



Mt. Charleston Town Advisory Board

July 30, 2020

MINUTES

Board Members: Curtis Alexander– Chair Brenda Talley – Vice Chair
Dennis Lovell **excused** Ernie Freggiaro Olivia Vallee

Secretary: Pamela Dittmar, 702-455-5582, Pamela.Dittmar@clarkcountynv.gov

Town Liaison: Meggan Holzer, 702-455-0341, meggan@clarkcountynv.gov

- I. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call
The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Dennis Lovell was excused.
- II. Public Comment
Brenda Talley expressed concern over lack of communication during Mahogany Fire, particularly with cell phones going out when power was shut down and no way to get information for the residents. Would like to know who to contact to remedy this situation prior to another emergency. Appreciation to first responders for their work to contain the fire.

A resident commented that they have a land line for emergencies and Donna Thompson added that land lines are \$32 per month.
- III. Approval of Minutes for February 27, 2020
Moved by: Brenda Talley
Action: Approval
Vote: 4-0/Unanimous
- IV. Approval of Agenda for July 30, 2020
Moved by: Brenda Talley
Action: Approval
Vote: 4-0/Unanimous
- V. Informational Items
 1. Receive a report from Metro regarding activity and statistics during the past month and other area crime concerns (for discussion only) – Sgt. Marlow stated that the resident information forms have been distributed to all subdivisions except Rainbow and that will be completed soon. Those forms can be emailed back to him at: m6204m@lvmpd.com Sgt. Marlow made it clear that even though cells went down, there is an evacuation procedure that would be implemented in case of any emergency—including going door to door to inform residents. Reported gunfire in Echo this evening prior to meeting, person was found and informed of illegal activity.
 2. Receive a report from Mt. Charleston Fire District regarding calls for service during the past month and other fire prevention issues (for discussion only) - Chief Jorge Gonzalez reported

- 41 calls for service this month with lots of traffic and an increase in call volume. There is a Type 1 vehicle out of service due to an accident during the fire and will be back in service in a couple of weeks. The choppers that have been seen lately are from USFS patrolling the area for smoke/fires.
3. Receive a report from LVVWD regarding the status of the water system (for discussion only) Jason Bailey provided the written July Report to the board and gave highlights. Echo and Rainbow wells are currently sustainable range, however, by next week the levels are expected to be in concerned range similar to years prior to 2019. Usage for the past two months has been higher than normal. Signs will be changed when we reach the concerned level and it is not anticipated that the wells will reach critical levels. The Rainbow well is over 40 years old and needs to be replaced, but cannot be replaced at its current location. Waiting for easements for the pipeline before that replacement can occur.
 4. Receive a report from Metro Volunteer Program regarding member activities and events (for discussion only) – Donna Thompson reported the MVPs have been out most weekends to assist with the increased amount of visitors. She thanked the volunteers that helped with that as well as those who provided masks for residents and those that participated in making blankets to give to Metro Officers for detained children. She also stated that the Metro Volunteers distributed ice provided by NVEnergy to residents during the power outage.
 5. Receive a report from Nevada Highway Patrol regarding activity and statistics during the last month and other public safety concerns (for discussion only) – Sgt. Reimer reported they have been averaging 400 contacts per month, given out 314 tickets, 64 assisted motorists, 8 abandoned vehicles. They have been averaging about 8 crashes a month, 1 in April, 9 in May, 9 in June. Animals have been involved including 1 deer and 2 burros in July.
 6. Receive a report from United State Forest Service regarding current issues and activities in the forest and other forest-related concerns (for discussion only) – Deb MacNeill reported that there was amazing coordination by all entities in fighting the Mahogany fire. She stated that the outside team that was brought in commented that they had never seen such a great working group. Those involved included USFS, Metro, NDOT, MCFPD, Ski Area, NVEnergy, etc. During the fire they had to consider COVID mitigation to prevent the first responders from getting infected behind the scenes. During COVID peaks, they tried to keep things closed and hired outside staff for trash removal. However, even when mountain was closed with signage, visitors ignored the closures. Currently everything is open with the exception of the Visitors Center and Foxtail with the large picnic areas. Stage 2 Fire restrictions are currently in place. They have made over 525 contacts, given out citations and are using more aviation for smoke reports and prevention. The goal is to provide extra staffing patrols and engines. Fires need to be called into 911, but 311 should be used for non-emergencies.
 7. Receive a report from Nevada Department of Transportation regarding road conditions, construction updates and other road related issues (for discussion only) – no report.
 8. Receive a report from NVEnergy regarding updates to the Public Safety Outage Management program, vegetation management, and other energy-related issues (for discussion only) – sent a written report

9. Receive a report from Clark County Administrative Services regarding any updates from Clark County (for discussion only) – Meggan Holzer was not present, but emailed information prior to the meeting stating that the license plate grants have been postponed until next year. The applicants were all notified and this year's funds will roll over to next year.

V1. Planning & Zoning – none.

VI. General Business – none.

VII. Comments by the General Public –

A written comment was submitted from Katie Corr requesting Zoom conference call type inclusion for residents not at the meeting to call listen to and ask questions.

Misty Haji-Sheikh provided copies of a letter she wrote to the RJ. The letter can be read online at <https://www.reviewjournal.com/local/mount-charleston-residents-seek-stricter-enforcement-of-fire-safety-rules-2072255/>

Residents gave appreciation to how the Mahogany fire was handled.

Brian Johnson expressed concerns regarding increased visitation to the mountain, especially with the 20-year drought. Suggested that roads and campgrounds be shut down in advance of Red Flag days to residents only. Concern that most fires cause by illegal campfires including the latest.

Board Chair Alexander responded that closing roads affects the two private businesses on the mountain and they would most likely be opposed. Resident Liz Claggett commented that perhaps on Red Flag days if roads were closed, hotel and lodge could do business by reservations only and those would be printed out online for those visitors to show to have access up the mountain.

Donna Thompson suggested back country permits with fire restrictions included along with what the fines would be if restrictions weren't followed. That may help decrease illegal fires. USFS Area Manager Deb MacNeill commented that there is a lengthy process in getting Back Country Permits to an area where trails are free. With the Spring Mountains having substantial wilderness areas the back country use would need to be higher and more staffing would be needed to count that use. Regarding illegal fires (not Mahogany) there have been 2 arrests. She also stated that when residents take apart fire rings to make sure the fire is completely dispersed and put out with water. If not done properly it can make the situation worse.

A resident asked who to contact regarding removal of dead trees. Deb MacNeill stated that USFS must confirm the tree is dead before it is cut down and that there are several companies that can cut down the tree safely. The wood needs to be removed or a permit secured from USFS.

Forest Service also stated that all the first responders have given each other all their contact numbers so anyone of them can contact all of them immediately in any emergency, particularly fire.

IX. Next Meeting Date

The next regular meeting will be August 27, 2020

X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.