

Meyers Advisory Council

Wednesday, October 2, 2019; 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

California Conservation Corps Building
1949 Apache Ave, Meyers, CA
meyersadvisorycouncil@edcgov.us

<https://www.edcgov.us/meyers>

Members:

Leon Abravanel
Joseph V. Cardinale
Trevor Coolidge, Secretary
Greg Daum
Carl Fair
Josh Marianelli
James Marino
Amanda Ross, Chair
Judith Wood, Vice Chair

1. Call Meeting to Order and Establish Quorum

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Wood and a quorum was established with Cardinale, Coolidge, Daum, Fair, Marianelli, and Wood present. Marino, Ross, and Abravanel were absent due to work conflicts or illness.

2. Approve Agenda

The proposed agenda as proposed was unanimously adopted.

3. Correspondence

Mr. Ferry noted that he received an email update from Chair Ross that included a transit update and that she was ill.

4. Minutes: July 29, 2019

The minutes as prepared were unanimously adopted.

5. Public Matters: Informational items and persons wishing to address the Council regarding non-agenda items

Mr. Tony Risso addressed the council on behalf of Meyers residents regarding ongoing traffic issues and requested that traffic be put on the next agenda. Mr. Risso is requesting turn restrictions to limit traffic going through residential neighborhoods. The idea has been heard by El Dorado Traffic Advisory Board, and Mr. Risso indicated that they like the idea, but are delaying to May 2020 to review/implement the idea. Mr. Risso noted a change.org petition is active to provide information and demonstrate resident support to address the issue sooner rather than later. MAC Vice Chair Jude Wood noted concern from living on Mandan and thought that EDC didn't have that level of control over roads. Mr. Risso indicated that at a past community meeting in June, the "Super Nudge 2.0" was brought up in addition to the turn restriction idea was brought up. Mr. Risso indicated that from meeting with EDC, CHP, and Caltrans that

it is possible to restrict, but the County would like to delay for studies. Mr. Risso's group would like to see something more aggressive and sooner.

Mr. Casey Howard from Meyers spoke on the topic of traffic as well, but stated that he felt that the issue wasn't with turn restrictions; it was a problem with GPS navigation re-routing drivers in circular detours. He noted requests from City and EDC being ignored by navigation applications. Mr. Howard implored MAC to put pressure on County to pressure app companies.

Mr. John Dayberry of Meyers addressed the MAC and requested to start a dialogue regarding public art element of the Meyers Area Plan to implement pieces of public art. He noted that the Tahoe Art Alliance can help with funding and develop a masterplan for Meyers. Mr. Dayberry noted that there was an original plan to include seven historic themes through different art installations in Meyers, and it is important to have a consistent theme for art and/or signage in Meyers.

MAC member Joe Cardinale noted that Tahoe Paradise Park is in the application process for grant funding for a new park restroom. He requested a letter of Support from the MAC to include in the CTC application. Vice Chair Wood indicated that she would prepare a letter of support both on behalf of the MAC and a second one from Boys and Girls Club of Lake Tahoe, of which she is the Executive Director. Wood noted that she also uses the park with the Boys and Girls club and understood the need.

6.A. Presentation and Discussion on Economic Development

Mr. Kyle Zimbleman with EDC provided a presentation on the County's Economic Development Fiscal Year 2019-20 Work Plan. During his introduction, Zimbleman noted support of Tahoe Chamber, with Mr. John Krueger, a regional business development consultant, and Mr. Steve Teshara, the Tahoe Chamber's CEO, in the audience.

Zimbleman noted advancements with EDC development structure; on 1/29/19 the EDC Board of Supervisors transferred Economic Development from the CAO office to the Planning and Building Department to encourage collaboration, followed by Board approval on 3/12/19 for the addition of a Senior Administrative Analyst and reassignment of an Analyst to improve staffing to support the new structure and strategic goals.

A key opening message was the mission to "Retain, Develop and Attract Business that Provide Economic Sustainability and Quality Job Creation." Mr. Krueger noted that as a consultant in 2015, he started an organization that supports six counties, and has subsequently moved on to consult on best practices in economic development. He stated that the County's program had been both formed and staffed, which was a big jump forward. EDC is now focused on existing businesses that form a foundation for growth. Sources of leads for growth and areas of focus include the County's surveying office that receives initial inquiries and industrial type businesses, along with TOT generators. Based on surveys, areas for improvements will be identified in moving forward. Krueger focused on economic development as a "team sport" and the need to find best practices from a broad variety and range of sources. A member

of the audience noted that a dean at LTCC focused on connecting students with careers or jobs in demand based on past experience from economic development in Nevada. Krueger agreed and noted the importance of the workforce in businesses considering locating to a given area, and that no amount of incentives can make development happen without a workforce.

