

# SCENIC VIEWS



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Issue 2

## Growth Task Force forms plan of action

A community coalition is looking for ways to encourage sustainable growth, which it hopes will ensure the environmental as well as economic health of the Truckee Meadows.

The Truckee Meadows Growth Task Force (TMGTF) was forged by leaders of Scenic Nevada, the Economic Development Association of Western Nevada (EDAWN) and the Reno Sparks Chamber of Commerce at a recent meeting of the Washoe County Commission.

Scenic Nevada Chairman Doug Smith attended that June 22 session in support of a proposed advisory ballot measure suggested by Susan Lynn, of the Truckee Meadows Yacht Club.

The proposed text of the ballot measure was, "Shall the Nevada Legislature amend the local land use laws in Washoe County to more effectively limit growth within sustainable natural resource constraints, and ensure adequate, fundable levels of service and infrastructure (such as schools, fire and police protection, roads, water and sewer)?"

Scenic's chairman supported Lynn's measure and



TMGTF Leaders assemble outside the chambers of the Sparks City Council, where they recently met to give an update on the group's progress.

also suggested a task force composed of diverse community interests to "study growth and how to sustain our quality of life."

"The Truckee Meadows must address growth management before it is too late, otherwise we will be faced with urban sprawl, which can never be repaired in the decades to come," Smith said.

Others at the meeting voiced similar concerns saying they want the Truckee Meadows to continue to be a place where they wanted to live 20 years from now.

Business leaders, developers and builders attending the county commission meeting agreed with the idea of forming the task force.

Since that session, the task force has held meetings twice monthly to identify issues and find common ground.

Task force leaders also attended the Sierra Business

Council's recent annual conference held locally at the Siena Hotel Spa Casino. There members looked at different ideas and methods for developing community interest in finding meaningful solutions on growth.

From October through early December, the group focused on recruiting members. Out of 60 applications submitted, 22 people were selected to join the task force.

Now the group is holding meetings to further define its mission and role, learning about the issues involved in achieving sustainable growth and identifying potential solutions and recommendations for the community. Members meet from 4 to 6 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays, Chamber Offices, 16th Floor of Reno City Hall.

Most recently a delegation of TMGTF returned to the county commissioners and the chambers of the Reno and Sparks city councils to report on its progress.

At each government session, the delegates said that after their groundwork was accomplished, they might need to return to request staff time and financing for the strategies they develop.

Welcome to Scenic Nevada's quarterly online newsletter.

### Executive Board

- Douglas G. Smith, Chairman*
- Chip Latham, Vice chairman*
- Lori Wray, President*
- Neal Cobb, Vice President*
- Cynthia G. Newburg, Secretary*
- Charles F. Swezey, Treasurer*
- Charles Ragusa, Director At large*

### Board of Directors

- Cynthia Albright*
- Aline Barber*
- Lisa Mayo DeRiso (So. Nev.)*
- Mercedes de la Garza*
- Scott Gibson*
- Toni Harsh*
- Stacey Lomer*
- Patty Melton*
- Peter Chase Neumann, Esq.*
- Jim Pilzner*
- Diane Ronsheimer*
- Warren Ronsheimer*
- Jessica Scott (Eastern NV)*
- Julie Sferrazza*
- Richard D. Wood*
- Bill Young*

### Honorary Board

- Buffy Jo Dreiling*
- Vivian Freeman*
- Marilyn Melton*
- Sunny Minedew*
- Renate Neuman*
- Jim & Sherry Pilzner*
- Walt & Penny Roskowski*
- Jessica Sferrazza*
- Chris Wicker, Esq.*

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## Scenics continue work on addressing sprawl in Truckee Meadows

The goal is a deceptively simple one: to raise the level of discussion about smart growth in the Truckee Meadows community.

But if successful, the rewards could have a community-wide impact on the quality of life here.

Hoping to make that impact are Scenic board members Stacey Lomer and Scott Gibson. The pair have put together a PowerPoint presentation on smart growth, called "Sprawl in the Truckee Meadows." It is part of the Initiative for Scenic Nevada (InSNC), a quality-of-life platform approved by the board last year. (See our website at scenicnevada.org for the entire text.)

"The focus of the presentation is to raise the level of discussion, define the terms ... define what consti-



Stacey Lomer and Scott Gibson

tutes sprawl and present alternatives to that." Gibson said. Some people have pre-conceived notions about smart growth and believe it will negatively affect the pocketbooks of this community.

"Smart Growth takes on a big anti-growth attitude and some think we are trying to retard economic development," Gibson said. "There's not just one way to do things."

For instance we don't have to build our communities around the automobile. Instead, we should provide transportation alternatives, mixed use developments and look at infill growth to make positive change.

One of the messages they want to convey is that, "We shouldn't have to

use a gallon of gas to go buy a gallon of milk," Gibson said.

