

City of Big Bear Lake

Civic and Performing Arts Center
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Council Elects Rick Herrick to serve as Mayor in 2008

Re-organization took place at Dec. 10 meeting

BIG BEAR LAKE, CA – At their regular meeting on December 10, Big Bear Lake City Council elected Rick Herrick as Mayor for 2008. In addition, Bill Jahn was chosen as Mayor Pro Tem, effective immediately. Liz Harris was appointed as Chairman of the Improvement Agency and Rick Herrick as Vice-Chair. Michael Karp will serve as Chairman of the Fire Protection District Board and Bill Jahn as Vice-Chair.

Herrick was first elected to Council in November 2006. Over the last year, he became the primary voice of the Council in the legislative arena, advocating against measures that would impact City services and seeking enhanced funding options for smaller communities such as Big Bear Lake. He will continue those efforts in his new role. Herrick also sits on the City's newly formed Green Sustainability Efforts Committee, which analyzes environmentally friendly programs the City can engage. Upon accepting the Mayoral seat, Herrick stated, "I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Council. Our varied backgrounds and viewpoints will help us work through important issues facing the City. I will continue to work on mounting an effective effort with partner agencies during storm events to keep Hwy 18 open. I will also concentrate on long-range planning efforts that maintain the quality of life we cherish in our beautiful alpine environment." The Council chooses a Mayor amongst themselves as part of an annual re-organization.

Outgoing Mayor Bill Jahn stated, "Thank you to my counterparts on the Council, city staff and the community for your on-going dedication and support. It

has been a pleasure to serve as Mayor for the last two years.” During his tenure, Jahn oversaw the appointment of a committee to work on an Enforcement Ordinance for the Transient Private Home Rental Program; continuation of the Neighborhood Chipping Program utilizing a partnership between the Fire Department and Public Works Division and working on a proposed Native Brush and Shrub Reduction Ordinance to help property owners create defensible space around their homes and businesses.

Harris’ appointment as Chair of the Improvement Agency (IA) comes with much enthusiasm, after the IA, for the most part, has been dormant over the last several years. With the recent hiring of a Redevelopment Director on staff, strong financial position and renewed focus, the Improvement Agency is slated to hold monthly meetings in the coming year. Those meetings will focus on setting policies and priorities for both the Big Bear and Moonridge Project Areas.

Karp, who has been on the Council since November 2006, assumes the role as Chairman of the Fire Protection District Board on the heels of the City Council introducing a Native Brush and Shrub Reduction Ordinance this past fall. That ordinance is currently in the review process to comply with CEQA requirements. Given that the ordinance would require property owners to remove certain types of native brush and use shrub reduction measures on their parcel, the Fire Board will play a vital role in reviewing policies and programs first-of-their-kind for a government agency in the State of California.

Council members will now complete their requests for 2008 committee assignments so that official appointments can take place in January.

The City of Big Bear Lake is a four-season resort located in the heart of the San Bernardino National Forest, approximately 30 miles northeast of San Bernardino. The City serves a population of 6,500 residents and covers a 6.95 square mile area on the west end of Big Bear Lake’s south shore. Recreation is offered year-round, including skiing, boating, fishing, camping, hiking, golf and fine dining.