Sparks Citizens Advisory Committee 2013 Online Survey

Citizen Remarks - Unedited

citizens of sparks have been spoiled by the high quality of services and thus quality of life our local has maintained for many years. its ytimewe pull together as a community and begin to help ourselves if we want to maintain these services. i.e. accept tax increases, have local neighborhoods maintain the smaller city parks through the HOAs, etc.

People should not have to walk along McCarran and busy street to get to public transportation.

Stop allowing big contracts without making them pay for the impact on the community. Need better negotiation skills. CLEAN -up EMPTY large shopping centers! ie: Target, Lowe's (thank you City of Sparks)

I am a native of Sparks. One of the things that I would like to see change is the announcement of the smaller public events. Most of the time we do not hear about them until AFTER they are finished. ie the 2012 Pumpkin Palozza. More people would attend if they new about them.

Gang prevention would be nice...there is a lot of tagging around our area.

We need better graffiti control, Sparks is the best!

Cooperation with other govt. entities to reduce costs

You're business license window is terrible - bad service & rude!

Glad the City of Sparks keeps it's focus on Sparks and stays away from consolidation with Reno and Washoe County.

Go back to five-day week for many of the city services that you reduced to four days. Have you studied to find out if you're really saving money? Also, increase your ratio of managers per lower level staff. The city has layed off too many workers in ratio to mid managers. Find ways to work more efficiently so you don't have to reduce staff.

Don't associate with Reno. Sparks is headed in the right direction.

concentrate funds on those things that affect the most citizens

I want to know what the plans are for all these businesses that are closing down to move to the Legends area. It is hurting our tax base and leaving vacant buildings that turn into eye sores.

I really appreciate all the new bike lanes and paths in the community. They are definately a valuable asset to us all. Thank you!

Rehire all the people you laid off in the last 4 years and stop wasting money on things no one cares about.

The signage and road engineering to help me get into the correct lane when I need it is non-existant. My sister wound up on I-80 East towards Tahoe in pitch black of night. We could not see Sparks street signs to find our way home. We wantered around Victoria Something and Nugget street TOTALLY LOST. There was construction on Prater or McCarran that FORCED us onto FREEWAY. Reno equally bad: nowhere to turn around on S. Virginia past The Summit shop center, is there? This is desert, no gas, no water, no cellular towers in emergency and drivers DON'T stop to help. My sister & friend were in AZ with horse trailer and no cell tower; this is as bad. New folks like me are at risk if trying to get home. I got stuck in wrong lane and could not turn right onto McCarran coming north from S. Virg. I also missed seeing the sign identifying McCarran at Prater back in December; it is huge but on left heading East on Prater. I take a bus aywhere; will never go to Apple computer store at Summit again; hate that place & that store. No signs confirming distance; center is hidden behind a freeway cloverleaf. Its sign is way over out of sight on right side. You must merge 3 lanes to the right. If you get stuck on Mt. Rose Freeway then where does that go? Visitors are in a No Man's Land. You are natives and you take it all for granted. Strangers do NOT know their way here. That is my biggest complaint. I hate it.

get rid of the rent by week hotels and most of the drug addicts and criminals will leave town

Educational Opportunities for citizens on the workings of our city governing bodies.

Make it easier to do business in the city.

We need traffic enforcement back in our city, especially in my neighborhood \sim in the area of 18th. & Zephyr Way \sim Thank You !

More police in residential areas

We have a city light in the neighborhood that doesn't work

Provide incentives to businesses to relocate to Victorian Square instead of Legends.

Reduce taxes & spending and live within a budget

fix the traffic light Please - blinking arrowes - stop tring to change the city name.engeneer & develop more north/south arteries for trafic across the river-widening pryamid hwy all the way to pryamid lake yes I know it is a nv hwy -but bug the state- lets getter done

Increasing police presence in problem areas, cutting

Good luck with the budget

Park Rangers need to be given the authority to cite offenders.

Create more jobs

Set up sewer bill payments online

we need to increase our P.D.

Cut city staff by 2/3 rd's, and do the job you are hired to do.

I was really impressed with how the City responded to the flood threat we had earlier this year! We have lived here 21 years and LOVE it!

Maintain what you have - streets, parks & infrastructure. Your parks are going to be totally ruined without further care!!!

I think Parks and Trails are important for quality of life.

