

# Meyers Advisory Council

November 5, 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 Chair Ross. Abravanel, Cardinale, Coolidge, Ross, and Wood were present. Daum joined at 3:19 PM during public comment on item 6A.

Marino, Fair, and Marianelli were absent. It was noted that Marino may be leaving the MAC due to other commitments.

### **2. Approve Agenda**

The proposed agenda as proposed was unanimously adopted after confirming that Mr. Risso could present on Traffic. Wood motioned, Cardinale seconded

### **3. Correspondence**

No correspondence was received for anything not on the agenda.

### **4. Minutes: October 29, 2019**

The minutes as prepared were unanimously adopted. Cardinale motioned, Ross seconded.

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

No members of the audience wished to speak.

### **6. Agenda Items:**

#### **6A. Letter of Support Request – Tahoe Paradise Park**

Cardinale provided an update that the park is pursuing a grant for restrooms and other improvements. Cardinale would appreciate a letter of support, but wished to have a formal approval of the MAC, and would include more than just restrooms. An example was using Lake Baron for irrigation instead of South Tahoe Public Utility water, in addition to the restrooms, and possibly other project elements, such as recreation or event facilities. To properly pursue the grant, the park will go through a master planning process. Wood noted that she had drafted a letter following the last meeting, but that it was not currently on letterhead. EDC Planning Manager, Mr. Brendan Ferry, did not believe that the MAC could use supervisor Novasel's letterhead and requested that Coolidge create a letter head. Cardinale requested we create our own letterhead and write a letter in support of a planning effort to make the project more than just a bathroom. Cardinale elaborated on the projects that might be considered as part of the planning process that include a one-mile walking trail around the lake that would require a

minor bridge/boardwalk for completion of a wetland area, refurbishment of the No. 1 tennis court to include basketball, volleyball, and pickleball, trail restoration, and fire protection/thinning, and a snack shop in the clubhouse.

Ty Dayberry, a member of the public, noted that past Lake Baron meetings had mention of cross training facility such as aerial water jump, trampoline and foam put: features that would be Olympic training oriented, along with a small auditorium. Cardinale responded that his hope was to have planning effort separate from the MAC meetings that would cover the scope of the improvements that would include opportunities for public outreach and input. Ty Dayberry wanted to make sure that the training facility remained at the forefront. Cardinale again requested a letter from the MAC that was less specific than a restroom request and would support a master planning effort. Ross closed public comment and indicated that she would provide updates as the planning effort advanced.

#### **6B. Discussion of Closed Visitor Center in Meyers**

Ferry provided a brief background regarding the closed visitor center and noted that a USFS representative was not present. Ferry noted that it has been a funding issue for USFS and that he had received an update that the USFS was reviewing options for the center and would be coming to the public and the MAC to work through solutions for the property.

#### **6C. Update on US 50/89 Roundabout and Chain Control Action Plan**

Ross spoke with Mark Clark (PM for project) who was not familiar with snow removal and chainup practices surrounding the roundabout area.

A member of the public, Mr. Mike Marini commented that he had heard concerns from Lake Valley Fire regarding the roundabout and urged for Lake Valley Fire to send a letter with concerns. Mr. John Dayberry, a member of the public, expressed concerns regarding how the roundabout was built and the landscaping that was included.

Cardinale asked if the roundabout was final. Ferry indicated that Caltrans was preparing to accept the project, but that Novasel was willing to address Caltrans regarding ongoing or incomplete items and issues. Ross will draft another letter to Caltrans with concerns. Coolidge noted that the road safety audit for the corridor had chainup items noted that were not implemented as part of the project.

#### **6D. Discussion of County's Cannabis Ordinance**

Ferry provided a background on the September ordinance for cannabis that included four uses. The land uses in the MAP were unintentionally omitted from the ordinance, excluding sales in Meyers. Ferry is proposing amendments that will address the land use. Ferry is pursuing public input in the open; the ordinance has to go before the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors (BOS). The decision will ultimately be the BOS' decision. Ferry noted that there are seven commercial licenses; Ferry is proposing to have one more license available and restricted to Meyers. Ferry didn't want Meyers to be excluded as a result of the omission of the land use category.

A member of the audience asked about the Planning Commission date; Ferry indicated that the date is not yet known, but that it would be in 2020.

