



# City of Blue Lake

## Economic Development Commission

### Meeting Agenda

Tuesday August 12, 2025 at 4:30PM

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***Unless Otherwise Noted, All Items on the Agenda Are Subject to Action.***

MEETING LOCATION: Skinner Store 111 Greenwood Road, Behind City Hall, Blue Lake.

Public Input can be given to the Commission by contacting the City Clerk at [cityclerk@bluelake.ca.gov](mailto:cityclerk@bluelake.ca.gov), or by phone at 707-668-5655 until 3:30p.m. on the day of the meeting. Written comments may be submitted via email or by submission to the City Clerk at City Hall.

1. Confirm a Quorum of the Commission
2. Motion to Approve Agenda
3. Public Input – *The Public is invited to present petitions, make announcements, or provide other information to the Commission that is relevant to the scope of authority of the City of Blue Lake that is not on the agenda. The Commission may provide up to 15 minutes for this public input session. To ensure that each individual presentation is heard, the Commission may uniformly impose time limitations of 3 minutes to each individual presentation. The public will be given the opportunity to address items that are on the agenda at the time the Commission takes up each specific agenda item.*
4. Approve the Minutes from April 8th, 2024, Commission Meeting- Action
5. Introduction of Interim City Manager – Jill Duffy
6. City of Blue Lake Project Updates-Discussion
7. Retail Cannabis Ordinance- Discussion/Recommendation
8. Business Outreach-Discussion
9. Staff Report
  - A. Parks and Recreation Event Schedule Update
10. Chamber of Commerce Report
11. Future Agenda Items
12. Motion to Adjourn

**A request for disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aid or services, may be made by a person with a disability who requires a modification or Accommodation in order to participate in the public meeting, by contacting the City Clerk at 707-668-5655, at least 24 hours prior to the commencement of the meeting.**

## BLUE LAKE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MINUTES

**Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at  
Skinner Store – 111 Greenwood Road**

*Unless Otherwise Noted, All items on the Agenda are subject to Action.*

**1. Establish a Quorum of the Commission at 4:43 pm.**

**Commissioners Present:** Roxanne Rothery, Cindy Trobitz-Thomas, and Darcey Lima

**Commissioners Absent:** Kelli Costa

**Staff Present:** City Manager Mandy Mager

**Others Present:** Justin Noyb

**2. Motion to Approve Agenda**

**Motion:** Trobitz-Thomas

**Second:** Rothery

**Passed:** Unanimously

**Public Comment:** No public comments.

**3. Public Input:**

No Public Input.

**4. Approve the Minutes from the Previous Commission Meeting**

**Motion:** Rothery

**Second:** Lima

**Passed:** Unanimously

**Public Comment:** No public comments

**5. Battery Energy Storage System Project~ City Manager Mager provided an update on the project and distributed a handout describing the project and addressing issues and concerns. Handout is available at City Hall, upon request.**

**Public Comments:** No public comments

**6. Retail Cannabis Ordinance ~ Tabled to a future meeting for discussion.**

**Public Comments:** No public comments

**7. Business Outreach ~ City Manager Mager**

**a. Visit Blue Lake Week** ~ focusing on a week when the Community can advertise what businesses are in Blue Lake and encourage people to patronize. The Dog House is up and running again and working with SBDC on funding opportunities and website development. The Makers Space is open on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. A new tattoo business will be opening on May 1st in downtown. The Saddle Club will be hosting events throughout the summer and fall.

**b. Spring/Summer Events** ~ Bingo night in May at Prash Hall to support the Blue Lake Bike Pake development. Hoping to have three hundred people attend. In addition to Bingo, there will be an auction. Summer Camp will be happening, along with baseball in Perigot Park, etc. Busy planning Annie and Mary Days in August.

**Public Comment:** No public comments.

## **8. City of Blue Lake Project Updates**

- a. Blue Lake Community Visioning Strategic Plan ~Council is looking to do a Strategic Plan. Still looking for a facilitator.
- b. Powers Creek District ~ A demolition permit has been issued for the Carbon Plant. The Danco project is getting ready to go to the Planning Commission. Work is starting up again on the Bike Park.

