

**City of Blue Lake  
Planning Commission Minutes  
January 16, 2017**

**The Blue Lake Planning Commission was called to order at 7:03 p.m. at Skinner Store**

**Commissioners Present:** Earl Eddy, David Glen, and Dennis Whitcomb

**Commissioners Absent:** Karen Nessler and Richard Platz

**Staff Present:** City Manager Amanda Mager, City Planner Garrison Rees, and Planning Commission Secretary Cheryl Gunderson.

**Staff Absent:** None

**Public Present:** None

**1. Approval of Minutes: August 15, 2016.**

- a. Motion (Whitcomb, Glen) to approve the August 15, 2016 minutes as written.
- b. Commissioner Glen recused himself as he did not attend the August meeting.
- c. Due to lack of a quorum, the Approval of the August 15, 2016 Minutes is being postponed to the next meeting.

**2. Public Input on Non-Agenda Items**

- a. None

**3. Approval of the Agenda**

- a. Motion (Whitcomb, Glen) to approve agenda as written.
- b. Motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion/ Action:**

**4. Planning Commission Discussion: Regulations for Adult Use and Cultivation of Marijuana in the City of Blue Lake.**

- a. Planner Rees began the presentation by providing an overview of the City Council's discussion and direction to the Planning Commission regarding regulation of adult use and cultivation of marijuana in the City of Blue Lake at their January 10, 2017 meeting. The discussion included the previous ordinance passed by the City Council to ban medical marijuana dispensaries and cultivation activities allowed by Proposition 215.
- b. City Manager Mager went on to explain that upon the passage of Proposition 64 in the November, 2016 General Election, the City now has the authority to reasonably regulate and/or ban specific non-medical cultivation activities within the City. She further explained that the City Council has directed the Planning Commission to develop an ordinance regulating non-medical marijuana in Blue Lake and make a recommendation back to Council. The meetings held for the development of the

ordinance would provide a mechanism for City Staff and public to provide input on the issue.

- c. City Manager Mager introduced the City of Chowchilla's Cultivation Ordinance, which applies the strictest measures on non-medical marijuana cultivation. Manager Mager suggested that Chowchilla's Ordinance be a place for Blue Lake to start in the formation of their own ordinance.
- d. City Manager Mager explained that City Staff is recommending that Blue Lake develop strict measures for non-medical cannabis to allow the City to maintain its family-oriented community atmosphere and attract non-cannabis related businesses.
- e. Manager Mager also explained that the City of Blue Lake does not have the Staff or budget to develop and enforce a cannabis regulatory program similar to what Arcata and Eureka have done.
- f. The Commissioners discussed the issue and requested for City Staff to provide a draft ordinance for them to review.
- g. City Manager Mager and Planner Rees clarified that this ordinance will pertain to recreational use of marijuana only, since medical marijuana is already regulated under separate State regulations.
- h. Manager Mager explained that a Town Hall meeting is scheduled for February 1 at 7:00 p.m. at the Mad River Grange to obtain input from the public on the proposed ordinance. City Staff will notice the meeting as a joint City Council/Planning Commission meeting in order to allow three or more Commissioners to attend in compliance with the Brown Act.

**5. Planning Commission Review: Dell'Arte Mad River Festival 2016 Post-Festival Report.**

- a. Planner Rees presented the report to the Planning Commission. He explained that Dell'Arte is required to submit a report prior to the Festival in April and after the Festival in September. The report was submitted timely by Dell'Arte. Presentation of the Post-Festival Report to the Planning Commission was postponed so that it could be presented to the Commission at a meeting with other agenda items.
- b. The report indicated that there were 10,000 people in attendance over the entire event and that they were able to satisfactorily address any complaints received.
- c. The report indicated that there was a miscommunication between the Fire Marshall and Humboldt Folk Life Society concerning whether a permit had been received for the stage. The issue was resolved by providing a copy of the permit to the Fire Marshall. Dell'Arte intends to work with the City and Humboldt Folk Society for upcoming events to avoid future miscommunications.
- d. Planner Rees commended Fran Beatty, the Dell'Arte Executive Director, on her cooperation with the City and leadership.
- e. The Planning Commission commented that the Festival was a success and is a good representation of the community.
- f. Motion (Whitcomb, Eddy) to accept the Dell'Arte Mad River Festival 2016 Post-Festival Report.
- g. Motion passed unanimously.

**6. Miscellaneous Planner Items.**

- a. Planner Rees indicated to the Commissioners that there is a rise in interest among local

businesses in the Business Park looking for more space for both new and existing businesses. The Downtown area has also recently received the attention of business owners.

- b. City Manager Mager added that a collective artisan retail business is being discussed by several of the businesses in the Business Park.
- c. The Commissioners inquired of the response for a new Planning Commissioner. City Manager Mager responded that the City has received applications from business owners and others.
- d. The Commissioners asked about the vehicular accident at the Mad River Brewery and whether the City is responsible to install bollards to protect from the future possibility of property damage or injury. Planner Rees responded that bollards on private property are the responsibility of the property owner.
- e. The Commissioners briefly discussed Blue Lake Power and the recent layoff of their staff.
- f. Planner Rees explained that there has been a change in the State law regarding accessory dwelling units. He stated that this change makes the City's Ordinance out of compliance with State law and therefore null and void unless it is updated to comply. In the mean time, City Staff must defer to State law when reviewing and approving accessory dwelling units.

**7. Upcoming Planning Commission Meetings for the next 3 months will be on February 20, March 20, and April 17, 2017.**

**8. Adjournment by 9:00 pm unless extended by the Planning Commission.**

- a. Motion (Glen, Whitcomb) to adjourn.
- b. Motion passed unanimously.
- c. Meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.