

June Lake Citizens Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes - August 5, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm. Committee member attendees included Ann Tozier, BZ Miller, Patti Heinrich, Jil Stark, Danny Roberts, Don Morton and Alan Sagot. Tim Alpers was also present.

Minutes from the June meeting were absent, so were tabled. There was no July meeting.

Public Comment:

A **timeshare Holder** (Bettencourt??) stood up and said he was here just to see what was going on.

Garret Higerd (Mono County public works) addressed the June Lake street rehab project. He said drainage is a big issue, as well as scheduling. They plan to work on one culvert this fall, with paving next construction year. They hope to be finished by the time of the June Lake Triathlon in July 2015.

Jil Stark (CAC) said the Fire Safety Council meeting was this evening. They had 137 loads from the recent Chipper Weekend. Next year it will be the 3rd weekend in July (18-19th) from 10-4, to avoid the June Lake Triathlon.

Julie Baldwin (fire dept) said they have a new water truck. It was outside and everyone was invited to have a look at it after the meeting. The 60th annual Fireman's BBQ is the weekend coming up. They are still looking for volunteer firemen to train.

Patti Heinrich (CAC) asked for baked goods for the bake sale at the Fireman's BBQ.

Agenda Items:

June Lake Fuel Reduction Program update (Paul McCahon):

Cal Fire mailed out a notice regarding defensible space inspections to residents. Paul feels it is a duplication of their efforts, as they were trained by Cal Fire, and he thinks it might be confusing having two agencies doing this. He, along with Julie Baldwin, Tim Alpers and Fred

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Stump, met with Cal Fire last week. Cal Fire agreed to let them ask for a permit to give the JL Fuel Reduction group the authority to conduct the inspections for Cal Fire.

Supervisor Alpers Update:

Tim thanked Paul for that Cal Fire update.

Digital 395 - There has been discussion about how to bring it out to the communities. Tim feels that it has great potential; potentially fantastic infrastructure.

Tim traveled to Washington DC to "walk the halls" in support of the Mammoth Mountain Ski Area land trade. He came away with the impression that the government process is very gridlocked; things don't move. He was also there to talk about the cabin corridors on public land and the SCE power grid planned through Sage Grouse territory (east Mono County to Southern California). Tim has no feeling as to how the land trade issue will fare, but thinks it will end up having to be reintroduced next year.

June Mountain Ski Area - J1 replacement is tied to snow making. They are drilling test wells for water.

Mono County has an updated legislative platform for 2014, something that needs to be updated each year. It is in print and essentially provides information about our county for legislative actions.

The BOS has been working on a document that would set a code of conduct for the supervisors at their meetings; a BOS Handbook. There was no July BOS meeting.

June Lake Trails Committee report (Jil Stark):

Trails Day in June Lake had 45 volunteers. Friends of the Inyo staff did 4 more days of work after Trails Day. 150 lbs of trash was picked up. Next year Trails Day will be on June 27th. The county contributed \$8,840 again, which translates to about 5 days of paid trail work.

It will take a longer time to build the Down Canyon trail than it took to build the Gull Lake trail, which took 2 years. There are lots of issues such as Reverse Creek environmental challenges and Peterson Tract residents' controversies (people there not happy about any trail by their homes). As a result the Trails Committee is going to look at the Silver Lake to Aerie Craig area at their September 2nd meeting. Their October 7th meeting will be clean up June Lake Beach day.

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Jil would like the CAC and public to think about the top three priorities for the Trails Committee to address.

Gateway Monument Status update (Ann Tozier):

Ann brought up the lack of support for the June Lake "gateway monument" at a recent June Lake Chamber of Commerce meeting. Basically she (I) cannot understand a lack of support for something that can only help the community. The issue was brought to her attention by Alice Suszynski who has put many hours of effort into trying to get this to happen. Alice needs a viable entity to apply for the sign permit, and also such an entity to handle the funds that are raised for the project. She was seeking Chamber support, and is now seeking CAC support, as well as possible support from Mammoth Mountain Ski Area.

In a surprise move, Dan Roberts produced a petition that he drafted containing signatures of some of the local business owners in opposition to any such monument signs at the JL Junction. The reasons for the opposition as stated on his petition were essentially stated as:

1. The signs would be in violation of the legal prohibition against placing advertising signs along a Scenic Highway (note: there has been some correspondence with Caltrans since this meeting that indicates that this is not the case).
2. The signs would be redundant in view of other highway sign improvements that can be made by Caltrans.
3. In regard to the potential cost of these signs the undersigned feel that the community's efforts could be directed toward other more necessary programs and projects.

(Note: The full text of the petition and the list of signatures can be obtained from Courtney Weiche, Associate Planner of Mono County.)

This initiated a long discussion at the meeting. There are many passionate feelings about this issue and it was brought up that perhaps we should have some kind of community meeting to discuss the signs; a meeting where all of the facts are presented and folks have a chance to express their feelings about it.

June Lake Events update (Patti Heinrich):

September 27th there will be a June Lake Women's Club steak and crab extravaganza with live music. They got a grant from the SCE to help with this.

October 11th there will be a beer festival.

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Labor Day weekend the Chamber of Commerce is hosting a fishing contest.

Report of development activities at June Lake (Courtney Weiche):

There is a grant from the Federal Highway Commission to study Highway 395 as a Federal Scenic Byway. They are also looking at Highways 203 and 158. A national scenic byway is an elite designation, but a long process (about 5 years). For the first steps they have hired a consultant. They spent time in the Walker/Colville area and also in June Lake including the Junction and Down Canyon. There will be a general plan update to continue pulling the ideas all together.

Other developments include a few pre-applications for TOT overlay, as well as a few formal applications.

The meeting was adjourned by BZ Miller at 8:39 pm. The next meeting will be on September 2nd at 7 pm.

Minutes taken by Ann Tozier