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MINUTES

Special Meeting of Thursday, April 26, 2018 at 10:00 AM
74 N. School Street Annex I - CAO Conference Room
Bridgeport, CA 93517

1. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order by Chair Geoff McQuilkin at 10:08am.
2. Introductions and announcements.
Commissioners: Sarah Walsh, Geoff McQuilkin, Chris Long, Jimmy Little, Wendy Schneider
Staff: Alicia Vennos, Jeff Simpson, Liz Grans
Other: John Peters (Mono County Supervisor, District 4)
3. Opportunity for the Public to Address the Commission. No public comment was made.
4. Approval of the Minutes of the March 28, 2018 meeting
MOTION: Little. SECOND: Walsh. APPROVED 4/0, no abstentions (Wendy Schneider absent due to road construction delays)
5. Commissioner Reports.
Sarah Walsh: Some new businesses opening in June Lake, including The Lift coffee shop and Balanced Rock Saloon (Sierra Inn in escrow). Southern California Edison fixed all the street lights along main street in downtown June Lake, and the crosswalks project is in the works.
Jimmy Little: The Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest is working on establishing a non-profit "Friends of" group. Highway 395 has been closed near his business following several fatal traffic collisions within six months. John Peters commented that the Board of Supervisors is meeting with Caltrans to discuss the issue.
Wendy Schneider: Friends of the Inyo has a new website, as well as a new work cooperation/agreement with Mammoth Lakes Recreation, and most of the trail work days for summer 2018 have been scheduled.
Chris Long: The 2018 Eastern Sierra ATV UTV Jamboree registration is now open – 180 riders have already signed up. The Northern Mono Chamber is involved with creating new volunteer-based hospice care for Mono County.
Geoff McQuilkin: Shared the Mono Lake forecast with the Commission. Mono Lake's water level was up four feet last year and rose again due to significant precipitation in March, but this year lake levels are expected to drop. Over 300 people registered for the Bird Chautauqua in the first 22 minutes that registration was open, and event is mostly sold out. A new solar pavilion is being installed at Hess Park in Lee Vining. Caltrans is gathering input for a "gas tax" funded rehabilitation project on Highway 395 between Highway 167 and Highway 120 E.
6. Monthly Financial/Budget Report. Ms. Vennos reviewed the 2018 Mono County Strategic Priorities with the Commission. She and staff set priorities and tactics for Economic Development, Tourism, Fish Enhancement, Filming, and Community Support Programs that align with the County's strategic priorities. Staff also met with the Finance Director and CAO to review the FY18-19 Economic Development budget. Following a budget workshop on May 21-23, the County's operating budget will be reviewed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors in June. Budget amendments (which will include discretionary fund allocations such as community grant programs, air service contribution, fish stocking, trail maintenance grant, as well as requests from other county departments) will be reviewed and determined in September.
7. Economic Development and Tourism Report: Due to shortage of time, this agenda item was tabled.

8. Research Project Updates: Report on progress and discuss Business Retention & Expansion Survey, Economic Impact and Visitor Profile Study, Visa View report, County economic profile. Ms. Vennos reported that 240 visitor surveys were collected in February for the winter portion of the Visitor Profile Study. The “spring” survey period begins tomorrow, April 27, 2018. The Business Retention and Expansion Survey is also underway.
9. Cannabis update: Mono County draft ordinance overview.
Action: Review and discuss “Chapter 5.60/Cannabis Operations” of the draft Cannabis Ordinance with the option of writing a letter to the Board of Supervisors explaining the Commission’s position on any items of concern.
Staff and the Commission reviewed and discussed the County’s draft ordinances for commercial cannabis operating requirements, additional regulations for cannabis retailers, and additional requirement for cannabis distribution. The Commission came to a consensus on a position regarding several ordinances and staff will draft a letter to the Board of Supervisors on behalf of the Commission.
MOTION: Motion made by Little to support a letter with language and points as discussed, to be presented to the Board of Supervisors by Sarah Walsh. SECOND: Schneider. Approved 5/0, no abstentions.
10. Fiscal Year 18-19 Strategic Plan: The Commission discussed long-term goals for the Economic Development department and how those goals fit with the Board of Supervisor’s Strategic Priorities. Due to a shortage of time, the discussion will continue at future meetings. The Commission agreed to cancel the May 15th meeting due to conflicts with the Board of Supervisors meeting that day. The next regular meeting is scheduled for June 26, 2018 in Walker, CA at the Walker Community Center.
11. Fisheries Commission Report: Mr. Simpson gave a brief update on the fishing-related items.
12. Film Commission Update: Ms. Vennos mentioned that portions of two feature films would be shooting in locations from Mammoth Lakes to Tioga Pass in May and June.
13. Project Status Update: Staff gave brief reports on various projects underway.
 - a. Collateral
 - b. Public Relations
 - c. Advertising/Social Media/E-Newsletter
 - d. Website
 - e. Tradeshows & Conferences
14. Call for agenda items for next regular meeting
15. Adjourn the meeting and reconvene in regular session on Tuesday, June 26, 2018 at 10:00am in Walker, CA at the Walker Community Center, 442 Mule Deer Rd. Walker, CA 96107. (The Commission agreed to cancel the May 15th meeting due to conflicts with the Board of Supervisors meeting that day).