

MEETING MINUTES
COALITION BOARD

SOUTHERN NEVADA REGIONAL PLANNING COALITION

March 24, 2015

In attendance: Councilman Cam Walker, CHAIR, City of Boulder City
Commissioner Chris Giunchigliani, VICE CHAIR, Clark County
Councilman Wade Wagner, City of North Las Vegas
Councilman Bob Coffin, City of Las Vegas
Councilman Bob Beers, City of Las Vegas
Councilman Isaac Barron, City of North Las Vegas
Trustee Patrice Tew, Clark County School District
Commissioner Steve Sisolak, Clark County
Councilwoman Gerri Schroder, City of Henderson

Absent: Councilman Sam Bateman, City of Henderson

Agenda Item 1. Call to Order; notice of agenda conformance with Nevada Open Meeting Law Requirements

The meeting of the Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition Board was called to order by Councilman Walker, City of Boulder City, Chair, at 4:00 p.m., on Tuesday, March 24, 2015, in the Clark County Commission Chambers, Clark County Government Center, 500 S. Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas, Nevada.

It was confirmed that the agenda for the March 24, 2015, meeting was duly posted in compliance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law requirements.

Agenda Item 2. Roll Call

Members of the SNRPC Board, as listed above, were present. Councilman Sam Bateman was not present.

Agenda Item 3. Public Comment

No public comment was made.

Agenda Item 4. Approval of the Agenda for March 24, 2015

Councilman Cam Walker received request by a colleague to hear agenda item number nine before agenda item number seven. A motion was made by Commissioner Steve Sisolak to approve the change. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item 5. Approval of the Minutes for the January 27, 2015 meeting

A motion was made by Commissioner Giunchigliani to approve the minutes of the January 27, 2015 meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item 6. Consent Items: a. Southern Nevada Strong – Accept the final RAI report

A motion was made by Councilman Wagner to approve all items on the consent list. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item 9. Consideration of the FY 2015-16 SNRPC Workplan and Budget

Susan Danielewicz with the City of Boulder City presented the FY 2015-16 SNRPC Workplan and Budget. She pointed out that the contributions from each entity are far lower than previous years due to cost savings on the administrative staff salary and benefits. Also, there are cost savings for the Regional Open Space Plan Implementation due to a large grant.

Ms. Danielewicz referenced the separate detailed budgets for the Regional Open Space and Trails Working Group and for the Sustainability Items. The reason these were included in the presentation is so the Board would not have to convene for a specific appropriation meeting and approval of funds later, as it is included in this presentation.

Councilwoman Gerri Schroder asked a question regarding the end date for Regional Open Space Plan Implementation, as it states “ongoing.” Johanna Murphy with the Regional Open Space and Trails Workgroup explained the workgroup formulates a work plan each year and presents specific items to the Board. The ROST Workgroup received a \$50,000 grant from the CDC to cover facilitation costs so the \$33,000 listed on the budget is for the individual work items which include an update to the Regional Trails Map and marketing for Get Outdoors Nevada Day. She stated there may not always be funding associated with the events and they will continue to actively seek grants, however, they would like to keep the ROST Workgroup on the Workplan and Budget as they are always working to create a stewardship for this in our valley. Councilwoman Gerri Schroder thanked Ms. Murphy for answering her question.

A motion was made by Commissioner Giunchigliani to approve the FY 2015-16 SNRPC Workplan and Budget including the ROST and Sustainability budgets. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item 7. Receive a presentation on the Hydrogen Fueling Station Network developing in California

Lewis Wallenmeyer with Clark County Department of Air Quality introduced Dr. Shane Stephens, who is the Co-Founder and Chief Development Officer of FirstElement Fuel, Inc. Dr. Stephens stated FirstElement Fuel Inc. is the first company to dedicate providing retail hydrogen for customers of fuel cell electric vehicles. The company was created because they believe hydrogen fuel can impact the world in a positive way. A few positives noted are the following: Economic/job benefits, Energy independence, and Environmental benefits.

Dr. Stephens stated there are fuel cell vehicles on the road today which include models from Toyota, Hyundai, Mercedes and Honda. These vehicles fill within five minutes and get a driving range between 300-400 miles. FirstElement Fuel is currently modernizing existing gasoline stations in California with a hydrogen dispenser for a look and feel that is retail-like and customer friendly. There is also an app that can be accessed via cell phone to locate fuel cell stations. The app will state whether a location is down, how much the fuel is, and you can also pay for the fuel via the app.

