

June Lake Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)
August 4, 2021 – Meeting Minutes
(Draft pending approval)

1. Call to Order by CAC Chair Julie Brown at 6:01 p.m.; the Pledge of Allegiance was to a virtual flag in each of our Zoom spaces.

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

2. Public Comment.

Kevin Larsen thanked the Department of Public Works for reinstalling the speed hump on Bruce St.

3. Chair Julie Brown asked for a consideration of the minutes of August 4, 2021. Sarah Holston moved approval, and Kevin Larsen seconded the motion; the minutes were accepted.

4. Reports.

a. Arriving a few minutes late due to his attendance at Congressman Obernolte's hastily called town hall meeting, Supervisor Bob Gardner reported (1) that the town hall meeting consisted of about 40 minutes of the Congressman talking, and 20 minutes of questions; (2) that CalTrans is resurfacing CA 158; (3) that the USFS closure of all forests until at least September 17 because of fire danger is disappointing to local business. Supervisor Gardner said the decision was region-wide, that the Inyo National Forest was not in favor, and that businesses can request exemptions. In response to a question, he said that he would see if a case can be made that businesses affected by the closure can seek some compensation from the state; (4) that COVID-19 cases continue to rise, and that masks indoors are required

b. CAC chair. Julie Brown reported that the forest closure has made it challenging for June Mountain.

c. Member reports. Kevin Larsen said that the June Lake Loop Chamber of Commerce annual meeting will be October 25; for details see the JLLCOC website. Bob Marks reported that the county roads department has begun repairs on roads in Peterson tract, but that there is still no long-term solution to the road issues in the tract. He also said he had written a letter to Joel Rathje of Mammoth Lake trails (regarding the proposal he brought to the CAC at its last meeting) indicating that there is a voluminous scholarly literature concerning the significant environmental impacts of OHV/ATV trails, and raising important questions about the advisability of connecting OHV trails from Shady Rest to June Lake. Dave Rosky reported that he continues work on local single-track trails.

d. Staff reports:

Michael Draper reported (1) that two projects have been accepted for processing (for variances) and that the Board of Supervisors upheld a Planning Commission denial of a project at 212 Skyline Dr. He also reported that he was working with consultants on developing a Sustainable Transportation Plan. In response to questions, Michael said that open meetings would be scheduled for times when most people are around, that the grant is for planning and not implementation, and that mostly concerned walking and bicycles but that he will look into whether EV charging stations could be included.

Gerry LeFrancois discussed activities and projects of the Mono County Transportation Commission in collaboration with the Town of Mammoth Lakes and CalTrans District 9. Some \$5 million in gas tax dollars come back to the county on a five-year funding cycle. Major projects include multi-million dollar improvements to US 395, including closing the gap in the four-lane structure between Red Rock Canyon and Ridgecrest; adding a Conway Summit climbing lane; and building wildlife crossing corridors. He said that June Lake has a large place in the Regional Transportation Plan, and that it would be good to tie all of these into the CA 158 plans. He expects that the emerging federal infrastructure bill will include funding for EV charging stations. He asked the CAC to work on establishing priorities so the Board of Supervisors will be able to better assess and fund needs.

In response to questions, Gerry said that he would look into how improvements to parking at Parker Lake and Fern Lake trailheads might be included and funded.

5. ACTION: consideration of a letter of support to Caltrans for CA Route 158 speed study.

Michael Draper brought to the CAC a draft letter prepared by Sarah Holston. After some discussion and an amendment, the letter (see attached) was approved by a vote of 6-0.

6. Discussion and updates on COVID-19 impacts and response. Already covered under Supervisor Gardner's report.

7. Community updates

- a. Women's Club. No report
- b. Chamber of Commerce. See Kevin Larsen's prior comment.
- c. EV Charging Station Subcommittee. Bob Marks reported that Supervisor Gardner had agreed to raise the EV issue with the new USFS District Ranger.

8. Discussion of future in-person meeting.

Sarah Holston asked that the CAC consider going to hybrid in-person/virtual meetings. There was general support for the idea of returning to the Community Center, but the major issue concerns whether there is the technological capability of streaming our meetings from that location. Staff was asked to research the question and to report back at the next CAC meeting.

9. Future agenda items: Further discussion of the Sustainable Transportation Plan; new members
10. At 6:58 p.m., Chair Brown asked for a motion to adjourn; Kevin Larsen so moved, it was seconded, and the meeting adjourned (in record time).

Next meeting: First Wednesday of October

*Respectfully submitted,
Bob Marks, Secretary*

September 1, 2021

To: Caltrans District 9

Re: Continued Efforts to Improve Pedestrian Safety Along CA 158 in the June Lake Loop

Firstly, we want to thank Lianne Talbot for coming to the June Lake Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) twice in recent months to bring to us issues CalTrans faces regarding CA 158. We hope we were able to help her with CalTrans planning, and we especially thank her for being open to further suggestions and ideas regarding CA 158 that will enhance vehicular and pedestrian safety in the June Lake Loop.

The purpose of this letter is to express the support of the June Lake Citizens Advisory Committee for these further pedestrian safety efforts throughout June Lake Village and Down Canyon along CA 158, in particular the need for defined and signed crosswalks and school bus stops and whatever speed studies are necessary to implement these improvements.

Traffic and parallel parking in June Lake Village has increased over the last decade, especially in the summer months. This forces pedestrians to cross CA 158 at driveways, in the middle of street accesses and in between parallel parked vehicles, creating hazards for both pedestrians and motorists. Additionally, in the winter ADA ramps would allow community members to cross CA 158 safely, as there are often large berms along the sidewalk. These berms once again force people to cross at driveways and roads. This makes the community unsafe for people with disabilities, families, and thus all members of the community.

The installation of additional ADA ramps at two to three sites in the Village would allow for additional crosswalks, enhancing the safety of both pedestrians and motorists.

As for Down Canyon, additional pedestrian safety measures and speed studies need to be done for the "S" corner just past the Fern Creek Lodge and along Rush Creek recreation corridor, from Silver Lake to Aerie Crag. Both of these areas present challenges for pedestrians when traveling between neighborhoods or accessing recreation safety. Clearly identified bus stops would be especially helpful.

We trust that you will consider these measures to improve the safety of the June Lake Community.

Respectfully,

Julie Brown, Chair
June Lake Citizens Advisory Committee