

LAKEPORT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

City of Lakeport
225 Park Street, Lakeport, CA 95453

AGENDA

Pursuant to Section 3 of Executive Order N-29-20, issued by Governor Newsom on March 17, 2020, this LEDAC meeting will be conducted telephonically through Go to Webinar.

Thursday, May 21, 2020

2:00 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER; INTRODUCTIONS

Present: Wilda Shock, Chair; Denise Combs, Vice Chair; Terre Logsdon, Secretary; Melissa Fulton, Candy De Los Santos, Amanda Xu, Bill Eaton, Laura Sammel, Stacey Caico, Pam Harpster, Margaret Silveira, City Manager; Kevin Ingram, Assistant City Manager

2. LAKEPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT: PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES DURING SIP

BRAD RASMUSSEN, CHIEF OF POLICE, AND LT. DALE STOEBE

Lt. Stoebe is now in charge of daily operations. Had to rework our daily ops in light of COVID-19, PPE, and protecting ourselves and the community. Had to implement “touchless reporting” and provide law enforcement services safely. We have a significant number of behavioral health clients and serving them has been a challenge. Working out new procedures in light of COVID-19 due to changes in booking procedures now. Contradictory procedures for mutual aid requests and how we interface with other agencies has been a challenge. The frequent changes to the Public Health orders require us to change and update our procedures. Our officers continue to focus on education and getting the public to comply with orders. We’ve assisted with every drive-through testing in the County through Public Health. With the SIP orders being relaxed, it will increase traffic both foot and vehicular, so we have to step back up on enforcement to keep people safe. Since the beginning of SIP, officers have logged 14,000 patrol miles, 67+ hours of foot patrol, 850 focused business security checks, and 600+ activities-specific requests for assistance, with one-half of the calls for service; issued only two citations.

Chief Rasmussen: When the SIP started, the homeless issue got much more challenging. During SIP, it became significantly more difficult. I took the position I wouldn’t be able to enforce the no camping ordinance; but we didn’t just want to move people from one area to another. There was quite an increase at the Natural High site, and we began getting complaints, but I haven’t enforced there nor at K-Mart. The warming center, which is now a 24x7 operation, moved to the old Record-Bee building and has people from outside of Lakeport at it. One challenge, people were being banned from the shelter, then end up on the streets of Lakeport. Had issues getting Behavioral Health to do regular checks there; began three weeks ago. It’s a big challenge. I’ve reassigned one of my officers to be the homeless outreach coordinator, and I hope to keep that program going – but we’re down 3.5 officers who can work on the streets. Police Academy won’t begin again until June first, putting new officer possibilities 11 weeks behind. One of the sad parts is, during SIP, we’ve been on our own to deal with conflicting opinions from outside agencies. We have had success assisting people get off the streets.

Wilda asked about the Community Policing Survey that was being worked on in late Feb/early March. Shut it down in light of SIP on March 14, but did attain more than 500 responses. So much has changed now, will have to review again. Chief Rasmussen thanks Bill Eaton for his donation of time and survey software; saved the police department many thousands of dollars.

Candy: NCO is working with CareerPoint to identify houses that have been red-tagged but need work, will have youth trained to do the work. She queried the Chief about his awareness of the project and will keep him informed. City of Lakeport has identified four homes to be part of this program. Candy will send info to Wilda to be distributed.

3. UPDATE ON CITY PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES: STATUS ON CURRENT AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS FOR 2020

MARGARET SILVEIRA, CITY MANAGER

KEVIN INGRAM, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER/COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Kevin: Our police volunteers reached out to Lakeport businesses about three weeks ago about their plans to reopen. There was a significant hit to overall sales, but many businesses plan to reopen. Our business loan program is almost out of money, pursuing additional CDBG funds to put money back into that program. Lake EDC is putting together a “We Care” program/pledge to reinforce public confidence that business is doing everything they can to combat the spread of COVID-19. We are trying to make contact with each business that is planning to reopen.

Margaret: At least one restaurant wants to expand outdoor dining options, we may close off a block, but not sure; we want to give more space than the sidewalks.

