



Avalon City Council Weekly Update 10-10-14

City Manager's Office/Code Enforcement – Abandoned Vehicle Roundup

On Wednesday and Thursday of this week, we commenced removing the tagged abandoned vehicles in town. We have rounded up forty-three (43) golf carts, fifteen (15) motorcycles and/or scooters, two (2) full-size vehicles and eighty (80) bicycles, and will be shipping them off the island. This program is a win-win for the City and residents; unsightly golf carts are going to leave the island, without any penalty to those residents who formerly owned them. My thanks to Code Enforcement and the Public Works crew for rounding up the vehicles. Thanks also to Catalina Freight for the work and accommodation at their facility to allow for this program. Below you'll find a picture of some of the vehicles rounded up that will be shipped off the island.



City Manager's Office – City Leases

City Council received a packet of lease information on Wednesday of this week for review prior to the 10/21 City Council meeting, when City leases will be on the agenda. Lessees have been notified of the meeting. If any tenant would like a copy of the 10/21 Staff Report they are encouraged to come to City Hall; copies are available at the Front Counter.

City Manager's Office – Video Streaming

City staff is working on identifying the live streaming interruptions for home viewers of City Council meetings. City staff will be working with Live Stream and Catalina Broadband to determine possible solutions. In addition to addressing the streaming issues, staff is reviewing the enhancement of online viewing to include the full agenda as well as the ability to use a hyperlink on the agenda item to take the viewer directly to the moment on the video. For live viewers, they will have access to the complete agenda and attachments.

City Manager's Office – Contract Inventory

Per Councilwoman's Cassidy's request, City staff is creating a quarterly contract inventory report that illustrates the current contract inventory and insurance requirements for compliance and completeness. Once complete, the report will be updated quarterly and distributed to the City Council for review.

City Manager's Office – Random Drug Policy

The Random Drug test policy will be presented to the bargaining groups for discussion and review in the coming weeks.

Information Technology – Power Outage last Friday

Kudos to IT Advisor Pat Grady and Rick Oxley of Catalina Broadband for getting the City back up and running this past Friday after a power outage disabled a switch for the City's computer system. The switch is one of three in the IT closet at City Hall that navigates all of the network traffic among the firewall, storage drives etc. It acts like a heart, pumping network telling signals where they need to go. Due to preventative planning, Pat had a backup switch here at City Hall, and Rick was available to make the installation.

Fire Department – Ebola Epidemic

The Avalon Fire Department is participating in a safety stand down for the Ebola epidemic. The Ebola Safety Stand Down is being sponsored by the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF), and is an opportunity to review policies, procedures and guidelines that will protect emergency medical service personnel and allow them to provide the best level of care to patients. Please be advised that there is no imminent threat to Avalon and/or Catalina Island as there is no indication of Ebola exposure beyond Texas at this time. This is merely a nationwide preparedness effort being spearheaded by the fire service.

Recreation Department - Joe Machado Field

Tonight (Friday, October 10th) is the Homecoming Football Game at Joe Machado Field. This is the first game to be played on the field following our annual over seeding with ryegrass, and if you haven't had a chance to see the facility yet, please head up the canyon. Go Lancers!

Recreation Department - Soccer Donation

Two sets of soccer goals were donated to the City's Youth Soccer League this week by Fold-A-Goal in Los Angeles. The goals are made in their Los Angeles factory, and were gifted by owner David Hauptman, an avid boater who loves sailing to Catalina. Thank you, David!

Recreation Department - Fall Festival

A big thank you goes to the Catalina Island Conservancy, who is once again donating hay bales to the annual Fall Festival. The bales are used as seating to watch the band, at the Pumpkin Patch on the beach, and of course on the Hay Ride that will tour the town. Fall Festival is this Thursday, October 16 from 5 - 9 PM on Crescent Avenue.

Public Works Department - Hurricane Simon

On Tuesday evening following reports of anticipated large swells that could have potentially impacted the harbor and the surrounding areas, the Public Works Department prepared sandbags and distributed them along Crescent Avenue for use by the businesses. Public Works monitored the situation into the early morning hours of Wednesday; observing the high tide surge affects, and maintaining clear passage of Pebbly Beach Road (as a result of the surge, some rocks and debris were thrown up and on top of the roadway). The efforts were successful, and no road closure was required.

Public Works Department - Street Light Study

The Public Works Department is reaching out to Southern California Edison for the purpose of initiating a street light study. More on this item shortly.

Public Works Department – “The” Bench

We are pleased to announce that “The” Bench has now been installed near Vons on Metropole. You are invited to have a seat.

Capital Improvements - Fuel Dock

Permitting process is ongoing. The public bid for construction is anticipated to begin in January 2015. Project completion is estimated to be by April 2016.

Respectfully submitted,


Ben Harvey
City Manager
City of Avalon

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