Currently there are stations located in the northeast part of California and FirstElement believes that Nevada would be a great way to connect the country and seed new markets by developing a trans-national corridor of hydrogen stations. Dr. Stephens states this is a business model that is financially difficult in its early years as the vehicle uptake will take three-five years. Therefore, they are engaging partners in

financing this business and assisting them through these tough years. In the State of California there is a grant program that they have been able to go after and have about thirty million dollars in state grants. They have also engaged with Toyota and Honda in financing their company. They are all partners who have a long term view and want to create a sustainable framework and foundation for the growth of the Hydrogen Fueling Network.

Dr. Stephens would like to partner with companies in Nevada to develop a hydrogen fueling station in Nevada. In the past their procedure would be to come in and put in the station and lease the land. They would take care of all the operation and maintenance of the station. They are open to working with people in a variety of ways. They hope to receive financial support in Nevada, either grants at the federal or local level.

Councilman Coffin asked a question as to how it works. Dr. Stephens explained a fuel cell car is actually an electric car but rather than producing electricity at a central plant and charging a battery you actually produce that electricity right on board the car and use a device called a fuel cell to do that. Fuel cells require hydrogen and that is what you put in the tank of the car. The fuel goes through the vehicle towards the fuel cell, which is essentially your engine, and that causes an electric current that goes towards the wheels. The only byproduct of that reaction is water. Therefore, this is considered a zero ignition vehicle. The fuel cell reaction is quiet and extremely efficient so these cars are seeing sixty percent to seventy percent efficiency rather than twenty percent to twenty-five percent efficiency for gasoline vehicles today.

Councilman Coffin asked what form the hydrogen is in and what the cost is to fill up the tank. Dr. Stephens stated you fuel with gasless hydrogen which is a compressed gas tank similar to a CNG vehicle. Currently the cost to fill up is about the same as gasoline vehicles. In five to ten years they expect to drive that price down to half of what gasoline prices are.

Commissioner Giunchigliani asked if Dr. Stephens and his company have looked into grants in Nevada that might be able to assist in the Hydrogen Fueling Network. Dr. Stephens stated they have talked to the governor's energy office and they responded that there is currently no immediate fit for a program like this.

Commissioner Giunchigliani also asked how the vehicles hold up in high elevations. Dr. Stephens explained that these cars have a great performance level and have been tested in high altitudes such as Alaska and have been tested in high temperature places such as Nevada and Death Valley. Commissioner Giunchigliani asked what the purchase price is for the fuel cell vehicles. Dr. Stephens stated the purchase price for Toyota models are being listed at \$45,000; Hyundai is leasing these vehicles at \$499 a month which also includes fuel.

Councilman Barron questioned how safe these fuel cell vehicles are. Dr. Stephens stated he would argue that they are safer than gasoline vehicles as hydrogen fuel is non-toxic and it is also the lightest element in the world. Therefore, in case of a leak it dissipates quickly. The tanks are also safe in that they contain an aluminum bladder to keep the gas from leaking out and they also use reinforced woven carbon polymer fiber. Another safety feature is that the vehicles are programmed to not start if the fuel tank is open.

Councilwoman Schroder asked a question regarding how many fuel stations there are and where they are located. Dr. Stephens stated the fuel stations are very limited right now. The Northeast currently has a few and is also developing a few more locations. California currently has five that are open and have twenty more that are currently being developed. Dr. Stephens mentioned their goal to have a station in Nevada not only for residents but for people traveling through Nevada. Councilwoman Schroder asked if the stations will be joined into existing stations or if they will have their own station. Dr. Stephens mentioned they are currently in existing gas stations and they are paying a lease fee to the existing gas station owners.

Councilman Beers went back to the comment Dr. Stephens made regarding the fuel cell vehicle releasing water and questioned if humidity would slow down the vehicle. Dr. Stephens stated humidity does not slow down the vehicle. The vehicle may release a small amount of water vapor or it may condense and release a few drops of water from the tail pipe just as a gasoline car would.

