



## Avalon City Council Weekly Update 10-03-14

### City Manager's Office - Chamber President & CEO Interview Process

My thanks to the entire City Council for showing support to the Catalina Island Chamber of Commerce & Visitor's Bureau by actively participating in the informal interviews/community receptions with both finalist candidates (as well as their respective significant others) for the Chamber President & CEO Position recruitment this past week. I strongly believe that either candidate would be a terrific choice - however, they are studies in stark contrast; not only in personalities, but also communication styles, approaches and outlooks. The Mayor Pro Tem and I had the privilege of serving on the first round interview panel, and the two candidates that you met on Thursday and Friday evening were the undisputed choice to advance to the final round. The interview panel will be convening again this coming Thursday, October 9 to review feedback gathered from the two receptions to help in making a final selection for our next Chamber President & CEO. This is a very exciting time for the community, and I look forward to working closely with the new Chamber executive - whoever ends up getting the final nod.

### City Manager's Office - former Mayor Rudy Piltch's suggested reading of *Anyway - The Paradoxical Commandments*

Perhaps by now you've had the opportunity to take a look at the book that former Mayor Rudy Piltch provided to the entire City Council and me? At his own expense, Mr. Piltch provided copies of *Anyway - The Paradoxical Commandments* by Kent M. Keith. I started to take a look at it during my trip to Las Vegas this weekend to visit my wife, Mel, who is currently working out there. Normally, I tend to stray away from books that are found within the Self-Help section of the bookstore. But I found this book to be very helpful as we try to find our footing and navigate the troubled political waters we find ourselves in these days. I think that this book should be required reading - not just for me and the City Council, but other community stakeholders, too. My thanks to former Mayor Piltch for this helpful gesture; it is appreciated.

### Public Works Department - Sidewalk-Roadway Program

The PWD has developed a sidewalk/roadway remedial program which allows us to identify, and repair/ replace problem areas that may induce injury due to trip & fall incidents. In compliance with this program our efforts involve inspections and evaluations of the surrounding areas. Unfortunately, sometimes the hazard areas involve the removal of some very old trees. Please be advised that all efforts to save any plant growth on the Island are paramount in our decisions to remove or not. However, in the interest of public safety, there will be some removals that will need to take place. Upon the removal of any tree, the City is reaching out to the Conservancy for an endemic replacement that can be planted.

### Public Works Department - Bay Water Quality

Again, our Avalon Bay waters have been tested by the County Health Department, and found to be clean. The PWD is proud that our daily cleaning of the shoreline, and our proactive approach to sewer inspections and corrections, has contributed greatly to these progressive results. We also thank the community for their ongoing efforts in keeping their homes, businesses, and properties clean, which helps to provide the good test results we've seen this year.

### Public Works Department - Drainage Channels

The PWD is in the process of cleaning all of our City-owned drainage channels. Should the rainy season arrive in November, it is essential that these facilities are cleaned of trash, rubbish, dirt and debris. This will enable us to limit any unwanted sediments into Avalon Bay.

### Capital Improvements - Fuel Dock

The new Fuel Dock Replacement project is still in the design phase and is anticipated to be sent out for Bid by the end of the calendar year. Coastal Commission permits are being acquired.

### Capital Improvements - Sewer System

Necessary sewer repair projects are being recommended as part of the proposed FY 14-15 budget that you all will soon be reviewing and subsequently considering for adoption. As part of our 20-year Sewer Repair Plan (a CDO requirement), we must be proactive by performing maintenance and making repairs on a regularly-scheduled basis.

### Capital Improvements - Salt Water Valve & Fitting Replacements

Our saltwater piping system is old and needs replacement valves and fittings to be installed. A general plan is being developed and designed internally in order to start this work. As this system is crucial to our fire suppression capabilities, we are proposing funding within the FY 14-15 budget.

### Finance Department - City Payment Drop Box

Just outside the doors to the front entrance of City Hall we have installed a payment drop box to allow those needing to make payments to the City to do so if they choose not to come into City Hall or if it is closed. We have included mention of it on the City's Homepage in the News section. We plan to also include mention of this on our invoices going forward. We've already received our first payment even though City Hall was open at the time. A shout out to Public Works for doing a great job installing it for us! The installation of this falls in line with making interactions easier and more convenient on the public.

### Finance Department - Sales Taxes

We finally received the FY2013-14 true-up adjustment from the State on our sales taxes for last fiscal year. We ended the year with total sales tax receipts (excluding the Hospital) of \$627K, which was \$33K (or 5.5%) higher than FY2012-13. The Hospital saw a similar yearend true-up adjustment as well. This was the last of the receivables we were waiting on for FY2013-14.

