
**CITY OF BIG BEAR LAKE
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

July 15, 2015

CALL TO ORDER 1:15 p.m.

FLAG SALUTE Commissioner Breunig led the salute.

ROLL CALL Commissioners Breunig, Tholen, Vice-Chairman Bush and Chairman Smith. Commissioner Senft was excused.

STAFF PRESENT James J. Miller, Community Development Director; Ruth Lorentz, Principal Planner.

AGENDA APPROVAL

The agenda was approved by a voice vote.

PRESENTATIONS / ANNOUNCEMENTS / INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Community Development Director James Miller advised the Commission that the August 5, 2015, meeting will be cancelled. Mr. Miller introduced the newly appointed Commissioner, Ronald Tholen, and asked Acting City Clerk, Kathleen Smith to swear Commissioner Tholen and re-appointed Vice-Chairman Bush in to a new term.

PUBLIC FORUM

None

1. CONSENT CALENDAR

1.1 Approval of the minutes of the Planning Commission meeting of June 17, 2015.
The minutes were approved with a voice vote.

1.2 Major Special Event 2015-088/MSE – 630 Bartlett (Bartlett Parking Lot) Event Area “B” – “Tour de Big Bear”.
Due to a large number of people in the audience wishing to speak on this item, the item was opened to public comment. Chairman Smith abstained from the discussion and vote due to being a part of the sponsorship of the event. Vice-Chairman Bush assumed the Acting Chairman position.

Mr. Miller explained that the event has been through the Planning Commission process and that the event has been approved in its current form. However, the new Special Event Ordinance requires that the street closures be approved by the Planning Commission every year. Acting Chairman Bush opened the public comment up to the audience members.

Matt Scriven, owner of three retail spaces and President of the Village Business Association, spoke in favor of the event, finding it to be one of his three top weekend in sales. Mr. Scriven also spoke for the Association, saying they are in support of the event.

Tim Wolcott, Nancy Berg, Tom Sitton, and Jeannine Sitton spoke in favor of the event, but against the closure of the streets, noting loss of business and vendor competition.

A comment was raised by Mr. Sitton that City employees were being paid overtime to be at the event. Acting Chairman Bush asked what the workers were doing and Mr. Sitton said they were setting up the vendor venue, traffic control, etc. Mr. Miller noted that the City Council discussed the use of City staff and determined that, if the community benefits from the event, then staff can work at the event.

Rick Bates, Event Resource Officer, spoke in favor of the event and stated that there is an increase in sales during this event. Mr. Bates also said that events like Tour de Big Bear help to put Big Bear on the map as a destination location.

Acting Chairman Bush inquired about any traffic issues in the past. Mr. Bates indicated that they do not keep those records and said that the closure is proposed to be the same as in previous years. He also noted that off-site parking has also been secured for the event participants.

Acting Chairman Bush questioned the street closures and asked if there had been problems in the past. Mr. Miller said that staff is not aware of any and the report from the Resource Office did not indicate any issues.

The Commission discussed the time frame for the event since it is on August 1 and agreed that there was not enough time to bring the item back for a full review. Commissioner Breunig said that he has had several discussions with other business owners in the Village regarding street closures for events. They understood the closure to be "rolling". David Lawrence, Public Works Director, spoke, explaining that a "rolling closure" refers to the use of a police escort of the participants, and that is not what has been proposed.

Commissioner Tholen moved to approve the consent item. Acting Chairman Bush seconded the motion, which carried by the following vote:

AYES: Breunig, Bush, Tholen
NOES: None
ABSENT: Senft
ABSTAIN: Smith

The Commission discussed the need for this event to return to the Planning Commission for review and approval prior to next year's event.

2. PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

- 2.1 Major Special Event 2015-092/MSE Planner: Ruth Lorentz
Location: 630 Bartlett (Bartlett Parking Lot) Event Area "B"
APN: 0308-166-57
Applicant: Friends of the Big Bear Alpine Zoo
Representative: Kathy Greenwood

The applicant is requesting to hold the 20th annual Run for the Grizzlies fundraiser on Saturday, September 12, 2015. The event will feature vendors, live music, food and alcohol, motorcycles, and a motorcycle poker run around Big Bear Lake. The property is identified as Assessor's Parcel Number 0308-166-57 and zoned Public-Quasi Public (PQP) in the Village Specific Plan.

Chairman Craig Smith re-entered the meeting. Ruth Lorentz, Principal Planner, gave the staff report and presentation. Ms. Lorentz noted a change in the proposed route, going clockwise around the lake, rather than the original plan to go counter-clockwise, in an effort to keep the flow moving smoothly.

Chair Smith asked about the portion of the parking lot being used. Ms. Lorentz explained that it is Event Area "B", and that participants are not allowed to park in the parking lot.

Commissioner Tholen inquired about issues of noise with the proximity of the movie theater. Ms. Lorentz said that it has not been an issue in the past, and further explained that the stated "quiet zone" in the Village refers to the motorcyclists not revving their engines and driving around the Village "L". Commissioner Tholen also raised a concern about the right turn onto Big Bear Boulevard possibly causing congestion back into the Village. Ms. Lorentz noted that there is new striping on the Boulevard to prevent that from happening.

Public hearing was opened at 2:20 p.m.

Gail Nichols, applicant, stated that she didn't know that a change in the route had been decided upon and they had their maps drawn up already. Ms. Nichols reminded the Commission that everyone does not start at the same time. Ms. Lorentz noted that the change in route is Condition #9 and the Commission could remove that if they feel it would be appropriate.

Rick Bates, Event Resource Officer, stated that this is the 20th annual event, but it changed locations because Chad's could not accommodate them this year.

Public hearing closed at 2:25 p.m.

Vice-Chairman Bush moved that the Planning Commission adopt the attached Resolution finding the project categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and approving Major Special Event application 2015-092/MSE based on the findings and subject to the conditions of approval contained in the attached Resolution, with the removal of Condition #9, regarding the direction of the

poker route. Commissioner Breunig seconded the motion, which carried by the following vote:

AYES:	Breunig, Bush, Smith, Tholen
NOES:	None
ABSENT:	Senft
ABSTAIN:	None

3. **PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT** – Mr. Miller informed the Commission that Reese Troublefield, from the County Parks and Recreation Department, will be coming to the Commission with the final zoo project soon.
4. **SUMMARY COMMENTS** – None
5. **ADJOURNMENT** At the hour of 2:31 p.m., Chairman Smith adjourned the meeting.

MINUTES APPROVED AT THE MEETING OF AUGUST 19, 2015.

Becky Romine, Commission Secretary