

# BLUE LAKE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MINUTES

Tuesday, January 9, 2024, 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 4:40 pm.

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

**Commissioners Absent:** Kelli Costa

**Staff Present:** City Manager Mandy Mager

**Others Present:** Justin Noyb, Isabelle LeMieux and Kent Sawatzky

2. **Motion to Approve Agenda as amended (move Agenda Item 8 to Item 5)**

**Motion:** Hussin

**Second:** Lima

3. **Public Input.**

Kent Sawatzky provided comments regarding economic development in Blue Lake. Keep commercial use in the downtown area. Important to support building owners to upgrade and market their space. The County is now managing the CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) program for local communities. Blue Lake should look into. Important to continue to have functions, but make sure there is adequate parking.

4. **Approve Minutes from Previous Meetings (September, October, November)**

**Motion:** Hussin

**Second:** Lima

5. **Greenwood Road Improvement Project Review - Presentation** ~ City Manager Mager provided a presentation on the improvement project. The project has been in the works for several years, extensive public outreach, and design modifications will be going to a Special Council Meeting on January 16<sup>th</sup>. The main focus of this project is pedestrian safety. Construction will begin in the Summer when school is out.

**Public Comment:** Kent Sawatzky recommended eliminating bulb outs, widen the sidewalks on the school side and adding bike routes in the future.

6. **Rental Inspection Program Discussion** ~ City Manager Mager provided information on the rental inspection program. Rio Dell and Arcata have programs. Arcata's program was discussed as an example of what Blue Lake could consider. This type of program would improve rental health and safety issues.

**Public Comment:** Kent Sawatzky commented on issues with the cost of improvements and rent adjustments. If costly improvements, he would give 30 to 60 day notice, make the improvements and increase the rent which is legal. There could be some unintended consequences.

7. **Dell'Arte Fundraiser Discussion** ~ Dell'Arte has met their fundraising goals.

8. **Powers Creek District Development Update and Discussion** ~ City Manager Mager provided following updates:

- a. RV Park and Campground Update ~ Working with Blue Lake Power on dismantling the current on site infrastructure. Once the City has site control again they will repurpose the property to provide revenue to the City. The draft plan is estimated to be released this spring.

- b. Baduwa't Community Project ~ Danco project is moving ahead and will be going to the Planning Commission for review and consideration.
- c. Northern Side of Taylor Way Masterplan and Parcel Subdivision ~ Moving forward.
- d. Taylor Way Masterplan and Road Improvements ~ Working with Dan Burden on pedestrian access, turn radius and traffic slow down recommendations on Taylor Way. Fundraising continues for the Bike Park. Construction will ramp up in the spring.
- e. Powers Creek Restoration Project Update ~ Isabelle LeMieux, representing the Baduwa't organization gave a presentation regarding who they are, what they do, and the projects involved on the Mad River. One of their projects is the Powers Creek Restoration Project, which will be breaking ground in the spring beginning the restoration. Upcoming education, events and involvement opportunities were discussed.

**Public Comment:** Kent Sawatzky expressed concern regarding the apparent lack of cooperation from Green Diamond with the Hatchery to harvest the fish they need to improve the genetics. Kent offered his assistance to contact Green Diamond. Commissioner Hussin stated Green Diamond is more restrictive on outside usage due to privacy concerns. There is written permission allowing access for certain individuals through Green Diamond.

**9. Chamber of Commerce Report** ~ City Manager Mager discussed how the Chamber is more engaged. Commissioner Lima talk about doing a "Taste of Blue Lake", a chili contest, etc. Other suggestions were offered.

**10. City Manager and Staff Report** ~ City Manager Mager reported the following items are incorporated in the above items or there are no updates.

- a. Parks and Recreation Update ~ no update. Incorporated in the previous items.
- b. Town Square Update ~ no update.

**11. Announcements**

- Next Regular Meeting is February 13<sup>th</sup> (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday 4:30 PM Skinner Store).

**11. 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

**Public Comment:** Kent Sawatzky reminded there are Commissioners terms expiring.

**12. Motion to Adjourn at 6:10 PM**

**Motion:** Hussin

**Second:** Lima