

MEETING MINUTES
COALITION BOARD

SOUTHERN NEVADA REGIONAL PLANNING COALITION

May 26, 2020

In attendance: Commissioner Justin Jones, Clark County
Councilman Brian Knudsen, City of Las Vegas
Councilman Scott Black, City of North Las Vegas
Councilwoman Claudia Bridges, City of Boulder City
Councilman Richard Cherchio, Vice Chair, City of North Las Vegas
Councilwoman Victoria Seaman, City of Las Vegas (via teleconference)
Councilman Dan H. Stewart, City of Henderson (via teleconference)
Commissioner Tick Segerblom, Clark County
Trustee Lola Brooks, Clark County School District (via teleconference)

Absent: Councilman Dan Shaw, 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 Commissioner Jones of Clark County at 4:05 P.M., on Tuesday, May 26, 2020, in the Clark County Commission Chambers at 500 Grand Central South, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89155.

Agenda Item 2. Roll Call

Members of the SNRPC Coalition Board, as listed above, were present at the time of roll call with the exception of Trustee Brooks, Clark County School District, who later teleconferenced in at 4:12 p.m.

Agenda Item 3. Public Comment

No public comment was made.

Agenda Item 4. Approval of the Agenda for May 26, 2020

A motion was made by Commissioner Segerblom to approve the agenda for the May 26, 2020 meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item 5. Approval of the Minutes for the May 7, 2020 meeting

A motion was made Commissioner Segerblom to approve the minutes for the May 7, 2020 meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item 6. Receive a progress report from the Regional Trails and Open Space Workgroup.

Mauricia Baca stated that the 2019-2020 FY work plan was to include updating the Neon to Nature Map, finalizing it, and distributing it, but it did not occur. Next year, they plan to look at the App, prioritizing the needs for the update and reviewing translations in which Johnathan Rodriguez, with the City of Henderson is completing. They have been working on the Vegas Valley Rim Trail. They have had some onsite discussions regarding Spring Mountain, including a presentation from Lee Canyon ski and snowboard resort at the Spring Mountains. They talked about outdoor recreation, land and water conservation fund, trail assessments, and signage, specifically ensuring there is access to a range of users. That conversation happened at the Desert Wildlife Refuge.

There has been discussion about the Recreational Trails program. As a group they have looked at how they can be effective in putting forward applications for that program. A recent on-site discussion and tour of the Las Vegas Wash on RTC e-bikes, focused on the placement and evaluation of the signage. The group created a "Way Finding Guide". Several the signs were placed before the Way Finding Guide was created, and the group took a tour to assess and understand the utility of the signs and whether they were effectively placed. Some of the signs could be improved in terms of placement. In recent months, they have experienced some changes due to COVID-19, resulting in the cancellation of Get Outdoors Nevada Day 2020.

Their meetings have been by phone calls and by video conferences looking at the impacts of the Corona Virus on facilities and management. Many of their members have been participating in Webinars regarding groups and agencies responding to this crisis. They received updates on Nevada's Division on Tourism. Recently, they had a discussion on e-bikes and how the usage has exploded across the country. Many bikes stores are sold out of bikes, and e-bikes are experiencing popularity. The highest bike month for RTC post COVID-19 was April 2020 with 5,991 rides which has almost doubled. As of May 17, 2020, there has been 15,861 rides. It has been telling for ROST and their discussions; many people are taking e-bikes as a form of transportation.

The front and back of the Neon to Nature Map was updated as they adopted new Vegas Valley Rim trail signage guidance, and they look forward to implementing that and updating the Neon to Nature app in the future.

Commissioner Segerblom asked Ms. Baca if the Strip would be a part of the trail.

Mauricia Baca stated that it would be up to Clark County to assess what it would like to do in terms of trails.

A motion was made by Councilman Knudsen to accept the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item 7. Discussion to approve the FY 2020-2021 SNRPC Work Plan and Budget.