#### Finance Department - Granted Public Trust Lands

The Granted Public Trust Lands report summarizing the Harbor Department's operations was to be filed with the State Lands Commission this week, but they agreed to extend our deadline until January 2015 as they preferred that our numbers agree with those in the audited FY2013-14 City financial statements. We did, however, cure the deficiencies they noted to us for the FY2012-13 report, which brings us now in compliance and up to date with them.

#### Finance Department - City Annual State Controller's Report

This report is due October 15th and our auditors will be completing this for us. The report is an advance look by the State to see the city's operations quickly and on an unaudited basis. The report is quite long and it summarizes all the activity for FY2013-14 into unique buckets the State has defined. All cities are to complete this report and it allows comparison accordingly. We were able to have out FY2013-14 General Ledger in good order for auditors to start working on the report this week.

#### Finance Department - Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) Audit

This week we were required to supply all the deliverables to the MTA auditors so they may complete the MTA audit for FY2013-14. They will be arriving for a one day visit in two weeks to wrap up the audit and visit with the different transportation providers on the island receiving MTA monies as required. In the past, this audit has often been difficult and delayed, but we're all working to make sure this year it is completed and filed on time later this month.

#### Planning Department - Proposed Vons Project

We have found the Vons application to be incomplete, and are providing them with a list of items they still need to provide. We are exploring the possibility of moving their hearing before the Planning Commission into November. The original proposed 10/30 Planning Commission meeting date is proving to be a challenge, and will likely not occur.

#### Planning Department - Proposed SCICo Golf Course Improvement

We are reviewing the resubmitted plans of the Santa Catalina Island Company's golf course improvement project, and should have a status (complete or incomplete) available to SCICo by next week.

#### Planning Department - Proposed Zane Grey Pueblo Project

Staff met with the Zane Grey Pueblo project development team, and has learned that their goal is to be on the January 2015 Planning Commission agenda. They plan to keep the original Pueblo building, and add structures on the west facing slope (away from the bay). Dennis Jaich will be working with the project team to provide them with options for replacing their sewer, which is in bad shape. It currently travels under adjacent private property, down to a Hill Street main.

#### Planning Department - The Leaning House of Catalina

The leaning house on Catalina is being torn down this week. Our thanks to Bryan Zuppiger, Art Jimenez, Miguel Bonilla for their efforts to help make this happen.

Planning Department - Conservancy Trailhead Project

The Conservancy Trailhead project (the old Catherine Hotel site) will be on the October 22nd Planning Agenda.

Planning Department - Verizon Facilities/Buena Vista Point

Verizon is moving forward with requesting entitlements for a wireless installation at Buena Vista Point. A lease (or some other approval for use) will be forthcoming for City Council review.

Recreation Department - Youth Soccer League

Avalon Youth Soccer League completes registration this week and will begin games October 19th. This is the largest league the City of Avalon operates, and this year thus far we've seen a 19% increase in registration with 143 youth ages 4-13 signed up.

Recreation Department - Catalina Island Triathlon

The City of Avalon Recreation, Harbor and Fire Departments met with the Chamber of Commerce, Spectrum Sports, and LA County Lifeguard and Sheriff Departments on Monday, September 29th to discuss the annual Catalina Island Triathlon. The event will be held November 1st and is virtually the same as last year's; with road closures along Pebbly Beach Road from the Mole around to Wrigley Road and along lower Clemente from 9:00 to 10:20 am and partial road encroachment along Clarissa from Beacon to Pebbly Beach Road and the Mole. There is no parking along both sides of Clarissa from Beacon to Crescent Ave. from 7:00 to 11:00 am.

### Recreation Department - Paddleboard Rack

The construction of the custom-built stand up paddleboard rack for public use was completed this week and was scheduled to be placed on Crescent Ave. near the ATM across from the Cottage Restaurant today. Advertising will go out in next week's papers with details on how to check out a space through the Recreation Department.



### Fire Department - EMT Training

This week saw the start of the first of 4 days of mandated EMT continuing education training that will take place this month (the remaining two days will likely take place on the 15th and 16th). Accordingly, this week you may have seen (or will see in the coming weeks) scenarios being conducted around town that appear to be very serious incidents with a variety of life-threatening injuries that are simply simulations that are part of this year's program. Instructors this year are trying to have personnel challenged in more field type exercises where a variety of items come into play beyond patient care, such as scene management and coordination between agencies. If you come across one of the training scenarios, and would like to observe, you are more than welcome.

Fire Department - CPR Training

Ten City of Avalon employees earned their CPR/First Aid certification on Wednesday, October 1st thanks to the Avalon Fire Department, who donated their time to offer the class for employees that want to renew their certification. Thanks AFD!

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Ben Harvey  
City Manager  
City of Avalon

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