Kevin: We are today taking down the fence at Library Park as the seawall is completed along with the new sidewalk. City was awarded a \$6.5 million park grant (Prop 68); currently in escrow with Lakeport Unified School District and a private property owner for purchase of the contiguous properties – park must be constructed and open by June 2022. We have issued RFP for design of engineered drawings, had 19 design firms participate in a walk-through so we expect several proposals; deadline is May 27 and will get recommendations to Council as soon as possible after that; hope to have construction contract signed and in place by January 2021. Council and staff have been looking at all funding opportunities that can work for Lakeport. The City is continuing to work with PG&E on PSPS; there are efforts being made on standing up “microgrids” to power part of the normal electrical grids. We will have more info in June on the boundaries for this within Lakeport.

Margaret: Getting ready to adopt the budget; we expect a 20% decline in the General Fund. We stopped a number of projects that didn’t have contracts in place and rolled to next FY. The City has a healthy reserve fund, some staff may retire early, and then will redo budget in Fall when we have a better idea of what revenues might actually be.

4. MEMBER REPORTS: Lakeport Main Street Association, Lake County Chamber of Commerce, CareerPoint Lake, Mendocino College/Lake Center, Lake EDC/BARC

Lakeport Main Street/Denise: Will hold a virtual Memorial Day Parade via LMSA Facebook page. Stay tuned for more info about July 4th. We’ve given Seniors at Clear Lake High School gift certificates to Tutti Frutti. Hanging flower baskets have been hung up along Main Street.

Lake County Chamber/Melissa: Have a special COVID-19-related page and share information. Last year we identified “champion projects” – for 2020 “The Year of the Youth” – David Santos is chair on that; other project is with the property tax default sales, which was postponed due to COVID-19. Government Affairs committee is involved in golf course project in Middletown/HVL area. We have taken an interest in Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians’ BioEnergy/BioChar project that will be a benefit to all of Lake County; we had a tour of the project area.

Last year, our first Rhythm & Brews was successful; we have not yet cancelled for this year (scheduled in July), but looking at later Fall dates. We are still moving ahead with the Seaplane Splash-In; may have to adjust activities. Certified Tourism Ambassadors will conduct virtual training; recognizing Restaurant Week (May 17-24) with virtual Star cards.

CareerPoint Lake/Candy: Center is closed to the public, but all MPIC staff are working from home. Collaborating with other agencies to do trainings on job skills. Stacey: Every Wednesday the Workforce Alliance of the North Bay conducts ZOOM meetings to connect with various programs. Marketing team is developing a business resource guide; expect a request to update your information.

Mendocino College and Lake Center/Amanda: We have moved all instruction online or via packets, this is the last week of instruction for Spring. The decision has been made to make Summer totally online; Fall will be mostly online. Working through details of how this will happen. We hope the new Lake Center Director and the new Superintendent/President will be onboard about July 1. Our Shakespeare at the Lake performances will occur online.

Lake EDC and BARC/Margaret: LCEDC has been a repository for information and can assist businesses. There are still funds for business loans from LCEDC.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Melissa: Business survey sent to businesses and business associations, we received 175 responses (over 38%). Bill: The great majority of businesses have been greatly impacted. Majority of bigger businesses can probably survive 90 days, smaller 30 days. People are very worried about losing valuable staff. A summary will be published.

Laura: ARTWalk and farm-to-table dinner events are paused with more information to come.

Tourism Improvement District/Wilda: Looking toward launching marketing campaign in Summer/Fall; board meets every two weeks. Development of new website is underway (www.discoveryourlake.com).

Laura and Pam noted webinars and trainings for businesses and job seekers. Information will be sent to LEDAC distribution.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 3:57 p.m.

7. NEXT MEETING: TBD (JULY 8, 2020, 7:30-9:00 a.m. - TENTATIVE)

Submitted by Terre Logsdon, Secretary, and Wilda Shock, Chair

LEDAC is an advocate for a strong and positive Lakeport business community and a conduit between the City and the community for communicating the goals, activities and progress of Lakeport's economic and business programs.