

Meyers Advisory Council Minutes 8.26.2020

1. Quorum. Present: Leon, Jude, Amanda, Joe, Josh and Greg

2. Approve agenda: Leon motion to approve the agenda; Amanda seconded and all agreed.

3. Correspondence: Amanda has been working on tahoehomeconnection.com and they do currently have some rentals available. Check it out and spread the word. Joe, Paradise Park lost a lot of revenue (app. 30%) from a lack of weddings. The park has been busy, especially family use and pickle ball. A manager and aid are now full and part time respectively. Water metering is coming up, which will have an impact. Other maintenance and upgrade projects are ongoing; including pickle ball upgrades. The Park is being used by a wide range of visitors; including far more tourists this year. Carl – relator market is thriving; with Meyers housing prices increasing steadily. There is a PSA coming out for the County on COVID-19; Search and Rescue has also been very busy; especially with the increase in visitors to town.

Jude asked that the recent sale of many houses, including VHRs, in Meyers be added to the next agenda on how it is going to affect TOT for the County and other impacts on the community if we experience full time residential growth.

4. Minutes: Leon motioned to approve the minutes from April 22nd, Joe seconded.

5. Public Comment: there were no comments on non-agenda items.

6.

A: Pioneer Trail/US 50 Roundabout.

Donaldo Palaroan, El Dorado County spoke on the Pioneer Trail/US 50 roundabout which has been approved by CalTrans.

It is currently in the permitting stage and has been approved by Council.

Currently working on the California Environment Quality Act (CEQA) documental. In September the public draft will be available for review and comment. Hoping for adoption in February 2021.

Mr. Palaroan share a diagram of the roundabout design. There will be a by-pass lane for the westbound Hwy 50 direction. There will be a crosswalk incorporated and the bike paths will be adjusted to terminate at the crosswalks. The hope is that at peak hours, the roundabout will enable better flow of traffic through the intersection and prevent build up back into Meyers or along Hwy 50.

Amanda asked if Lake Valley had been properly consulted on the design following the failure of the other roundabout to accommodate their trucks. Mr. Palaroan said that yes, the design is only 30% finished, Lake Valley has been consulted and their needs will be taken into account at later stages.

Amanda asked if there would be space to place a Meyers sign in the roundabout. Mr. Palaroan stated that a sign would be considered at a later stage as it would qualify as a monument. However, maintenance of a sign is a concern to the County. They require a local agency to lead on maintenance and one hasn't been identified. It would have to be a formal agreement with CalTrans. There are also requirements on design and who designs it, as well as safety considerations. Also who would fund the sign?

Amanda expressed disappointment in this response as the public expressed clearly that they wanted a sign as part of this project and therefore to not have it in the design is not addressing those wishes.

John Dayberry – originally the sign would have been at 50 and Navaho; it then the idea was relocated to the 89/50 roundabout. That is why John started a beautification project that would include the sign. None of the beautification designs for the 89/50 roundabout came to happen and therefore it is important that we get the sign (or a second sign) into the design for the 50/Pioneer design.

Per CalTrans, it is possible that art and landscaping could be part of the project.

Joe asked about the merge portion of those heading eastbound on 50 and those turning right onto 50 from Pioneer.

Mr. Palaroan stated that the volume of traffic turning right onto 50 from Pioneer was insufficient to warrant a by-pass.

There will still be a left turn lane onto Arapahoe Street.

Lighting will be required for the pedestrian crosswalk.

The design of the center island for the crosswalk is still TBD. There will not be flashing beacons.

The curb will be lower on this roundabout to accommodate Lake Valley fire trucks.

Leon thanked Mr. Palaroan for his time. He asked what Meyer's Advisory Council could do to make the 50 crosswalks safer for locals. Mr. Palaroan hoped that this project will aid the traffic flow for the crosswalk by the Bug Station and that feedback from locals on their patterns of crossing 50 will help inform future projects. There is a project planned for 50/Apache that includes crosswalk access.

Leon requested that crosswalks for 50 are added to the next agenda.

B: Corridor beautification and art project.

John Dayberry – nothing heard back from the US Forrest Service regarding the Visitor's Center. The hope had been that the Center would have been the catalyst for the roundabout to roundabout section of 50; a lack of response means that no progress has been made.

There is a lot of weed along both bike paths along 50. In contrast the roundabout is holding up well.

John brought attention to the issue of the bridges in Meyers. They are becoming dilapidated and subject to graffiti. Attempts to paint over the graffiti are not keeping up with the tagging. It would be great if we could get murals up on the walls as they are less likely to be tagged. The high visitors to the area are also putting more strain on recreational parking areas, trails etc.

John expressed the need to restart/reinvigorate the conversations about a sign.

John requested that a meeting is convened with the CCCs, the Forest Service and the County Staff and MAC representatives so that we can request assistance with the task of removing weeds and keeping the corridor clean.

John requested support from the MAC for the silencing of the 6pm siren in Minden and the Squaw Valley name change.

C: COVID-19 Update and Discussion

Brendan Ferry shared the County dashboard (link on agenda) that shows cases of COVID-19 in the County. It is updated at 4pm. Free testing is available at LTCC Tuesday-Saturday. Results are currently back in 2-4 days. We are not on the Governor's watch list. The County meets most Tuesday to discuss this data and receive information off the County Health Department.

