

Meyers Advisory Council

December 15, 2020; 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Virtual Meeting
Member and Public Access via Zoom

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

Members:

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

1. Call Meeting to Order and Establish Quorum

MAC Members Wood, Cardinale, Ross, Abravanel, Coolidge were present, in addition to Brendan Ferry, Deputy Director with El Dorado County. MAC Member Daum joined during Agenda Item 6.B.

The meeting was called to order with a quorum established.

2. Approve Agenda

Agenda was approved without modification.

3. Correspondence

Correspondence was reported regarding VHRs, commercial cannabis, and the Welcome to Meyers Sign.

Ross noted that the Meyers Community Foundation (MCF) did not complete the normal tree lighting ceremony, MCF is working on a holiday light tour similar to the one offered within the City of South Lake Tahoe and encouraged people to post photos to social media using the tag #lightsofmeayers.

4. Minutes: August 26th, 2020

Wood motioned and Cardinale seconded, unanimously approved.

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

Supervisor Novasel noted that the BOS would meet next on 1/5/2021 and gave her greetings to the MAC Members and meeting attendees.

A member of the public, Mr. John Dayberry wanted to offer an update. He was pursuing the installation of an art piece to commemorate the 1968 Olympics and Meyers' role in hosting the Olympic Trials and had reached out to 1968 Olympian Tommie Smith's Agent.

MAC Member Joe Cardinale provided an update on Tahoe Paradise Park (Mr. Cardinale is a member of the park's board of directors). He noted that they are following El Dorado County (EDC) policies for

keeping the park open during COVID. Tahoe Paradise Park is forming a committee to fundraise for a new restroom project. The park is currently winterized with water off and the park is not being heated. As part of an ongoing master planning process, the park plans to consolidate five property parcels into one to ease permitting. Cardinale noted that the park has a board meeting that is accessible via Zoom from 6 PM to 8 PM this Thursday.

6. Agenda Items:

A. Snow removal, Donaldo Palaroan, EDC DOT.

Mr. Palaroan reported that snow removal had been done under contract over the past three years, covering 6.5 miles of Class 1 bike path from State Route 89 to Sawmill Road, and then Sawmill Road from US50 to Lake Tahoe Boulevard, and then along Lake Tahoe Boulevard to Viking Road/D-Street. Mr. Phil Trella, Trella Tahoe, is now the contractor and has been out to clear snow following the recent storm. EDC DOT directs the contractor to clear snow when more than 3" has fallen. The snow removal contract is structured to compensate contractor on an hourly/on call response basis instead of a lump sum or season-long contract as was previously awarded. EDC has received good feedback for keeping paths clear. The JPA Recreation Council and Bicycle Advisory Committee have directed funds to EDC DOT, \$22,000 each year to clear paths. The City of South Lake Tahoe also receives some funding to clear City paths using City staff and equipment.

B. Commercial Cannabis Status Updates. Mr. Ferry, EDC Deputy Director.

Mr. Ferry provided an update on the application process for commercial cannabis sales. One license is available for a single location in the town center area of Meyers. EDC received applications for three locations in Meyers (Bob Dog Pizza, At Altitude Fitness Building, and Old Wedding Chapel adjacent to the private golf course). Multiple EDC departments are involved in the scoring. EDC Sheriff Office nearing completion of their scoring section. Mr. Ferry is not involved in scoring. Following completion of scoring by EDC, the highest scoring applicant would then go through the conditional use permit process. Final scores are anticipated to be completed by the end of December. The process is slightly delayed as a result of a slow background check process.

Following the summary update, several members of the audience had questions and comments.

A member of the audience and Meyers resident, Megan Steeves, asked if a buffer applied to the parking lot used as a school bus stop by five different schools was within the buffer area and would exclude at least one of the sites. She noted concern of the approval of sites in Meyers and the value of the gym facility for sports and as a community center. Mr. Ferry confirmed that the possible buffer from the bus stop and potential 1000-foot setback, as applicable, to a commercial cannabis location would be considered under the special/conditional use permit review.

