing against his neighbor's fence. The chart from The Groundskeeper showed that the area behind his house had been completed, yet the homeowner had pictures that he submitted for the Board's review showing the rabbit brush in the area. Margaret explained that the current contract with The Groundskeeper is more specific than it has been in the past and feels we can go back to The Groundskeeper and request that a 10-foot wide defensible area be cleaned behind his house and the homes on Goodwin.

## VIII Compliance Report

- A. No report given.

## IX Old Business

- A. Review/Discuss use for money set aside for the matching grant with the Nevada Fire Safe Council – Jim explained that we are in a holding position, but that the money will eventually be used for what it was intended.

## X New Business

- A. Review/Approve 2013 Reserve Study Update – Stacie reported that based on the Reserve Study Update prepared by Resource 1, LLC that the 2013 reserve contribution will be \$15,861. Based on the financial analysis done, Resource 1 has found that the association is fully funded. **Motion:** Margaret Powell made a motion to accept the 2013 Reserve Study Update; William Wagner seconded, motion carried unanimously

## XI Membership Forum

Homeowners present were given the opportunity to ask questions and make comments.

- A question was asked if anything can be done about homes that have overgrown plants and trees covering a portion of the sidewalk, making it difficult to walk in the neighborhood. It was explained that a courtesy letter can be sent to the homeowner asking that the plants or trees be trimmed back.

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULES** - Meeting dates: Quarterly Board of Director Meeting's are scheduled for September 27, 2012 and Budget Ratification Meeting is November 14, 2012.

## XII Adjournment

**Motion:** Being no further business William Wagner made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Margaret Powell seconded, meeting was unanimously adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Stacie Ciesynski

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Secretary, Board of Directors