

June Lake Citizens Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes September 4, 2012

Present: Jerry Allendorf, BZ Miller, Dave Naaden, Carl Williams, Dan Roberts, Jil Stark, Patti Heinrich

Mono County: Courtney Weiche, planning; Rick Scholl & Ralph Obenberger, Sheriff Dept; Vikki Bauer, Supervisor.

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:06pm by chairman BZ Miller.
2. Public Comment:
 - Ann Tozier expressed concern over the proposed overhead fiber cable to be installed by SCE. She wants to fight it, hoping that it will be on the transmission line located above and behind the houses down canyon, rather than the line running through tracts. She wonders if there is anything that can be done to oppose the project outside of the Scenic Highway area along Highway 395.
 - Dennis Lindsay pointed out that electric clocks running on commercial power have been inaccurate (running fast). This is because SCE is providing its alternating current at more than 60Hz.
 - Chris Edwards wanted to know if any action is being taken to explore new ownership for June Mountain. He agreed to serve on a committee should one be formed.
3. It was moved by Patti Heinrich and seconded by Jil Stark to approve the minutes of August 7, 2012. The motion was passed with no opposition.
4. Jil Stark reported that Jon Kazmierski will be meeting regarding winter activities. Regarding the Yost Creek Trailhead parking area, CalTrans has repaired the shoulder of Route 158 making parking in the vicinity easier. The Forest Service has said that they will begin working on a new bridge to the parking area next spring after the runoff subsides. The County has provided funding, \$5643, for initial studies of the Down Canyon trail, which is an existing game trail. She reports that according to Jon Kazmierski, existing trails in the USFS system need work, so any new trails will require funding and volunteerism (an ideal situation would be for the County to make a 20-year commitment). Nick Faust has donated lots of time, writing reports and so forth, as a volunteer for the Trails Committee. The next Trails meeting will be on October 16 at the Double Eagle Resort, during which mountain bike trails will be discussed.
5. Joe Blummer, CalTrans engineer, indicated that the sidewalk project on Route 158 through the village in June Lake is about to start, at long last. No Parking Signs should begin to appear along the route by tomorrow. The survey crew is coming in on Thursday and work will begin on Monday September 10. The first phase will be from the June Lake Campground to the Sierra Inn. Demolition work will move ahead of the construction to the next section from Knoll Avenue to the June Lake Motel. The third section will be from Sierra Inn to Knoll Ave. The work will include upgrades to the sidewalk system to meet the current requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. New retaining walls will need to be built. Also, there will be a new wheelchair ramp constructed on the other side of the street in front of the Dream Mountain Studio, as part of the first phase.
6. Sue Farley presented an update and maps from the US Forest Service on fuels reduction. Layout on two areas will be done this fall: they are near Fish Hatchery Hill/Double Eagle, and near the Horse Pasture/Rodeo Grounds area. A grant was received from the Sierra Nevada

Conservancy. Contract bids will go out in the Spring, with work to begin next summer. No fuelwood gathering will be allowed in the proximity of residences, but some wood may be hauled out to a collection point. A third zone will be in the Reversed Peak area in about three years: this will be general thinning followed by fuelwood collection and subsequent slash burning. This is a five-year project overall.

There are federal Forest Service grant opportunities for fuels reduction on private lands. The criteria are that the land be adjacent to USFS property, in a high fire risk area, and that the County has a Fire Management Plan in place-- we may want to consider applying for money, perhaps through the Fire District in similar fashion as recently occurred in Mammoth Lakes. Al Heinrich commented that he will be coordinating grant writing and invited interested parties to assist.

The requirements of NEPA and CEQA must be met for the use of these grand funds: some of the funds may be utilized for that purpose.

7. Claude Fiddler has indicated willingness to work on the ballfield including maintenance and upgrades. Discussion included use by Little League, perhaps installing soccer goals, and/or use of the field for other events such as community events and concerts, etc.
8. Jerry Allendorf noted that the Fire Department responds to emergency calls in the area, but with June Mountain not in operation, the question is raised regarding avalanches and injuries that may occur.

Mono County Sheriff Rick Scholl explained that his department oversees a good Search and Rescue program with lots of experience, that will provide emergency response when necessary. The SAR team already responds to incidents throughout the county, and will serve the June Lake area equally. Longer response times can be anticipated, however, as there will not be a ski patrol on duty at June Mountain. Undersheriff Ralph Obenberger added that MMSA, as permittees on the ski area land, will still be responsible for some level of safety and security per the US Forest Service.

