



**PLANNING COMMISSION**  
**COUNTY OF ALPINE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**  
**Administration Building, Board Chambers**  
**99 Water Street, Markleeville, CA 96120**

**MINUTES**  
THURSDAY, February 25, 2021

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Nick Hartzell called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. with Commissioners Jim Holdridge, Tom Sweeney, and Bob Broyer present. Commissioner Jeanne Mortimer was welcomed as the new member of the Planning Commission.

A quorum was established.

**2. ORAL COMMUNICATION – GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**3. MINUTES**

**3.1. Request approval of regular meeting minutes of January 28, 2021**

Commissioner Holdridge requested two corrections to the minutes: 1) The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Jim Holdridge, and 2) The signature block at the end of the minutes should be Vice-Chair Jim Holdridge.

MOTION: BROYER / SECOND: SWEENEY approving the regular meeting minutes as corrected.

Commissioner Hartzell – Abstain  
Commissioner Holdridge – Yes  
Commissioner Sweeney- Yes  
Commissioner Broyer – Yes  
Commissioner Mortimer - Abstain

MOTION CARRIED

**4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

## **5. NEW BUSINESS**

### **5.1. Planning Commission regular meeting date and time – Possible action to amend the Planning Commission rules to change the regular meeting date or time**

Zach Wood noted that the Planning Commission Bylaws (Rules of Procedure) set the meeting date and time as the last Thursday of the month at 6:00 p.m. During the January 2021 meeting Commissioner Broyer asked about changing the regular meeting time. There have been different meeting times and dates which have been special meetings due to the availability of the Commissioners.

Commissioner Sweeney commented that he liked the 5:00 p.m. meeting time. Commissioner Holdridge said he wouldn't mind trying a change of time but that he is happy with the 5:00 p.m. time.

Commissioner Broyer requested that there should be consideration for a 1:00 p.m. meeting. Chair Hartzell noted his preference for the 5:00 p.m. start time. Commissioner Mortimer stated her preference for a 5:00 p.m. start time.

Commissioner Sweeney inquired if Commissioner Broyer can participate by Zoom during inclement weather. Zach Wood stated the public would need to be noticed if a Commissioner is not able to attend in person. Staff can bring back more information on this topic at a later meeting.

Zach stated that the Bylaws could be brought back to the next meeting to change the start time from 6:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Chair Hartzell requested staff bring the bylaws to the next meeting for the proposed change.

### **5.2. Planning Commissioner Brown Act and conflict of interest training – Informational training on state laws related to the function of the Planning Commission**

Margaret Long, County Counsel, introduced herself to the Planning Commission and noted that she is a resource for the Commission. The concept of the Brown Act insures that the public agencies deliberate and make their decision in public. Anytime there are three or more Planning Commissioners, it is considered a "meeting." A meeting includes "serial" meetings when there is deliberation through a phone exchange or by email. Any time an email or text is sent, this is a public record. It does not matter if this is from a personal device.

The required notice is 72 hours in advance and posted on the agency web site. A special meeting only requires a 24 hours' notice.

Planning Commissioners must disclose any contact with applicants. Every agenda item is allowed to have public comment. This is not the forum to have a debate. There should not be any engagement with the public. Do not respond until after public comment is closed.

The California League of Cities has a good resource on the Brown Act related to noticing and transparency.

Margaret Long also reviewed conflicts of interest. Commissioners can't participate in items where there is a financial interest and there must be recusal. If the item involves a property within 500 feet, it is assumed there might be a conflict. If the property is 1,000 feet or more, there is assumed to be no conflict.

If there is a question about possible conflict of interest, a Commissioner can contact the Fair Political Practices Commission.

Public Comment is not required for presentations but public comments could be opened. An applicant is entitled to due process. If the Planning Commission has additional questions for the applicant, this does not require public comment to re-open. It is the Chair's discretion to re-open public comment. A person can only provide one comment on any item.

## **6. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

### **6.1. Tour of the California Alps: Death Ride special event permit**

Review and possible action to approve a special event permit application to allow the Tour of the California Alps: Death Ride cycling event with up to 3,500 participants to occur on July 17, 2021. The event is staged from Turtle Rock Park and the course includes State Routes 4 and 89. The event course is amended from previous years to remove State Route 88 (Carson Pass) and extended from the Hermit Valley closure to east of Lake Alpine on State Route 4 as a shared course open to vehicle traffic. Applicant: Alpine County Chamber of Commerce.