Wood stressed that the MAC is a volunteer advisory group for implementing the Meyers Area Plan (MAP) and is not involved in, nor does it not know the outcomes of the selection/scoring process.

Members of the public and MAC members asked about the application process. The scoring system was finalized in July and did not consider potential community partnerships, clarification was provided that even following scoring, the successful location would be subject to review as part of a special use permit process with additional outreach occurring. Supervisor Novasel also noted that she was one of two Board of Supervisor representatives on the EDC cannabis subcommittee.

Members of the audience presenting themselves as representatives of the three different applications spoke regarding their potential operations and locations.

Charles Boldwyn indicated he submitted an application for the old wedding chapel property and acknowledged that there are both negative and positive impacts of cannabis sales, such as jobs and taxes, and that he sought to be a community partner. Lauren Moore indicated that she had submitted an application for the gym location on behalf of a company called Embarc that has an existing store in South Lake Tahoe. She indicated that she also felt that EDC had a deliberate process that she respected. A third applicant, Charles Willet with Tahoe Honey Co based in Truckee noted his attendance at the MAC meetings to connect with Meyers and that he is seeking to open a cannabis sales location at what is currently Bob Dog Pizza. Mr. Willet noted concern that two MAC members are connected to the gym site.

Following the three applicants, several members of the public commented on the value of the gym to them and repeated concerns regarding proximity of proposed locations to the bus stop.

C. County VHR Program Update

Mr. Ferry indicated that EDC staff took a VHR ordinance item for reading and adoption to the BOS on 11/17 and 12/2. It will become effective January 1, 2021, 30 days after adoption. It includes a cap on vacation home rentals (VHRs) at 900 permits in the Tahoe Basin. Within the Tahoe Basin, there are currently around 750 permits. If there are more than 900 sought, there will be a waiting list. There will be a fee for the waiting list in addition to the application fee. There will be a discussion regarding a limitation on clustering of permits to avoid concentrated impacts on residents at the January BOS meeting.

Wood asked about some data points - do we know how many VHRs were sold and are no-longer VHRs and are now primary or secondary homes? Ferry did not know. Ferry noted that VHR permits are with the individual owner and not the property - if the property changes hands, the permit does not transfer to the new owner. Wood also asked if it is known when secondary homes become primary homes and if we know how many new residents have joined the Meyers community. Ferry indicated that the County doesn't actively track changes, but could look at them in the future via voting or assessor records. Ross noted that realtors are anecdotally reporting that the majority of homes sales are becoming second homes for individuals from the Bay Area, and that these people are not changing their primary residence and have been keeping their kids in remote learning.

A member of the audience asked about VHR enforcement and they were advised to contact code enforcement, the local contact for the VHR, and the Sheriff's office.

A question regarding VHR transient occupancy tax (TOT) going to EDC's general fund was asked, and specifically how much comes back to Meyers. Ross made a motion that the MAC request TOT data from the County to understand how much money is being collected in Meyers and how much returned to Meyers. Abravanel seconded and also noted that he wanted to see that the EDC VHR cap would be tracked and enforced.

D. Welcome to Meyers Sign

Rene Brejc, President of the Meyers Community Foundation (MCF), indicated that she had spoken with Mr. Donaldo Palaroan with EDC DOT and indicated that the MCF was interested in the bookends of signs at each end of Meyers. MCF seeks to keep the sign simple, using a Welcome to Meyers logo similar to the bumper stickers for Meyers. A working group of community members is working with MCF to advance the signage effort.

E. Crosswalk Discussion

Abravanel noted that he lives behind Meeks and tries to cross the street to his tubing business. He noted that the highway crossing feels unsafe and that the existing crossing is unclear.

