

June Lake Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) February 3, 2021 – Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order by CAC Chair 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.

2. Public Comment. None.
3. Julie Brown asked for a consideration of the minutes of January 6, 2021. Julie moved that they be accepted; Sarah Holston seconded. The motion carried.
4. Reports.
 - a. Supervisor Gardner reported on (1) the challenges faced with the recent 7' once-in-50-years snowstorm. Keeping roads open was a challenge, especially US 395. Unfortunately, there were two fatalities in Mammoth Lakes, and an avalanche in Walker Canyon pushed a snow plow into the river, but the driver was ok; (2) minor fishing regulation changes will be in effect on March 1; opening day will remain the last weekend in April; (3) concerns about the brightness of new SCE LED streetlights in the Village, especially how they might affect our "dark skies" regulations ; (4) Kevin Larsen will join the CAC at our next meeting; Supervisor Gardner might have additional appointees by then too. The Supervisor was asked if he knew of SCE plans for activity in the spring or summer (repairs, helicopters, etc.) that would affect June Lake; he knew of none. Julie reported that it was her understanding there might be 2-3 weeks of work on the dams. Supervisor Gardner asked her how the opening of June Mountain went; he heard concerns about limitations on parking.
 - b. Julie Brown Julie reported that June Mountain had only a little more than a day to get ready for opening on Saturday, and that the highest priority was safety. A challenge was the large number of people who arrived early and camped in the parking lot. That is an issue the mountain will have to deal with, since it is not allowed.
 - c. Members reports. Janet Hunt reported that the June Lake JamFest had parted with the Mammoth Arts Council. It has gotten too big, and will now be part of the June Lake Performing Arts Council with all the financial and other benefits remaining in June Lake. Dave Rosky said that Mike Horton of Suddenlink has been ill, so that agenda item can be deferred to the next meeting. Bob Marks reported that he had gotten a hair cut, and that Ellen the barber will be cutting hair the first two Tuesdays of each month. He pointed out that opportunity to Supervisor Gardner.
 - d. Staff reports: Michael Draper reported that no date had been set for the Tioga Inn specific plan hearing.

5. Proposition 68 (see attached report).

Matthew Paruolo, Mono county Department of Public Works Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Coordinator. Proposition 68, passed in 2018, has \$400,000 in funds for local park rehabilitation, creation, and improvement to be allocated on a per capita basis. He explained what kinds of capital outlay projects might be supported, and asked for a discussion of June Lake Loop priorities. Discussion focused on a “makeover” for Gull Lake Park, including making it ADA compliant, adding a skate park and a permanent performing arts stage, and adding the EV charging station. Janet Hunt said she’d been hearing from many residents about possible projects, and that she would get together with Matthew to discuss all of them. He urged development of a comprehensive plan.

6. June Lake Loop Area Sustainable Recreation Priorities.

Matthew Paruolo provided an extensive list of projects currently under consideration (see attachment “Recreation Planning Update”). Most of the discussion concerned Recreational Trails Planning, in particular the Reversed Peak Loop trail, the plans to connect the Shady Rest and Inyo Crate OHV trails to June Lake, dispersed camping, and the Fern Lake bridge. The Reversed Peak Loop is a very popular trail, and because there are many issues with the current location of the trailhead, relocating the parking across the road at the ball field would be an improvement. Strong opposition from one member was voiced to the idea of extending or increasing OHV trails and staging areas to June Lake; Matthew said those interested in the issue could attend a March 25 meeting. The surge of campers during the covid lockdown brought many issues, not the least of which were camping where it was not allowed and ripping out or destroying regulatory signage; enforcement and mitigation must be undertaken. Replacement of the Fern Lake bridge has been an issue for 2-3 seasons; Jora Fogg will have a sidebar discussion with Matthew about it and report back.

7. Suddenlink services.

Deferred to the next meeting.

8. Discussion of Balance Rock beautification.

Deferred to the next meeting.

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

Supervisor Gardner said that with the stay-at-home order lifted, outdoor dining is now allowed, and lodging in the county can go to full occupancy (with 24 hours between rentals for cleaning), with the Town of Mammoth Lakes limited to 70% occupancy. The vaccination effort is moving fast, in part because of the small size of the county and our allocation of vaccines. Positive covid-19 cases have dropped, and the positivity rate also has gone down (but still not far enough).

10. Community updates

- a. Women's Club. Janet Hunt said that June Lake Cares has given \$27,000 in support to those in need. Jora Fogg added that planning for a "drive-by" St. Patrick's Day meal is proceeding.
- b. Chamber of Commerce.
- c. Water Subcommittee. Julie asked that this item be taken off future agenda as there will be no snowmaking this year.
- d. EV Charging Station subcommittee. Bob Marks reported on the progress to date. Discussions with Joe Blanchard (Mono County Director of Facilities) have narrowed the options for a suitable location in Gull Lake Park to the area near the existing toilets. Sarah Holston pointed out that to locate it there will require taking one existing parking space; discussion supported the idea that doing so was a reasonable trade-off for getting the EV charging station and making progress on sustainability. Bob said that the approach would be in two phases. Phase 1 would install an EV charger and power it from the existing electrical service. Phase 2 would move to install solar panels to power the EV charger and the heaters in the toilets.

For the project to move forward, a proposal needs to be developed showing the design and funding sources so that the County Capital Improvements Committee can consider the proposal and act on it. Bob said the design would be essentially the same as that used at Gus Hess Park in Lee Vining, and that he would get that from our friends there; a significant part of the funding will come from the donation in kind of a charger from Adopt-a-Charger.org valued at \$1500-2000, and a cash donation of \$1500 to cover the cost of electricity. Bob and Sarah will work up a proposal to be given to Joe Blanchard.

