

**June Lake Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)
May 6, 2020 – Meeting Minutes**

1. Call to Order by vice chair Julie Brown at 5:04 p.m.; the Pledge of Allegiance was to the virtual flag in each of our Zoom rooms. The meeting was held via ZOOM.

Other Members Present: John DeCoster, Jora Fogg, Sarah Holston, Janet Hunt, Bob Marks, David Rosky

2. Public Comment

- a. Jodi Schultz of the Bakersfield office of the US Census Bureau reported on the status of the 2020 census in Mono County. The census taking is currently on hold because of COVID-19 regulations. When the census opens, they will be recruiting for canvassers in Mono county. Hirees earn \$18-20/hr. plus mileage, and can choose their hours. Apply at [2020Census.gov/jobs](https://2020census.gov/jobs). Mono county is particularly short of census workers, and in great need. Compared with Kern and Inyo counties, Mono has only a 12.1% participation rate so far. It is even worse in the town of Mammoth Lakes which has just participation of just 6.9%, compared to Ridgecrest (63.5%) and Bridgeport (54.4%). The town of Mammoth Lakes and Mono County have the lowest rates in California (for the data, see 2020census.gov =>response rates), and that really matters because House seats as well as federal aid for social services of all kinds is based on county population as enumerated in the census. Ms. Schultz said she really needs help to get our participation rates up! For more information on working for the Census or questions, contact Jodi Schultz—Recruiting Assistant, Bakersfield-Kern County Region, US Census Bureau, 218-474-1949, Jodi.m.schultz@2020census.gov
- b. County staffer Wendy Sugimura briefed those attending via Zoom and phone of the rules and practices to be followed in a ZOOM meeting to ensure order and common courtesy, and said she would do so at the beginning of each of the CAC meetings held via ZOOM.

3. Review/approve the minutes of the March 4 meeting 2020 meeting (there was no April meeting). Julie moved to approve, Sarah seconded, and they were approved.

4. Reports

- a. Supervisor Gardner started with (1) a brief report on COVID-19 (full information can be found on the Mono County COVID-19 website). As May 6, 260 people had been tested, and 26 returned positive. No one is hospitalized. Anyone can get tested by calling 211 to set up the test. (2) He then moved to the issue of reopening. He noted that the Board of Supervisors has determined that Mono county will not reopen until the state issues a legal order detailing what can open, when, and how. He observed that to do otherwise could have consequences for individuals and/or the county. For example, if a bar or restaurant opened and served liquor before the state had sanctioned it, those businesses could lose their liquor licenses, because those are given by the state ABC. (3) Supervisor Gardner commented that SCE was doing a lot

of “vegetation management” (tree trimming) in our area to get branches etc. away from electrical lines. Several crews totaling about 100 people are staying mostly in Mammoth, but some are in June Lake too. The Forest Service wants SCE to do this maintenance work to reduce the threat of wildfires. (4) He explained the circumstances under which June Lake beach had opened and then closed. The unfortunate combination of trash, poop, and a bonfire led to the decision to close the beach. (5) He announced that Director of Public Works Tony Dublino would hold a May 7, 7 p.m. ZOOM meeting with Peterson tract residents to revisit the question of road maintenance and snow plowing. (6) Supervisor Gardner noted the recent establishment of “June Lake Cares,” a volunteer organization started by the JL Chamber of Commerce to make food and other assistance available to those in June Lake needing it. IMACA is coordinating the effort.

b. Vice Chair (no report)

c. CAC Members

- Sarah Holston reported that the tree trimming contractors for SCE were leaving a lot of trash—e.g. plastic bottles, food wrappers—that someone had to pick up. Julie offered that she has contacts with ArborWorks and will pass the message on to them, and Supervisor Gardner said he would do the same to Cal Rossi of SCE.

- Bob Marks observed many people in June Lake, some probably 2nd home owners but other maybe not, including campers. He asked Supervisor Gardner about what is allowed, and what isn't. Supervisor Gardner said the governor's order excludes unessential travel, so 2nd homeowners should not be here, although property rights complicate that message. That said, there should be no short-term rentals, nor is dispersed camping in the Loop allowed. However, dispersed camping elsewhere is allowed, as are campfires.

- Jora Fogg seconded the concern about 2nd homeowners.

- Dave Rosky commented that dispersed camping raised the problem of garbage and trash disposal, and asked if the Forest Service could be asked at least to open dumpsters in campgrounds and at trailheads. Supervisor Gardner said he would ask. There was then some discussion about whether Fern Lake Lodge could make its dumpster available. Sarah and Dave said they would talk with the owner. Sarah also asked about placing toilets at trailheads. Supervisor Gardner said the county had talked about the issue, and has a desire to do so.

- John DeCoster said that in these unprecedented times, he wanted to recognize Mono County for doing excellent work, including Jeff Simpson of the Mono County Business Development office. He also praised the JL Chamber of Commerce for setting up the food bank.

