



Avalon City Council Weekly Update 10-17-14

City Attorney's Office – Request for Federal Water Assistance

On Tuesday, City Staff and the City Attorney's office had a conference call with representatives from Senators Boxer and Feinstein and Representative Lowenthal's offices regarding funding opportunities that may be available to the City for water and sewer infrastructure projects. The conference call was arranged by the City Attorney. We are providing their offices with information they requested and we will be working with them on maximizing the ability of the City to compete for any available funding. We will keep you apprised of our ongoing efforts.

City Manager's Office – LAFCO 101 Course

In an effort to better understand what is involved in the formation of a community services district (in light of the City's desire to explore this as it relates to freshwater here on the island), I attended a LAFCO (Local Agency Formation Commission) 101 course on Wednesday of this week. While I was hopeful that I would gain insight and instruction regarding the formation of community services districts, the course instead centered primarily on the origins of LAFCO, the agency's mission, and its relevance to local government in California. Useful information, certainly; but not the specifics I was after. Fortunately, with the assistance of the City Attorney, I've been able to line up a near-term future visit from Paul Novak, the Executive Officer for LAFCO for the County of Los Angeles. I'll be certain to go through my questions with Mr. Novak while he is here on the island.

City Manager's Office/Chief Administrative Officer - Storm water

The City successfully completed its required Phase II Small MS4 (Storm water) Annual Report for 2013-2014 and submitted it to the State Water Board on Wednesday of this week. This was a collaborative effort between Denise Radde, Dennis Jaich and David Clary.

City Manager's Office/Chief Administrative Officer – Leases

City Leases will be on this Tuesday's City Council agenda (10-21-14). City Council will be discussing and determining whether to uphold the prior Council's direction, find a compromise solution, request additional time to consider options, or take no action and revert to existing former lease terms. Lease holders have been advised that this item will be on the agenda.

City Manager's Office – MTA Call for Projects Workshop

This week staff attended the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority 2015 Call for Projects workshop. The Call for Projects is an opportunity to apply for funding for regional capital transportation projects and programs such as: capital improvements which improve traffic flow, bicycle improvements, pedestrian improvements and transit centers. On the surface it may not seem like Avalon is applicable to many of these project areas, especially compared to the scale and type being proposed over town, however there are creative ways that the Avalon may apply. Cooperation and coordination between the many Avalon

stakeholders will increase our chances of developing successful proposals for this call for project, as well as future opportunities.

City Manager's Office – State & County Discussion re. Catalina Water Shortage

Staff participated in a conference call with the State Office of Emergency Services, the Department of Water Resources, County Office of Emergency Management and Southern California Edison to discuss Catalina's water shortage issues and what assistance can be provided by the County and State agencies. As with all discussions regarding fresh water here on the island, all roads lead to Southern California Edison and their cooperation and assistance to be able to pursue these options. The City is following up with these agencies and organizations to keep our island on the map with the County and State organizations to increase the possibility of funding opportunities.

Harbor Department -Cruise Ship Tendering next week

We spent a lot of time this week discussing remediation and accommodation efforts in anticipation of having both Carnival Cruise Lines and Princess Cruise Lines in town next Tuesday, October 21st. The concern centered around the respective tender operations for both ships, and a dearth of readily available shore side real estate to easily allow for the unloading and loading of their passengers without compromising visitor or resident experiences due to overcrowding. We were able to reach a compromise solution – only to find out this afternoon from Carnival that they have now rescheduled their calling to the following day, Wednesday, October 22nd. This is the best remedy for all parties involved, and are appreciative of Carnival for making this change. The Harbormaster will be in communication with Princess Cruise Lines, Island Enterprises, Catalina Classic Cruises, Catalina Express and the waterside permit holders to make sure that everyone is aware of this schedule modification.

Harbor Department –Float Removal

In preparation for the winter season every year in mid-October, the Harbor Department removes the Green Pier end float and the Island Enterprises float, and hauls them out of the water until they are launched and re-installed in mid April. This year with the situation at the Pebbly Beach Boat Yard, we will tow our floats to the mainland to be stored for the winter season.

Harbor Department -EMT Recertification

Nine members of the Harbor Patrol attended a two day recertification class to stay current on their skills as Emergency Medical Technicians.

Recreation Department- Fall Fest

Fall Fest in its 6th year was the largest turnout yet! Last night's event saw over 1200 attendees, and local organization had overwhelming success at raising money for their groups through their game, food and activity booths. An official debrief will be held in early November with participants for next year.