Councilman Coffin questioned whether or not the fuel car has a battery. Dr. Stephens stated the fuel cell vehicle is like a hybrid vehicle in that it does have a small battery. However, the vehicle runs on fuel cells rather than gasoline. The fuel cell vehicle also runs on one drive train rather than two.

Councilman Walker thanked Dr. Stephens for presenting the report. Dr. Stephens thanked the members of the SNRPC for their time and said he hoped to work with them in the future.

Agenda Item 8. Receive a progress report for the Regional Open Space and Trails Workgroup

Johanna Murphy with the City of North Las Vegas and Chair of the Regional Open Space and Trails (ROST) Workgroup introduced the Executive Director of Outside Las Vegas Foundation, Mauricia Baca. Mauricia Baca started off by reviewing the success they had at Get Outdoors Nevada Day 2014. The event was held in North Las Vegas last year and will be held in Clark County this year. They had twenty-three jurisdictions, agencies and organizations that participated on the planning committee last year. They also had sixty-six organizations that registered for booths and had an attendance of two thousand people. She said they hope to raise that attendance number to twenty-five hundred or three thousand this year. She thanked all of the sponsors who participated in Get Outdoors Nevada Day 2014 including the SNRPC for being the inaugural sponsor; she also presented a plaque to the SNRPC.

Johanna Murphy presented the Neon to Nature app, available for free download on iPhone and Android devices. Users can search for trails near them or search for a specific trail, which are listed alphabetically. Users can also bookmark their favorite trails. She noted the great detail the app provides for the trails. It will show how long the trail is, difficulty level, surface material, and will have a description of the trail. The app also includes a "More Information" tab which includes links to Get Healthy Clark County, Get Outdoors Nevada, Adopt a Trail, Regional Partners, and a link called Meet Up which will assist people in finding a walking group. She stated there have been 1,400 downloads of the app so far and it was created by SNHD with grant funds from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

Councilman Walker stated he sees a great value in the app and would like an update as to how many downloads there have been at the next Board meeting as well as a list of ways they have used free public service announcements.

Councilman Beers stated he is very glad the app is here. He would like to start a walking program where people can earn points and awards once they reach a certain amount of points with a group. He asked if ROST would be able to assist in developing that program. Ms. Murphy responded they may already have something like that in progress, as they have a link for meet up groups. Also, the Health District, with Get Healthy Clark County, also has a program where you can log-in your miles and keep track of your footsteps. She said they would look into combining the links together so that it would be easy to find them all as a package.

Trustee Tew stated she is very excited for the new app. She is very excited to pass this out to her kids at the school district and believes this app will be beneficial to all families. Ms. Murphy agreed and stated they have been getting amazing feedback from the users. Trustee Tew also pointed out this app would be a great way for kids to find alternate routes to school to avoid traffic while walking; Councilwoman Schroder and Commissioner Giunchigliani agreed.

Ms. Murphy made one more announcement regarding a grant they received from the CDC. The Partnerships to Improve Community Health grant will help fund the facilitation of the ROST Workgroup for this year and should also expand into next year. With that she stated they will be creating a regional trails signage policy so that they can start to send the same message visually throughout the valley. This will help streamline new trail developments. They will be creating regional guidelines for everyone to use and implement on the trails.

Commissioner Giunchigliani stated in the past each jurisdiction wanted their own color on the mile markers to help indicate where one community ends and another begins. She also recommended doing the mile markers in kilometers, miles and in time to accommodate everyone. Mauricia Baca mentioned they will be working on ecotourism and fitness tourism so that it makes it easier for large groups and the jurisdictions to coordinate with each other. Over the next year they will also be working on some permitting guidance for regional events.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Schroder to accept the ROST update and Progress Report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item 10. Discuss the Board meeting schedule for 2015.

Susan Danielewicz, City of Boulder City, reviewed meeting schedule options with the SNRPC Board.

Commissioner Giunchigliani moved to have the remaining year schedule for SNRPC Board meetings be held on the following dates: May 26th, September 22nd, and November 24th, with the option for a July 28th meeting if needed. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item 11. The next date and location of the SNRPC Board meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, May 26, 2015 at 4:00 p.m., in the Clark County Commission Chambers at the Clark County Government Center, 500 S. Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Agenda Item 12. Member Comment.

No member comment was made.

Agenda Item 13. Public Comment.

No public comment was made.

Agenda Item 14. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:59 p.m.