This public hearing item was continued from the January 28, 2021 Meeting.

Zach Wood noted that Alpine County staff attending included Undersheriff Tom Minder as well as Tim Bottomley from Bear Valley.

Zach Wood summarized the discussion from the January meeting. There were three Commissioners present and the Planning Commission requested more information from the applicant related to the proposed extension from Hermit Valley to Lake Alpine and whether the new route would be shared with vehicle traffic. There was a meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> of February with agencies to discuss the issues. The applicant has now requested closing this segment so this is a change from the application discussed at the January meeting. The application was for a shared roadway and the change is to now to close this road segment.

Staff has also received comment letters from agencies including the Stanislaus National Forest and the Sheriff's office.

The action recommendation from staff is the same as from January which is to still approve the Special Event Permit with the same findings with some minor changes to the recommended conditions of approval:

- 1) New condition (LA-2) to require the applicant to notify recreation cabin owners based on 2/22 comment letter from Stanislaus National Forest
- 2) Per 1/28 Commission direction COA PH-2 is changed to require cancellation due to coronavirus by 14 days prior to the event date.

Commissioner Broyer had requested comments from the San Andreas office of the California Highway Patrol (CHP). Zach Wood noted that CHP did participate in the meeting on February 16<sup>th</sup> and they have been in contact with the applicant.

Chair Hartzell reopened the public hearing on this item.

Becky DeForest from the Alpine County Chamber of Commerce stated that the Chamber has communication plans to notify people of the changes.

Curtis Fong from Bike of the West confirmed that they are formally requesting the road be closed from Hermit Valley to east gate of Lake Alpine. He has received input letters of support from the Calaveras County side as well as the Forest Service and the Alpine County Sheriff's Office as long as the campground areas are monitored by law enforcement. The media plan will be updated.

Undersheriff Tom Minder noted that the Sheriff's office has agreed to the road closure. The Sheriff's office will actively patrol the campgrounds to let people know they won't be able to leave unless there is an emergency.

Tim Bottomley, Battalion Chief at the Bear Valley Sheriff's Substation, asked if the emergency plan will be updated due to the new route. Curtis Fong stated that they are negotiating a new sponsorship contract with Cal Star, Aeromed, and REMSA to provide backup medical services as well as ski patrols in Kirkwood and Bear Valley to see who should be involved for medical back up and transport systems. Tim Bottomley wanted to note that Bear Valley does not have the staffing with the fire department to handle the call volume.

Chair Hartzell closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Sweeny asked when they would know the answers to the questions that were raised. Zach Wood responded that the agencies are responsible to carry out the conditions in the Permit. Chair Hartzell asked if there were some deadlines in the conditions. Zach Wood noted that there are some deadlines related to public health concerns. There are usually agency meetings prior to the event. The applicant will need to obtain a CalTrans Encroachment Permit. Many of the conditions have been the same conditions for this event. What has changed are the public health conditions. There are about 8 or more agency permissions that will be required for the event.

Commissioner Holdridge moved to approve the Special Event Permit based on the three findings with the new additional condition, 14 previously approved event conditions, the new Lake Alpine Traffic Mitigation Plan, the three public health conditions and the Notice of Exemption for the CEQA categorical exemption.

Commissioner Broyer seconded the motion.

Mortimer – Yes  
Broyer- Yes  
Sweeney – Yes  
Holdridge – Yes  
Chair Hartzell

## 7. OTHER BUSINESS

### 7.1. Planner's report

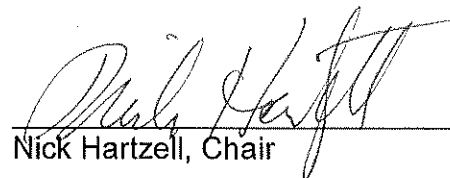
None

### 7.2. Items initiated by Commissioners

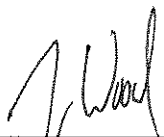
Jeanne Mortimer introduced herself and stated that she is a member of the Community Council for the Washoe Tribe and hopes she can be a valuable resource to the Planning Commission.

## 8. ADJOURNMENT

The Planning Commission adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

  
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Nick Hartzell, Chair

Attest:

  
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Zach Wood, Planner III  
Alpine County Community Development