



Blue Lake Public Safety Commission Agenda

Regular Meeting – Monday November 13, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

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

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

Public Input can be given to the commission by emailing citymanager@bluelake.ca.gov until 4:30 p.m. on Monday November 13, 2023.

1. Establish 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 assure 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. Review and Approve Meeting Minutes from Previous Meetings-Discussion/Action
5. Public Safety Commissioner Resignations-Discussion
6. Humboldt County Sheriff Contract Update and Discussion Regarding Law Enforcement Options-Discussion/Action
7. Establish an Ad-Hoc Committee to Work on Law Enforcement Options-Action
8. I and H Streets Neighborhood Discussion Regarding Traffic Calming and Parking Options-Discussion/Recommendation
9. Powers Creek District Project Updates-Discussion
10. Red Cross Update-Andrew Bogar
9. Agency Check-In:
 - a. Humboldt County Sheriff
 - b. Blue Lake Fire
10. Reports from PSC Liaison and Staff
11. Future Agenda Items and Announcements
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 City Manager Amanda Mager, 668-5655, at least 24 hours prior to the commencement of the meeting.

Meeting called to order: 7:03PM

1. Establish a quorum:

Commissioners Present:

- Commissioner Nava
- Commissioner Dickinson
- Commissioner Cruz

2. Motion to approve agenda

Commissioner Dickinson motioned
Commissioner Nava-2nd

Consensus

Agenda Approved

3. Public Comment

Kent Sawatsky: states that it's not feasible to train city employees to be animal control officers due to vaccination requirements; comments on safety concerns on Taylor Way; pop-up roundabouts aren't functional; people don't understand how to use them.

Julie Christie: Supports Zoom for meetings. Asks if there is an update to the truck route. Notices Blue Lake Blvd from the roundabout to the school is very dark and requests we review additional lighting and ask the County for input.

4. Approve meeting minutes from May 2023

Commissioner Dickinson Motions
Commissioner Nava Seconds

Consensus

Minutes approved

Approve minutes from June 2023

Commissioner Nava motions
Commissioner Dickinson Seconds

Consensus

Minutes approved

5. **PSA Updates**

Kent Sawatsky: Comments on road safety walk and maintenance of crosswalks.

Julie Christie: Comments on flashing radar signs; recommends keeping streets wide for trucks and emergency vehicles.

7. Community Safety Preparedness program discussion

City Manager Mager reports that that the first Safety Sunday event was held; there were 4 attendees. There were discussions regarding CERT and home preparedness. The City will sponsor future events as resources are available.

Public Comment:

Dennis Whitcom: Comments that there is a lack of volunteerism and participation all over; how can this be changed?

Kent Sawatsky: Concurs with lack of public participation; concerned about flooding events and the levee.

Elise Scarfani: Comments that the Grange breakfast is starting again next Sunday; this is a good place for flyers. Block parties might increase participation.

Julie Christie: Requests a fire extinguisher program/promotion.

8. RED CROSS UPDATES

Red Cross not present - move to future agenda

9. Tabletop exercise

Manager Mager in touch with HUM CO OES - Fall is a better time for this. CERT wants to be involved; propose an earthquake/flood scenario. Goal is to have the responders in the community participate; add as future agenda item.

Public Comments:

Dennis Whitcom: Comments that the exercise should go slow enough for participants to learn from it; in the past these were too quick.

10. Hum Co Sheriff Contract Increase

City Manager Mager updated the Commission on the proposed increase to the Sheriff's contract. The increase is more than double the current contract and is beyond the financial resources of the City to pay. The City is looking for additional options and resources and is scheduling a meeting with the Sheriff to talk about the increase and options for moving forward. Kevin Miller, former HCSO, is the new Chief of Tribal Police at the Blue Lake Rancheria; this

City Manager Mager: No updates have been received.

13. Future Agenda Items:

- Red Cross Update
- Table Top Exercise
- PSA language

14. Motion to Adjourn:

Commissioner Nava motioned

Commissioner Dickinson: Second

All in favor

Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm

DRAFT

Blue Lake Public Safety Commission Meeting 9-11-23

Meeting called to order: 7:00 PM

1. Establish a quorum:

Commissioners Present:

- Commissioner Nava
- Commissioner Dickinson
- Commissioner Cruz

2. Motion to approve agenda

Commissioner Nava motioned
Commissioner Dickinson 2nd

Consensus

Agenda Approved

3. Public Input

Kent Sawatsky: Notice minutes for approval (last meeting) not on website and requests they be posted. Would prevent public records request - notes requests have not been answered. Notes City Council liaison is not in attendance tonight. Major concerns regarding water tanks and clearance around water tanks - 30 feet for defensible space. Requests we agendaize this.