Zimbleman subsequently highlighted other areas of economic development focus, including:

- Increase employment opportunities by improving workforce development skill
- Invest in infrastructure needs to improve maintain competitiveness, such as broadband and wifi infrastructure, the Missouri flat interchange, and addressing transportation needs for economic development.
- Nurture the County and Community's Business - Friendly Reputation – identify opportunities to improve processes and make business development less onerous.
- Provide Attainable Housing Options – Balance Jobs with Housing – focus on workforce housing development and review the potential long term impacts that age-restricted housing can have on schools and economic growth.

The presentation stressed the interconnected nature of business development, citing an example of the survey group contacting the economic development group about a potential development, which was able to engage with other County resources and receive help through the development process. EDC business development includes ongoing coordination with local chambers of commerce, collaboration with CAO, grants, development of industry relationships.

Examples of the partnerships to promote development and commerce included 2019-20 funding agreements such as Tahoe Prosperity Center (\$30k), EDC Chamber of Commerce Film Commission (\$150k), EDC Chamber of Commerce Visitors Authority (\$240k), El Dorado Hill Chamber of Commerce (\$110k), and Lake Tahoe South Shore Chamber of Commerce (\$79K).

MAC Member Cardinale asked about help with dealing with TRPA regulations as they impact businesses – EDC Planning Manager Mr. Brendan Ferry indicated that TRPA is still a separate challenge for implementation. Mr. Krueger noted that the cost and time of a certain regulation generally drive business determinations, but when the costs and times are unknown, businesses won't attempt to develop. Mr. Ferry noted that EDC and TRPA have an MOU that is transferring more and more responsibility to EDC, including larger projects such as multifamily and business projects.

6B. Discussion of County's Cannabis Ordinance

Mr. Ferry provided an update on cannabis regulations in the County. In September, the County adopted regulations related to cannabis covering medicinal, delivery, cultivation, distribution, and research operations. Cannabis is legal in the County, with applications being received as of yesterday. The County is creating a new work group to handle the applications.

Mr. Ferry noted that MAP areas were left out, unintentionally, from the cannabis regulations for uses being allowed. A proposal is being considered to add Town Center (retail) and industrial for (R&D and manufacturing) zones to the recent County ordinances to include zones included in the MAP. There are currently seven existing licenses available in the County, and consideration is being made to potentially add one or two licenses for Meyers. Meyers is hard due to the density of the area and existing setbacks as they pertain to cannabis. Ferry indicated that TRPA is deferring to local entities for cannabis regulation and is not taking a stand. MAC Vice Chair Jude asked about amending the MAP, Ferry indicated that it was not an amendment to the MAP, but was instead a modification to what activities are allowed in the different districts as identified in the MAP. Wood also asked about possibly using a ratio to determine how many licenses should be available, using the City of South Lake Tahoe as an example with a recommended ratio of approximately one dispensary per 5000 people. Ferry note that EDC currently has seven retail, 150 cultivation, unlimited delivery services, unlimited manufacture and laboratory licenses available.

During discussion, MAC Member Cardinale expressed a desire to bring the amendment question to a larger audience and ask to community. Wood noted that cannabis is a challenging topic, but that it is legal. One Meyers resident in the audience expressed a desire for EDC to look at the costs of cannabis for things such as treatment and ODs associated and compared it to cigarettes, concern was also expressed regarding the “cash nature” and potential criminal elements associated with cannabis operations.

Mr. Ferry noted that the amendment will require that it has to go before the Board of Supervisors, requiring an additional reading and adoption at the Board, in addition to potentially requiring planning commission action. Mr. Cardinale again pressed that the community should weigh in; Jude asked if the ratio of voters in the area that supported cannabis could be provided to determine the community’s level of support. MAC member Coolidge asked if there were benefits to either having or not having a shop present, and if not having one could actually provide a greater economic benefit. MAC member Marianelli asked about the timing of the decision, due to licenses currently being applied for. Ms. Ariana Van Alstine, representing with Tahoe Honey Company noted the potential benefits of locally based cannabis business versus the pending arrival of larger national companies. Mr. Charles Willett with Tahoe Honey Company indicated that if he was successful in opening a local business, he would commit 1% of sales to the Meyers Community Foundation and other economic benefits to the County and Meyers community.

