

Village of Bear Lake Planning Commission

Unapproved Meeting Minutes

May 30, 2024

Meeting called to order: 6:05 PM by Chairperson Jeanne Walsh-Vission

Present: John Virga, Jeanne Walsh-Vission, Hannah Hodge, Barb Farfsing

Guests: in person Niki & Brian Atkinson (Java Lodge and Merado), Jason Care (J. Care Originals);

On phone- none

Motion to change date from May 16 to May 23, 2024 and approve prior meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Motion to approve updated May 30 unapproved agenda. Motion carried.

Old Business

- Presentation from Niki and Brian Atkinson (Java Lodge and Mercado)
 - Wanting to develop the Manistee Land Bank lot on Lynn and 31. See business proposal that was emailed.

Goal: Create a place for the community to come together

- Mercado- Deli, ice cream, specialty grocery Java Lodge- small, more of a walk-up/ drive up space
- Timeline goal- Java Lodge soft opening April 2025
- Currently working with Gary (Manistee County Land bank) on site plan and possible shared septic with adjacent property (J. Care).
- Farmers Market
 - Led by Becky Cline, Hannah Hodge supporting
 - No money in budget for the sign or any other needs- proposing that council/ private party could pay up front and be reimbursed
 - Current challenge is to find enough interested vendors
 - Suggestions for additional for places to reach out to: Amish place on Maidens Rd. selling flowers and mushrooms, Red Bush Bread (Amy & Josh Tindall (AETINDALL@gmail.com))
 - Farmer's Market Plan to be presented to Village Council for approval at 11 Jun Special Meeting
- Master Plan Update
 - Networks NW- County Master Plan Roundtable Meeting (June 10, 6:30-9:00 PM @Westshore 401 River St. - pre-enrollment required)
 - Jeanne will be attending to represent the Village of Bear Lake
 - Master Plan was last updated in 2014. Plan is supposed to be updated every 4 years.

- Beer Tent for Bear Lake Days
 - Tabled for future- 2025
 - Meg of BL Promoters to be contacted to determine if they would consider contacting local places (Stormcloud, 5 shores, Iron Fish, North Channel) to see if they would want separate or a combined spirits tent at Bear Lake Days

- “Wish List” for Partnership Meeting
 - Village Council Brainstorming ideas collected in a spreadsheet on Google Drive for review.
 - Shortlist curated for presentation to the Village Council (see document.)
 - To be presented to the Village Council at the 6/13/2024 6 PM Special Meeting

- Land Use Permit Fees
 - The proposal is to amend fees to include after the fact penalty- 10x the permit fee if work has already started
 - Question: Should there be some sort of warning before the penalty? Response: After person has been informed that they need a permit, and they continue to proceed without a permit, then they will be assessed for the penalty
 - Communication plan to Village taxpayers: Include changes in water bill and post on website
 - PC recommendation to be submitted to the Village Council at their next meeting

- Short Term Rental Ordinance for the Village
 - Planning Commission members to comment on document uploaded to Google drive before next meeting.

- Blight Ordinance
 - Planning Commission members to comment with proposed changes on document uploaded to Google Drive before next meeting

Items for Next Meeting:

- Short Term Rental Ordinance- review proposed Village STR ordinance Review proposed STR and Blight Ordinance changes and comment in Google doc by June 9

Motion to Adjourn: 9:15. Motion carried.

Next Meeting: June 11, July 9, August 13, September 10