

June Lake Citizens Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes – March 1, 2016

Jeff Ronci called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm. Committee member attendees included Jeff Ronci, Ann Tozier, Patti Heinrich, John Logue, and Bob Gardner. Tim Alpers was not able to make the meeting.

Review of February 2, 2016 minutes: John made a motion that the minutes be adopted, Bob seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the minutes were adopted.

Public Comment:

Ann Tozier wanted everyone to know that she found out that the Silver Lake Campground would be closed most of May and June, and possibly through July 4th. There are plans to redo the water system and repave the roads. An email she sent to Jon Regelbrugge of the USFS resulted in a response via email (below) from Bob Tatum who is the Operations Manager for Inyo Recreation:

“My name is Bob Tatum I’m the Ops Mgr for Inyo Recreation. We operate the Silver Lake Campground. I am following up on your email to Jon Regelbrugge FS Ranger.

The Silver Lake Campground had been <will be> closed for May and June 2016 for water system repairs and repaving of the campground. Any reservations that had already been made in May for Silver Lake Campground were to be honored but new reservations were to be stopped. No reservations in June had been made so all reservations were stopped. The Forest Service has a short window of opportunity to complete any construction and no time is convenient. The Forest Service has just asked us to reopen for reservations May 1-3 and May 27-31 2016. I’m sorry for any inconvenience.

The Forest Service is shooting for completion of the repaving of Silver Lake Campground by the end of June. Reservations have been closed through the July 4th weekend for reservations but with everything being completed the campground will be open as soon as possible on a first come first service basis. It is possible the campground could be opened earlier in June but it won’t be possible to get reservation back up until after July 4th. We know it is an inconvenience for people to make advanced reservations but we feel it would be worse to cancel someone reservation because the Forest Service did not complete the repaving in time. We at Inyo Recreation want the campground open as soon as possible because it does affect our business as well, but we do look forward to the improvement of Silver Lake Campground. I am sorry for the inconvenience.”

Patti Heinrich brought up the St. Patrick’s Day dinner that will be put on by the June Lake Loop Women’s Club at the JL Community Center on March 17th, a Thursday, from 5:30-7:30 pm. The cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. Also, she wanted to announce that the JL PUD has a new General Manager, Paula Welsh, and that she comes to the area very qualified for the job.

Jeff Ronci received a notice about the upcoming public meetings that will be held to get input on future facilities and recreational uses for the Conway Ranch that was acquired by Mono County. Information about these Strategic Facility Plan meetings can be found on the Mono County website, and will occur on March 16th and 23rd, and also in April on the 13th and 21st.

Bob Gardner mentioned that anyone wanting to receive burn pile notices, and other updates (such as about the Conway Ranch meetings) from the USFS, could contact Deb Schweizer to get on her email list. (debraaschweizer@fs.fed.us)

Agenda Items:

Supervisor Tim Alpers' report:

Tim was unable to attend due to illness.

Unmet Transit Needs and a New Seasonal June Lake Route for Summer 2016 (John Helm, ESTA):

John had three topics to discuss. The first was to ask if the community had any unmet transit needs. It is a requirement of state funding to ask, and to bring back any viable ideas to the Local Transportation Commission at an annual meeting in April. John is making the rounds, attending all of the RPAC meetings for this purpose. There were no unmet needs brought up by the CAC meeting attendees. John was asked if they provide charter services, but he responded that they are not allowed to offer those services because of potential competition with other independent charter services (even though there really aren't any such services locally).

Secondly he wanted to update us on current services. Currently there is service between Lone Pine and Reno, on a daily basis. The bus will stop at the south June Lake Junction if given prior notification. In the winter there is a morning and afternoon round trip between Mammoth Lakes and June Mountain, primarily to transport employees of June Mountain. This operates 7 days a week while the mountain is open for its ski season. There are also vanpool vehicles available, but this requires at least 8 people with similar schedules and route needs. The cost of the vanpool is then divided between the travelers. Shorter vanpool distances are less cost effective and cost more to the riders. Finally there is a Non-Emergency Medical Transportation Program that can provide reimbursement for medical-related transportation costs. The rider must be an Inyo or Mono County resident, and there must be a medical reason for the trip, as well as financial hardship or an inability to drive.