MAC Vice Chair Wood concluded that EDC Supervisor Novasel should be requested attend the next MAC meeting, with the next MAC meeting being scheduled sooner than normal due to the impacts of licenses potentially being taken by the time the adjustments are worked out for Meyers.

6.C. Discussion of Closed Visitor Center in Meyers

Mr. Ferry noted that he had not heard back from USFS from his inquiry for the visitor center. Some history was provided that the USFS owns the land, CTC provided grant to USFS to run the facility for a

number of years, but that the grant expired and the center closed, with the USFS having to decide between running the Taylor Creek visitor center or the Meyers visitor center, and chose to use available funding to maintain the salmon center.

A member of the audience noted extreme amount of human waste being left in yards and impacts on businesses due to a lack of restrooms during road closures and traffic jams in Meyers. Ms. Paula Petersen with South Tahoe Now shared a USFS PIO response that the “USFS is exploring opportunities with several partners to re-open the facility.” Mr. Danberry noted that he had heard in the past that the USFS would potentially pass or permit the property to a willing partner – he suggested moving the boat wash station there or aquatic invasive center. Due to USFS not being present and in the interest of time, Vice Chair Wood requested that the topic be tabled.

6.D. Update from Public Transit Service Sub-Committee

Due to the sub-committee lead, Chair Ross, being absent due to illness, a brief discussion occurred regarding transit, with Mr. Ferry reading an update from Chair Ross. Ross had made contact with TRPA to discuss barriers to bringing transit to Meyers. Background was provided that transit to Meyers was implemented in 2019, but ended in March due to only one or two riders using the service. Alternative opportunities are being explored, such as approaching El Dorado Transit to implement a reverse commuter bus, similar to the Placerville-Sacramento commute option. Ross is reaching out to El Dorado Transit with support from TRPA to identify over the hill opportunities. TRPA indicated that they would gladly provide grant writing support and recognized the challenge of transit over the hill. Vice Chair Wood noted that TTD has faced a reduction in service to match demand and funding, which further reduces the potential for Meyers. Mr. Ferry encouraged participation in the One Tahoe outreach effort to identify transit and travel habits and needs in Tahoe. Dial-a-ride is still available (para transit service), it is usually only available per federal regulation within 3/4mile of fixed route service, but has been maintained at a higher cost to users in Myers due to extended mileage costs.

6.E. Update on Chain Control Action Plan

MAC member Coolidge discussed what was include in Caltran’s Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) document for the roundabout regarding chain control – the document indicated that a plan was still be determined and included consideration of advance notice of sign boards.

Discussion ensued regarding the design and operation of the new roundabout – it was noted that the bypass lane had not yet opened. A member of the audience asked if the roundabout was complete, noting a lack of reflectors, paint, and signage. Coolidge noted art was included in the EIS, but that aesthetic elements are not included, such as stamped or colored concrete and art. Another complaint was the uneven lighting and darkness on the 89 approach – it was again noted that the EIS indicated that even lighting would be provided, but was not. Concerns noted by Lake Valley Fire from a prior MAC

meeting were also noted, which included major concerns about the roundabout obstructing the roadway and traffic blocking LVFD from responding to emergencies. Questions from the audience also included how snow removal would occur with the presence of splitter islands, and why two through lanes were included due to the merge that it then caused. It was recommended that a listing of complaints be made and that they be send to Supervisor Novasel.

6.F. Update From and Selection of New Chair for Sub-Committee on Welcome to Meyers Sign

Jude motioned that Coolidge become that sign liaison contact for the Meyers Community Foundation with support from MAC Member Marino. A brief discussion of the sign locations was mentioned (CTC, USFS, and Caltrans), but not updates had been received from the MAF regarding location. Reducing the sub-committee was deemed appropriate because it also clarified that the MAC is not the lead entity for the signage, but instead the MAF.

7. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned with a discussion on when to hold the next meeting. Ferry would provide a Doodle poll to select the next meeting date, tentatively during the first full week of November.