

June Lake Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)
June 2, 2021 – Meeting Minutes
(Draft pending approval)

1. Call to Order by CAC Chair Julie Brown at 6:03 p.m.; the Pledge of Allegiance was to a virtual flag provided by Wendy Sugimura.

Members present: Julie Brown , Sarah Holston, Janet Hunt, Kevin Larsen, Bob Marks, David Rosky.

2. Public Comment. None
3. Chair Julie Brown asked for a consideration of the minutes of May 5, 2021. By a roll call vote of six (6) yeas and zero (0) nays the minutes were accepted.

Julie also asked that the agenda be reordered to discuss #6 first to accommodate guest presenters.

4. Discussion of installing cross walks within June Lake Village

Lianae Talbot, CalTrans safety engineer, said the agency has received a request to designate cross walks in the June Lake Village area. She said CalTrans is happy to oblige, but that an engineering study will be required, and CalTrans will need help with determining specific locations. She asked the CAC for help with the latter, and a lengthy discussion ensued.

The issues addressed included speed limits on CA 158 going through the Village, as well as elsewhere in the Loop, and whether CalTrans could be helpful in calming traffic or reducing the speed limit. Ms. Talbot said that a speed study shows that 85% of the traffic goes at 27 mph or less (and hence that the speed limit would not likely be able to be reduced), and that CalTrans could include in their cross walk study whether and where to install the flashing “radar feedback signs.”

Following some discussion of whether Mono County would be willing to accept CA 158 from the state, Chair Julie Brown redirected discussion back to the matter on the agenda. Ms. Talbot reiterated that CalTrans would like some guidance as to placement of the cross walks. It was decided that the way the CAC will get that to CalTrans will be to conduct an online survey via Facebook, have some discussion in ways that do not violate the Brown Act, and get the information to CalTrans before our next regularly scheduled meeting.

Julie thanked Lianae Talbot for bringing this to the CAC for discussion and input.

5. Reports.
 - a. Supervisor Gardner. Apparently fully rested from his travels the previous three

months, Supervisor Gardner commented (1) that the county was finalizing its annual budget, and that he was happy to report that Matt Paruolo would become a full-time employee of the county (after sharing the position with the Town of Mammoth Lakes); and (2) that the Supervisors had received a report on the county library system, and that they were impressed at how much the branches do in providing services and out-reach to their communities that go beyond the services of just a lending library. He encouraged members to visit the June Lake branch, and tell friends and neighbors of the terrific work they do.

b. CAC chair. No report.

c. Member reports.

Sarah Holston reported that the June Lake Trails Committee has had a strong start, and will be holding its annual Trail Day on June 26 (8:00-12 noon). Lunch will be provided, and the program will include some excellent presentations and speakers.

d. Staff reports: Michael Draper said there was an upcoming meeting on June 14 of the local transportation committee to adopt a resolution on unmet transit needs that is open to the public, and that on June 17 the Planning Commission would take up two projects in June Lake: (1) a short-term rental application on Skyline Dr., and (2) a set-back variance request of a residence on North Texas St. Both of those are open for public comment.

6. ACTION: To approve (or not) a letter to the Board of Supervisors regarding traffic calming within the Village.

Chair Julie Brown asked if all CAC members had had a chance to read the letter, and whether there were any concerns or questions. Hearing none, Julie called the question. Kevin Larson moved to approve the letter; Dave Rosky seconded the motion, and it carried by a vote of 6-0.

7. Discussion of Grant Lake dispersed camping.

Supervisor Gardner began by briefly summarizing the excellent outcome of the Town Hall meeting, in particular the organization set up to monitor and police Grant Lake. Dispersed camping overnight has been banned, and fires at any time have been banned. Signage has been installed, but incredibly some of the fire restriction signs have been tore down. Volunteers removed 70-80 fire rings, but still illegal fires were reported over the weekend. Volunteers also cleaned up the shoreline, finding evidence of human waste and a bathtub (!!!). June Lake Trails offered to use their list serve to get more volunteers involved.

The major item of discussion was enforcement of the camping and fires ban. No one yet has been fined or cited for transgressions. Numerous commentators indicated zero tolerance for the illegal behavior and stressed the need to vigorously police and enforce bans. The fire danger to the community is too great to tolerate violations, or to endanger

continued public access to Grant Lake and its water (which is now permitted by LADWP). Supervisor Gardner indicated that the authorities are moving in the direction of enforcement and the issuing of citations and fines.

A community member and Village business owner thanked everyone for their effort, and emphasized the need for additional porta-potties and dumpsters not just around Grant Lake, but in the Village as well. With limited toilets and dumpsters on Main St. in the Village, facilities elsewhere are overwhelmed. There are more “to-go” food options in the Village without toilet facilities open to the public, putting unfair pressure on other restaurants and bars. And these problems are compounded by the lack of public parking in the Village.

Supervisor Gardner agreed that a solution to all of these issues along CA 158 through the Village—including parking—needs to be formulated.

8. Discussion of June Lake beach west side access.

Kevin Larson clarified the issue by noting that vehicles had gone beyond the parking area and onto the shore. He asked that a way be found to prevent vehicles from driving onto the shore, perhaps by getting the county to place a large boulder in the way.

When Supervisor Gardner encouraged anyone seeing that to call 911 to report it to the Sheriff’s office, one CAC member said her personal experience with a dispatcher indicated that that does not help. Supervisor Gardner said Sheriff Braun has assured him that their policy is to log and take seriously all such reports. He will talk with the sheriff again.

9. Discussion of Balanced Rock beautification. With no one to speak to it, Janet Hunt suggested that the item be removed from the agenda until such time as there is a presenter.

10. Discussion and updates on COVID-19 impacts and response. Supervisor Gardner reported that while there has been a small uptick in reported cases, it is nothing to change our status. The major change will come on June 15 when Gov. Newsom has determined that restrictions will end and the economy will be completely open. How that actually works out in practice will need to be determined. With 70% of residents vaccinated, Mono County remains among the highest in the state.

11. Community updates

- a. Women’s Club. Janet Hunt reported that the Swap Meet in Gull Lake Park is being planned, and that it can be done in a way that is covid compliant.
- b. Chamber of Commerce. Janet reported that the June Lake visitors’ center is being established in the Rainbow Ridge realty office and will be open soon. She also said that the June Lake Loop Performing Arts Council is the new

home of JamFest, and that that is being planned. She also noted a July 23-24 theatrical performance in Gull Lake Park; all will be covid-compliant.

Kevin Larson added that the Chamber's clean-up day was a great success, and that they need to keep doing it.

- c. EV Charging Station subcommittee. Bob Marks reported that the special use permit application to the Forest Service is in process, although he is not aware of any timeline for when the FS will get around to approving it. In the meantime, he reported that the EV charger has a corporate sponsor (to be revealed when the charger is installed), and that while a street address for Gull Lake Park will be needed for various purposes, it appears that there are several addresses. The County Director of Facilities is looking into the matter.

12. Future agenda items: OHV trail connecting Shady Rest (in Mammoth Lakes) to June Lake.

13. At 7:09 p.m., Chair Brown asked for a motion to adjourn. Kevin Larson made the motion, seconded by Sarah Holston, and approved unanimously. Several CAC members praised Julie for her deft management of the meeting.

Next meeting: TBA

*Respectfully submitted,
Bob Marks, Secretary*