The presentation is the result of more than a year's worth of monthly meetings, and time spent in between, gathering facts and pulling together photos that illustrate good development projects as well as bad ones. While other Scenics helped, Gibson, a civil engineer and Lomer, an architect have been the driving force behind the project.

The duo have given their PowerPoint presentation on growth at public meetings. Reactions, so far, range from positive to a bit noncommittal. They've spoken at Reno's Ward 1 Neighborhood Advisory Board, and will present next month to the Ward 2 NAB.

They've also presented to the West Truckee Meadows Citizens Advisory Board and the local chapter of the Sierra Club. Next month they also will appear at the Community Advisory Committee of the Regional Transportation Commission.

## New sound walls block views

### Scenics seek alternatives to new construction

Meeting with state officials this fall, Scenic Nevada board members continued efforts to limit or find alternatives to sound wall construction along the I-80 corridor in Reno.

Board member Bill Young is the Scenic representative on the state's advisory Technical Review Committee (TRC).

The committee was formed to make the gateways into cities more scenic and now is concluding landscape and design guidelines for the freeway corridor running from the California border through Reno and Sparks, east to Fernley and includes portions of US

395 at the I-80 interchange.

Sound wall construction began last year and some TRC members would like to find ways to make the structures less obtrusive. They are about 30 feet tall and are positioned on each side of the freeway.

The walls can block views of motorists traveling through Reno. Ironically, the cement structures are decorated with a carving depicting a mountain range, much like the real thing poking out from behind the walls.

Young, along with Scenic Board Chairman Doug Smith, most recently met with state officials to discuss the sound walls and ask for



Sound walls under construction along I-80 near Oddie Boulevard in Reno. This newly built wall has become a target for graffiti.

alternatives. Young is a retired engineer who worked for the Nevada Department of Transportation for 38 years.

So far the state's position is that as long as residential construction continues near the freeways, the walls are necessary to

mitigate the noise problem, Young said.

Both Young and Smith are hoping to contact others in state government this spring to try and reverse this attitude.

"If they can put them up, they can be taken down," Smith pointed out.

## Chairman receives environmental award

Scenic Nevada Chairman Doug Smith was the recipient of a Golden Pinecone Award, an honor bestowed by Nevada's environmental advocates at a recent dinner held in Reno.

Smith was honored for his "tireless efforts on behalf of Scenic Nevada" and was nominated by Barbara Woodward of Northern Nevada Dark Sky Association.

"Throughout all Doug has been the guiding force," Woodward said in nominating Smith. "Doug has worked nonstop for the betterment of our community as an unpaid crusader for all things beautiful."

The award was one of six presented at The Pinecone Ball, held in November at the Siena Hotel Spa Casino in Reno. Scenic Nevada Treasurer Charles Swezey accepted

on behalf of Smith who was out of town on a trip touring the Amazon.

The annual ball is organized by Environmental Leadership, a non-profit that provides environmental information to the public. The awards are given to individuals and organizations for their efforts to conserve Nevada's environment.

Major sponsors this year were the UNR Center for Environmental Sciences and Engineering and The Hilliard Endowment in the Humanities.

Masters of ceremonies were Alicia Reban of the Nevada Land Conservancy and John Singlaub of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency.

The pair, during a tongue-in-cheek performance as local newscasters, to the delight of the packed house poked fun at nearly every local (and some national) events that have affected the environment, including the city's annexation policies.

This year's event also included a



Doug Smith, chairman Scenic Nevada

performance by Lee Stetson, impersonating John Muir and recounting some of his wilderness adventures.

Smith received his award in the category for

an individual. The other recipients were REI, business; The Nature Conservancy, non-profit group or federal agency; Washoe County Commissioner Pete Sferrazza, public figure/servant; water quality education specialist Susan Donaldson, from the UNR Cooperative Extension, agency representative; and Reno Gazette Journal reporter Sue Voyles, media.

## Scenic Nevada Executive Board chosen at annual membership meeting

Officers for the coming year were elected at the annual meeting of Scenic Nevada held at the home of Mercedes de la Garza and Scott Gibson in Reno.

Gibson passed the gavel to Lori Wray after serving the past three years as Scenic's president. Both Chairman Doug Smith and Vice Chairman Chip Latham retained their offices. Neal Cobb replaced former vice president Cynthia Albright, who remains on the Board of Directors. Secretary Cynthia Newburg and treasurer Charles Swezey also remained on the executive board. Charles Ragusa was elected Director at Large.

The evening, organized and chaired by board member Aline Barber, is a major fund raiser for Scenic Nevada. The party started with dinner supplied by MiCasa Too, included wine and beer and followed with dessert and coffee. After dinner the annual meeting began with introductions of special guests, including



Incoming Scenic President Lori Wray introduces Vice Chairman Chip Latham, for an update on Scenic Nevada activities.

