

## MEMO

February 23, 2006

**To:** Blue Lake City Councilmembers John Sawatsky, Elise Scafani, Kat Napier, Michelle Lewis-Lusso, and Terri Bayles

**Cc:** City Manager Jennie Short, City Clerk Samantha Green

**From:** Lin Glen, 124 Applewood Lane, Blue Lake

**Subject:** 2/24/26 Council Meeting : "Item No 12. Presentation by AdHoc Committee regarding Commissions Structure, Possible Consolidation, and Meeting Frequency"

I'm writing as a concerned citizen. I've read the Item 12 reports in the online 2/24/2026 agenda item packet including: the Staff Report, the Ad-Hoc Committee Discussion Information, the Graphic Report "Amazing Blue Lake SUPER Commission", and the Commission Founding Ordinances for 4 of Blue Lake's citizen advisory commissions. This may not be the best time to move forward on this item.

**I support the Staff Report ALTERNATIVES suggestion: "1. Update Commission Founding Ordinances for consistency but make no changes to the number and type." and I hope you will too.**

The council's wanting to improve city government and the Ad-Hoc Committee's efforts are really appreciated. I'm worried though that the solution they're proposing in the report won't necessarily solve the problems they're talking about: chronic quorum issues, excessive costs to the city in terms of staff time and money, and the need to establish a "clear chain of command" (more than is already stated in the Founding Ordinances). I think, as staff suggests, there are simpler solutions to try first.

And I also see some possible unintended consequences if the Council decides to accept the Ad-Hoc Committee's recommendation to "Adopt Option 2" right now.

The most worrying for me is the possibility that – so soon after the attempted recalls - the Council could be seen by Blue Lakers as trying to get rid of most of Blue Lake's long-standing system of opportunities to participate in government. I don't think that's the intent of the proposal, but the detailed report and plan can be hard to understand and could be easy for the public to misinterpret.

Also:

- 1) Dismantling existing Commissions, dismissing current Commissioners, creating a Founding Ordinance to establish a new Commission, etc. will take many hours of staff and City Council time and attention and there are so many serious problems the Council needs to address right now.
- 2) Almost all of the administrative staff is brand-new and needs enough time to become familiar with their jobs without the support of previous experienced staff.
- 3) The city has a very limited budget.

Reviewing the Commission's Founding Ordinances for consistency where necessary as staff suggests and asking the Commissioners serving now on Blue Lake Commissions – and the public - for their help with recruiting and with reducing the costs of city staff's Commission support may be a good place to start and could make the Council's relationship with the Commissions and the public stronger. And then some Commissions may need to go on hiatus until there are enough volunteers for a quorum.

The Council could re-consider this proposal later if the simpler solutions to these problems don't work and when the City Council and city staff has had more time to work together. Thanks for listening.