

From: Stacy Corless <scorless@mono.ca.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 4, 2021 2:13 PM
To: Clerk <clerk@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov>
Cc: jurdi@visitmammoth.com
Subject: Comments at 8/4 MLT Board Meeting

Here are the comments I made at today's meeting. Please share with the board and note that I submit these comments as an individual, not representing the Board of Supervisors. Thanks!

Dear MLT Board Members,

First, thank you for service on this board, your work to support our community during the pandemic, and for your financial support of recent destination stewardship efforts such as the trail host program. After being caught off guard by negative impacts of increased visitation, agencies, organization and individuals, including MLT, came together to find ways to better manage our popular recreation and tourism sites, and to educate visitors and residents. These efforts have worked—it's a lot better out there this year. MLT provides a critical connection to our visitors, and is our voice to those who come to Mammoth Lakes.

The "Hug What You Love" campaign hits the perfect note of inviting our guests to be part of our community and to steward the beautiful public lands that belong to everyone (not just those of us lucky enough to live near them). Thank you for showcasing our amazing and talented local residents in the videos. And thank you for making a quick course correction with a campaign that was discordant with the image that we want to portray to the rest of the world.

I respectfully ask this board, as a town-affiliated NGO, to extend the spirit of stewardship, collaboration, and kindness into future discussions with the town and the community on mitigating negative impacts of tourism, and finding balance between sustaining our economy and protecting quality of life. You have the skill and capacity to lead on this. Don't just tell people to reach out; please reach in. While it isn't solely your job or your responsibility to mitigate these impacts, MLT has an important role to play as part of an ensemble cast. I was disappointed in the tone and content of the comments made by MLT board members and staff at the July 21 town council meeting regarding the potential budget adjustment. I hope that in future discussions and negotiations, all parties remember that we're on the same team in Mammoth, we're all part of this community and we all need to be part of solutions to intractable problems such as the housing crisis impacting Mammoth, Mono and so many mountain and public land gateway communities. Collaboration takes comprise, and the creation of a shared vision and common goals. Let's focus on where we want to go and who we want to be as a community instead of protecting our individual or organizational interests. We are in this together.

Count me in to support you on this, and thanks again.

Stacy Corless
760-920-0190

Mono County Board of Supervisors
monocounty.ca.gov