Be more aggresive on fighting graffiti

Community appearance is very important. Enforcing existing codes, holding residents and business owners accountable, and keeping up the appearance of the City through architectural and landscape standards will go a long way in improving the City. Voters have consistently turned down tax increases to help fund police and fire, yet they continue to be funded to the detriment of other City services.

keep fire and police services within the city. no regional fire service

Stop waisting money on ideas such as changing the city logo. High school student can do better for less.

Look long term - increase recycling and other environmental support

No more 'Studies', what a waste

My feeling is that Code Enforcement needs to be more aprart of Police.

Police and especially Fire are the most critical services there are. Next would be roads. Please don't cut our fire crews, they are as important as police and I don't trust REMSA if indeed help NOW! Had a medical call for my mother and the fire crew arrived a good 10 minutes before REMSA and I was so grateful they were there.

These are all important services but ALL the services depending on the economy, could be increased or decreased it need be.

Questions asked should provide information to make an educated decision.

Yes. Minimize the presence of cars. Play up train history, native american history. Provide comfortable seating for free events, plant trees, make Sparks a place you are proud to spend time in, not just spend money like the stupid legends projects that are killing the rest of the city.

Need more police officers

Keep government small (fewer employees) and use contractors where possible. Pension and benefit payments are stealing your ability to maintain a working employee base.

Sparks does a great job of maintaining our smalltown family town feel. Keep the riff raff out and Sparks continues to be the best city up North.

we need more protection --not--entertainment

I am proud to be a Sparks resident!

Hello, I was wondering why isn't there a yellow flashing arrow for the turn lane on Sparks Blvd. turning east onto Shadow Lane? I have sat at that light for 5 minutes waiting to turn left onto Shadow while there was no oncoming traffic. Then when the turning arrow does finally turn green, motorists only have a 30 second window to hurry up and turn before the arrow turns red again. This is most irritating when you're the fourth vehicle back in the turning lane and have to wait another 5 minutes. If the arrow flashed yellow on the green light, many motorists would be very happy. And would save each of us precious time.

City of Sparks is great - graffiti sucks!

The best thing about sparks is its cleanier and more family oriented than Reno

Spaks is great. Mayor and manager are awesome and accessible

Speed bumps around neighborhood parks (Woodtrail)

Utilize volenteers better to leverage expenses.

Moving the Court Into Formerly Leased Space Good Idea

Public transportation to Lockwood

We don't need lifeguards and restricted swimming hours @ Sparks Marina; who to contact regarding stop signs, traffic lights?

No more STAR tax developments.

Request for business to have more than one bike if business' area is larger than 500ft. The City promotes using ones bike during summer but some businesses do not even provide one.

support business growth

i love this town

do something with the Silver Club

Pools for winter use

Slurry seal and sweep Stone View Dr, cul-de-sac.

Please complete the sewer project in spanish springs

more youth sports

Keep up the special events on Victorian. The Farmers Market should be restored to how it was a few years ago. I do understand why it changed, im assuming because of the problem with the younger crowds and drinking. Simple solution would be to issue wrist bands for alochol

we need more police service

How can police and fire be paid less! Way over paid for hours worked!

Is there a link or webpage that residents can use to request attention to services, such as broken sprinklers, street maintenance needs, reporting park graffiti or repairs needed, etc? Thanks!

Pyramid/McCarran interesection improvements are long overdue and should not be delayed to avoid taking easement from Lagomarsino property on NW corner. It has no architectural or historic merit, and it would be a poor trade-off to infringe on Sparks Mercantile Center across the street.

Reorganize Fire Department. Less fire equipment & more on emergency response (smaller trucks with less staff). You do not need a fire enfine with 3 fireman responding, along with REMSA, for an life safty issue. Let RMSA take over for first response & downsize Fire Dept.

Keep an eye on spending and waste

Sparks is a great place to live

At least you're better than Reno

A lot could be done to make the city look better. Get rid of weeds, clean up medians on streets, repaint lines on streets and crosswalks. Oddie and McCarran are disasters. Who repairs the walls after an accident (McCarran at Baring). Does anyone do maintenance on landscaping? Disc, Sparks north of LosAltos and McCarran are neglected. The medians need weeding and continued watering. Lots to be done to make it look better: then people would take pride in the area and crime would go down. You need to hire more people to show this is a priority. The skeleton staff the city has now is overworked and overextended.

Better enforcement of existing laws require more resource.

It's been a depressed economy here but we'll keep on keeping on!

Keep police on the streets and all fire stations open

Get rid of redevelopment districts and quit allowing current tax paying businesses to move to Legends

The Fire Dept. budget is too high - restructure the Dept.

