

BLUE LAKE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MINUTES

Tuesday, October 10, 2023, at 4:30
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 4:35 pm.

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

Commissioners Absent: Jake Hussin

Staff Present: City Manager Mandy Mager and Parks & Recreation Director Emily Wood,

Others Present: Councilmember Elizabeth Mackay, Councilmember Elise Scafani, Mardi Grainger and Justin Noyb

2. Motion to Approve Agenda

Motion: Costa

Second: Trobitz-Thomas

3. Public Input. No public input

4. Approve Minutes from Previous Meetings.

Tabled until November meeting.

5. Blue Lake Grocery/Mercantile Store Development City Manager Mager provided an overview of a proposed grocery/mercantile development opportunity. Talking with the property owner and potential business operator. Exploring organizational structuring and financial options. Commissioners Costa and Rothery volunteered to be on an Ad Hoc Committee to offer their expertise and guidance.

Motion to approve and Ad Hoc Committee with Rothery and Costa to assist with the proposed Blue Lake Grocery/Mercantile Development.

Motion: Costa

Second: Lima

Public Comment: Mardi Grainger commented on the need to not provide items that would duplicate those sold at the store at the Blue Lake Casino gas station.

6. Powers Creek District Development Update Discussion City Manager Mager provided the following updates:

- a. RV Park and Campground Update ~ The Development Proposal concept has been approved by the City Council for distribution. The initial intent is to determine if there is any interest, if not, the concept will be retooled based on input.
- b. Baduwa't Community Project ~ Moving through the CEQA process. Working with Danco on parking and circulation and Dan Burden on walkability.
- c. Northern Side of Taylor Way Masterplan and Parcel Subdivision ~ Moving forward.
- d. Taylor Way Masterplan and Road Improvements ~ Moving forward.
- e. Powers Creek Restoration Project Update ~ Lots of vegetation removed to allow surveying to occur. CEQA work is being done. The project could be exempt.

Public Comment: Councilmember Scafani requested that all presentations be broken down and highlighted to allow interested parties to know if new information is going to be discussed. Also, encouraging the development of a Powers Creek Master Plan that would look at the overall area.

7. Chamber of Commerce Report Chamber Vice President Wood provided the following update:

The Chamber is refreshing the website with new pictures of events this year. The Business Spotlight is beginning again. The Chamber mixer in Korbelt had a terrific turnout (60-70 people). Improve membership renewal presentations and let prospective members know what the Chamber does and has to offer. Discussing adding an event every season learning from the Arcata Chamber. Working with Justin Noyb to develop a community calendar. Exploring adding banners around town.

Public Comment: No public comment.

8. City Manager and Staff Report Parks & Recreation Director Wood provided the following update:

- a. Parks and Recreation Update ~ Parks & Recreation Director Wood provided the following update:

Lots of activity. The Medieval Festival of Courage (made \$5,000), Pickleball expansion, Humboldt Archers Club, Holiday Programs, etc.

The Prash Hall commercial kitchen is complete.

- b. Town Square Update ~ Manager Mager reported Sequoia Construction will begin construction in the spring. Due to the expense, the bathroom component has been removed during this construction phase. The City will continue to look for funding opportunities to complete the total project.

Public Comment: Councilmember Scafani is concerned about the Del'Arte current financial news. Most of the employees have been laid and if the \$125,000 is not raised, they could close their doors. Is there anything the City can do assist? The commissioners discussed fundraising opportunities.

Mardi Grainger expressed concerned about inviting food trucks to Blue Lake to assist with fundraising events. Could take away from existing food vendors. Commissioner Lima did not think it would.

The Dell'Arte topic will be agenzized for a future meeting.

9. Announcements

- Next Regular Meeting is November 14th (2nd Tuesday 4:30 PM Skinner Store).
- Commissioner Lima announced the Gamblers Choice Event will be held on Sunday, October 29th, 10:00 am at the Horse Arena.

10. Future Agenda Items

- Chamber of Commerce Report
- Event Calendar
- Business Outreach and Economic Development Education
- Dell'Arte
- City Manager and Staff Report, Project List Updates and Discussion

11. Motion to Adjourn at 5:55 PM

Motion: Lima

Second: Costa