9. Patti Heinrich distributed an outline of the various Revitalization subcommittees, as well as a form which is to be used for a budget approval process. Proposed committee composition is as follows:

Steering Committee:

Connie Black – CAC – Report to CAC

Patti Heinrich – CAC – Report to CAC

Rob Morgan – CAC

BZ Miller – CAC

Ralph Lockhart – COC – Report to Chamber of Commerce

Doug Smith – Resident

Keith Potter – Resident

Richard McCoy Jr. – Boulder Lodge

Jarrold Lear – Resident

Jon Coats – Fern Creek Lodge

Tim Alpers – Supervisor-elect, District 3

Committee 1: XC Skiing/Snowshoeing, etc:

Doug Smith, Chair

Jean Dillingham

Dianne Grafton

Jil Stark

Howard Weamer

Lynn MacMichaels

- 2) Snowshoeing and XC groomed and non-groomed area maps.
 - 3) Guided tours. Jean Dillingham is meeting with the Sierra Club about this possibility.
 - 4) A bus stop could be provided at Obsidian Dome parking area.
 - 5) Snowmobiling: enhance trails toward the Pine Cliff area. There are questions to be presented to USFS and MMSA. (Jil Stark remarked that winter maps are available)
There does not seem to be a lot of support from agencies.
- Alice Suzsinsky of the Winter Festival committee reported that the desired building “facades” in the village would not be feasible due to building permits, etc. Lighting all of the buildings in town, and a community tree to be located at Sierra Crest Real Estate will be pursued.

Discussion ensued on letter writing or asking whether the USFS would be issuing a non-compliance letter to MMSA. Vikki Bauer said that she could ask the Board of Supervisors to write such a letter to Rusty Gregory: also that Tim Alpers and Larry Johnston are proposing to draft a letter reviewing a meeting held between them last week.

There is word that a fifteen-passenger van may be provided by Rusty (MMSA) to transport employees to Mammoth Mountain. If this is the case, there is a possibility that extra seats could be made available for public use.

Dan Roberts expressed his feeling that a key element of the winter's plans should be to provide transportation between June Lake and Mammoth. Patti Heinrich suggested that he be the transportation committee. Dan indicated that he would talk to ESTA.

11. Courtney Weiche indicated that the Transient Occupancy Overlay District provisions, which were recently approved by the Planning Commission, will come before the Board of Supervisors in late October.
Also, a new Main Street revitalization plan will be implemented in accordance with a recent study done in conjunction with planning consultant Dan Burton. Mr. Burton also accompanied planning staff in a review of the downtown area of June Lake: however, no funding or plans can be devoted to June Lake at this time.
12. Dennis Lindsay stated that the flooding problem in the Library has not been resolved despite recent upgrades. He requested an agenda item to examine this problem.
13. The next meeting will be held as usual on October 2, 2012
14. Meeting was adjourned at 9:20pm.

Ian Fetters
Laura Newland
Keith Potter
Dottie Potter
Lynda Thompson

Committee 2: Snow Play Area:

Jon Coats, chair
Nate Deschenes
Maribeth Kramer
Pat Ferguson

Committee 3: Winter Festival:

Candy Logue, co-chair
Jarrod Lear, co-chair
Jill Adams
Jerry Allendorf
Cathy Scribner
Debbie Perilman
Alice Suszynski

Committee 4: Public Relations/Marketing/Social Media Outreach:

Alicia Vennos, chair
Connie Black
Ralph Lockhart
Patti Heinrich
Dan Roberts

- The committee's activities will be reviewed by the County's Tourism Staff before approval by the Tourism Commission. There will be a meeting tomorrow at 10:00am with the Forest Service, and the next Revitalization Committee meeting will be on Wednesday September 12. There will also be a hearing before the Tourism Commission on the following Friday. An entity is being sought to control funding: either the Chamber of Commerce or the Historical Society. Chris Edwards again raised that no committee is listed to pursue seeking/attracting a buyer for June Mountain: he feels that is important.
- Jerry Allendorf: Snow Play, renamed to Winter Play subcommittee has studied four locations.
 - 1) Next to the Community Center. An advantage is that there are existing restrooms and parking.
 - 2) Next to Sierra Inn on the old Camp Culver property.
 - 3) Next to Trout Town Joe (this however is utilized as a snow storage area).
 - 4) June Mountain Parking Lot.Volunteers and equipment would be needed: the budget is only at about \$1500.
- Doug Smith: XC Skiing and snowshoeing team met Wednesday to establish some goals.
 - 1) Enhance grooming at Obsidian Dome. Would need to add \$3000-\$5000 to budget to groom more frequently. Exploring leasing or buying a grooming cat.