Mario Bermudez, Clark County, presented the 2020-2021 FY workplan and budget. Due to COVID-19 there hasn't been a lot of meetings on the Planning Directors level and Coalition Board and there has been no discussion regarding the work program. There is funding that will carryover from last year as a result of not including additional programs. At the May 7, 2020, meeting, the Board moved the regional emissions inventory to the Clark County Department of Environment of Sustainability; therefore, there will be a surplus this fiscal year. The surplus going into this fiscal year is approximately \$113,000 and approximately \$13,000 left at the close of the fiscal year. A continuation of the work program, such as ROST, which will be updating the Neon to Nature App and the population forecast through CBER. There will be no additional funds needed from the jurisdictions.

A motion was made by Councilman Knudsen to approve the 2020-2021 FY budget. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item 8. Receive the agreement for Facilitation Services for the SNRPC Regional Open Space and Trails Workgroup FY 2020-20201 Contract.

Johanna Murphy presented a new facilitation services contract to continue the ROST group through 2020-2021 FY. Their major focus will be updating the Neon to Nature App up to 2020 standards, focusing on Vegas Valley Rim Trail planning, and keeping up on improvements to their Neon to Nature Map and how to incorporate e-bikes into the way-finder and signage programs. The facilitation contract is \$12,000 and will include monthly meetings of the ROST group for the next fiscal year.

A motion was made by Councilman Black to approve the agreement. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item 9. Discussion the role(s) and structure for the future of the SNRPC.

Councilman Knudsen stated that he asked Ms. Stonebarger to look at federal and state funding and regional priorities. With the lack of dedicated staff for SNRPC, he asked Ms. Stonebarger to prepare thoughts on how they could jointly work together.

Dorian Stonebarger, Chief Policy Advisor Councilman Knudsen, has a history with regional strategies and utilizing federal funds. Her role prior to working at the City of Las Vegas was at the Three-Square food bank as their program director. The majority of the childhood nutrition program that she looked over utilized federal funds for their operation and that is where she met Councilman Knudsen working together to bring fresh after school meals to at risk children in the cities and county programs. It takes a strategic and coordinated effort with multiple public and private partnerships to ensure that the residents of Southern Nevada are securing and utilizing the federal funds to improve the quality of life.

On May 7, 2020, the Guinn Center reported that Nevada as a whole is the 48th state when it comes to securing federal assistance for our state. Following the last SNRPC meeting, Ms. Stonebarger

and Mr. Monson were asked to meet with each jurisdiction and state representatives to conduct a cross comparison of the Economic Development Strategy for Southern Nevada which was prepared by SRI International for the Las Vegas Global Economic Alliance, and to compare it to the Southern Nevada Strong plan to determine the commonality and projects with regional significance. It was developed to compare those results to the CARES Act and or EDA funding to determine if there were federal funding sources unaccounted for in Southern Nevada, as well as any other opportunities, and to bring it to the SNRPC Board.

Ms. Stonebarger stated that SNRPC represents multiple public agencies, is uniquely situated to prioritize regional projects, work with the state to secure more federal funding for Southern Nevada in an attempt to diversify the economy and increase health and education opportunities. The common thing in both documents was industry diversity, affordability to live and do business in the valley, education quality and availability, as well as increase access to health care, transportation, and technology. Those themes were used as the lens through which they looked at the available funding through CARES Act and EDA funding streams. Other funding sources were dollars that specifically went to housing and urban development, childhood nutrition programs, and the counties and cities were not used for this consideration. They aim to find projects of regional significance that did not have an organizational or system lead that could be driven by SNRPC. It is important to note that the CARES Act explanation are those that came from the Senate Appropriations Committee, and they are not listed by Title 1 through 6; they are listed by department, and that's important because if you know what federal entity received those funds, then you know which state department to go through in order to access those funds.

Brandon Monson, Administrative Specialist with Clark County, stated that the first recommendation is to ensure the CARES Act funding is requested and used towards workforce training and supportive services for dislocated workers, seniors, and homeless veterans. Ensure the Act's success by focusing on non-hospitality related industries, as well as human capabilities that are useful across career paths and less susceptible to automation. There are a lot of folks that could use the help of SNRPC and finding creative ways to diversify and connect the economy is important, such as structured internships or job placement programs that are higher education institutions, or investment to retrain certificate programs.

