

June Lake Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)
August 4, 2021 – Meeting Minutes
(Draft pending approval)

1. Call to Order by CAC Chair Julie Brown at 6:01 p.m.; the Pledge of Allegiance was to a virtual flag in each of our Zoom spaces.

Members present: Julie Brown, Sarah Holston, Janet Hunt, Bob Marks, David Rosky.

2. Public Comment.

Laura Beardsley, Kathy Copeland and others of DSES (Disabled Sports of the Eastern Sierra) said how thrilled they were to have purchased the Fern Lake Lodge facilities as their home for DSES and the Wounded Warrior project, and that they look forward to being part of the June Lake community. Bob Gardner thanked the former owners of Fern Lake Lodge for being great business owners and community partners.

Sheereen Dedman, acting registrar of voters, explained the upcoming recall election, scheduled for Tuesday, September 14. It will be conducted like the 2020 general election. All voters will receive mail ballots, and can return them by mail or in the ballot drop boxes. Voters who want to vote in person can do that too—precincts will be open. There was some discussion of the need to get the ballot drop box near the Thrift Store at the Community Center relocated, but Ms. Dedman explained that there is a specific process that needs to be followed, and that it cannot be completed by the time this election is held.

3. Chair Julie Brown asked for a consideration of the minutes of June 7, 2021. Sarah Holston moved approval, and Dave Rosky seconded the motion; the minutes were accepted.

4. Reports.

a. Supervisor Bob Gardner reported (1) that the situation at Grant Lake is getting better. He and Dave Rosky filled up a pick-up truck with trash, and disassembled 4- fire rings. There were only 2-3 reported illegal fires over the weekend; and (2) that a request to replace the old and heavy folding tables in the Community Center will be funded.

b. CAC chair. Julie Brown reported that the June 10 party on the mountain went well, with tickets sold out by 4 p.m.

c. Member reports.

Sarah Holston reported on the recent June Trails Committee meeting (food, prizes etc.) that attracted 50 volunteers (more than enough to staff the projects that are planned). Janet Hunt reported that the June Lake Loop Performing Arts Council put on two free events (live music and comedians), both of which went well (except for rain). JamFest is scheduled for August 10-12, and organizers are planning for a covid-compliant event.

d. Staff reports:

Michael Draper reported (1) that the Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on August 19 regarding extending a use permit to BJM Storage Co. to use one of its vacant lots as a parking lot for seven RVs and/or boats; and (2) that he and other staff are working on getting a request for proposals out for the Sustainable Transportation Report and grant request.

5. Discussion of speed reduction within the Village.

Tony Dublino presented an update. Staff has conducted eight speed surveys on county-maintained roads in the Village (i.e. not on CA 158) to test various speed calming approaches. Average speeds are around 17 mph, and further study is needed to determine which traffic calming strategies will work best. County engineer Paul Roten said these were the first speed studies done in the county since 2013, and that they will be doing studies with real installations (not just signs) to assess both speed and safety issues.

CalTrans official Lianne Talbot reported on the crosswalk issue. Of the locations forwarded to her office for consideration, only one (at Knoll Ave.) meets current regulations because of the handicap access curb ramps. In response to a question, she said CalTrans is open to doing work on the curbs elsewhere where crosswalks are needed. In response to a question about signs for school bus stops, she said that three (with flashing lights) will be installed at Boulder Creek, the post office, and Fern Creek. She said a letter of support from the CAC for these actions would be welcome; two CAC members volunteered to work on that letter and to bring it to the next meeting for action.

6. Discussion of OHV trails and planning between Mammoth Lakes and June Lake.

Joel Rathje, a Town of Mammoth Lakes employee and trails manager for TOML, used slides to present ideas about connecting trails between Shady Rest and June Lake (the idea can be accessed at <https://trailnews.mammothtrails.org>). He explained the genesis of the idea, and the extensive planning behind it and the steps to be taken, including developing an environmental assessment to be filed with the US Department of Agriculture. He said the planning includes single track trails, motorized trails, and non-motorized trails.

Much discussion followed. Topics raised included whether the plans included winter planning, impacts on June Lake, the need for staging areas and bathrooms, the funding of the construction and maintenance of the trails and whether fees would be assessed, among other issues. One CAC member objected to the idea that connecting to June Lake would be good, citing the noise, dust, and other objectionable characteristics of OHVs. Mr. Rathje said he was an “objective trails planner,” asked for written input, and noted that one possible outcome of the planning process could be “no new trails.” He added that Friends of the Inyo thought that connecting single-track trails makes sense. He

sought input from the June Lake Trails Committee.

7. Discussion of future in-person meeting.

Chair Julie Brown said that that was now moot given the new County Health Department mandate effective this Friday that requires masks in all indoor settings. Some discussion followed about the advantages (or not) of ZOOM meetings, and on ways to encourage public attendance at meetings. Getting the agenda posted in the Post Office was one idea, as was getting Facebook users to post/circulate the agenda on Facebook.

8. Discussion and updates on COVID-19 impacts and response. Supervisor Gardner discussed the Mono County Health Department order mandating masks in all indoor businesses/venues/offices. He said the county would have to see three weeks of decreased case numbers before the mandate could be lifted. The delta variant is in Mono County, and it is circulating. Positive cases are increasing, and that does not include those who test positive, but are not Mono County residents. Supervisor Gardner said the situation “is serious,” and urged everyone to get vaccinated. He also said that the Mono County sheriff would enforce the mandate. There was discussion of what the new order meant for events such as Blues-a-palooza in Mammoth and upcoming events in the Loop.

9. Community updates

- a. Women’s Club. Janet Hunt said that the Firemen’s BBQ this weekend is slated to go forward, and that June Lake Cares still has funds available for those in need.
- b. Chamber of Commerce. Janet Hunt reported that new banners have been put up on village light poles, and that there is a demand (and hence maybe a fund-raising opportunity) for the ones taken down. The CoC Visitors Center is now open in the Rainbow Ridge Realty office; the county-produced map of things to do in the June Lake Loop is a big hit. The grand opening will be October and coincide with Leaves in the Loop.
- c. EV Charging Station subcommittee. Bob Marks had nothing to report.

10. Future agenda items: Letter to Cal Trans for a CA 158 speed study and additional cross walks.

11. At 7:27 p.m., Chair Brown asked for a motion to adjourn; it was seconded and the meeting adjourned.

Next meeting: TBA

*Respectfully submitted,
Bob Marks, Secretary*