Julie asked what action the CAC could or should take. It was agreed that a letter of support would be appropriate; Bob and Sarah will work up a draft for the committee's consideration at its next meeting.

11. Future agenda items: Balance Rock beautification; COVID-19.

12. The meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Next meeting: TBA

*Respectfully submitted,
Bob Marks, Secretary*

Attachment



MONO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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Date: February 4, 2021
To: June Lake Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)
From: Matthew Paruolo, Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Coordinator (ESSRC)
Subject: Proposition 68: Per Capita Agreement & Sustainable Recreation Planning Update

Recommended Action:

1. Receive an update on Prop 68 – Per Capita Agreement and provide discussion of potential projects
2. Receive Recreation Planning Update and provide discussion on June Lake Loop priorities

1. Proposition 68 – Per Capita Agreement:

Background:

This program originates from Proposition 68, passed in 2018. \$400,000 has been allocated to Mono County of Proposition 68 funds for local park rehabilitation, creation, and improvement on a per capita basis. Grant recipients are encouraged to utilize awards to rehabilitate existing infrastructure and to address deficiencies in neighborhoods lacking access to the outdoors. Initial direction provided by the Board of Supervisors has been to prioritize rehabilitation repurposing of County managed facilities for projects already identified for Capital Improvement and/or identified as needs by local community RPACs. A 20% match is required for total project cost(s). Projects not located on Mono County owned lands require a 20-30-year land tenure agreement with the authorized land manager. Project applications can be submitted on a rolling basis through December 2021. All project work needs to be completed no later than December 2023.

Eligible Projects:

Projects must be capital outlay for recreational purposes, either acquisition or development. Multiple projects may be completed under one contract and several other projects have been identified in Central & Southern Mono County to supplement capital overlay projects identified region-wide. Grantees must use Per Capita grant funds to supplement existing expenditures, rather than replace them. (Additive). Funding can be used for capital outlay projects but NOT for routine repair and maintenance.

Examples:

Roof – replacing broken shingles is maintenance; fixing a hole is repair; replacing the roof is capital outlay.

Playground – adding additional fall material is maintenance; fixing the chains on a swing set is repair; replacing the play structures is capital outlay.

Windows – repairing the glazing is maintenance; replacing broken panes is repair; replacing the windows is capital outlay.

*** Provide discussion on potential eligible Capital Overlay Projects in the June Lake Loop**

Parks • Community Centers • Roads & Bridges • Land Development • Solid Waste
Building Maintenance • Campgrounds • Airports • Cemeteries • Fleet Maintenance

2. Recreation Planning Update:

Background:

The position of Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Coordinator (ESSRC) was established as a County position in October 2020. The coordinator spends, on annual average, two out of five workdays per week performing duties directly relating to the County's List of Recreation Goals and Objectives. The remaining time is spent on (and funded by) the Town of Mammoth Lakes. The following discussion is intended to provide the ESSRC with an inventory of June Lake Loop area Goals and Objectives and to provide the June Lake CAC with an update on ESSRC activities.

Discussion:

The ESSRC has identified several projects and programs to improve sustainable recreation experience, public access, and resource protection within the June Lake Loop:

- June Lake Trail Days – **pending CDC guidelines; coordination with Friends of the Inyo**
- Eastern Sierra Adopt-a-Trail Program – **ongoing; coordination with Mammoth Lakes Recreation**
- o **Financial adopters include:** June Lake Brewing Company – Yost Creek Trail
Ohanas 395 – Fern Lake Trail
- o **Volunteer adopters include:**
 - Elizabeth Weeks – Reversed Peak Loop
 - Substantial on-the-ground contributions - June Lake Trails Committee
- Yosemite Facelift: Act Local Event – **complete; ongoing**
 - o 26 organizations region-wide
 - o 220 volunteers
 - o 713 volunteer hours
 - o 10,120 lbs. of trash removed from public lands
- Tangle Free Waters Program; **ongoing; coordination with Mammoth Lakes Recreation**
Financial adopters include:
 - In Honor of Tristin Quintero – June Lake
- Recreational Trails Planning:
 - o Silver Lake Resort "Shepard's Trail"
 - o Down Canyon Trail
 - o Reversed Peak Loop
 - o Shady Rest and Inyo Craters – OHV Planning Grant – **ongoing; community engagement required – TOML Project Lead**
- Projects and on-the-ground efforts:
 - o Dispersed Camping mitigations in "Recreation Restricted Areas" – **ongoing**
 - o Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center – **ongoing; coordination with Mono Lake Volunteers**
 - o Forest Road (FRD) road signs ordered and installed – **ongoing**
 - Fern Lake Trailhead
 - Reversed Peak Trailhead(s)
 - Yost Creek Trailhead
 - o Trail-Counter Data Collection - **ongoing**
 - o USFS Standard Trail Signs ordered and installed – **ongoing**
 - o Restroom (re) placement and infrastructure:
 - Fern Lake Trailhead
 - Parker Bench Trailhead
 - Rush Creek Trailhead & Informational Kiosk – **USFS project lead**
 - Silver Lake Marina – **USFS project lead**
 - o Fern Lake Bridge Replacement – **Pending USFS approval**

*** Provide discussion on projects identified and other Goals and Objectives not identified in the June Lake Loop**

If you have any questions regarding this item, please contact Matthew Paruolo at mparuolo@mono.ca.gov; (760) 616-4054.

Respectfully submitted,
Matthew Paruolo, Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Coordinator