The second recommendation is to consider CARES Act, USDA, and EDA funding sources that can close the digital divide, providing broadband in underserved areas of the region, both rural and urban, and build out 5G networks to improve the speed and reliability of regional data connections. If the importance of access to reliable broadband wasn't apparent before, it's becoming obvious now after the pandemic. In Commissioner Jones' district there are towns such as Mountain Springs, that have no access, and Goodsprings with unreliable access to broadband.

The first consideration is increasing homeless services and centers through the CARES Act. Additional funding sources such as CDBG utilizing funding, housing insecure individuals who are at an increased risk contracting and spreading COVID-19 because they may not have access to clean water to wash their hands properly. This should be a top priority. There are a lot of funding opportunities in the CARES Act that would allow the SNRPC to make a difference. Title 12 of the CARES Act includes funding to help sustain and expand states investments and homeless services and other emergency measures to ensure those individuals can stay healthy.

The second consideration is that CED's concludes that a research institution supports both education and health care goals. Therefore, SNRPC can make a case for research related to COVID-19 to support research institutions in Southern Nevada, for example, the UNLV Medical School, a tier one research institution, or a Graduate Medical education program.

Councilman Black stated that it was great information, but recommendation number one is that, Commissioner Segerblom and himself are the elected officials on the workforce development board, Workforce Connections, and to him, it sounds a lot like what the Workforce Connections does. In terms of SNRPC taking on something like that would be a duplication, but as for the others it's a need and is relevant.

Commissioner Segerblom stated that he interprets the local government agencies, such as planning departments, could take some of the money and hire interns or have programs teaching or allowing people to learn new skills.

Mr. Monson stated yes, they can research it further to see what has worked in the past. Having a streamlined program to allow people to learn new skills, due to their industries no longer being available during the pandemic, they will need a way to have income. Having some sort of streamlined process from graduating college and then going straight to a job because they already are associated with them, seems like an easy low-cost solution.

Commissioner Segerblom stated that it might be a little bit different, and this angle might supplement the Workforce Connections, as far as those using their educational backgrounds and then having them work in government to learn new skills.

Councilman Black stated it could be a supplementation, and he agrees and that may be necessary because he is approaching the CARES Act standpoint to have a conversation with the team at Workforce Connections, and to collaborate with them. They might not be aware of the research Mr. Monson has done and be able to share something with them or look at a new angle as an expansion of what they do.

Commissioner Jones stated that based on the comments and presentation from Ms. Brune at the May 7, 2020, SNRPC meeting, it is critical that even if SNRPC is not the lead, that they are making sure they are taking all the information and moving forward with it.

Councilman Knudsen stated that he looks forward to Mr. Marion's presentation about the re-imagining of the SNRPC, and that he has been consistent about talking about his priority of regional collaboration, because there are things at the federal level that Southern Nevada, and even Nevada state as a whole, need to be 5-10 years ahead of the government. Re-imagining the future of SNRPC and taking advantage of all their expertise and looking at where they aren't competitive. A good example is 5G. Looking at the challenges around the community like distance learning with CCSD. There is no one lead agency for expanding the 5G network.

Councilwoman Bridges stated the thing that surprised her most is the lack of success to access federal dollars. What entity is watching out for federal money?

Bill Marion, with Purdue Marion and Associates, stated that one of the things they talked about at the last meeting was doing a fourth board workshop. He wasn't sure if the board wanted this meeting to be the workshop, and there is a discussion part of the presentation he was conducting that could facilitate that or take the information given, and then conduct a session that is entirely a workshop.

A recap of what happened during the last workshop, in August and September 2018, they had interviews with the Planning Directors and Board members on their vision of what the SNRPC was, could, or should be. On October 23, 2018, there was the initial Board workshop. On November 27, 2018, they had a second workshop, and then an election took place that changed the membership of the Coalition. Then, on April 23, 2019, they had a third workshop. Following the third workshop, were a series of Coalition board meetings where a series of votes were taken on what direction the Coalition would take, and the Coalition voted to disband. New members were selected to be on the, Coalition Board, and there was a revisioning amongst the members that disbanding was no longer an option; therefore, the concept of disbanding was rescinded.

