

## **June Lake Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes - March 4, 2014**

[Note: The regular meeting was preceded by a workshop meeting in which CAC members, and several others, began a review of the June Lake Area Plan Transportation Policies. CAC members in attendance were Don Morton, Ann Tozier, BZ Miller, Patti Heinrich and Connie Black. Gerry Le Francois and Tim Alpers were also present, as well as Al Heinrich and Scott Burns. They met from 6:08-6:56 pm, and will continue the review at a special meeting on Wednesday, March 19th from 6-7:30 pm.]

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:09 pm. Committee member attendees included Connie Black, Patti Heinrich, BZ Miller, Alan Sagot, Don Morton and Ann Tozier. Dan Roberts arrived at 7:40 pm. Tim Alpers was also present.

Minutes from the February 7th meeting were reviewed. Patti moved to adopt them, the motion was seconded by Don, and a vote approved the adoption.

### **Public Comment:**

Carl Williams commented that they had gotten snow in the nick of time and had a good weekend; they made \$3500 and had 120+ people show up. They will stay open as long as they can still [depending upon snow] but still plan to close April 20th. The staffing is low; usually they have 38 employees and now there are 19. They will not be running chairs 4 and 6 on weekdays, only Friday through Sunday.

Ingrid Braun introduced herself. She is running for Mono County Sheriff in the upcoming election, and encouraged people to come talk to her.

### **Agenda Items:**

#### **Election of Officers:**

There was an election of officers and the incumbents all were reelected; BZ Miller Chair, Patti Heinrich Vice-Chair, and Ann Tozier Secretary.

#### **Supervisor Alpers Update:**

Tim spoke to his concept of comprehensive long term plans for June Lake by first calling upon Alice Suszynski to give an update on the June Lake Gateway Monument. Last week he, Alice, and Dorothy Burdette met with Caltrans, and the results were fantastic.

Alice: She had a prior meeting with Jim Hibbert of Caltrans. After many emails it seemed that the only place a Gateway Monument would be allowed was on 158, which is not useful. An alternate idea came out of the second meeting with Caltrans; putting a sign outside the Caltrans right of way would transfer the issue to USFS land instead.

Dorothy: Tom Hallenbeck (Caltrans) suggested signage at the JL Junction to take the form of two signs; one would be brown and display JL Recreational opportunities, and the other would be green and display JL Village with the services listed below. Caltrans would pay for these signs. This frees up the gateway efforts to focus on finding a place for a sign on USFS land, just outside Caltrans right of way.

Patti suggested that the North JL Junction have a sign when it is closed to use the South Junction entrance.

Tim suggested that we get with the USFS.

Tim Alpers second topic was fishing. He talked about the continuing efforts to get an additional 75 acres at Conway Ranch permitted for a trout farm. (Mono County acquired the ranch from a developer some time ago.) They have been engaging with the Eastern Sierra Land Trust to mark up the area with their easement for aquaculture. They have gotten two agencies to sign off on this so far, a big step. The 75 acres is needed for more space in which to raise trophy fish and enhance fish farming capabilities. Aquaculture is growing worldwide, and they want a stand-alone hatchery that would be independent from the CA state hatchery system. The state may close Hot Creek Hatchery in the future; this would protect us against the repercussions of something like that.

**Inyo Forest Plan Update (Leeann Murphy and Debra Schweizer, USFS):**

The Inyo Forest Plan should be updated every 10-15 years, but has not since 1988. April 4th will be the start of the NEPA process. They are early implementers of a 2012 plan rule... still figuring the process out. There are 17 national forests nationwide, 3 in California. They are going to do one environmental impact statement for all three. We need to make our different needs are met, as Inyo forest is different from the others. The new 2012 plan addresses social and economic aspects, as well as environmental. Learn more online about the planning process at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r5/landmanagement/>

Tim Alpers emphasized to the planners that he would like to see good communication between them, Gerry Le Francois, and Mono County.

April 10th there will be a three hour public Forest Plan Revision Workshop in Bishop (we have since learned it will be from 5-8 pm at the Eastern Sierra College Center, Cerro Coso Community College, 4090 W. Line Street, Bishop, CA). This meeting will look at the notice of intent that came out of a January meeting. They will be taking ideas from the public.

They are hoping to publish their Forest Plan Revision EIS in October of this year, which is a very aggressive time frame.

**June Lake Events Subcommittee Report (Ralph Lockhart):**

The JL Winterfest, that had been postponed, was canceled for this year. ML Tourism told them that they will roll over their \$8000 donation to next year.

**Report of Development Activities in June Lake (Scott Burns):**

Frogs and toads are an ongoing issue... the County has a meeting with Stacey Simon (attorney) to look at the economic impact of possible mitigation, which has not been well addressed. Alice is on their agenda for discussion of June Lake signage.

There is a 120 room motel being planned in Lee Vining at the base of Tioga Pass. There is a specific plan for the motel which may get altered.

The next meeting will on April 1st, starting at 6 pm for the CAC Board to continue review of the transportation plan, and at the usual 7 pm for the regular agenda.

The meeting was adjourned by BZ Miller.

*Minutes taken by Ann Tozier*