Lastly he wanted us to know there will be a new shuttle service in June Lake this summer. They are planning to have a service between Oh Ridge and the June Lake beach, and the Silver Lake Campground. It will include stops at trailheads and businesses along the way. Round trips will be on the hour, and the ride will probably cost \$1-3 per person, depending upon the length of their trip. He handed out a draft of the schedule, with possible stops they would like to include. The idea for the service came from one of their drivers, and a survey last summer showed that 85% of the people surveyed would utilize the service. 21% of those surveyed indicated there were destinations they didn't get to because of lack of transportation. 100% listed private car as the means they used to access local destinations. The ESTA plans to operate the shuttle 7 days a week, between June 25 and September 5, starting at 9 am and ending at 5 pm, with an hour off for the driver's lunch between 1 and 2 pm. As a result of the shuttle having to come from Mammoth, there will concurrently be a fixed trip available from Mammoth to JL in the morning, and back to Mammoth in the evening.

John was asked if they would be willing include a stop at the Grant Lake Marina, and he replied that they might be able to accommodate that if asked, on a case-by-case basis. He was also asked if the timing would align with YARTS, which goes to Yosemite, but unfortunately YARTS leaves too early to coordinate with them. Bob asked why they are starting so late in the summer, and was told that it was because of funding limitations. This first summer will test the program, and it could expand if it is successful. Ann suggested that they sell tokens for rides at local businesses. She also thought a trolley would be hugely popular and might generate rides purely for fun. She asked if the route and stops will be posted, and he said they would. John was asked about the potential for a winter route by some of the meeting attendees who work at local hotels, and who noted that they get asked about ways to get back and forth from the mountain. Highway 158 is closed in the winter, as well as the campgrounds, so John wondered how much such a service would get used. Perhaps it could be considered for weekends. The planned summer service will provide a good start.

June Lake Community Garden (Jake Suppa):

Mono County is supportive of community gardens. Jake noted that 95% of the land in June Lake is USFS so he plans to approach Jon Regelbrugge (USFS) about being able to put the garden on USFS land. He has a couple other spots in mind for the garden, perhaps terraced between the Gull Lake Park and Leonard St, or near the ball field. Any garden that is open to public use is required to be ADA compliant, including access to restrooms. He thought perhaps some of the beetle-killed trees from June Mountain could be utilized for material to make the raised beds. He wants the garden to be organic, and have plots for individuals as well as a group plot that would provide a social space for people to work together. Community gardens are a health promoting entity, and might incorporate yoga, music and other activities. First he has to secure a site, create a site plan and import topsoil. He has a number of irrigation system ideas.

June Lake Skate Park (Jeff Ronci):

(Note: a number of local youths were in attendance to show support for a skate park.) Jeff has been working with his former partner from Palm Desert to put together a plan for forming a CSA (Community Service Area). The skate park is a huge project, and he cautioned the kids that it would take a lot of effort, money, and time to get it done. He is looking at funding options, including a special district that would add money to property taxes, and creation of a CSA. Both of these options need exploring and involve ballot measures.

Report of Development Activities in June Lake (Courtney Weiche):

Courtney brought up the Crowley Lake Skate Park. A CSA was established; it has acquired a use permit, and is in the design phase. The plan will be presented at the upcoming BOS meeting on March 15.

She reported on the TROD status review meeting that took place on February 11, with a dialog between the BOS and Planning Commission, as well as input from the public. The county staff will be making some suggestions to the Planning Commission about the program at their next meeting on March 10. (Note that these meetings are not video taped.) There is currently a moratorium on new TROD applications until a review of the current program is completed. The public may write to the commission if they are unable to attend the meeting, with any comments or ideas that they may have.

The county is continuing to work on the Scenic Byway documentation, even though it appears that the funding may have gone away.

Next regular meeting of the CAC will be on April 5th.

Possible agenda items are: Community Center rehab (Alice Suszynski)

It was noted that more CAC members are needed. Don Morton resigned so the June Lake CAC is down to 7 members.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 pm.

CAC Minutes were taken and drafted by Ann Tozier.