With the existing conditions, there is a sense of high value for regional collaboration among board members. The problem is that there are already regional boards that cover a lot of the significant regional issues in the valley. What is left for the Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition to do? Second, there is lack of a dedicated funding source and lack of dedicated staff. That also hinders the SNRPC's ability to mobilize and to do active work. It is complicated because the title of the commission is the Regional Planning Coalition, but the local municipalities in Clark County don't want to give up their autonomy on local planning. The coalition is hamstrung in terms of what the original intent of the legislation was in creating planning coalitions. There have been several initiatives that have been very successful for the SNRPC. Grant writing for example. The Southern Nevada Strong program and grant came through the SNRPC. The Open Space and Trails program was a result of the SNRPC. A difference is that as an example, the Southern Nevada Strong was not initiated by the SNRPC, it was initiated by one of the members that utilized the SNRPC as the facilitator for that. The board has been talking about reversing that. This body could and should look at issues of regional significance by being actively promoting projects like Southern Nevada Strong, as oppose to waiting to see if someone brings that to the board. An example would be the Census 2020. There is an active regional program that benefits all Southern Nevada, in terms of getting the word out and trying to get participation from Census 2020. That is the vision of what the Coalition could do that came out of those workshops.

There were four different roles that emerged. The first role was to continue the status quo, which none of the members were comfortable with. The second role was disbanding, which was considered and rescinded. With role one and two off the table, the two roles left are to function as a forum and advocate for issues of regional importance, and to transition the planning responsibilities to other agencies with the board to actively engaged with other regional issues that can generate collaboration and cooperation from all of the municipalities and members. The last role is to function as a forum and advocate, but maintain, the planning initiatives that are mandated currently by state statute.

In the workshops, there was talk about what the potential SNRPC structure might look like, and they looked at several different regional planning organizations. The Mayors Council of Colorado

appealed to the board members, which meets six times a year, every other month, and they have an annual retreat. Bill Marion recommended having an annual retreat as a public meeting. The Mayors Council looked at the variety of different initiatives that had regional significance, and then knowing their own capabilities, they choose which initiatives they would want to be involved with over the course of the year, Mr. Marion feels that this would be an appropriate thing for this board to do. Meeting six times a year and hold an annual meeting where the board looks at federal issues and state issues. There could be legislative issues that the board wants to weigh in on, on a regional level like what the Southern Nevada Forum does now, and possibly moving it in collaboration with them. Hearing presentations from organizations, for example the food banks on food issues or homelessness issues, and other issues that the board might want to be apart of. At the retreat, the board would determine what the schedule will be, and activities will be for the next year and setting a budget. There will be on going reports to the member entities. Immediately following the board's deliberation on the agenda for the year, the board would do a report and send it to each municipality in order to get their approval and make them aware of what the board is doing on a regional basis that will benefit them.

Commissioner Jones stated with regards to the Colorado example, there are a couple of projects like the Census and ROST, in their model. When they pick their two items each year, is it just the two items, or do they have other continuing items apart of their structure?

Bill Marion stated that its not just two items, it can be a variety of items. It is based on what the board sees as the issues that are coming forward and what capabilities they have to address them.

There may be administrative changes that would or could be necessary to move into the new more proactive activity. The first thing is if the board wanted to take planning out of the activities or reduce the importance of significance of planning to what this body does. The board might want to change the name, for example changing the name to Southern Nevada Council of Governments, which indicates the board is doing more then planning or things different from planning. It would require legislation to change the name. There will need to be an independent staff not relying on staff from the municipalities that changes year after year since it is a staff that is already overburdened with work they're doing and that leads to be a reactive entity. Having a dedicated staff, whether it's paid staff or a consultant the board hires, the board will have a more proactive position to take.

Bill Marion provided a sample budget to the board members that included a \$250,000 budget. It is commensurate to what the Mayors Council of Colorado use. Their operating budget is commensurate to a couple of other peer review programs. Mr. Marion is not recommending the budget they take, but it is a starting point if this is going to be an independent and proactive body. The kind of resources the board may need to put into it in order to facilitate it. This could be a body that could be and looks for grant opportunities that was presented to the board earlier.