A member of the public, Charles Boldwyn asked about other changes such as allowable zones and caps. Ferry indicated that allowable zones were going to be considered (Ordinance 5.1.1, indoor ordinance); town center of Meyers would be added to retail sales and the industrial zone would be added for

manufacturing, testing, and research. Only the town center and industrial zones would be added. Due to the density of Meyers, setbacks are a challenge due to distance to homes, schools, and bus stops, and would almost exclude business from Meyers. Exceptions for Meyers could be a policy issue, because other small communities face similar issues elsewhere in El Dorado County. Ferry noted that variances can be issues when a business shows that it is meeting the intent of the ordinance. Mr. Boldwyn noted that caution should be used regarding the creation of real estate winner and losers based on setbacks that make some properties highly valuable while others are left behind. Wood indicated that from her experience with the City of South Lake Tahoe's cannabis ordinance, that some setbacks are established by the State - Mr. Boldwyn indicated that that was correct for some, but not for all. Cardinale expressed concerns about cannabis activities on the Meyers community

Mr. Mike Marini from the audience introduced his experience in the medical industry. He urged that revenue not be the only factor for approval and that the impacts of cannabis and marijuana use on public health be considered, with Napa County's ban as an example. He expressed concern that local health facilities and providers would be burdened with negative side effects from cannabis and thought that Barton should be asked or the Marshall health system.

Another member of the audience spoke that they thought that if the legalization and sale of cannabis had been voted in, then the will of the people should be respected in a democratic fashion.

Mr. Charles Willet of Tahoe Honey Company of Truckee, indicated schools, churches and day care setbacks are set at the state level and that EDC added additional facilities and residential facilities. Asked for consideration of the minimum state setbacks as opposed the EDC setbacks be considered. Boldwyn indicated that EDC measured setbacks were calculated based on property line vs. the location of the use. Wood asked for clarification on the setbacks. Ferry indicated that a letter from the MAC would be requested as part of an update to the County's cannabis policy to add the land uses present in the Meyers town center. Wood asked about Supervisor Novasel being able to help facilitate a meeting to solicit feedback from the community. The item would be brought up again when the proposed language was available for consideration to update the ordinance.

#### **6E. Update From Sub-Committee on Welcome to Meyers Sign**

An update was provided that the Meyers Community Foundation (MCF) would like to place a Meyers sign below the tree on a CTC lot, seeking to mimic Tahoe City's signage. A member of the public asked about sourcing of artwork for the sign and Ross indicated that the MCF was working with Rise designs of Meyers. Cardinale commented that the Tahoe Paradise sign could also be used as a template. Ross indicated that she would ask for the MCF to consider the Tahoe Paradise example.

#### **6F. Traffic Advisory Board Presentation**

Mr. Tony Risso of Meyers presented the concerns related to Meyers traffic problems and the search for solutions. On 9/5/19 Risso stated that he met with a number of local emergency responders, State, and County contacts to review possible turn restrictions that are in place across the State that might be applicable to Meyers. Risso noted that where turn restrictions are in place in other communities, they are largely in place to eliminate shortcuts from navigation applications. Risso noted that people familiar with the area will potentially still seek to shortcuts, but the signage will indicated that they are prohibited. Risso also noted that the restrictions would allow residents to get home without blockages on local roads. Risso reported that the EDC traffic advisory board note that there were more pros than cons to the proposal, and that it was well received by the EDC Sheriff and CHP representatives that would responsible for implementation. One challenge to Mr. Risso's proposed turn restrictions is that

Supervisor Novasel is seeking data to support the implementation; Mr. Risso's group had sought clarification of what was needed, but had not received a response to what was sought by Supervisor Novasel.

EDC DOT indicated that they would have public meeting that would go over what has been done and where they stood on the turn restrictions. Risso noted that the meeting had not been schedule and that his group was seeking to have a meeting in November or December with stakeholders in Meyers. The meeting would be noticed by NextDoor, Facebook, email, South Tahoe Now, the Tahoe Daily Tribune, and local media. Risso indicated that the turn restriction proposal was listed on change.org (Meyer's Area Turn Restriction Proposal) and nextdoor.com (Turn restriction proposal) as the Meyer's Turn Restriction. Risso noted that the turns would only be on weekends and holidays from 10 AM to 4 PM when traffic was the worst.

A resident from Mandan Street asked if pictures or comments would help, but it was indicated that traffic counts are needed and that that they would not be collected before May 2020. The most severe restrictions on turns and directional closures will not be implemented this winter due to concern over causing accidents during snow conditions. Ferry noted that counts are available on the County website for many roads. There was brief discussion from multiple members of the audience regarding what data might be needed, the success of turn restrictions in areas such as Fremont, and the thought that the proposed restrictions might not reduce trip time, but would promote circulation.