4. Review Meeting Minutes from Previous Meetings-Discussion

Will review - future agenda item to approve

5. Public Safety Announcements (PSA) Update-Commissioner Dickinson Discussion/Direction

Comments: Kent Sawatsky- Supports the list of PSAs

Elise Scafani: New website is coming. Each Commission has its own page - we could post these there also.

Jean Lynch: Suggests posting about water quality and swimming in river due to toxic algae

6. Powers Creek District Project Updates-Discussion

Mandy Mager: : Breaking ground on the bike park this month. Had the 4th annual Enduro mountain bike race - highest attendance/participation ever. More attendance at the skate rink, businesses saw higher business. The City partners with RCMB by allowing camping to keep

money in town. No info yet from Cal-Trans on funding. Dan Burden is a consultant working on Taylor way design (pedestrian, equestrian, bike use).

Powers Creek restoration project: Moving forward in partnership with the Baduwa't Watershed Council project to restore to a more natural state.

Power Plant: The owners are working on salvaging out old equipment; the goal is to remove as much equipment as possible to lessen the burden on the City for future cleanup.

Public Comments:

Kent Sawatsky: Power plant owes the City money; why are we not going through a legal process to impose a lien on equipment? Mountain biking is a good thing but these functions need to be a permitted process - need to put bags over no parking signage. Should go before the County to review event certification.

Jean Lynch: Are there medical teams available for bikers and who's providing the medical aid?

Mandy Mager: There is a special event permit process well developed by the City. The City evaluates the event and sends out a project referral to other agencies and departments as necessary (i.e. Volunteer FD, Sheriff review, City Insurance). RCMBA has their own medical team that attends, but we notify the fire department anyway. We have keys to the track so City can go up if needed.

7. Road Safety Pop-Up Projects-Update/Discussion

Pop Up roundabouts: The City has received good feedback from folks who live close and others. Several residents asked if roundabouts could be installed in their neighborhood. Improvements may include red curbs, signage and larger installations. Dan Burdin is reviewing comments and making suggestions on usage and making them more effective.

Commissioner Nava: Concerned that people aren't honoring the stop signs and treating them as true roundabouts.

Commissioner Dickinson: Are more pop ups being planned?

Mandy Mager: Not at this time; but as we develop feedback and look at solutions, this could help to make future installations.

Public Comment:

Kent Sawatsky: Would like to see what comments are being submitted to the City in real-time. Concerned that the roundabouts are forcing people onto arterial roads. Doesn't think the size is appropriate or that they're functional.

8. Community Safety and Preparedness Program-Discussion

Mandy Mager: No Safety Sunday in August. Limited attendance in July, pushed back to later in Fall. What do we think the topics might be for an October date

Commissioner Dickinson: October is Winter preparedness - tag onto that.

Mandy Mager: We can reuse last topic (Home Disaster Preparedness) with a Winter emphasis. Would invite Red Cross also. CERT will be invited also (Kit Mann). Would be at the Fire Dept again. Usually on the 4th Sunday of the month - would be 10/22/23.

Public Comments:

Kent Sawatsky: Hum Co BOS attends a table top exercise back East. Strongly suggests City work with County or whoever to simulate disaster.

Commissioner Nava: We have a table top exercise on the work plan for this year to do a BL centric exercise with OES.

9. Red Cross Update-No representative in attendance.

10. Hum Co Sheriff Contract Increase

Mandy Mager: Had a meeting with HCSO and Rancheria LEOs. Opportunities to partner and seek funding. Position still strong that we cannot afford the cost increase. Important to consider that Blue Lake residents already support the Sheriff budget via Measure Z and Property taxes.

Capt Miller from the Rancheria supports the idea of partnering. The City is seeking additional grant funding to support services. The City proposed an inflationary cost increase for 2024, to allow for additional time to work through budget shortfall; the Sheriff declined to consider this option.

