Supplemental Information for November 17 2026 City Council Regular Meeting

Item 12: Bike & Skate Park Phase 1

Attachment 1: Attorney Memo

THE MITCHELL LAW FIRM, LLP

November 16, 2026

MEMORANDUM
(for public packet)

To: **City Council**

From: **Ryan Plotz, City Attorney**

Re: **Blue Lake Bike & Skate Park – Third-Party Fundraising and Payments to Wildland Operators**

Issue Presented

Whether third-party nonprofit organizations or private individuals may independently raise and expend funds to compensate Wildland Operators for expenses associated with the Blue Lake Bike & Skate Park, without processing those contributions and payments through the City's accounting system.

Discussion

Generally, there is no legal prohibition against independent nonprofit organizations or private individuals raising funds and making direct payments to Wildland Operators for expenses incurred in connection with the Bike Park. Such payments do not necessarily need to pass through the City's accounts. However, the City's interest in documenting those transactions depends upon whether Wildland Operators continues to assert that the City is legally responsible for the outstanding invoices.

Where Wildland Operators maintains that the City is responsible for payment, any contributions made directly to Wildland Operators on the City's behalf should be appropriately documented. The City should require confirmation of the amount and purpose of each payment, together with written acknowledgment from Wildland Operators that the payment has been credited against the corresponding outstanding invoice. This is necessary to ensure that the City's accounting records accurately reflect any reduction in its outstanding obligations and that Wildland Operators cannot subsequently seek payment from the City for amounts already received from third parties. Although the payments need not pass through the City's bank accounts, appropriate adjustments to the City's accounts payable would remain necessary.

Alternatively, if Wildland Operators acknowledges that it will look exclusively to independent fundraising and private contributions for payment, and agrees in writing to release and hold the City harmless from any remaining claims associated with the invoices, the City's interest in tracking individual contributions and payments is substantially reduced. Under those circumstances, the fundraising and payments would constitute independent transactions between third parties and Wildland Operators, and the City would not need to administer or separately account for those transactions.

Donors should also understand the potential tax consequences of making payments directly to Wildland Operators. Contributions made to a municipality for exclusively public purposes are generally eligible for a charitable deduction under Internal Revenue Code section 170(c)(1), subject to applicable requirements. However, direct payments to a private vendor on account of an outstanding invoice may not qualify as charitable contributions.

Conclusion

The City need not require all third-party fundraising proceeds or payments to Wildland Operators to pass through its accounting system. Rather, the appropriate level of City oversight depends upon whether Wildland Operators continues to assert a claim against the City.

If the City remains potentially liable, direct payments should be documented and credited against the outstanding obligation. If Wildland Operators instead agrees to look exclusively to independent funding sources and releases the City from further liability, the City may permit those transactions to proceed independently, without tracking individual donations or payments.

Item 15: Council Correspondence

Attachment: Email from Chris Edgar

Gmail

Samantha Green <cityclerk@bluelake.ca.gov>

Bullying

Chris Edgar [redacted] Mon, Nov 16, 2026 at 9:00 AM
To: cityclerk@bluelake.ca.gov

Hello, my name is Christopher Edgar, former council person and city employee.I am writing you today in regards to the bullying accusations I've been shown from Facebook and my own experience with people trying to contact me in regard's to bullying.

In my experience and from what I have seen there has been no bullying from our city manager. In fact in my opinion she has done an amazing job getting this town back on track. She is addressing problems within the city that have been neglected and keeping up with on going management. Jenny listens and takes people's ideas and concerns and actually addresses them.

I resigned from my position at my own accord and even though it is nobody's concern why. I left because I had the wherewithal to understand the position was not right for me. It was an amicable separation and I miss the other employees.

Please have this letter read into the minutes at your next city council meeting

Sincerely, Christopher Edgar