The current NRS mandated responsibilities are a comprehensive regional development, and in that regional plan are the inclusion of land use plans that include mixed use development, transient oriented development, master plan communities, military installations, gaming, and enterprise districts. Inclusion of transportation plans, provision of public facilities and services, air quality, and inclusion of strategies to promote and encourage new housing and businesses in established

neighborhoods basically infill. These are the mandated requirements for the Regional Planning Coalition, and it doesn't mean that the Southern Nevada Regional Coalition has to do them. They can farm those out, but it is SNRPC's responsibility to get a report on it and then that report is part of what goes to the State to show that the coalition is fulfilling its duties. The coalition itself doesn't do any of these. These duties are all being done by the municipalities or other entities. If the board wants to get out of planning, there are other entities that could take over those responsibilities.

The non-mandated SNRPC responsibilities, such as the creation of Business License Workgroup, Regional Open Space and Trails Workgroup, Sustainability Outreach and Education, Regional Emissions Inventory, the CBER REMI population forecast, Regional Population Consensus estimate, Land use Projections, and Biennial Air Quality and Transportation report. These are what the board is tasked with, and the board has the ability to determine if they still want to be tasked with those or take on additional tasks. In transitional way, move towards a more proactive regional body looking at emerging issues of regional significance.

Restructuring the coalition board and what is decided at the meeting will be the beginning of the process. Transition regional planning responsibilities would require legislative approval. Changing the name to reflect the new mission would require legislative approval. The coalition would need to create a formal agreement with the MPO should the coalition transition planning responsibilities to another entity like the MPO, and would make sure that there's local government participation in terms of the oversight of those planning responsibilities that would need to be memorialized in an inter-local agreement with them, establishing an appropriate budget to achieve the desired goals and objectives, provide consistent reliable and appropriate funding, and then prepare a new inter-local agreement. Whatever the board decides to do, it has to make sure that all the members would agree to this new vision and the new parameters.

Commissioner Segerbloom referenced slide 10, Current Non-Mandated SNRPC Responsibilities, and asked if any of the responsibilities on the list are currently done by someone other than SNRPC.

Bill Marion stated not that he is aware of any. The Sustainability Outreach and Education is currently being handled by Clark County; the Land Use Projections are being directed primarily to each of the municipalities. Regarding the Business License Work Group, Mr. Marion is not sure if it's operating now. The Regional Open Space and Trails Work Group is being handled by SNRPC; the Regional Emissions Inventory is being conducted by a third-party entity under Clark County. The majority of these are being handled by someone else.

Commissioner Segerblom stated that each entity is participating in the Land Use Projections and asked if anyone is collecting it County wide.

Bill Marion stated that he has not seen a report delivered to SNRPC in the time that he has been working with the body.

Mario Bermudez stated that the Land Use Projections is the RTC's five-year projections that all the jurisdictions coordinate. The RTC is the lead agency, they collect all the data from the jurisdictions, and then they use it in their model to determine transit.

Commissioner Segerblom asked if they put it into report.

Marco Velotta with City of Las Vegas stated that they use it to generate the population projections based on the information.

Bill Marion stated that these are not mandated functions by the Nevada Revised Statute.

Commissioner Segerblom stated that it would be an important thing for someone to collect the data and see what each jurisdiction is doing.

Bill Marion stated that if SNRPC had dedicated staff to do that, then they would have that information.

Craig Raborn, with RTC, addressed the question to the Land Use Projections, they are required as a part of their Regional Transportation Plans and develop a long-range land use forecast for the region. They work closely with each of the local planning and public works departments on developing that. They standardize the different land uses categories and then constrain that to the CBER overall population growth estimate, so they don't create a land use data set for their transportation plan that shows far more or less population than what the consolidated estimate is for the region. They don't put together a land use forecast plan document, although the appendix that is a part of the Regional Transportation Plan shows the process, data, maps, and other details that reflect what the local agencies have all provided to them.

Commissioner Segerblom stated that he was looking at affordable housing, and if they knew how much Henderson was proposing and has there been goals set for affordable housing in the valley or anything else like that.

Craig Raborn stated that for the purposes of travel demand model, they don't look at those types of measures or factors, but what they do look at is broad demographics and housing. As part of the regional planning work program they recently adopted as a part of administering Southern Nevada Strong, it would allow them within the MPO frame work to play the role of administering the Southern Nevada Strong Regional Plan. They did develop and start work on long range housing needs study and they will be discussing that with the Southern Nevada Strong Steering Committee at their meeting on Thursday, May 28th. The process kicked off for them as they were starting the COVID-19 closure. There has been background research, but they have not been able to start an advisory group.

