

## MEETING MINUTES

### COALITION BOARD

#### SOUTHERN NEVADA REGIONAL PLANNING COALITION

September 18, 2008

**In attendance:**

Councilwoman Stephanie Smith, CHAIR, City of North Las Vegas  
Councilwoman Andrea Anderson, VICE CHAIR, City of Boulder City  
Commissioner Susan Brager, Clark County  
Commissioner Chris Giunchigliani, Clark County  
Councilwoman Lois Tarkanian, City of Las Vegas  
Mayor Oscar Goodman, City of Las Vegas  
Councilwoman Shari Buck, City of North Las Vegas  
Councilwoman Gerri Schroder, City of Henderson  
Trustee Ruth Johnson, Clark County School District

**Absent:**

Councilman Steve Kirk, City of Henderson

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**Agenda Item 1. Call to order; notice of agenda conformance with the Open Meeting Law requirements.**

The meeting of the Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition Board was called to order by Councilwoman Stephanie Smith, Chair, City of North Las Vegas, at 4:00 p.m., on Thursday, September 18, 2008, in City Council Chambers, City of North Las Vegas, 2200 Civic Center Drive, North Las Vegas, Nevada.

The agenda for the September 18, 2008, meeting was duly posted in compliance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law requirements.

**Agenda Item 2. Roll Call.**

All members of the SNRPC Board, as listed above, were present except for Councilman Steve Kirk, City of Henderson. Trustee Ruth Johnson, Clark County School District, had not arrived yet although quorum was met without her.

**Agenda Item 3. Approval of the agenda for September 18, 2008.**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda for the September 18, 2008, meeting. The motion was approved unanimously. Trustee Ruth Johnson, Clark County School District, had not arrived yet.

**Agenda Item 4. Approval of the minutes for July 17, 2008.**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the July 17, 2008, meeting. The motion was approved unanimously. Trustee Ruth Johnson, Clark County School District, had not arrived yet.

**Agenda Item 5. Receive a Briefing on the Regional Approach of the Housing Authorities in Southern Nevada. Recommended action – Accept a Briefing on the Regional Approach of the Housing Authorities in Southern Nevada, and take any necessary action.**

Doug Lyon, Clark County, gave a briefing on the Regional Approach of the Local Housing Authorities in

Southern Nevada at the request of Commission Chris Giunchigliani, Clark County, at the July 17, 2008, Coalition Board meeting. He stated that conversations had already begun between the following: SEIU, Cities of Las Vegas, North Las Vegas and Henderson, Clark County, HUD and the three Housing Authorities.

Courtney Arrington, SEIU, voiced their approval of exploring combining services only if it would provide enhanced services and preserved the rights of existing employees.

There was discussion by the Board about the existing management of the housing authorities; the Cities of North Las Vegas and Las Vegas and Clark County favor combining services; streamlining and improving efficiency with consolidation; collaboration and unanimous decisions are critical; equal representation is also vital; one jurisdiction should not assume all responsibility; and comments on the next steps and future reports.

No motion or action was required on this agenda item.

**Agenda Item 6. Receive an Update on the U.S. Surface Transportation Board. Recommended action – Accept the update o the U.S. Surface Transportation Board, and take any necessary action.**

Phil Klevatorick, Clark County, gave an update on the U.S. Surface Transportation Board proceedings; and he presented: a “Yucca Mountain Fact Sheet”, “Testimony of Roger Nober, Chairman of the Surface Transportation Board...Hearing on Transportation of Nuclear Waste to Yucca Mountain Repository”, “State of Nevada Comments to the Surface Transportation Board – Impacts of the Caliente Rail Line in Clark County and Las Vegas” and “State of Nevada Comments to the Surface Transportation Board – National Impacts to the Caliente Rail Line”.

There was discussion by the Board about where the federal funding was coming from; who is submitting the letter asking for an extension; and where the U.S. Surface Transportation Board gets their authorization from and who oversees them.

A motion was made and seconded to have each jurisdictional entity submit a letter to the U.S. Surface Transportation Board in support of conducting a public hearing. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Agenda Item 7. Receive Update Reports on the SNRPC Regional Homeless Coordination. Recommended action – Accept the Update Reports on the SNRPC Regional Homeless Coordination.**

Maryann Ustick, City of North Las Vegas, gave update reports on the SNRPC Regional Homeless Coordination including: what was being done, to-date, on the three primary focus areas decided on at the July Workshop (1. Preventing homelessness with a focus on families; 2. Expand access and integrate services for veterans; and 3. Increase marketing by decreasing the stigma associated with homelessness and increasing the Homeless Trust Fund); and Project Homeless Connect would be held on October 8 at Cashman Field.

There was discussion by the Board about renters who get evicted because of foreclosures; whether any legislation is available across jurisdictions for working with management associations or property managers; foreclosure warnings being submitted with electricity or water bills; and available statistics on homelessness related to foreclosures from beginning of year to now.

No motion or action was required on this agenda item.

**Agenda Item 8. Receive Update Reports on the SNRPC Committee on Youth. Recommended action – Accept the Update Reports on the SNRPC Committee on Youth.**

Darryl Martin, Clark County, gave an update report on the SNRPC Committee on Youth focusing on school violence and school safety.

There was discussion by the Board about whether the peer mediation program within Clark County School District was involved with ongoing discussions on school violence and safety.

