

# BLUE LAKE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MINUTES

**Tuesday, July 9, 2024, 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 4:42 pm.

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

**Staff Present:** City Manager Mandy Mager

**Others Present:** Councilmember Elizabeth Mackay, Kent Sawatsky, Julianna Christie, Andy Jones,  
Justin Noyb, and Wyonna Pitts

**2. Motion to Approve Agenda**

**Motion:** Lima

**Second:** Rothery

**Passed:** Unanimously

**Public Comment:** No public comments.

**3. Public Input**

Kent Sawatsky rented a booth at Annie and Mary Day to gather information on what people want in Blue Lake. Would like to work with the City to develop a paper survey and assist with the distribution to residents. Need to know what people want in order to move forward and make Blue Lake better. This would allow him to share with potential investors.

Julianna Christie expressed concern over lack of timely minutes. Also, concerns over lack of services for visitors.

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

**Motion:** Lima

**Second:** Rothery

**Passed:** Unanimously

**Public Comment:** No public comments.

**5. Retail Cannabis Ordinance** ~ City Manager Mager reported the City Council is discussing lifting the cannabis restriction and allowing limited retail cannabis permits within the City. The City Attorney has been researching local ordinances based on size and scope and has prepared a draft ordinance for City consideration. The City of Weed fits the best for the size of Blue Lake. City Staff is asking potential applicants what they suggest will make it better. Is there an administrative burden? How is retail cannabis impacting City's? The City Council is referring to the Economic Development Commission for review and recommendations.

It was suggested the Commission appoint an Ad Hoc Committee to research and report back to the Commission. Commissioners Lima and Rothery volunteered to serve.

**Motion:** Rothery

**Second:** Trobitz-Thomas

**Passed:** Unanimously

**Public Comments:**

Andy Jones suggested it would be good to research what types of products could be offered. Maybe visit vendors at Annie and Mary Day to see if some of the products are cannabis related.

Julianna Christie questioned why Blue Lake is not looking at the City of Eureka's cannabis ordinance instead of the City of Weed? She supports putting a cap on the number of permits.

Kent Sawatsky has extensive knowledge of the cannabis business in Humboldt County. Suggested visiting the cannabis retail store in Myrtle Town. Many of the original cannabis stores have gone out of business. Does not think Blue Lake will attract businesses and/or buyers. "Missed the Boat"

Wyonna Pitts expressed concern over the potential for increased crime and drug activity for children. Cannabis is much stronger than it was years ago.

**6. City of Blue Lake Community Vision Update ~ No update. Table item for a future date.**

**Motion:** Rothery

**Second:** Lima

**Passed:** Unanimously

**Public Comment:**

Kent Sawatsky suggested the Commission delay until visiting the previous Community Vision and solicit input from the community.

**7. Blue Lake Branding & Signage Updates ~ City Manager Mager shared Noah from Visual Concepts, for signage, merchandise utilizing standard images. Comments and suggestions were made by Commissioners and will be provided to Noah for modifications.**

**Public Comment:**

Kent Sawatsky likes the font. When promoting his properties in Blue Lake, he will develop his own branding.

Wyonna Pitts likes the font, and provided other design suggestions.

**8. City of Blue Lake Project Updates ~ City Manager Mager provided the following updates.**

- a. Town Square Construction Project ~ In full construction mode. The splash pad is the last item to be poured. The lawn will be the final task of the Town Square project. Estimated completion time is the end of July.
- b. Sports Complex Development Concept ~ The non-profit interested in developing an indoor/outdoor sports complex in Blue Lake is continuing to meet with City Staff and prospective partners. There is a shortage of places to hold sporting events, and practice space in Humboldt County. This type of project could fit into Blue Lake's recreation destination branding.
- c. Container Village Development Concept ~ The City has entered into a 6 month Exclusive Negotiating Agreement (ENA) with the owners of B&B (Eisner).
- d. Bike Park Development ~ Is in full swing. A lot of community involvement to develop a state-of-the-art Bike Park destination. Fundraising is ongoing. It is being tested by young riders. North Fork Lumber is donating lumber for the fence.

- e. Baduwa't Community ~ Project Danco project is in the design phase, once complete it will go to the Planning Commission for review and approval.
- f. Northern Side of Taylor Way Masterplan and Parcel Subdivision Moving forward. The Masterplan is complete and SHN surveyors will begin working on the subdivision.
- g. Greenwood Improvement construction project bid was awarded to RAO and will be starting soon working around the Blue Lake School's schedule.

**Public Comment:**

Kent Sawatsky asked about the Town Square splash pad. Is there a splash pad timer, who will monitor/manage the site, vandalism protection?

7. **Chamber of Commerce Report** ~ Chamber Secretary Justin Noyb reported on the Chamber activities. Planning for Annie and Mary Day is the main focus. There are 48 vendors, a bike valet on site. Marvin Samuels and Laurie Sexton will be this year's Grand Marshal.

**Public Comment:** No public comments.

8. **City Manager and Staff Report**

- a. Parks and Recreation Update ~ Annie and Mary Day planning is in full swing. Parks and Recreation are extremely busy planning various events (the Bill Nessler Car Show, speeder rides by City Hall on Saturday and Sunday). Since there are so many local events in July competing with Annie and Mary Day, it will be moved to August next year, maybe a two day event. There will be a Barn Dance on the 19<sup>th</sup> at Prash Hall.

**Public Comment:** No public comments.

9. **Announcements**

- Next Regular Meeting is August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024 (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday 4:30 PM Skinner Store).

10. **Future Agenda Items**

- Chamber of Commerce Report
- Event Calendar
- Business Outreach and Economic Development Education
- Meeting start time adjustment discussion.
- City Manager and Staff Report, Project List Updates and Discussion
- Blue Lake Community Visioning and Strategic Plan Discussion

12. **Motion to Adjourn at 6:15 PM**

**Motion:** Lima

**Second:** Trobitz-Thomas

**Passed:** Unanimously