

**June Lake Citizens Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes – September 1, 2015**

Patti Heinrich called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm. Committee member attendees included Don Morton, Jeff Ronci, Ann Tozier, Jil Stark, Patti Heinrich, Rob Morgan and John Logue. Tim Alpers was also present.

There was a moment of silence in honor of Jerry Allendorf and Connie Black, former CAC members.

Review of August 4, 2015 minutes: August minutes were adopted.

Public Comment:

Paul MaCahon: Cal Fire has inspected all properties except for the JL Village area. There is a good relationship with Cal Fire and the administration of the Fuels Reduction grant, drafted by Al Heinrich. Paul, as administrator of the grant, will get the Cal Fire report out to residents with a letter explaining what is happening. He is prepared to explain to folks what they need to do to get grant money for fuels reduction on their property. As a note, the "fish hatchery hill" project (Fern/Yost trailhead, down canyon) is all USFS, not grant driven. The wood harvested is going to a private contractor. Ann Tozier spoke with a member of the USFS at the site and was told the project was to be completed the week after Labor Day. Some of the wood may become available to the public, but if so it will be publicized.

Skate Park Promotion Group: The local kids who came to the last CAC meeting were back with a progress report. They had drafted a petition for the park and had gathered over 200 signatures in favor of it. Ken Harrison said he would help the kids. Courtney Weiche said support must be solicited. Scott Burns recommended that the CAC put it on a future agenda, and if interested in seeing it built, to direct the county to look into it. Rob Morgan recommended finding out how communities got them built. Patti suggested it be put on a CAC agenda, with a presentation by the supporters. Jeff Ronci volunteered to work as chairman with Don Morton, and the kids, on a subcommittee for this project. Eric Diem also spoke in support of the skate park. The county staff present offered to help by looking into how they were acquired in other communities.

Agenda Items:

Supervisor Tim Alpers' report: The BOS received a letter from a June Lake second homeowner, Steve Handy, which thanked the JL Fire Department and EMT's for their response to a medical emergency experienced by his wife on June 14th.

Tim also asked that the meeting tonight be in honor of Jerry Allendorf and Connie Black, both great contributors to our community, and both deceased in the last month.

The BOS approved the Mono County budget in August, and accomplished this all in one day. The proposed budget, and eventually the adopted budget, can be viewed on the Mono County website. Of note, air service into Mammoth airport was again (as for last year) subsidized at \$50,000, but less than the \$100,000 requested. The Local Transportation Commission has approved a project to rebuild the intersection at the airport road turnoff at 395.

June Lake Trails Update (Jil Stark): The JL Trails Committee had an extra long meeting this morning, primarily to go over the 2003 June Lake Trails Plan.

Stan Bluhm presented a handout and a little trails history. In 1991 the community started talking about trails and in 2007 the committee was formed. In between those dates, in 2003, a consulting firm drafted a June Lake Trails Plan. The JL Trails Committee is currently reviewing this plan. Stan noted that the 2003 JL Trails Plan was approved, but not as it is written. The BOS made some changes to it, but those changes are not in it. There were also some amendments to it made in 2008 and 2010.

Courtney and the committee are in the process of incorporating those changes into the written plan. They hope to have it adopted this year along with the Mono County General Plan.

As Jil reiterated, the USFS is not interested at this time in supporting our trails with their funds, so the committee has decided (per county recommendation) to draft a PID (Project Initiation Document) for the Down Canyon Trail, the JL Trails Committee's new number one priority. Stan added that this document would be key to getting potential funding. The Gull Lake Trail is completed, and the Down Canyon Trail is next. At this point, however, there are no specific alignments for that trail. The PID will position the committee to apply for grant money due to the framework it provides.

The third step, after the Down Canyon Trail PID, is to explore possible agreements with the USFS that would permit the JL Trails Committee, and partners such as Friends of the Inyo, to take on some level of responsibility (such as maintenance) for the Down Canyon Trail project.

Jil noted that the Down Canyon Trail would be a non-paved pedestrian pathway, and Ann added that it would be multi-use but not include motorized vehicles.

Events Update (Patti Heinrich): There will be a fishing derby this Saturday, with a \$25 entry fee.

June Lake Pines Cottages' Retaining Wall Beautification Project (Carmichaels): The business has a concrete retaining wall on 158 that is in Caltrans right of way. They want to improve the way it looks and their process is to present their proposal to the CAC, and along with the county, to apply to Caltrans for permission to make the changes. Community outreach is the first step and that is why they came to the meeting. They need the CAC to supported the project and recommend to the county that it be approved. Their concept was for the wall to be beautiful and educational, also. They passed around a handout illustrating their concept, which would utilize the skills of an artist who has done other work in the area (Sage to Summit in Bishop and the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area Visitor Center).

Rob Morgan brought up concerns about damage to the wall in winter from snowplows. The owners might do the wall beautification using panels, and Rob suggested these be removable to prevent damage in winter. Al Heinrich wondered if it might work better to use stone or metal, rather than just paint. Jil Stark and Ann Tozier felt they liked the trees in the concept drawing (left side of the proposal), more that the educational part with the wording (right side of the proposal).

Jil asked if the CAC could make a motion to approve the beautification, and said that we applaud their desire to improve the look of their business.

Don Morton said he likes the wall idea, and other improvements they have done. The BOS is the final say of the approval for the wall modification, however.

Scott Burns talked about the Mono County General Plan and how its completion is their current priority, including getting it online. Patti thought it would be nice to get grant money for folks like the Carmichaels. The CAC has always wanted to make June Lake more attractive. Scott said staff would keep an eye out for grants. Ann offered to ask her husband, Joe Blommer, who works for Caltrans, about this also.

Ann moved that the CAC approve the Carmichaels project, Jil seconded, the CAC vote was unanimous to do so.

Regional Transportation Plan, General Plan and EIR Update and Workshop (Wendy Sugimura, Courtney Weiche):

A colorful handout was presented, along with a PowerPoint presentation. Information regarding the material summarized can be found online at:

<http://monocounty.ca.gov/planning/page/mono-county-general-plan-update>

Report of Development Activities (Courtney Weiche): NPR had an article on the Greater Sage Grouse being considered as endangered by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. [Note that they voted NOT to list the bird as endangered.]

Next regular meeting of the CAC will be on October 6th:

Possible agenda item would be a presentation on the skate park proposal.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:09 in honor of Jerry Allendorf and Connie Black.

CAC Minutes were taken and drafted by Ann Tozier.