

Mono Basin RPAC
Regional Planning Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 10 June, 2020, 6:30 pm, remote/virtual meeting via Zoom/conference call

Members present: Lisa Cutting, Bartshe Miller, Elin Ljung, Duncan King, Ilene Mandelbaum, Chris Lizza, and Kristie Nelson

Public Attendees and Presenters: Bob Gardner, Bentley Regehr, Wendy Sugimura, Tim Banta, Margaret Eissler, Lynn Boulton, Dave Marquart, Tony Dublino, Ray Pok

*** attendance was made to the best of the secretary's capacity. Due to the remote meeting situation and/or incomplete screen names, the attendance list may not represent every person who joined all or parts of the meeting.***

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance: 6:33 pm.

1. **Public Comment:** None
2. **Review Minutes from May:** A couple edits were made. Chris Lizza motioned to approve the minutes as amended, Elin seconded. Unanimously accepted with added corrections.
3. **Supervisor Gardner's report:** Bob reviewed an inquiry letter the county (and others) received regarding the extent of workforce training that BoS, Mono Co. Sheriff, etc. receive with regard to race and racism. Sheriff Braun responded to each point in the letter on a video conference. Next Tuesdays' BoS meeting may have further response to these points.
SCE has many work crews in the area, and some locals have brought up questions/concerns, so next Tuesday at 6pm there will be an SCE community meeting on their activity.
4. **Chairperson's report:** Duncan thanked Wendy and Bentley for help getting appropriate permits for the LV pedestrian flags.
5. **Members Reports:** Chris gave a planning commission update – that the June Lake highlands is reviewing short-term rentals and may allow some permits. Friends of the Inyo has some, but very limited, stewardship programs this summer. Chris also voiced concern about the new Tioga Green cannabis sign on the south end of town. TG recently changed its sign to indicate it is a cannabis store (as people were entering thinking it was some other kind of establishment). But, now, a big bold sign reading CANNABIS in big letters and Tioga Green in small letters is the first thing that northbound drivers see when entering Lee Vining. Can the sign be revered? (as in Tioga Green in big letters, Cannabis in small?). Is this the message we want for folks entering town? Marissa Ortega-Welch from a bay area public radio station did a nice story on excessive dispersed camping the region is experiencing. The Mono Market is still transitioning to new ownership.
Other members gave thanks to county staff for ongoing efforts related to covid, etc.
6. **Fire Safe Council update:** Mono City dumpsters have been big success. Some fire rings were removed from Lundy area & vicinity. Banner still coming
7. **Inyo National Forest update:** Gordon not present. There is much community concern and discussion about Dechambeau Pond water problems, as ponds are drying up. High priority to get fixed and this will be on future agenda.
8. **Lee Vining County road shop potential relocation:** Tony Dublino reviewed the idea which has occasionally come up for years about moving the road shop in Lee Vining to a satellite location,

so that workforce housing could be built at that site. Parts of the road shop need demolition anyway, so possibly a good time to relocate. It is county property. Most RPAC members expressed strong support for the idea. A subcommittee might form to discuss this further.

9. **LV SCE substation update:** Ray Pok gave an update on the construction site. Ilene mentioned how she and other community members have been relatively shocked at the scale of the project and its disturbance, and felt that the full extent of the construction impacts were not fully explained or disclosed prior to the project, including the degree of new access road(s), slopes above the creek, etc. It's an eyesore that wasn't expected. Ray explained that the construction is and will continue to remain within bounds of the footprint of the SCE land, and most of the area is outside the scenic highway boundary. SCE presented the construction impact to and it was accepted by the PUC. There was discussion and requests for another field trip to the site.
10. **Pedestrian Connectivity:** Tim Banta introduced the importance and need to increase safe pedestrian access options on the south end of town. Specifically, there is need for pedestrian connectivity between the Mobil Mart area down to the rest of town. The current sidewalk ends by Tioga Green. Other community and RPAC members also spoke up in support of this, and there has long been a desire for such a trail or sidewalk enhancement. One problem is Caltrans says there is no feasible pedestrian X-ing point around the 395/120 connection area. So could there be a bridge or underpass? Bentley mentioned he'd try to get/share an ownership map. This idea could be advocated to Caltrans, and funding would need to be investigated. Project is fully compatible with community plan, and discussions will be continued.
11. **Covid update:** California released new guidelines as it enters stage 3. Lodging is opening. A few campgrounds are opening this weekend, others are still closed. As restrictions lift, all are encouraged to be diligent and safe. So far 35 Mammoth Covid cases, 2 in north/central county
12. **Information Items:** June 29 a Tioga Inn community meeting is planned – both in physical meeting location and via webinar/Zoom. Planning Commission will address short term rentals in the June Lake highlands. And the Census work continues, now with home visitations (leaving a packet at the door).
13. **Future agenda items:** SCE trip, INF update/Dechambeau Pond update, pedestrian connectivity
14. **Adjourn 8:52 pm** until July

Respectfully submitted - Kristie Nelson