Councilman Cherchio stated that he doesn't want to be involved in something confrontational moving forward. Funding, grant writing, taking on issues, and having a dedicated staff so that SNRPC can operate independently, with a name change, and he liked the suggested name change. He also doesn't want to fall back into a routine as before, and he felt this meeting wasn't the right

time to conduct a workshop due to other members being absent. Councilman Cherchio is open for anything that will make this organization and board accomplish something good moving forward.

Councilman Knudsen referenced the May 7, 2020, SNRPC Board meeting and the Vegas Chamber along with the City of Las Vegas predestination on the Southern Nevada Forum, and he feels that it is an important piece because of the prioritization with the state and making sure that as a region, we're advocating alignment with things that everyone agrees to.

Councilman Knudsen would be comfortable talking about a schedule of meetings that is no more than six times a year, but also gears up towards a legislative session so they can begin to align around commonalities prior to a session. He also understands that staffing and budget are issues, and that is something he has discussed with his office, and they are willing to take on some of the workload because it is critically important for the community.

Councilman Black stated that he is in favor of a very streamlined model that's regional issue focused. In order to do that, the coalition would have to get rid of the NRS mandated or non-mandated aspects. The coalition is not responsible for the responsibilities because the coalition is not doing any of them, and they hear a reactive or post report on them and then include or report to the state that they heard about those things. The coalition doesn't have ownership over those things and his question is if the coalition sheds the NRS mandated planning responsibilities, is there a vulnerability for those to go undone, unaddressed, is there any potential negative impact by the removal from hearing the reports and/or reporting those to the state?

Bill Marion stated that there are two things to answer Councilman Black's question with. The first is that there is already a lot of regional collaboration between the municipalities on planning issues. The second comment is an issue of regional importance would be, dissolving the planning responsibilities but because regional planning is an issue and is regionally significant the coalition could jump back in if they felt it was appropriate.

Councilman Black stated that there isn't a significant risk in eliminating those aspects of what they do, and streamlining and focusing on regionally specific issues, they would either champion, advocate for, roll up their sleeves and dig in with however they define it. The risk is minimal.

Bill Marion pointed to an example that Commissioner Segerblom mentioned - affordable housing. All the municipalities have different attitudes or different responses to how deal with the affordable housing issue. It is an issue that this board could bring up and come up with a position paper that it would like all the municipalities to consider, so that they not all might be on the same page but on the same chapter.

Commissioner Jones stated that they had discussions in the workshop before about what the structure might be and what the issues the coalition might take up maybe. He feels that COVID-19 has decided on what the regional issues are for them. Although there are a variety of issues they could be taking up, right now the issue they should all be focusing on is making sure that they are receiving as much federal funding for all of the programs the coalition has been talking about. It has to be the focus and an opportunity for this organization to show that it has a purpose. The issue has been decided for them, and as for the structure, Councilman Knudsen stated that he would

take a look at what the structuring might look like and come back with recommendations on what that will look like over the next 6 months, as they head into the legislative session.

A motion that SNRPC will focus on this issue that was presented today from the presentation and that Councilman Knudsen will come back to the board with some recommendations on restructuring.

Councilman Knudsen stated that you can't vote on anything unless you see it in writing. His direction would be to go back with something in writing with a couple of options that would say this is what needs to change through NRS, and the outcome of the change through NRS, and come back to the board and make a decision based on conversations with the individual entities and prior to the meeting. Councilman Knudsen would shop it around and give it to each individual member so that they have time to meet with the respective entities to get feedback and it would take 2 months. Meeting in a couple of months and looked at potential legislative changes would look like, the path towards changing legislation and the outcomes they would expect.

A motion was made by Councilman Knudsen to come back with recommendations on restructuring. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item 10. Citizens Participation. Public comment during this portion of the agenda must be limited to matters within the jurisdiction of the Board. No subject may be acted upon by the Commission that subject is on the agenda and is scheduled for action.

No citizen's participation was made.

Agenda Item 11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 P.M.