

BLUE LAKE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MINUTES

Tuesday, November 12, 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 4:32 pm.

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

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff Present: City Manager Mandy Mager

Others Present: Councilmember Christopher Firor, Lori Ponte and Justin Noyb

2. **Motion to Approve Agenda**

Motion: Costa

Second: Trobitz-Thomas

Passed: Unanimously

Public Comment: No public comments.

3. **Public Input:**

Lori Ponte requested the Commission make reports to the City Council after meetings. Councilmember Christopher Firor was introduced as the Council liaison to the Commission. He reports to the full Council. Lori would still like a member of the Commission to report to the Council.

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

Motion: Costa

Second: Hussin

Passed: Unanimously

Public Comment: No public comments.

5. **Retail Cannabis Ordinance** ~ Ad Hoc Committee member Rothery distributed an “Overview of the Current Patchwork Situation” addressing cannabis rules and regulations in California and local jurisdictions activities. The Commission discussed the overview with specific questions regarding ‘accessory sales’ The Committee will provide more information on “accessory sales” and other questions (number, retail, distribution, growing, special zone, etc) raised at the next meeting. Once complete, the City Manager will provide options to the City Council for consideration.

Public Comments:

Lori Ponte is not interested in having cannabis sales in Blue Lake, especially in the downtown. If Council does approve, the Opportunity Zone would a better place to open/operate.

6. **Vacant Commercial Property Assessment and Ordinance** ~ City Manager Mager is keeping on the Agenda. The need for an ordinance continues to grow, due to health and safety issues. An Ordinance would allow the City to have some leverage to collaborate with the owners to get the buildings repaired addressed (carrot and stick).

There has been interest on the Stardough’s property. Over the years there have been numerous potential businesses interested in renting, but the property owners were considering reopening a restaurant. That may have changed, and they are more open to consider renting.

The City had to shut down the sidewalks next to the Emporium due to building structural failure and integrity issues. Want to prevent the building from further deterioration. The Emporium is a key historic building in the downtown.

Public Comment:

Lori Ponte suggested looking at residential areas. Possibly looking at volunteer community support for homes like the historic Fountain house.

7. **Business Outreach** ~ City Manager Mager suggested the City may want to offer a Marketing and Branding Session for local businesses with Noah Samson, Visual Concepts and a one on one class on Canva. Possibly invite the SBDC to provide business training.

Public Comment: No public comments.

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

- a. Blue Lake Community Visioning Strategic Plan ~ bring back this winter and secure funds to hire a facilitator.
- b. Town Square Construction Project ~ the Old Crows are working on the shade trellis with lumber donated North Fork Lumber.
- b. Powers Creek District ~ The Bike Park is moving forward. The paving is 70-75% complete. The winter months will be focused on fundraising (bingo, corporate sponsors, tee shirt sales, etc.). The battery storage project will be discussed with the Council at their next meeting. Power Transitions based out of Texas is interested in developing the site carved out of a portion (6 acres) of the proposed RV Park. The Commission asked questions about the proposed project (noise, compatibility with adjacent uses, mitigation, site cleanup, etc.)

Public Comment:

Lori Ponte asked where the closest facility is located.

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

- Annie and Mary Day has moved from July to the first Sunday of August.
- Adopt a Fire Hydrant Project is moving forward.
- Working on signs and website update.
- The Blue Lake Chamber will be hosting a Chamber mixer in January at Prash Hall.
- Inactive board members who miss 3 meetings in a row will be removed from the Board.

Public Comment: No public comments.

10. **City Manager and Staff Report**

- a. Parks and Recreation Schedule Update ~ December 7th is the tree lighting, holiday parade and Community Dinner at Prash Hall.

Public Comment: No public comments.

11. Announcements

- Winter Wonderland Horse Story Tour will be December 21st from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm on the Museum strip.
- The Blue Lake Museum is having their Holiday Art and Craft Fair at the Mad River Grange on Nov 30th from 11-4 pm.
- Lori Ponte announced the Community Potluck will be Nov. 9th at the Mad River Grange. Shooting for another one on February 22nd.
- Next Regular Meeting is December 10th, 2024 (2nd 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 5:52 PM

Motion: Hussin

Second: Costa

Passed: Unanimously