I hear that the police department is underfunded. I see police frequently and feel that even though levels are below what the FBI recommends they are sufficient. While special events are fun and raise revenue for local businesses priority must

be given to infrastructure and maintenance. In reference to traffic management, I would like to see a greater use of traffic circles and less stop lights. Though it would seem most people are not a fan they have been proven effective (even locally).

Lets work to keep Sparks a great city to live in

The City of Sparks needs to show the public the returns it is getting from the money it is spending on special projects like Victorian Square and Golden Eagle. The city continues to say it will have a hard time balancing its budget but seems to be spending money on projects without a return. As a taxpayer I want to be guaranteed public safety, sewer and roads. Everything else is a luxury and in todays economy the City needs to prioritize basic services not special projects. I also feel the City spent an enormous amount of money in "branding" and I have yet to see a financial return.

Hospitality tax & private enterprise should cover special events, Vict Sq development, assist with infrastructure expense; Stretch funding further and provide long-term solutions by emphasizing preventative/maintenance programs vs. higher funding for reactive programs. Emphasize fire prevention, proactive health and fitness, and preventative maintenance versus after-incident response. Citizens affected by crimes lesser than murder and rape rarely receive help from PD investigators. This means services are rarely allocated to assist law abiding, tax paying citizens with safer lifestyles.

upset at recent 6 stores closing in the galaria!

We need to raise taxes so that the City of Sparks remains a good, clean, safe place to live.

When continuing to cut wages and benefits to those services MOST vital to city residents (Police and Fire personnel) it is UNACCEPTABLE to increase wages to city management and officials! Stop using Police and Fire personnel as "scapegoats" to balance the city's budget.

Very nice place to raise a family; much better than most of Reno. I think healthy business presence is very important though. There are soooo many tattoo shops, cheap liquor stores and even a couple of "hippie" stores on Victorian Avenue, close to where family events are held. I always wondered why Reno/Sparks had so many tattoo parlors in the first place.

The city is not a developer. Please focus on what you are suposed to do and not on your pet projects. The down town redevelopment district is a total failure. Down town is empty. We are spending millions of dollars on an area that has almost no buisness. Also the legends area is pulling buisnesses out of other areas of sparks like out here by costco. Office Max and Old navy have moved I assume for the tax structure of the redevelopment at legends. It makes no sence. You would not have any budget problems if there where no redevelopment districts and all that tax money was in the general fund. I think this crisis is because the city is trying to be a developer.

Fire & Police are most important to neighborhoods

Would like to see a reduction in graffiti out in Wingfield Springs -- keep up the good work!

reduce management personel to save the budget

Any funds left over should go to park repair

Flags at Museum/Veterans/Firemens Park need replacement

Sparks policy are rarely seen patrolling Vista for speeders. They also don't patrol neighborhood streets (Vista Del Rancho Pkwy) where cars drive way to fast putting pedestrians, kids, pets, at risk! Noxious weeds are out of control in some areas. Unfinished dwellings make the community look bad.

Sparks/Tax payers should receive a full refund for the repaving of the roads. The repaving was a clear disaster.

Stop wasting money on downtown projects like the useless bike lanes and all the money spent to benefit the Nugget. \$1.5 m dollars on two streets that lead from the movie theatre to the Nugget...WTF???

Infastructure in Sparks is absolutely horrible. If city continues to fund all infrastructure improvements/ maintenance at current levels I will move. Citys priorties are a joke. The Fire department milks the taxpayer and city hall stands by while the city inches closer and closer to 'third world' like infrastructure. The police department in my opinion is outstanding. Washoe Countys idea for its Fire Department is sustainable. Sparks is not.

Thanks for asking!

Better long term planning

City infrastructure and Public Safety is the sole purpose of local government expenditures and the services provided are the products the city provides. Special events and business presence should be paid for through their own means, not by tax payer monies.

I work and cannot attend council meetings in the afternoon

Why are you letting everything move to legends. The companies leave empty building all over our city.

Continue building awareness to sparks events

Economic diversification, this is key to growth, the city cannot rely on one or a handful of industry to prosper economically. Safe and clean streets, good schools, family entertainment are key to attracting families. Sparks is a wonderful place to live, which is why I moved back here, the city has so much promise if the right choices are made for its future.

love living in sparks. what are the plow trucks spraying on the road? must be expensivesk every time ete is a sloght chance of snow? iy cant be

we need to clean/maintain all the trash and debrit on the highway, keep up on grafitti, paint the tank farm by the hightway WHITE, demolish the silver club and put in something nice. Tell John asquaga to fix his place up, firstly his broken sign on the highway.

