

June Lake Citizens Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes - May 7, 2013

Meeting was called to order at 7:09 pm. Committee member attendees included Rob Morgan, Connie Black, Patti Heinrich, BZ Miller, Ann Tozier and Dan Roberts.

No minutes were available from the last meeting for review.

Public Comment:

Ann Tozier mentioned finding the feet from a dead Bald Eagle at Grant Lake, which she turned over to the Sheriff. She also wondered who maintains the restroom at the Silver Lake parking area, as it is in terrible shape. She was told to contact the USFS. She also encouraged the community to stay aware of what is happening in the ESUSD, as the quality of our schools impact the community and affect families who may want to move or to stay here.

Connie Black mentioned that they were approved for a transient TOT overlay by the BOS for their guest house on her property. Scott Burns said they had two applications for transient TOT overlay, but one at the Virginia Lakes was withdrawn.

Nate Greenberg provided an update on the Digital 395 project. They were going to bring high speed internet into June Lake along power poles, but more than half of the poles failed the wind load specifications. As a result, the cost to bring it underground becomes equivalent to replacing power poles so they are going to bore underground to June Lake. They are working on obtaining clearance from Caltrans for the needed right of way. The lines will most likely be brought to the June Mountain parking area, the Community Center, the Fire Station in the village, and the Sheriff. They are seeking increased funding from the PUC. Timing could possibly be end of July. Bridgeport is expected to be complete in mid-June. Ridgecrest and Barstow are already on line. Schat.net has applied for funding to upgrade, and there has been no word from Suddenlink.

Agenda Items:

Tim Alpers was not present for a supervisor's update.

Louis Molina from State Environmental Health spoke about a countywide Radon Screen Survey. There are free test kits available for testing homes and businesses for the presence of radon. He handed out kits to those who wanted them. Radon gas is the second leading cause of lung cancer. If there are increased levels at your home there are various way to mitigate it, costing

CAC 5/7/13 Minutes, Page 2

in the neighborhood of \$2500 to \$5000. Place the kit in the worst case scenario, like a dirt crawl space under the house. The radon comes up from the soil as a by-product of Uranium degradation, and its presence is not predictable. The kit is not harmful to pets. The State Environmental Health Department has a website for the survey. Google "Radon California" to get to the radon website at www.cdph.ca.gov for more information. If your home does have increased radon levels it is something you must disclose when you sell the home.

Jerry Allendorf gave an update on the Private Land Fuel Reduction Project. There has been progress; they have submitted required documents, but no word back yet. Paul McCahon is the coordinator. Steve Joyce is an inspector. There are six more seasonal positions available. They hope to hear back from the USFS Thursday, and may get funding by next month (all \$850,000). Paul will submit requests for funds. A letter to property owners will go out in the next month. The letter is ready but won't go out until the project is ready. All of the environmental and biological checks and studies need to be done, hopefully by July. Alice Suszynski asked if the public can harvest the wood. Apparently there may be some trees eliminated, but not everywhere. Paul was not sure what will happen to those trees. Al Heinrich said the trees belong to the property owners. The process will be to send the letters out to the property owners. Not sure how it will work with second home owners, as they are not usually here, but when owners request fuel reduction on their property there will be an inspection of the property with a report to the owner. The owner will get a list of approved contractors. The property owner will hire and pay the contractor for the work. They are required to get three bids. Once the work is done, the property will be re-inspected. Once the completed work is signed off, and passes inspection, the owner will get reimbursed up to 75% of the cost, but NOT if they do the work themselves. Paul has met with some contractors; they want to get locals involved. There is another opportunity to meet with contractors on May 17th at Fire Station One. They can also call the Fuel Reduction hotline at 760-278-1795, or email jifr.grant@gmail.com. There are several tiers for qualified workers/contractors. They need certification for one million dollars of insurance, worker's compensation, and a business license. There are several types of licenses, which determines the work they are allowed to do. The property must be a fuel hazard in order to qualify for reimbursement. Al Heinrich said the grant states that maximum 12 inch diameter trees will qualify for removal, unless it is determined that a larger one needs to be removed. Paul stated that they will start in the Dream Mountain area. Mammoth contractors have been willing to be involved, but Paul wants to get ones from June Lake also. Cal Fire may help with the Double Eagle property. The Fish Hatchery area is USFS and will not be part of this. Patti Heinrich asked how we can favor someone getting a job,

