

June Lake Citizens Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes – October 6, 2015

Patti Heinrich called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm. Committee member attendees included Jeff Ronci, Ann Tozier, Jil Stark, Patti Heinrich, Rob Morgan and Bob Gardner. Tim Alpers was also present.

Review of September 2, 2015 minutes: Jil made a motion that the minutes be adopted, the vote was unanimous and the motion was approved.

Public Comment:

Elaine Roorda (Gull Lake cabin owner): Elaine wanted the CAC and community to be aware that there is a nonnative invasive plant in Gull Lake called the Eurasian watermilfoil. [See excerpt below from an online article that reiterates what Elaine had to say about it.]

Eurasian watermilfoil, Myriophyllum spicatum L., is a submersed aquatic plant that has become a major aquatic nuisance throughout much of North America. Plants are rooted at the lake bottom and grow rapidly creating dense canopies. High densities of Eurasian watermilfoil negatively affect wildlife and fish populations and make recreational use difficult or impossible.

To read full article go to:

<https://dnr.state.il.us/Stewardship/cd/biocontrol/6EurasianMilfoil.html>

Elaine wondered what could be done about it. Tim Alpers said that he has battled in the past with that plant at his fish hatchery. Even with physical and herbicidal methods control is difficult, eradication perhaps impossible. He said it would be best to notify the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, the USFS and perhaps the State Water Resources Control Board. Tim offered to bring this up with Jon Regelbrugge at the Inyo National Forest office and to call Lahontan.

Robin Roberts: Robin, a representative from the Mono County Behavioral Health handed out a flyer listing some of the services they offer. She came to the meeting to make the community aware of the availability of their services, such as individual and family therapy, alcohol and other drug treatment, psychiatry and medication services, as well as others.

Jerry Hallum: Jerry brought up his concerns about the burn piles recently created by a USFS thinning project at fish hatchery hill down canyon. He is concerned that when they burn the piles, with the extremely dry state of the area, there would be great risk of a major fire. He also does not want to have to breathe all of the smoke that such a burn would produce so close to homes. He asked the CAC to engage in dialogue with the USFS regarding this. Ann Tozier concurred with his feelings and said she had also planned to bring up the subject in public comment. She commented on the fact that there is an incredible amount of good firewood in the piles that should be made available to the public, and not just burned. It was decided that Ann, as a CAC member, would draft a letter from the CAC to be directed to the USFS. [She intends to do that and get approval of the letter from the CAC prior to sending to the USFS, and BOS.]

Agenda Items:

Supervisor Tim Alpers' report: He has been working with the county on an emergency escape route for the Peterson Tract. They have identified a route and want to put a breakaway locked gateway in place, but need USFS approval.

The county has been interviewing a number of applicants for its vacant positions. The workforce of 346 has been cut to 261, but with that reduction in personnel the county is starting to “squeak a bit.” Staff has had to cover positions they are not perhaps best suited for, so as the economy improves they plan to backfill vacated positions. They do contract out jobs, but they cannot do that will all of them.

Crowley Lake wants to build a skate park in their community and is having a planning workshop.

Patti Heinrich commented that thanks to the BOS the June Lake Historical Society has gotten approval to utilize the sheriff substation next to the JL Community Center for their headquarters. She thanked Tim.

June Lake Trails Update (Jil Stark): Jil reiterated that the JL Trails Committee cannot raise funds the way Mammoth Lakes can, so they plan to draft a Project Initiation Document (PID) for the Down Canyon Trail in order to be in a more favorable position to apply for any funds that may become available. The committee is revising and updating the 2003 June Lake Trails Plan with the help of the county planners. The committee had a 3-½ hour meeting on January 5th to begin going over the plan. The BOS gave \$8500 to the trails committee again this year.

Skate Park Proposal Presentation: Due to technical difficulties we were not able to view the prepared Power Point presentation, but there was a discussion. They will do their presentation at the next CAC meeting.

Jeff Ronci has been working on the proposed skate park. He is estimating a size of 10,000 square feet for the park, but it could be smaller. He also estimates, from his experience, a cost of \$570,000 for the park alone. He reached out to Tony Hawk, who has a foundation that helps fund skate parks, and got a grant application from him. Jeff will also be researching for other grant money possibilities. Paul McCahon pointed out that the last attempt at a skate park in June Lake stumbled on not having a location. Jeff agreed that identifying possible land for the park is a priority. Scott Burns brought up the new law requiring ski areas on USFS land to allow year round recreation (implying a possible location at June Mountain for the park).

Report of Development Activities in June Lake:

The county has authorized Tony Dublino to get ideas for land use of the Conway Ranch from the public. He will be putting together some ideas and then presenting them to folks around the county at a series of workshops. First there is need to repeal the original plans for homes and a golf course on the property. Based upon community feedback a plan will be presented to the BOS. Tim Alpers' opinion is that private land is scarce in the county and the best use would be for facilities needed by the county. He felt it should not be kept as vacant land that he likened to a “black hole” that the county would pour money into. He feels the land, such as this, is a valuable county resource. At the moment the plan is to have four meetings, one in each of Lee Vining, Mammoth Lakes, North County and South County.

There has been another TROD application on Nevada Street in the Clark Tract connected to the existing Black family TROD.

The original sub-divider of the Highlands is also seeking a TROD for a number of lots in an area of the Highlands that is already zoned for duplexes. One of the people building a home in that area has asked for a reduction in landscaping requirements for their home.

The land across from the Sierra Inn, in the village, has been purchased and there is a going to be an application for a restaurant there. Scott was asked what type of restaurant and he said “a good one.” [laughter among the crowd] He noted that parking could be a challenge.

Next month is the BOS hearing for the Mono County General Plan that the planning division has all been working on so diligently as their first priority.

Next regular meeting of the CAC will be on November 3rd.

One agenda item will be the presentation on the skate park proposal. Another possible agenda item might be discussion of the proposed Historical Society Museum and Visitor Center.

A brief discussion of bears invading homes occurred when Patti Heinrich suggested having bears put on the April agenda. Ann Tozier mentioned that she would like to see vacant homes and cabins required to board up their windows, and also some kind of seasonal signage, or reminders, about not leaving food in vehicles. However, Jil Stark felt it's difficult if not impossible to keep bears out of cabins. Al Heinrich brought up safety issues with bears in homes, as they have been known to turn on stoves.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 pm.

CAC Minutes were taken and drafted by Ann Tozier.