- d. Mono County staff.
- i. Michael Draper reported that the June Lake Highlands project amendment was moving forward to allow short-term rentals on 24 properties by first obtaining a “vacation home rental permit.”. Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on May 21; public can send comments before hand, and attend the meeting digitally. He also reported staff had received and was processing an application from Don Morton for a mixed development project (housing, commercial, and office units) along 158. Staff will soon begin review and CEQA work. There will be public hearings.
 - ii. Wendy Sugimura reported that following a marathon Planning Commission meeting, the Tioga Inn project was approved by the Planning Commission which has sent it to the county Board of Supervisors for action at its meeting in June. There are plenty of public venues for anyone to comment on specific projects.
5. Terry Erlwein of Caltrans reported that CA 158 had reopened on Monday (May 4), and that CA 120 would be open to the Yosemite Park gate by May 15. However, the Park is not plowing the road and has no plans at this time to open before the 1st or 2nd week of June.
 6. Susi Bains of the Mono County Behavioral Health Department reported on county suicide prevention efforts. She wanted community members to understand how to help those in our community who may be exhibiting warning signs in these times of high emotional and financial stress. She delineated the top 10 indicators of potential suicide (threat to self; looking for ways to hurt oneself; writing or talking about suicide; feelings of rage or revenge; feeling trapped; increased drug or alcohol use, especially among the young; withdrawal from friends and family; anxiety; changes in mood; talking about no reason to live and a sense of hopelessness. Susi’s advice in encountering a friend or relative exhibiting any of signs is to talk with them directly: “Are you considering suicide or killing yourself?” If you sense immediate danger, call 911. Let them know you’re concerned and there to listen; suggest the suicide prevention hotline; ask what or who has helped in the past. For more information or help, contact Susi Bains, Director, SHINE (760-648-3075 www.shinehelp.org); Mono County Behavioral Health 760-924-1740; National Suicide Prevention Hotline 1-800-273-TALK (8255) Suicidepreventionlifeline.org.
 7. Traffic calming. Director of Public Works Tony Dublino presented to the CAC a map (available on the June Lake CAC website) with plans to address traffic calming measures in the Village, and asked for feedback. With funds available in this year’s budget, the plan calls for installing four pedestrian crossing signs, and a removable, bolted speed bump. CAC member Jora Fogg (who lives on Bruce St.) said the location of the signs was good, and that one speed bump was a good start and can be evaluated. Another resident (Kevin Larsen) agreed, and offered to store the speed bump on his property during the winter.

8. Potential regulations for industrial hemp (IH) production in Mono County. April Sall of the Planning Division presented Powerpoint slides about the issue and sought responses and feedback from the CAC. The county needs to take some action because a moratorium expires in November 2020. The four options she presented include: 1) To ban industrial hemp; 2) To allow it under state regulations; 3) To establish a pilot program; 4) To allow it under state regulations but with a specific Mono County permit. Based on information she provided, discussion focused on the question of setbacks, whether there was demand for IH products, and whether IH was viable in Mono County, and if so would be in conflict with established commercial cannabis operations. CAC chair John Decoster observed that IH may not have long-term viability, since in his view it exists now only because there is no federal acceptance of commercial cannabis. Once that happens, in his view, commercial cannabis growers instead of IH growers would supply CBD (which requires THC to be effective) to meet market demand. He also observed that the setbacks as listed in the presentation were inadequate and said that cannabis growers need to be consulted for it could be that their crops could easily be contaminated by cross pollination; miles of separation might be required. Ms. Sall allowed that there is not much research on setbacks. Sarah Holston asked what revenue benefit IH production might have for Mono County; Wendy Sugimara replied that the product is not taxed, so the revenues would be minimal.

9. Action: CAC meeting time. After brief discussion, Julie moved to change the time to 6:00 p.m.; John seconded the motion, and it was passed.

10. Community updates

- a. Women's Club. Janet Hunt reported 1) that the Club established the "June Lake Cares" program to support those in our community who are food insecure and/or need help with paying utilities and rent; 2) July Fourth activities have not yet been cancelled; 3) the Chamber is looking forward to hosting a "Reopening Dinner"; 4) the Thrift Store is exploring how to safely reopen when that is allowed; 5) the Women's Club is accepting donations for "June Lake Cares" for distribution via IMACA.
- b. Chamber of Commerce. Janet reported that the Chamber is waiving membership dues for the remainder of the year in light of COVID-19 shutdowns; that it wants to help with reopening and welcoming activities; and that it encourages people to buy e-card gifts as a way of supporting local businesses.
- c. Water Subcommittee. Julie noted that she has been rather busy with Mountain matters since its closure on March 15, and suggested that when possible she will work with Bob Marks on the issue and report to the CAC.

11. Future agenda. None other than what was discussed.

12. Julie adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Next meeting: June 3 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Marks, Secretary