Mr. Palaroan with EDC DOT noted the proposed Apache Avenue pedestrian improvement project does not include a crossing of US50 due to the highway being within CalTrans' jurisdiction. There may be a future CalTrans project, but timing isn't clear - EDC has a corridor project through Meyers that is slowly being worked through, starting with the Pioneer Trail intersection that is in design and permitting.

Mr. Fair noted that people going west don't seem to pay attention to the crossing and are focused on the ag station. He thought some signal would be a big improvement. Palaroan noted that one of the goals of book ending Meyers with roundabouts is to slow down vehicles. He noted that a third roundabout at Apache had been explored, but wasn't thought to be feasible due to restrictions in the Caltrans right-of-way (ROW) and cost of construction.

Mr. Dayberry noted that Caltrans hadn't been responsive to adding crossings. Mr. Adam Henriques of Meyers asked if the MAC could write a letter.

Mr. Palaroann noted that a road safety audit was completed in conjunction with Lake Valley Fire, Caltrans District 3 Operations, EDCSO, CHP, and FHWA. The report considers the improvements in the Meyers corridor. Abravanel asked about the cost of signal - signals intersections are generally at least \$1 million and above to construct.

The Road Safety Audit recommended for improved crossings at Santa Fe and Apache. Santa Fe was noted for connectivity while Apache is noted for safety.

F. Meyers New Businesses

Abravanel reported that he has recently opened a called Tube Tahoe, with a snow tubing hill at Tahoe Paradise Golf Course, opening on Saturday, with discounts for locals.

Wood asked about any newly closed businesses - there were none that were known of.

Wood asked if EDC was doing anything other than on the west slope for restaurant vouchers. Supervisor Novasel indicated close to \$5M had been spent by EDC on COVID, with major portions going toward restaurant vouchers and the Tahoe Homeless Coalition. Mr. Steve Teshara with Tahoe Chamber indicated that \$5 million had been distributed through the Business Protection Workgroup, Tahoe Chamber, EDC Chamber, EDC Hills Chamber, and others, 50 businesses in Tahoe benefitting from the program. In EDC, the El Dorado Community Foundation is pursuing a portion of \$500 million available from the State of California - Teshara also noted that Congress appeared on the verge of passing another support program, but it was uncertain if it would happen or pass. Teshara noted that the El Dorado County Foundation leads the distribution of funds. Novasel and Abravanel noted that the Tahoe Prosperity center has PPE (masks and hand sanitizer for businesses). Wood noted that the Tahoe Chamber has been hosting weekly town halls for COVID response and also has PPE available.

G. Meyers Love Program Update / Meyers Beautification

Abravanel noted the need for improvements to improve the appearance of Meyers and the amount of trash that was present. Mr. Dayberry noted the need for momentum and putting a plan in place to keep a better community going. Dayberry also noted how hard Clean Tahoe works to keep things nice. Cardinale noted an annual volunteer day for Tahoe Paradise Park and the opportunity to coordinate with a corridor cleanup followed by a BBQ at Holiday Market.

H. Meyers Economic Growth Council Concept Discussion

Ross expressed interest in working with the Community and Economic Development Advisory Committee (CEDAC) of Eldorado County to form a local economic development committee group focused on Meyers.

Mr. Teshara with the Tahoe Chamber noted that they are open to assisting/supporting a local group. Teshara indicated that the Chamber would support any group and thanked the MAC for facilitating conversations for the Meyers community. Ross asked how Meyers could be put on a list of priorities, similar to how the Coloma-Cool area of EDC had a plan developed, while also noting that a community services district (CSD) could have in promoting and improving Meyers.

Coolidge asked if a CFD/BID/CSD had been considered during the development of the MAP. Ferry noted that it had. Brejc and Teshara noted that a business improvement district (BID) would be a good option that is less restrictive than a CSD.

7. Adjourn

Ross noted that there are openings on the MAC and encouraged members of the public to apply.

Mr. Dayberry asked about adding something to the next agenda - requests for agenda items can be emailed to Mr. Ferry. Contact info is on EDC's MAC website.

The meeting was adjourned.