

June Lake Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) January 6, 2021 – Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order by Julie Brown at 6:01 p.m.; the Pledge of Allegiance was to a virtual flag. The meeting was held via ZOOM.

Members present: Julie Brown, Jora Fogg, Sarah Holston, Janet Hunt, Bob Marks, David Rosky

Before getting the meeting started, Supervisor Gardner asked if the CAC would prefer not to meet tonight, in light of the DC riot and breaching of the US Capitol. After a brief discussion, it was decided that if Congress could reconvene and go back to doing their work, we too could get to work. It was agreed to postpone any non-urgent agenda item to the next meeting.

2. Elections for chair, vice president, and secretary.

Chair: Julie Brown was nominated, seconded, and elected.

Vice chair: Jora Fogg was nominated, seconded, and elected.

Secretary: Bob Marks was nominated, seconded, and elected.

3. Public Comment. None.

4. Julie Brown asked for a consideration of the minutes of December 2, 2020. Jora moved that they be accepted; Janet Hunt seconded. The motion carried.

5. Reports.

- a. Supervisor Gardner reported that (1) the Forest Service will be burning piles of slash around June Lake. Gordon Martin, District Ranger for the Mammoth and Mono Lake Ranger Districts of the Inyo National Forest confirmed that that would be happening; (2) questions have been raised about whether the public has access to June Mountain. Gordon Martin confirmed that as a National Forest lessee, the public does have access to June Mountain unless for safety or logging operations reasons, but not to June Mountain ski area property. Also, the public cannot drive up the mountain, but must walk, hike, or ski in; (3) the Board of Supervisors has taken up the statement by the June Lake Loop Chamber of Commerce regarding the impact of the most recent stay at home order on businesses and workers, and the request that Mono county be removed from the Southern California region because of the multiple differences between a county with 14,000 residents and an urban area with over 10 million. The Board of Supervisors has just sent such a letter to Sacramento asking for that; (4) concerns have been raised about whether the bathrooms at Gull Lake Park and June Lake would be open in the winter. The bathrooms at Gull Lake Park are open, but are closed when it gets very cold. Gordon Martin confirmed that one of the bathrooms at June Lake is open during the winter.

b. Julie Brown reported that June Mountain is now open, but that coverage is thin.

c. There were no reports from other CAC members.

d. Staff reports: Michael Draper reported (1) that a representative from the California Insurance Commission will be at the Antelope Valley RPAC meeting to discuss homeowners insurance and payment moratorium issues in light of the Mountain View fire; (2) the Planning Commission has approved the June Lake Brewery use modification to have a permanent outdoor service area.

6. Suddenlink

Dave Rosky reported that he had received an update from Suddenlink VP Mike Horton. According to Horton, Mono County is part of general operation to identify areas of substandard performance, and to work plans for improvement. In a major repair, they found and repaired a downed cable in the Peterson Tract, and the Bishop office is open again. They have made investments in call-center response. Covid continues to cause staffing shortages.

Supervisor Gardener added that if he is contacted about Suddenlink service problems, he will pass on Horton's contact information. He also recommended that complaints be registered both with Suddenlink (on their website), and with the California Public Utilities Commission. Bob Marks noted that about two weeks ago he had read posts on the June Lake Loop website complaining about Suddenlink, and asked Dave if he could post some information there about what the CAC has been doing. Bob Marks also asked if there was some way to get CAC agendas and minutes posted in the Post Office.

7. Discussion of Balance Rock beautification

This item will be postponed to the next meeting, but Julie Brown did note that she contacted the PUD and learned that the four pipes standing out of the ground are the PUD's, that they must remain there, but that they can be hidden by landscaping.

8. EV Charging Station Subcommittee

Bob Marks reported that Sarah Holston had volunteered to join him on the subcommittee, and that they have made progress. Bob also said he had been in contact with Joe Blanchard, Director of Facilities for Mono County, and that Joe has been very helpful. He went through the process by which the county reviews and approves capital projects, and that the thoroughness of planning/engineering, and clear and confirmed funding sources, are the highest priorities for being approved.

The first issue that Bob and Sarah have addressed is potential locations for the EVCS at Gull Lake. Sarah said that because Gull Lake Park is heavily used, and that parking is an issue (especially in the summer), we would not want to take any parking spaces for EV charging. With that, she and Bob identified three potential locations, two of which Joe Blanchard agreed were feasible to examine more closely. One is at the trailhead to the Gull Lake loop trail, and the other is near the existing toilets. Each area has issues that would need to be addressed. Joe Blanchard suggested that we look first at the toilet area.

Bob said that powering the EV chargers could be done in one of two ways: with solar panels, or directly from existing electrical service. Bob and Sarah are pursuing the solar panel angle. A project manager on Joe Blanchard's staff, Pam Smitheman, had done a very preliminary and rough estimate that a solar system at the toilets could cost \$5000 for equipment, additional thousands for labor for installation, and an additional \$2000 in labor for installing and hooking up an EV charger. Following questions and comments from Supervisor Gardner, Bob said that he and Sarah would begin preliminary fund-raising activities, and that they would come to the County only when a full proposal could be developed that would pass approval from the county's project review committee.

9. Discussion and updates on COVID-19 impacts and response

Supervisor Gardner reported that Mono County sent a letter to the State asking that Mono County be removed from the Southern California region to better address the needs of area businesses and workers. He also said that vaccinations are underway, the county is receiving doses weekly and working through the priority list, and vaccinations for those 75 and older could begin by January 19.

Julie Brown reported that June Mountain is taking the mandate for masks very seriously. MASKS ARE REQUIRED.

10. Community updates

- a. Women's Club. Janet Hunt said that they had hosted a socially distanced "Breakfast with Santa." June Lake Cares has received additional donations to help those in need for help with rent and food, and that they will begin a "coat drive" soon.
- b. Chamber of Commerce. Janet reported that the Chamber adopted a statement (available on the JLL website) on the impact of the covid-19 stay-at-home order on June Lake loop businesses and their request that Mono County be removed from the strictures of being lumped into the South California region. She also said that the Chamber has launched an online store with JLL logowear. Janet received praise for all of her work in getting this up and running.
- c. Water Subcommittee. No report.

11. Future agenda items: Balance Rock beautification; EV charging stations subcommittee; COVID-19; CAC elections.

12. The meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Next meeting: TBA

*Respectfully submitted,
Bob Marks, Secretary*