A motion was made and seconded to approve a representative for the SNRPC Committee on Youth from the Southern Nevada Workforce Investment Board and to remove the two unfilled positions from the Governor's Office and Youth Issues. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Agenda Item 9. The next date and location for the regular meeting of the SNRPC Board is tentatively scheduled for November 20, 2008, 4:00 p.m., in Clark County Commission Chambers, Clark County Government Center, 500 S. Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas, Nevada.**

Councilwoman Stephanie Smith, City of North Las Vegas, stated that the next Coalition Board meeting was scheduled for November 20, 2008, at 4:00 p.m., in Commission Chambers at the Clark County Government Center, Las Vegas, Nevada.

**Agenda Item 10. Public Comment.**

Frank Perna, Homeless Advocate, commented on renters and scams forcing them to lose money and their homes; and he suggested that the SNRPC Committee on Homelessness appoint a liaison or volunteer to the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority Board to explore possible resources for the homeless. Mr. Perna submitted two letters as follows:

The first letter was dated September 18, 2008, and was addressed to the SNRPC Board:

“My faith in local government was reinforced when Assistant County Manager, Darryl Martin, advocated for your March 20, 2008 resolution, in support of an acceleration of the 2011 completion date of the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Complex and funding for domiciliaries (veterans homes), which would provide for inpatient care for PTSD, TBI, alcoholic and legal and illegal drug addiction therapy programs, be forwarded to U.S. Senator Arlen Specter and members of the House and Senate Veterans Committees. These proposed improvements to the Veterans Affairs Health Complex will comprehensively serve Southern Nevada veterans, especially inpatient care for Iraqi-Afghanistan veterans who are suffering record fatality to casualty statistics, greater in every category, than previous wars.

Knowing that this required the full support of the Clark County Manager's Office and Clark County Commissioners I want to thank all elected officials and the school board for your deep understanding of representative government and demonstrating to me and my fellow citizens that one person can make a difference.

In order to fully address our returning Iraqi-Afghanistan troops' problems, fundamental changes must be made. They must be kept in uniform until their physical and mental problems are evaluated and can be addressed by the Department of Defense and the Veterans Administration. Veterans homes will provide the comprehensive facilities that are essential.

If not we will hear the term “service resistant” for years to come. Congress has attempted to correct the deficiencies and failures in the Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs facilities found in Walter Reed Hospital and identified in the Wounded Warrior Project, forwarded by Senator Bob Dole and Secretary Donna Shalala, and the Rand Report. Unfortunately, Congress can't legislate against bureaucratic obstructionism and a

lack of compassion to serve our veterans activism and dedicated participation of family and friends is required. They should accompany their relatives and friends to ensure they receive the best care possible.

This can only be done on a local level since all states and regions, of our country, have different challenges and concerns. Our Valley has challenges exacerbated by population growth and inadequate facilities but now by our real estate crisis and financial system collapse which must not negatively affect veteran health care and benefits.

If we can't advance veteran activism during wartime, when can we? Veterans organizations must join with the local veterans administration in this effort. Will the print and visual media do their part to publicize and promote citizen activism and good governance?"

The second letter was dated September 9, 2008, and was addressed to the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority:

"Good morning, my name is Frank Perna. I am the veterans representative in 'Southern Nevada Advocates for Homeless People', a 501c3. When I read the transcript of the July 10, 2008, Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition Homeless Committee/Workshop meeting I agreed with this statement 'need to get Las Vegas Convention Authority and Hotels/Casinos on board; need a cheerleader to sell the cause and help overcome the stigma of homelessness (since government cannot solicit); no empathy for homeless.'

I don't consider myself a cheerleader but rather an advocate and volunteer for the homeless, especially for our veterans. We have about 3500 homeless veterans in Southern Nevada, about 50% are from the Vietnam and First Gulf War era. They were not given the services and care they earned and deserved and now, during wartime, Iraqi and Afghanistan veterans, who are suffering unprecedented fatality to casualty rates, compared to other wars, are at times entering our homeless population. This is a tragedy and disgrace as is all homeless in the richest and most powerful country in the world.

This humanitarian disaster is being treated politically and a minority of our fellow citizens increase the stigma by derogatory labeling. Are approximately 3000 children, 3500 veterans, disabled and fellow citizens who have fallen on hard times not worthy of our concern and charity? About 40-50% of this population suffer from mental problems ranging from PTSD, depression and more serious problems. Unfortunately, we do not have adequate mental health facilities for our total population!

Charity should begin at home. Shouldn't our federal government provide housing and comprehensive services to our own citizens before sending our hard earned tax money and borrowed money to give to others, especially during our economic downturn?

Congress should reduce funding of the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, the U.N. and its myriad of organizations, foreign aid, Development Banks, overseas Private Investment Corp., NATO, forgiveness of debt, etc. and apply the savings to address our infrastructure and social problems.

In the meantime I am appealing to this board to work closely with the Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition Homeless Committee and Executive Board to provide funding and expertise for mobile drop in centers, economical and innovative housing, employment opportunities, etc.

I've included a copy of the March 20, 2008 resolution and I am requesting you add your support for our Southern Nevada veterans improved health care. It supports an accelerated completion date and funding for domicilliarities (veterans homes) to provide inpatient therapy programs for traumatic brain injury, post traumatic stress disorder, alcoholism and legal and illegal drug addiction. Your voice added to our City and County elected officials will encourage our Congressional delegation support.

Thank you in advance.”

**Agenda Item 11. Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.