Amanda questioned discrepancy in data between text alerts and the website.

Paula directed everyone to a section of the map – new cases by region – click on the Tahoe area and you'll get cases by day data. There is also a full explanation at southtaohenow.com. Also go to the results box and hit the arrow at the bottom twice to the right to see our positivity rate. The more negative tests we get the lower our positivity rate is and the more likely we are to stay open.

Amanda – should we consider a mask fine for Meyers like the City is enforcing.

John – asked what the policies are for local businesses.

Paula confirmed that inside areas where social distancing of 6ft is not possible masks MUST be worn per the State mandate. The County will fine businesses that are forcing compliance.

Reporting line for Tahoe: 530 - 573 3450 emd.info@edcgov.us

D: Economic Development Ideas for Meyers

John Dayberry – an entrepreneur is interested in a standing wave park in Meyers. Originally there was a wave feature included in the Meyer's Plan as part of river restoration.

Very little revenue comes in from the golf course operated by the State Park; are there other recreational activities that could be implemented at State Parks?

Jeffrey Spencer suggested improving the upper river for kayaking – spreading out parking and that the upper river would be great for fishing and is little known about.

Leon suggested a greater focus on community events. Concerts, farmer's market/food truck night.

Joe stated that we need more of a community center where events can be held.

Amanda stated that TRPA is adding a new location for their boat inspection station on Pomo. Brendan confirmed that they are looking at their asset parcels in Meyers. Amanda wondered if it could be combined with the Ag Station and the Ag Station could be relocated off the hwy.

Leon asked about charging a fee to enter Meyers. As 50 is an interstate it is very hard/impossible to enforce but the 'One Tahoe' initiative is rolling and will shortly be presented to the City Council. Look out for that agenda item.

E: Traffic Advisory Meeting

August 5th the Board heard an item on right turn restrictions in Meyers (N.U.Truckee/50 and Sawmill/50) on Sundays and Holidays. There was good public input and the Board approved a pilot program being introduced in spring 2021. A resolution will go to the Board in October. It will require different policing, signage, implementation with online navigation tools etc

Anyone can contact Jeff Spencer for further information.

F: Meyers Commercial Cannabis Ordinance

The County adopted zoning ordinance that allows one retail business in town and a call for applicants went out. The County received 3 applications and is going through an objective scoring process to see who will get the conditional use permit. The County committed to give a response by October 1st and the scoring is being done by many departments. Brendan has not been involved due to prior engagement on the topic.

The three locations are: Altitude Fitness Gym, Bob Dog Pizza and the Wedding Chapel.

Traffic studies, CEQA, hearing at planning commission and hearing at Board of Supervisors will happen when the public can have input.

Bob G – spoke against removing a gym.

Timothy Anderson – built the gym along with Greg and put a lot of money into renovation the space. It is a space for all ages and the community.

Jude asked why a thriving business would be applying for a change in business.

Greg – stated that the rent has not been paid in full since agreement.

Greg questioned Tim and said that it had come to his attention the gym continued to operate during the COVID shutdown and Tim's response was that staff had been in the building during shut down.

Amanda asked if consideration of whether there was an existing business in the location on the application. Brendan confirmed that there was not.

Lauren Carpenter – Embarc is the business applying at the At Altitude location and is open to dialogue and collocate with the gym that would enable the rent to be met and benefit the whole community.

Dylan Thomas – Dylan is the new owner of At Altitude

Nick Barclay – Meyer's can't afford to lose businesses so an empty location would be ideal. Co-locating could be a solution.

Beata Jarvis – thanked everyone who has spoken. Beata is one of the trainers at the gym and emphasized that the gym is a place focused on health and community and has helped many people with personal growth. The location is also central and will be seen as the face of Meyers.

Amber Dodson – manager at Embarc Tahoe; it's a great community focused organization.

John Dayberry – is the Alpaca building suitable for a site? Brendan stated that it is outside of the Meyer's Area Plan area. John responded, but yes, it is a commercial building.

Jenny Peterson – Embarc has already donated to many local charities since opening in June and would be a community benefit.

Jenna Marie – works for both Embarc and At Altitude Gym; both are great to work for and we need to look at both businesses and the community benefit that they bring.

Suzanne B – the gym is very important to her family and she recommends that the dispensary goes into an empty building and not take over an existing business.

Amanda departed the meeting.

Christy Wilson – thank you for opportunity to speak. Part of the Embarc team and excited to possibly expand into Meyers. She is a parent at Meyer's Elementary School and hears the concerns of the parents. It is a large building and co-location/partnership is very possible. Her husband is the fitness professor at LTCC and Embarc could partner well with a healthy lifestyle business.

Robin – user of the gym. It is more than a gym, it is a community. The gym draws her to an area she wouldn't otherwise go to and because she visits the gym she spends money at the Market, Freel Perk etc

Dustin – works with Embarc managing licensing and compliance. To answer Suzanne dispensaries can't be put just anywhere because of the setbacks to residential, schools, bus stops etc This is not an either/or situation; the building could be co-located. The cannabis business could bring 30 new jobs to Meyers.

Jeffrey Spencer – Meyers is family friendly and community orientated and we should remain focused on that.

G: MAC Subcommittee Updates

There were none.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50pm