Risso noted that they were having trouble finding a location for the meeting, the Magnet School and CCC auditoriums were suggested.

#### **6G. Public Art in the Meyers Corridor Presentation**

Mr. John Dayberry had attended a meeting with the Washoe Tribe regarding art in Meyers. He shared that Caltrans indicated that there would be nothing in the roundabout and art would not be considered and that there would be not be any landscaping or non-mountable elements; this was not how the roundabout was constructed by Caltrans, as it has a mounded median and landscape features that were not vetted with the community.

Mr. Dayberry suggested creating a Meyer's area beautification plan. Dayberry spoke with John Fellows who owns Aspen Hollow and is a landscape designer; a major concern is the presence of invasive plants in the Meyers US50 corridor, Dayberry indicated that invasive weeds are highly concentrated in the Meyers area due to them taking hold in disturbed areas from past Caltrans projects.

Dayberry noted that the TRCD is based in Meyers for aquatic invasive species (AIS) inspections and that they might be a partner in addressing the proliferation of non-native and invasive plants.

Dayberry read an excerpt from the Meyers Area Plan (MAP) that right-of-way signage should be minimized, but that there are 38 in one direction and 45 in the other direction, with an example being redundant signs for a campground that doesn't exist. Dayberry wished to coordinate with Caltrans on the invasive plants and signage issues.

Dayberry also noted the language from the MAP regarding public art and that Rebecca Bryson (not in attendance) from the Tahoe Arts Council had expressed interest supporting art in Meyers. Dayberry

noted the art themes and significance of the Washoe people, Snowshoe Thompson, Wells Fargo, Pony Express, 1968 Olympics, and Meyers Olympians. Dayberry noted that Meyers could apply to the IOC to use the Olympic flags or logos, which is a long process - it was recently done for the Echo track site. Dayberry shared the history that the trials athletes being housed locally and awards occurring where the Divided Sky is now located. Dayberry suggested that one roundabout (in reference to the Caltrans and County projects) could house a Washoe Basket made from ski cable; he also noted the high (~38%) percentage of traffic that comes into the basin via US50 that makes art on the corridor highly visible and the potential to incorporate art in Meyers at the visitor center.

Cardinale inquired about maintenance and cleanup options such as County or CCC crews maintaining the corridor. He also noted that Snowshoe Thompson monument at Holiday Market is nearly buried and that it should be celebrated. Dayberry noted that Holiday executives had shared that they are planning on landscape improvements that will celebrate the monument when meeting with him. Members of the public noted that appreciation for historical elements when considering art in Meyers.

Ross closed public comment and asked if business owners were interested in forming a CSD. Wood asked if there was funding available from the County. Ferry noted that it is a State corridor, but that the Pat Lowe bike path was County maintained. He also noted that the negative impacts of the 280-foot wide highway right-of-way (ROW), and that relinquishment of the ROW has been discussed, but has not been a high priority. Getting the ROW and improving it will require a plan and show of support. Dayberry noted that the Arts Alliance could help with the ongoing effort. Cardinale recognized that the art elements would become a draw for visitors once established. A comment was also made that the Chevron station could celebrate the historic highway as a fill station.

Dayberry and Ferry discussed next steps. Options included approaching the Art Alliance, TRCD, and the League to Save Lake Tahoe. An EDC DOT staff member in the audience suggested looking at other small towns such as Lee Vining and Bridgeport to see what has been done in other communities along highway corridors.

Regarding the MAF and signage, Dayberry felt they are on the right track, but that there should be a plan for art and signage in Meyers. For leading the effort, Ross proposed a new subcommittee. Concern was expressed that Caltrans was non-response to community of Meyers. Ferry noted that EDC is looking for grant funding for other improvements in the area. There was a comment from the audience regarding the creation of a benefit zone for Meyers, similar to what exists in Tahoma for drainage maintenance, with funds restricted to an area. Caltrans was discussed as the logical lead for the invasive and signage issues in the State ROW.

After discussion, it was decided that a new subcommittee focused on artwork and beautification in Meyers should be created. Coolidge would initially work with Dayberry, with additional MAC members anticipated to join. Ross motioned to form a subcommittee to work on a Cardinale seconded with all voting in favor; it passed unanimously.

**7. Adjourn**

As a result of the number of items on each MAC Agenda, a brief discussion occurred and identified the need to meet bi-monthly, rather than quarterly. The next meeting was set for January 14th from 4 PM to 6 PM at the California Conservation Core Building in Meyers.