Commissioner Dickinson: Are we in jeopardy in any way?

Mandy Mager: Explains that the service needs in Blue Lake are low; the City is still contracted for service with HCSO.

Commissioner Nava: Is there still a possibility of private security?

Mandy Mager: Needs to be part of a package due to lack of city resources. If HCSO does reduce services again we might use that savings to contract for private security. Looking to build a package of all options.

Public Comment:

Kent Sawatsky: Comments on HCSO providing comment and a report. Notes a problem with RVs on Taylor Way. Partnership/communication with HCSO is important. Regarding contract: How long is a contract good for and when does negotiation start for the next one. Supports staff going after additional grants. Suggests fee structure for events like the recent bike race to support LE presence.

Commissioner Nava: What about RVs being asked to move from Taylor way?

Kent Sawatsky: HCSO just stated "problem had been taken care of." Suggests we call HCSO to understand more on how that worked.

Jean Lynch: She's worked with Neighborhood Watch and saw improvements. Neighborhood Watch can support a coordinated effort on complaints. Suggests we cooperate with the Sheriff on Neighborhood watch to decrease the cost of the contract

Mandy Mager: The Contract is up in 2024

11. **Agency Check in**

HCSO: Lt. Josh McCall from HCSO:

Tech issue not allowing opening of document. Generally the number of calls has gone down, reports taken were up and felony arrests stayed the same or were up. No significant change in stats from the previous month.

Public Comment:

Kent Sawatsky: Thanks Lt McCall for attending. Regarding the potential negotiation on contract - can he comment?

Josh McCall: The Sheriff will have to comment - was not a part of the previous meeting, cannot comment.

Elise Scafani: Has looked over the contract and noticed the Sheriff is available for targeted patrols - are there any targeted patrols ongoing now or specific issues/areas being watched?

Josh McCall: Yes; patrols are occurring thru Blue Lake as frequently as possible. Targeted patrols - if we have a problem area that is identified then they try and focus there as best they can.

Blue Lake Fire Department Report; No representation from the Fire District; Commissioner Crews provides a stats report.

45 call in August

22 medical
2 car fires
7 wildfires
5 house fires
2 traffic collisions
2 others

The Fire District is recruiting.

Spaghetti Fund raiser coming up
Breast Cancer Awareness bake sale coming up

Public Comment:

Kent Sawatsky: Are all calls within city limits or are some within sphere of influence? Concerns regarding payment for calls as funded by parcel taxes

Commissioner Crews: Calls within the entire jurisdiction.

Kent Sawatsky: Were there any outside of area fire calls?

12. **Reports from Liaison/Staff**

City Council liaison works on Monday nights; City Council may appoint a new liaison

Upcoming Events:

Hoptober Fest

Medieval Festival: Expanding to Perigot Park as well. Large event that goes through event permitting (Health Dept, HCSO, FD etc.)

1st day of School popup signage - well received

Town Square - Going to contracting this week and construction starting in the Spring.

Prasch Hall: New commercial kitchen, sound baffling for concerts, etc. Looking to set up an opening event to test drive new upgrades

Bike park: Grading permits approved, staking will start next week. Bringing in new dirt also. New volunteer opportunities will be available

Kent Sawatsky: Who is City Council alternate liaison? What is the policy of notifying that person when they need to attend? Gate at Gymkhana is a hazard per Park and Rec commissioner - will that be dealt with prior to the Medieval Festival. Would like to see plans being developed for a bike park. Concerns on "free dirt" and negative things in dirt - suggests toxicity report. Can the plans be put on the City website?

Mandy Mager: Normally liaison notifies alternate. Dirt has all been tested; Parks & Rec is replacing the gate at the arena.

13. Future Agenda Items and Announcements:

Minutes for August

Red Cross Update

Additional School Pop up signage: Stephanie Dickinson will request volunteers. Cross Country event coming up Mandy Mager will let Stephanie Dickinson know the date and call for volunteers will be posted.

Commissioner Dickinson: will not be able to attend in October - Quorum in question

Kent Sawatsky: Clearance for water tank and vegetation management needs to be addressed for defensible space. Could possibly lose a tank due to fire not being able to be fought.

Vacancies are available on the Commission.

14. Motion to Adjourn:

Commissioner Phil Nava motioned

Commissioner Jason Crews Second

All in favor

Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.