

**June Lake Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)
July 1, 2020 – Meeting Minutes**

1. Call to Order by Vice Chair Julie Brown at 6:02 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: Janet Hunt, Bob Marks, David Rosky

2. Public Comment
 - a. Jerry Hallum said that the Peterson tract residents are beginning to move forward to tackle the issue of the repair, maintenance, and plowing of the roads. He said he mailed letters on June 15 to all 190 Peterson tract property owners explaining the issue and seeking their input, asking that they respond by August 1. Julie thanked Jerry for his advocacy on behalf of the Peterson tract.
 - b. Kevin Larsen thanked the county public works for installing the speed bump on Bruce St.
3. Review/approve the minutes of the June 3, 2020 meeting. Janet moved adoption, and Dave seconded. The minutes were approved.
4. Reports
 - a. Supervisor Gardner said he would comment more on covid-19 and SCE in those parts of the agenda. He did say that the county received a query on the training of Mono County police regarding the use of force and questions of race. He said Sheriff Braun made a presentation to the Board of Supervisors that was very helpful and useful, and that her presentation is available online for anyone to view.

He also said he hiked up Fern Lake trail and was appalled to see all the human waste, especially since toilets are open and there is a porta-potty at the trail head. He thinks there might be a need for volunteers to clean up the messes, and that there should be a public info campaign to educate the trail users, and will reach out to the Forest Service to come up with a response.
 - b. Vice Chair Brown (no report)
 - c. CAC Members
 - Bob Marks raised the issue of parking in front of the post office. The street is full of parked cars and RVs, making it impossible for residents to park and get their mail. He asked if something could be done to limit parking in front of the post office to 10-15 minutes. Supervisor Gardner said he'd look into it.
 - Dave Rosky addressed trails issues. He said the trash problem at the bear box had

been cleaned, but that dog poop bags were now left there. He reported the Forest Service had received a report of a noose in a tree on Yost Creek; he looked and didn't find one. He is getting more involved with the trail and will seek to "adopt" Fern Lake.

•Janet Hunt asked about Chipper Weekend. Julie said it was July 11-12. Janet also asked about a question that came up in the tourist commission meeting. The commission had been getting PPE through the county to distribute to businesses, but apparently has been told that there is now a transition so that businesses will have to procure their own. She asked Supervisor Gardner to check.

d. Mono County staff.

- i. Michael Draper reported that (a) the county Local Transportation Commission had received a CalTrans grant for a sustainable June Lake Loop Active Transportation Plan. This is good news and should make a difference in the Loop; and (b) the June Lake Highlands amended project public meeting has been postponed to the July 16 Planning Commission meeting.
- ii. Wendy Sugimura reported that the hearing on the amended Don Morton mixed-use project on CA 158 in the Village has been scheduled for this Monday.
- iii. Supervisor Gardner responded to a question about the status of the Tioga Inn project. He said hearings with public comment had been held Monday and Tuesday, and that a modified proposal would be brought to the Board of Supervisors for its consideration at its meeting on July 20.

5. Discussion and updates of COVID-19 impact and response.

Supervisor Gardner said the number of positive cases has increased by 4 to 41; 1558 tests have been given, with 100 pending. Gov. Newsome's latest directives on re-closing affects 19 counties, but Mono is not on that list. The county fielded many complaints about businesses not complying their own self-certified plans. As a result, one business in June Lake (the Tiger Bar) was shut down. The county had hoped not to have to do that, but the business was not in compliance. He said the county wants to be known as an open and a safe place, and so he strongly encouraged everyone to wear a mask. He said some businesses were struggling with that as some customers come in without a mask. Most businesses are saying whether you wear a mask or not is up to you, but we will not serve anyone without a mask. It's your choice.

Supervisor Gardner was asked about occupancy rates in the county and June Lake in particular. He says the economic development office collects that data, but that it lags. Anecdotally, it appears that with Yosemite closed to camping, lots of those people have turned to Mono County. There is no foreign travel, so all the visitors are driving here, mostly from SoCal. CalTrans reported that traffic on 395 is back up to pre-lock down

rates.

Janet Hunt added that she's heard that lodging is booked through the end of August; campgrounds too are booked, and that this might be the "best June and summer" ever. Supervisor Gardner reported hearing that this has been "the best June ever."

Julie Brown reported that MMSA has opened the bike parks and the golf courses in compliance with county guidelines. MMSA emphasized the need for masks. "For us, masks is where it is." MMSA staff have been supported and trained for remaining positive with patrons, especially regarding the use of masks, saying "we respect your views, but we cannot serve you without a mask."

6. Discussion of SCE tree removal

Supervisor Gardner said that the initial description of their activity as "vegetation management" was not an apt description; 50' trees are not shrubs. There was also some question about whether they actually notified all property owners, and how they understood and acted upon what their easement was. There was much confusion and frustration among home owners. Ann Tozier contacted property owners and had a meeting with SCE. Many grievances were aired and discussed, and Supervisor Gardner's feeling was that matters had been worked out.

Dave Rosky said he attended those meetings, and that property owners (at least those on Steelhead) negotiated with SCE on a case-by-case basis and that issues had been resolved.

Dave also said he had thought about how these last-minute battles with SCE can be avoided in the future. The need for forest fire mitigation is widely understood; no one wants their neighborhood to be the next Camp Fire. So, more aggressive tree trimming and removal will happen, and likely will be more than residents are used to. To avoid future conflicts, he suggests that SCE prepare an advance plan on a tree-by-tree basis to be shared with property owners 2-3 months in advance of the work. He added that this detailed-notice approach should be extended to public lands that are inseparable from residential areas, such as the 158 corridor.

He thinks that this approach is different from what SCE had done—to give only a high-level summary to the county, and then to steamroll neighborhoods. Too little time was available to sort matters out. He hopes in the future the County will work with SCE to implement the approach he thinks will avoid frustration, grievances, and conflict.

Supervisor Gardner was asked what has happened to all the cut down wood. He said the slash was taken off, but he doesn't know where the logs have gone. Because that's an issue because of the potential for firewood, he'll ask SCE.

7. Community updates

- a. Women's Club. Janet Hunt reported that the Thrift Store has reopened, and that June Lake Cares has raised a substantial amount of money to help those in need with bills, rent, and food. In addition, the Club hosted two dinners—27 were served at Lift, and Ohana's provided 200 meals at a dinner held at the Community Center.
- b. Chamber of Commerce. Janet Hunt reported that the Chamber is giving information to members and visitors about PPE; and that the CC is rebranding and redoing its website. She also said that with the problems arising from closed toilets, one business owner opened his facilities to visitors, but when difficulties arose over mask-wearing, he was advised to make his restrooms available for customers only.

Janet was asked whether year-round fishing has been adopted because that would have implications for the timing of the Fishmas opening ceremonies. It was determined that the current opening dates remain in effect (i.e. no year-round fishing). Janet said Fishmas probably would be scheduled as it has been for the last weekend in April. She also said the CC was considering a new event in mid-May: "Roll Out the Barrels" to bring out the barrels of flowers, and with a beer garden to attract more attention and visits to June Lake.

- c. Water Subcommittee. Julie said she will be in touch with Bob Marks to get this going.
8. Future agenda. Covid-19 update; SCE follow up; Post Office parking; distribution of PPE.
9. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Next meeting: TBA

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Marks, Secretary