

Staff Members Present:

Kim Petersen

Director

Shelly Noble

Administrative Clerk

3. Joint meeting between the Humboldt County Commission, Winnemucca City Council and Winnemucca Convention & Visitors Authority.**3.1 Don Smit, Presentation of Preliminary Building Plan and Possible Site, Community Art Center Project, for possible action**

Mayor Di An Putnam opened the discussion by giving a short recap of the committee she formed over a year ago to look into moving forward with the planning of a community art center and their discussions to get to this point. Mr. Don Smit made the presentation which outlined the reasons for the location (the WCVA's lot on the corner of Melarkey Street and Winnemucca Boulevard). Plans call for a 450-person auditorium with box seats on two levels, a smaller venue in the basement that could be used in a variety of ways, several rooms that could be used for meetings and/or classes, an art gallery and lounge. The vision for this building is that not only will it host performances and symposiums, but will also be open every day as it will house the Visitor Center and Gift Shop on the main floor and will be operated by personnel of the Cashell Group (Winners). Don Stoker brought up concerns expressed to him by downtown merchants about the on-going issue with a lack of parking around the Convention Center, which is why the WCVA purchased this lot a few years ago. At that time, the WCVA was looking to not only address the parking issues with the purchase of this lot, but also build a free-standing visitor center that would be more accessible than it currently is in the East Hall. Mr. Stoker also expressed some concerns that the current design is not "user friendly" with its 18 steps just to get from the street level to the main front door and also that the visitor center, as designed in these plans, is too small and does not allow for any of the local exhibits in the East Hall to be displayed. He also questioned how long the WCVA is going to have to put off any decisions regarding the construction of a visitor center as they wait for a definite decision to be made on this project. Terry asked if there were any studies as to the financial feasibility and annual operating budget if/when this project goes through. All boards agreed to move forward to investigate the viability of this project.

3.2 Steve West, Melarkey Street and Winnemucca Boulevard Improvement Project, review of bids, possible award of contract with increased budget share, for possible action

Steve gave a brief history of this project which began over two years ago when all three parties agreed to split the cost and move forward with the project. Initially there was to be grant money from the state to help with the cost but after that award was made it was rescinded. In July 2013 all three entities agreed to contribute \$157,333 each to cover the revised estimated project total.

The project went out to bid late last year and all bids came in above the amount budgeted (\$472,000). They all were around \$740,000. Mr. West met with the low bidder to try to delete some items to bring it within the approved budget. Some of the items that were deleted were the walls on the corners, stucco finish, not moving the electrical box and re-vamping the crosswalks. After some discussion, members of all boards agreed that they would like to add some of these items back in since they really were integral to the entire project. After similar motions by the City Council and County Commission, ***Terry Boyle made a motion to approve up to \$183,333 (one-third of the estimated project total) for the improvements to Winnemucca Boulevard and Melarkey Street intersection as presented by Steve West. If the requested improvements require additional funds, Mr. West will come back to these boards before proceeding. Motion carried, 5-0.***

4. Regular Business. Next Meeting. The Board confirmed the next regular meeting date of Wednesday, March 26, 4:00 pm.

5. Adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned to the next regular meeting, or to the earlier call of the Chairman or to the call of any three (3) members of the Board on three (3) working days notice.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly Noble

APPROVED ON _____, 2014

As written _____

As corrected _____

Winnemucca Convention & Visitors Authority Board

TERRY BOYLE
Chairman and
Hotel Representative

RODD WILLIAM STOWELL
Vice Chairman and Business Representative

DON STOKER
Treasurer and Motel Representative

JIM BILLINGSLEY
City Representative

DAN CASSINELLI
County Representative

Attest:

BILL MACDONALD
Board Secretary and Counsel

ABSENT

KENDALL SWENSEN
Board Administrator