



City of Big Bear Lake



**CITY OF BIG BEAR LAKE
CITY COUNCIL AND PLANNING COMMISSION
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING NOTICE
MARCH 10, 2014**

To: Mayor Jay Obernolte
Mayor Pro Tem David Caretto
Councilmember Rick Herrick
Councilmember Bob Jackowski
Councilmember Bill Jahn

Planning Commission Chairman Craig Smith
Planning Commission Vice-Chairperson Anne Bush
Planning Commissioner Tim Breunig
Planning Commissioner Joseph Pacelli
Planning Commissioner Paul Senft

City Manager
City Attorney
Division Managers
Local Media

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the City Council and Planning Commission will conduct a Special Joint Meeting on Monday, March 10, 2014, at 5:00 p.m., at 39707 Big Bear Boulevard, Big Bear Lake, California; said meeting being called pursuant to Section 54956 of the Government Code of the State of California for the purpose of considering the following matters:

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS: Any member of the public is entitled to speak only on items listed on the agenda.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM

1. PRESENTATION ON THE RE-LOCATION OF THE BIG BEAR ALPINE ZOO

Council and Commission consideration of receiving a presentation from representatives of the Big Bear Valley Recreation and Park District and County of San Bernardino, including Third District Supervisor James Ramos and Jeff Rigney, Director of County Special Districts, on the Re-Location of the Big Bear Alpine Zoo; and discuss as appropriate.

I hereby certify under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the State of California, that the foregoing notice was posted in accordance with the applicable legal requirements. Dated this 6th day of March, 2014.



Cheri A. Haggerty, City Clerk



City of Big Bear Lake



**CITY COUNCIL AND
PLANNING COMMISSION
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING
AGENDA
MARCH 10, 2014**

Meeting Time: 5:00 p.m.

Meeting Place: Hofert Hall, 39707 Big Bear Blvd., Big Bear Lake, CA 92315

OPEN SESSION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

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DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM

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ADJOURNMENT

I hereby certify under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the State of California, that the foregoing agenda was posted in accordance with the applicable legal requirements. Dated this 6th day of March, 2014.

Cheri A. Haggerty, City Clerk

The City of Big Bear Lake wishes to make all of its public meetings accessible to the public. If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (909) 866-5831. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: March 10, 2014

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council
Chair and Members of the Planning Commission

From: Jeff Mathieu, City Manager

Reviewed By: Kathleen Smith, Chief Operations Officer

Prepared By: James J. Miller, Community Development Director

Subject: Presentation on the Big Bear Alpine Zoo Relocation Project

BACKGROUND

In 1960, after a 1959 forest fire devastated the San Bernardino Mountain National Forest and injured countless animals, the County entered into a 50-year lease, at \$1.00 per year, for 2.53 acres at 43285 Moonridge Road in the Big Bear area to provide a rescue center and habitat for the injured wildlife. In 1961, the rescue facility, named then the Moonridge Animal Park, became part of the Big Bear Valley Recreation and Park District (BBVRPD).

For 50 years the Park has operated successfully in its mission to provide a safe, nurturing home for a myriad of local, injured wildlife including bald eagles, bears, snow leopards, and wolves. However, in February 2010, the previous 50-year land lease expired and the new owner required fair market rent for continuation of the lease. As a result, the BBVRPD entered a three-year lease for this site which allowed for early termination with six month notification to the landlord.

Because the Park had outgrown its current location and the lease was deemed to be a temporary solution, the BBVRPD began its search for a suitable site that would provide for the needed expansion. The search for that site ended in April 2010 with the purchase of the 10.46 acres site located at the intersection of Moonridge Road and Club View Drive commonly referred to as the "Moonridge Y".

Soon after the purchase, BBVRPD entered into an agreement with PGAV Consulting to do a Master Plan for the Moonridge site and also hired the The Altum Group to do the necessary environmental studies. In November 2012, the Initial Environmental Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration were released for public review. During the public comment period numerous concerns were raised by local residents and local, state, and federal agencies. To

address those concerns, it was necessary to re-examine the biological and hydrological constraints of the site which eventually led to a redesign of the Park footprint.

Finally, after four years in the development review and approval process, the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors is poised to approve the revised design and Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Park on March 25, 2014.

DISCUSSION

The Big Bear Alpine Zoo, as it is known today, has operated successfully in its mission to provide a safe, nurturing home for a myriad of local, injured wildlife including bald eagles, bears, snow leopards, and wolves. The Zoo accepts about 200 injured animals each year, most of which are released back into the wild after they are rehabilitated. Moreover, the Zoo is a permanent home to about 150 birds and animals, representing 85 local species, which cannot be released due to the injuries or partial domestication as a result of human care that would compromise their survival. The Zoo operates numerous wildlife education programs and special events which reach approximately 40,000 children and adults each year. The Zoo is also unique because it is the only zoological facility in the United States located in an alpine/sub-alpine environment and solely dedicated to the preservation of the species that live in that environment.

The Zoo relocation project has been a long time collaborative effort of the County Board of Supervisors, Special Districts Department, Park District Administration, Zoo Administration, and Friends of the Big Bear Alpine Zoo. The proposed relocation, if approved, will enhance the facility in hundreds of ways, and most specifically improve size and quality of inhabitant enclosures, health and welfare of each animal, rehabilitation and release capability, facility awareness, education, and overall visitors. In addition, the Zoo would be a significant economic stimulus to the Moonridge Corridor which has struggled to find its identity in the Big Bear Valley market place.

RECOMENDATION

Receive a presentation from representatives from the Big Bear Valley Recreation and Park District on the Big Bear Alpine Zoo Relocation Project.