

June Lake Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)
June 3, 2020 – Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order by Chair John DeCoster at 6:00 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: Julie Brown, Jora Fogg, Sarah Holston, Janet Hunt, Bob Marks, David Rosky

2. Public Comment

- a. Ann Tozier read a comment about concerns she has about the latest round of SCE subcontractors removing trees from under SCE power lines. She said she supports fire prevention, but thinks the way the trees are being removed is so extreme that it becomes unnecessarily destructive of our neighborhoods. She raised questions about the claimed 30' easement being used (she cited the California Public Resource Code 4293 that states that the clearance zone is 10 feet), foreseeing a "clear cut" under the lines extending from the SCE Rush Creek powerplant to the Rodeo grounds. She also raised concerns about the rights of property owners to refuse to have trees on their properties cut, and about the process by which all affected property owners (full-time as well as owners of second homes and vacant lots) are (or are not) notified.

Discussion focused on what SCE was allowed to do (in particular the easements and whether CEQA applies), and the process for notifying property owners. Supervisor Gardner said he would contact Cal Rossi of SCE to seek clarification, and John DeCoster asked that the issue be placed on the agenda for the next CAC meeting.

3. Review/approve the minutes of the May 6, 2020 meeting. Bob Marks noted several typos, and suggested the minutes on p. 2 be amended to read: "Supervisor Gardner said the governor's March 19 'stay-at-home' order includes unessential travel..." John moved to approve to approve the corrections, Dave seconded, and they were approved.

4. Reports

- a. Supervisor Gardner said his comments were on SCE and he would comment more on COVID-19 later in the agenda.
- b. Chair DeCoster (no report)
- c. CAC Members

•Julie Brown said that SCE was using the Mountain parking lot for a helio operation lifting metal powerline poles out (for replacing wooden ones). She said the operation would take 7-14 days with four or so flights per day. Wendy Sugimura asked if the poles were bright and shiny or self-weathering; they appear not to be bright shiny steel but either to be painted dark or developing a patina.

- Sarah reported that June Lake Trails will be having a Zoom meeting.

- Bob Marks said he had followed up with Jodi Schultz of the US Census Bureau (see the minutes of May 6). The participation rates for Mono County and the Town of Mammoth Lakes remain low, and she is seeking assistance in getting the word out to residents to complete the census. John said he did it online, and it took only 2-3 minutes.

d. Mono County staff.

- i. Michael Draper reported on (a) the June Lake Highlands project. He said the number of properties requesting to be included had increased to 30, and that the Planning Commission had asked that the project be amended to include all properties in the Highlands. (b) Regarding COVID-19, he also reported that staff had prepared a simple online application for businesses to show how they can comply with Phase 2 opening requirements, especially regarding seating/distancing modifications. (c) The Board of Supervisors will have a hearing at the end of the month on the Tioga Inn project.

- ii. Wendy Sugimura reported on changes to the Don Morton mixed-use project on CA 158 in the Village. He will be making modifications, and resubmitting the application; there will be notification of a meeting and opportunity for public comment.

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

Supervisor Gardner began by saying the county was now in Upper Stage 2 that allows certain businesses to open under certain guidelines; not included was short-term lodging. He said the unified incident command has proposed allowing short-term lodging to open in the unincorporated areas on June 12, and a week later (June 19) in Mammoth Lakes. Private RV campgrounds are open, but not state or federal campgrounds. Three new COVID-19 cases have brought the county total to 37; those new cases have 30 other contacts. Dr. Boo said that the risk of disease in Mono County is greater now (after Memorial Day) than three weeks ago.

Considerable discussion on the lodging issue followed. Are some motels in June Lake open and not following the rules? Can regulations be enforced? Are short-term rentals advertising and/or accepting reservations online? Supervisor Gardner and Wendy Sugimura said that county staff had called all lodging operators and asked them not to take bookings online because they can't tell if they are essential workers or not. If it appears that a motel is opening to nonessential travelers and gaining an unfair advantage over others who are playing by the rules, that is a violation of county code and can be enforced via reporting on the county website.

Campgrounds also occasioned much discussion. Supervisor Gardner noted that private

camping (which can be open) accounts for just 25% of the spaces in the county, with the federal ones being the largest number. Without those open, there's a lot of dispersed camping and issues with trash and toilets. The county-operated toilets are open, but that is not being advertised. The June Lake beach remains closed because the restroom is maintained by the state (and that is not yet open). The logic of opening fishing without lodging was questioned. Supervisor Gardner agreed and said that's why he voted against opening fishing season earlier than lodging.

The question of the economic impact of federal and state COVID-19 relief was raised. How many PPP grants for how much money have been received in Mono County? How many workers are receiving unemployment insurance plus the \$600 extra? How much of an impact upon the Mono county economy do those inflows of money have? Supervisor Gardner said those are unknowns, and that the data to those answer those questions will come later and provide a retrospective view.

6. Community updates

- a. Women's Club. Jora Fogg said that there has been tremendous support for June Lake Cares, with \$39,000 raised so far to support families in need. A "pop-up" dinner at Lift provided dinners for some families, and a drive-thru version is being planned. Jora also reported that the Thrift Store is getting prepped to open, hopefully within two weeks.
- b. Chamber of Commerce. Janet Hunt reported that the Chamber is striving to keep up to date with information to be able to plan for welcoming visitors back with banners at both ends of the Loop. All summer events (e.g. Jam Fest) have been cancelled. Julie Brown added that so have all summer events at the Mountain.
- c. Water Subcommittee. Julie said she is always thinking about the need for snowmaking, and said she would organize a Zoom meeting with interested parties and individuals. A key question is for the PUD to come up with a price for 1-2 million gallons of water to be used in snowmaking, most of which is recycled back into groundwater.

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

8. The adjourned meeting at 7:26 p.m.

Next meeting: TBA

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Marks, Secretary