Washoe County Commissioner Jim Galloway and 2nd Judicial District Court Judge Deborah Schumacher. The party came to a close after the election of the 2005 executive board and the conclusion of a mega-raffle of donated prizes, including a glider ride and a golf package for two in Napa, California.

During the meeting, Latham outlined Scenic's recent activities, includ-

ing its participation on the Truckee Meadows Growth Task Force, a community coalition working on sustainable growth. Other ongoing projects cited were Scenic's annual photo contest, billboard blight control and board member Bill Young's work promoting alternatives to concrete sound walls along Nevada's highways.

Gibson, who remains on the Board of Directors, spoke briefly about InSNC.

He and board member Stacey Lomer are presenting smart growth alternatives to interested groups in Reno.



Board member Aline Barber announces raffle prize winners.



*Supporters celebrate the fifth anniversary of Scenic Nevada at the annual membership party.*



Donated raffle prizes were on display at the annual meeting.

## New Officers and Board Members

### 2005 Executive Board:

Doug, Smith, Chairman  
 Chip Latham, Vice Chair  
 Lori Wray, President  
 Neal Cobb, Vice President  
 Chuck Swezey, Treasurer  
 Cynthia Newberg, Secretary  
 Charles Ragusa, Dir. At Large

**Terms Expire 2007**  
 Cynthia Geyer-Newberg  
 Stacey Lomer  
 Patty Melton  
 Warren Ronsheimer  
 Doug Smith  
 Charles Swezey  
 Lori Wray

### Board of Directors:

**Terms Expire 2006**  
 Cynthia Albright  
 Mercedes de la Garza  
 Scott Gibson  
 Chip Latham  
 Lisa Mayo-DeRiso (So. Nv.)  
 Peter Chase Neuman, Esq  
 Jim Pilzner

**Terms Expire 2008**  
 Aline Barber  
 Neal Cobb  
 Charles Ragusa  
 Diane Ronsheimer  
 Julie Sferrazza  
 Bill Young

**Thanks to all** the Scenic members and supporters who donated raffle prizes, wine and dessert. Special thanks to honorary board members Walt and Penny Roskowski of MiCasa Too, who provided a dinner of fine Mexican food and to Scott Gibson and Mercedes de la Garza, who hosted .

### Prizes Donated

- Original Oil Painting  
 Renate Neuman
- Scenic Glider Ride  
 Peter Chase Neuman
- Sharp electronic printing calculator  
 Jim & Sherry Pilzner, Nevada Office Machines
- Purity Medical SPA  
 Holy Hagen
- Autumn Vista—Historic black and white print  
 Neal Cobb
- The Cheese Board & Wine Seller, \$50 gift Certificate  
 Law Offices of Mark Wray
- Private Art Lessons  
 Patty Melton
- Books: 101 Columns, Nevadans, Sonny's Story &  
You Know You're a Nevadan If
- Note Cards  
 Marilyn Melton
- Book: Reno's Axle-Historic 4th Street  
 Beth Miramon
- Origins Beauty Salon, \$35 gift certificate  
 Cynthia Newburg
- Math Tutorials  
 Neil Sanders
- Fairways and Greens Golf Package  
 Vic & Emilie Williams
- Record Street Café, \$25 gift certificate  
 Zoe Atcheson
- Hand carved walking stick, Flower Bouquets  
 Tom & Aline Barber
- Formal Dinner for Six  
 Toni Harsh

## Coming Events

### Livable Communities Lecture Series

- March 21**, Robert Wassmer, California State University, Sacramento; Causes of Urban Sprawl
  - March 28**, Chris Leinberger, Arcadia Land Company; Smart Growth on the Ground
  - April 4**, William Fulton, Solimar Research Group; Three stages of growth management
  - April 11**, Fred Kent, Project for Public Spaces; Building Great Communities Through Placemaking
  - April 18**, Stacey Lomer, Architect; Reno Revitalized: Report on infill projects in downtown Reno
- Free and open to the public - Lectures 5 to 6 p.m.**  
**Washoe County Downtown Library, 301 S. Center St.**

### Scenic Nevada Spring Calendar

- March 5**, Scenic Nevada Retreat, 7660 Hillview Dr., 9 to noon.
- March 21**, Scenic Nevada Monthly Dinner Meeting, MiCasa Too restaurant, 3255 S. Virginia St., 6 p.m.
- April 1**, Deadline to submit entries for Scenic Nevada's annual student photography contest
- April 18**, Scenic Nevada Monthly Dinner Meeting, MiCasa Too restaurant, 6 p.m., all members are welcome
- April 24**, Earth Day, Scenic Nevada Booth, California Building, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- To Be Announced**, Adopt-a-Highway litter cleanup along the Mt. Rose Highway