CAC 5/7/13 Minutes, Page 3

and we can't. Rob Morgan wondered if there can be an advantage to locals by percent, but these are federal funds. Paul said there are guidelines we have to follow, and he is still learning all of the requirements. . Paul said this project has good timing with the drought and no history of fuel reduction in the area.

Jerry reminded everyone of the availability of dump fee waivers and of Chipper Day on the weekend of July 13-14

Alice Suszynski gave an update from the June Lake Revitalization Committee. She summarized that they formed last July, have been meeting with the USFS, have had letter writing campaigns, met with the BOS three times, and opposed the MMSA request for land exchange. Rusty Gregory has withdrawn his request that the BOS support the land exchange, presumably because Congressman Cook's office resubmitted the bill to approve it (HR 1241). The committee was able to talk to Justin Landon in Cook's office. He said they had not been aware of any opposition to the bill. The JLRC believes that MMSA is a poor steward of public land and opposes the land exchange. At the moment Alice reported that HR 1241 may now be in limbo per Cook's office. The JLRC is glad to hear what Rusty proposed to do with June Mountain at the April 9th BOS meeting, but he has made promises in the past that have not actualized. The JLRC wants to keep support of the land exchange as a carrot hanging for incentive for Rusty to follow through with his promises for June Mountain. Rusty has referred to the JLRC as a fringe group. Alice then read a statement by Kirk Maes. *(Please see attached document from Alice.)* JLRC has open meetings. If anyone is interested in attending please call Alice.

Alice also commented about a play she is performing in over in Mammoth Thursday through Sunday.

Patti Heinrich said that at the April BOS meeting the BOS wanted more information on MMSA and June Mountain. She provided them a list of past promised improvements that have not come to fruition. *(See attached list from Patti.)*

Chase Edwards spoke about producing a flyer from the June Lake Chamber of Commerce to inform people, and put Rusty's promises in it. Spread the word this way to keep it in the forefront.

Connie Black wondered what MMSA is actually going to do... there was no real timeline from Rusty. He only showed a banner at the BOS meeting with "JUNE" on it.

CAC 5/7/13 Minutes, Page 4

Patti still wondered what MMSA will do about damage control for the damage they have already done to the town and June Mountain.

Ralph Lockhart was also skeptical. He thinks it will help to do things such as pointing out missed milestones for the June Mountain renovation promises. This Thursday at 4 pm at the Double Eagle the Peer Group will meet with Tim Alpers and MMSA. MMSA called the meeting. Ralph said the BOS is working on a position statement. *(Please see attached BOS notes commented on at this meeting, provided by Ralph.)*

Patti added to not trust the season passes and employment as proof that June Mountain will open. She thinks we need a subcommittee.

Ralph added that we need County and USFS involvement; that will be key to this. June Mountain needs a new chair one, marketing and snow making.

Scott Burns reported on development activities in June Lake:

He commented, regarding a request for a microphone at the CAC meetings, that there is one available for large meetings.

He reminded the CAC board that they need to update their housing section of the June Lake Area Plan.

There is going to be a review of parking policies in June Lake, Lee Vining and Bridgeport. There may be a change in the number of parking spaces required; they may relax them. Brent Calloway will be at the next CAC meeting (agenda item) to talk about this.

Patti Heinrich asked if we can add a section on June Mountain to the June Lake Area Plan. Scott told her we might be able to do this.

The next meeting will be held at 7 pm on June 4th. There will be updates on the Fuel Reduction Project and on the June Lake revitalization.

The meeting was adjourned by BZ Miller after 9 pm.

Minutes taken by Ann Tozier