**Public Comment:** No public comments.

## **9. Chamber of Commerce Report ~ Chamber President Justin Noyb reported on the following Chamber Activities:**

- Adelene Jones is a new member.
- The Dog House is open. Planning a “Grand Opening” in May,
- Still working on the website update
- Planning a winter social in September.
- One Chamber project is to update/modify the roundabout sign, but the Council has concerns about the use of the City logo. Once resolved, the Chamber will commence work on the project.

**Public Comment:** No public comments.

## **10. City Manager and Staff Report**

- a. Parks and Recreation Event Schedule Update ~ covered above under Item 7. Business Outreach.

**Public Comment:** No public comments.

## **11. Announcements**

- Regular Meeting is May 13, 2025 (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday 4:30 PM Skinner Store).

## **12. Future Agenda Items**

- Chamber of Commerce Report
- Event Calendar
- Business Outreach and Economic Development Education
- City Manager and Staff Report, Project List Updates and Discussion
- Blue Lake Community Visioning and Strategic Plan Discussion
- Retail Cannabis Ordinance

## **13. Motion to Adjourn at 5:50 PM**

**Motion:** Lima

**Second:** Rothery

**Passed:** Unanimously



## **BLUE LAKE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

### **Considerations re: permitting retail cannabis sales in Blue Lake**

Cannabis was deemed an essential industry in California during the COVID-19 pandemic, and a state regulatory framework now exists. Cannabis use is not permitted in public places like restaurants or bars, wherever it is illegal to smoke tobacco, or within 1,000 feet of a school, day care center or youth center while kids are present. All retailers must be licensed by the Department of Cannabis Control (DCC), which prevents sales to minors, ensures all products are tested and that the labelling is accurate. Retail sales are permitted between 6 am and 10 pm; cities and counties may set more restrictive hours.

While cannabis use is legal in California, Counties and Cities may decide to prohibit some or all cannabis businesses. Currently the state is a patchwork of jurisdictions where it is and is not permitted to establish a cannabis business. Incorporated Cities do not need to align with the rules of the County in which they are located, and County restrictions apply only to unincorporated areas. Some jurisdictions limit the number of businesses that may be licensed. As of August 2025, there were 1,198 active Retail Storefront licenses in California (~3.0 retail licenses per 100,000 people).

As of August 2025, the DCC website shows that 47% of Cities and Counties in California allow at least one type of cannabis business, and 44% allow retail cannabis businesses. Along the North Coast, Humboldt, Del Norte, Trinity, Mendocino and Lake Counties all permit retail cannabis in unincorporated areas. Humboldt County permits all types of state licensed cannabis businesses, including (retail storefronts, retail delivery, distribution, testing, manufacturing and cultivation). Humboldt County's annual cannabis sales have trended down from \$35.9 million in 2022 to \$33.6 million in 2023 and \$32.1 million in 2024.

Of the seven municipalities in Humboldt County, Arcata, Eureka and Rio Dell allow all types of cannabis businesses, with the City of Arcata restricting retail cannabis to medical only. Blue Lake, Ferndale, Fortuna and Trinidad currently prohibit all cannabis businesses.

Eureka's ordinance was passed in 2016, just ahead of state legalization. It was updated in July 2022 to simplify the license structure, remove the cap on new cannabis businesses, and set guidelines for temporary cannabis events. The DCC lists 20 retailers in Eureka, with some duplicates and at least one that is no longer operating.

Arcata's Ordinance No. 1501, effective July 6, 2018, restricted the number of permits to 15 and prohibits cannabis only shops on the Arcata Plaza. In May 2022 the limit was lowered to 10 retail permits with no other changes. Additionally, Arcata's ordinance allows for "accessory" sales, which does not require a permit. "Accessory" use applies to any business that sells a small amount of cannabis products but is not their primary business. Currently there are 9 retailers in Arcata listed on the DCC website. McKinleyville is unincorporated with four retailers listed.

In 2019, Rio Dell put out an RFP for retail cannabis outlets, and received six applicants. City Staff recommended four of those to the City Council, for three available conditional use permits in Rio Dell's Town Center Zone. Currently there are two retailers in Rio Dell listed on the DCC website.

Sources

California Department of Cannabis Control ([cannabis.ca.gov](https://cannabis.ca.gov))  
[Californiacannabis.org](https://californiacannabis.org); [higherorigins.com](https://higherorigins.com)  
[Lostcoastoutpost.com](https://lostcoastoutpost.com)