Recreation Department- Oktoberfest

Oktoberfest is one week away! Prices have been reduced to \$25 presale/\$30 day-of tickets and \$10 for Kinderfest tickets to increase participation in this first year. Tickets can be purchased at the Catalina Island Chamber of Commerce (catalinachamber.com) and Avalon City Hall. Breweries are lined up, steins are polished, and the bratwurst is ready for the mustard! Thanks in advance to Catalina Beverage, Wine Warehouse, the Chamber of Commerce, Lions Club and Women's Forum for their work in ensuring the event will be a success! Please see the attachment at the end of the update; you'll soon be seeing this flyer all around town (and overtown, too). See you at the beach!

MyGov Implementation Schedule

We are recommending that implementation of the MyGov web site be done in two phases. This approach provides more time and opportunity for the Planning Department to become more familiar with the software, as well as balance their workload with the tasks required to implement the new system. With this approach, we anticipate going live with the building permits portion by the first week in November, with the remaining Planning portion by the first week in December.

As part of the MyGov implementation, a computer terminal will be set up in the lobby as a public kiosk to utilize for submitting applications into the MyGov system as well as accessing the City's web site for those that do not have home computers. On a related matter, we are considering having the City offer to scan documents for applicants that do not have the ability to provide electronic files of plans, maps, etc. Our goal is to eventually have all planning related applications submitted electronically to best utilize the MyGov system and for archiving purposes. The City has the wide format scanner/printer that can be utilized for this purpose. We just need to develop a fee structure for this service, i.e. a copy/scan charge per page.

Internet Connection and Fiber Lines at the Yard/Warehouse

Catalina Broadband completed the internet connection at the City Yard, and the installation of fiber lines from that location of the garage as well as the warehouse. Pat Grady will be installing and configuring equipment (firewall, switches, etc.) to connect these locations to City Hall via a VPN connection through the internet. Once the connection is successful, terminals will be installed at these locations as a precursor to launching the automated time entry system for all City employees.

Fire Department – California Shakeout

Thursday October 16, 2014 at 10:16 A.M. was the annual California Shakeout Drill. This event serves as a reminder that in the event of an earthquake to DROP, COVER and HOLD until the shaking stops. It is also a day to review family disaster preparedness that should minimally be self sustained for three days. A variety of useful information is available at <http://www.shakeout.org/california/>

Planning Department - SCE, Water Rationing & Fire Protection Systems

SCE has confirmed that they will provide fresh water service for fire protection systems during stages of water conservation and rationing. This is good news for several projects affected by the current water rationing.

Planning Department - Proposed Conservancy Trailhead Project

The Conservancy Trailhead project is scheduled for the October 22nd Planning Commission meeting. As of yesterday we have received three letters from adjacent property owners in support and one letter in opposition. The letter in opposition appears to be primarily concerned about the tax exempt status of the Conservancy, rather than any physical aspect of the project.

Planning Department - Tuna Club

The Tuna Club has advised staff that they need to replace 6 or 7 pilings underneath the structure. After consulting with the City Attorney's office, staff has advised them that the work will require a Coastal Development Permit from the Coastal Commission. Additional permits from the City appear to be limited to Building/Structural permit and review.

Planning Department - Proposed Vons Project

Vons is gradually submitting the last few items for their application. November 19th is the current target date for Planning Commission review and consideration.

Public Works Department – Crescent Ave. Clean Up Efforts

Staff has been spending extra time trying to clean up the brick pavers along Crescent Ave. As time goes on, the brickwork becomes porous, and consequently stains and blemishes occur more frequently. Every morning, seven days a week, the PWD crew is out in the early AM working their best to keep this strand as clean as possible. More has to be done, but in the interim, good care is being applied and proper attention is implemented.

Public Works Department –Street Light Study

This week, the Public Works Director met with Mr. Ron Garcia of SCE, for preliminary discussions to implement the study of all the existing outside lighting that is in place within the City. We are pleased to report that Mr. Garcia is enthusiastic to help in our quest to provide low energy fixtures or bulbs. Both Edison and the PWD are developing a streetlight inventory map of all lighting, poles & fixtures. As this process continues, it will allow us to consider options for either LED lighting, and/or changes to the heads for aesthetic values and possible wattage reduction.

Public Works Department – Trip & Fall Remediation

As previously reported, the PWD is currently working on repairs to many areas where sidewalk has been raised due to the excess growth of tree roots. This process will be ongoing, and thanks go out to the public for their continued cooperation, and understanding, during this temporary inconvenience.