Tough times call for tough decisions. Fund the essential services first, such as Police & Fire, and then do what you can for the rest. Please stop using the salt solution on the roadways prior to predicted incoming storms. There is a reason you don't buy used cars from Minnesota, it's because they have major rust problems from the salt used in the winter.

4 man fire crews must be reinstated, and quit providing the county autoaid. I pay Sparks taxes and do not want to subsidize the county.

The PRE-panic over the near flood was a hugh waste of funds. the work should be spred over the entire year.

crack down on barking dogs; volunteers could help clean parks.

Expand the senior volunt. Sparks Police program, make it efficent and easier to become a Sparks Police vounteer.

I'm proud to live in the city of Sparks. I think our mayor has done a great job leading us!

get rid of fire department

There are a lot of stores that are sitting empty at the Galleria & Legends that need to be filled. Need to draw more companies and quite depending on the casinos for revenue. Clean up the schools, Reed smells like a dirty sock and it has for years.

Add a dog park at Golden Eagle instead of baseball fields

Please continue not to consolidate services with Reno and/or Washoe County. They would increase cost to Sparks while decreasing services.

Code enforcement is crucial to keeping our neighborhoods family-safe, family-friendly and sending a message that the City cares

Currently doing a great job with reduced revenue!

good citie to live in

We need more independently owned unique businesses (i.e., tha joint,) and less food chains. Perhaps a community food co-op

I love this city and want it to be the best. Continue to work hard to make Sparks the place we all want to live.

please add more parks in wingfield area...no paeks in pioneer meadows area.

no comments. Keep up the good work you do.

Better street lighting and traffic signals on motion sensors during slow times and better signal timing to ensure smooth travel during peak times

Do something to encourage retailers to open up at the Sparks Galleria

In my residential neighborhood we have no traffic patrols for speeding motorists. I have lived at my address for 8-1/2 years and the same drivers speed 15-30 mph over the posted 25mph limit. I have called Sparks Police numerous times requesting patrols but get virtually no response. I have seen one motorist (one of my neighbors) pulled over on Desert Vista Drive in 8-1/2 years and she still drives 15mph over the speed limit every day. That is why I would like to to see so much of the budget allocated to increasing staff at the police department.

Police Services are absolutely the most important.

Regionalization may be a viable option for continued financial sustainability for our public service entities. While maintaining a personal identity is important, a higher level of service to the citizens is of the upmost importance. Look into regionalization of the fire service and police service first. In addition to financial stability a service level increase could be possible to the paramedic level with the recent merger of TMFPD and Sierra Fire.

I am very happy with the way the City of Sparks is being run now.

There is a trail going from the back of The Preserve all the way onto Sepulveda Elementary school with a kind of swamp and bridges... there are soooooo many bees/wasps/hornets the kids get stung in warmer months walking to and from. This area should be maintained and looked at for pest problems like this.

Firemen are overpaid

Do something about traffic congestion in and out of Spanish Springs

We are doing good with what we have, but we cannot let the city's appearance go down, that will be a self fulfuilling prophecy

Love Sparks!

Consolidation is *not* a four-letter word

Do not consolidate unless there is substantial savings

I enjoy the small town feel here, don't lose that!

I would like to see public transportation on Vista someday.

Love Sparks

Keep up the great work on Victorian...it should someday be a totally cleaned-up destination

Thank You, overall

No tax increase to hire more police

Build infrastructure to include fire/police

You only get \$84. Deal with it. lower Taxes

More activities for seniors

I think the city of Sparks is going a great job in special events. I would like to see the RTC bus make it out to the Eagle Cayon area. People needing to go to work and kids wanting to go into town must find ways to do so. I do understand that I am in county area. However, my address is Sparks. Thank you

economic development needs to be a priority, work to fill up all the empty commercial bldgs.

I wish I had more than \$100 for the survey!!

Sparks/Spanish Springs Area is beautiful. You do a great job. We need more events for economic purposes and to put Sparks on the Map. I believe if you invest (time & money) in larger events the funds could then be used for the other categories you listed. Thank you for the survey and giving me a voice.

More and more people are placing sheds in their front yard/drive on blocks. One at the south end of Flo Drake school on forth and several on York.

increase restrictions on gun ownership and purchases