Public Works/Capital Improvements – Crescent Ave Hardscape Improvements

Although the Public Works Department is continuing to clean and freshen up the areas along Front Street, it will be necessary to replace many brick and decorative concrete areas as they are getting worn due to age. As stated earlier, the hardscape has become porous and unyielding to any attempts to clean the gum deposits and other harsh stains. Efforts are being made, and investigations are continuing by staff, to find a non-destructive approach for the removal of unwanted substances adhered to the surface. Special machinery and sealing technologies are being considered, as well as the possibility of complete removal and replacement in many areas. The Capital Improvement Program will address these issues in the near future.

Public Works/Capital Improvements – Trash Cans

Dennis Jaich is working with members of the public and Avalon Beautiful in research and possible implementation of new trash cans throughout the City. Several of the existing receptacles are old and worn, and aesthetically unappealing. However, as the amount of trash cans that need to be replaced are numerous, the cost involved will be considerable. Staff is contemplating all options, and when decisions can be reached or prices determined, the recommendations will be presented to the City Council as part of the Capital Improvement Program.

Finance Department – MTA Audit

Two auditors from MTA visited us to conduct the annual audit of the Transportation program revenues (Propositions A & C, Measure R and Article 3 & 8) monies we received. They only required to be in the field one day as we were able to advance provide most of their requested audit materials. They also visited with Catalina Express and Catalina Transportation Services representatives and were provided with a tour of roadways that were improved over the past few years that they were required to follow up on. October 31st we're due to receive a draft report with final issuance required to MTA by December 16th. They did note some Findings that we're working to resolve, or at least make progress changes on before final report issuance.

Finance Department – Spendable Fund Balance FY2013-14 YE

We combed through each of the Asset and Liability accounts for all of the city's funds through 6/30/14 to determine Spendable Fund Balance amounts with which the FY2014-15 Budget will be based on. We also made a concerted effort to identify all reserved monies comprising Fund Balance at 6/30/14. It is the city's policy to apply expenditures pertaining to those reservations first before unreserved monies are used. Lastly, we discovered accounts that had no activity for several years, and after performing appropriate due diligence, we were able to reclass those balances more appropriately.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ben Harvey
City Manager
City of Avalon

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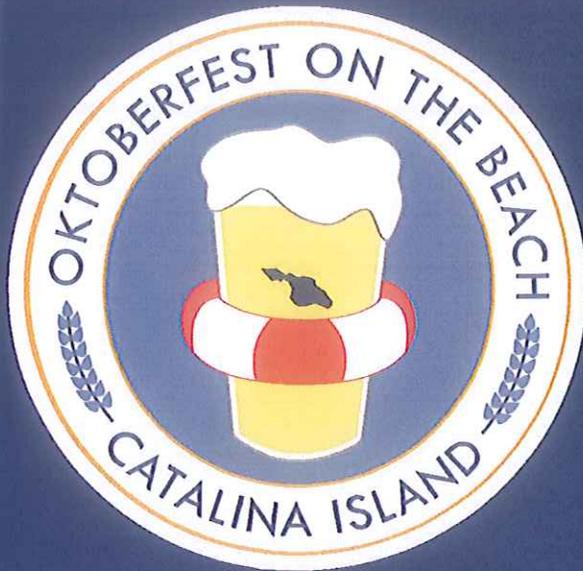
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Attachment

Oktoberfest Flyer – Price Reduced

RAISE A STEIN FOR THE KIDS!



SATURDAY

**OCT
25**

1-4 PM

SOUTH BEACH

PRICE REDUCTION! **\$25** HALF THE PRICE!
TWICE THE FUN!
\$30 DAY-OF ADMISSION
KINDERFEST ADMISSION \$10

BREWERIES JUST ADDED:

WARSTEINER

PAULANER

SPATEN

ISLAND BREW HOUSE

& MANY MORE !!!

WORLD'S
FIRST
OKTOBERFEST
BEER!

INCLUDES:

UNLIMITED BEER TASTINGS
SOUVENIR GLASS BEER STEIN
AUTHENTIC GERMAN OOMPAH BAND
COMPLIMENTARY APPETIZERS
(BRATWURST, SAUERKRAUT & MORE!)
SILENT AUCTION

TICKETS & INFO:

catalinachamber.com

310.510.1520

PROCEEDS BENEFIT ISLAND YOUTH CHARITIES

If you chose to drink alcohol, drink responsibly.