



Avalon City Council Weekly Update 11-07-14

City Manager's Office – Proposed FY 14-15 City Budget

The final budget study session for the proposed Fiscal Year 2014-2015 City Budget will be this coming Monday, November 10, 2014 at 12:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Following this study session, the budget is scheduled to be considered for adoption at the November 18, 2014 City Council meeting.

Monday's budget study session will include a line-item review of City expenditures, and a continued discussion on the contents of the proposed budget. City staff will present their proposed departmental budgets, and the Capital Improvements Projects (CIP) plan will be reviewed. The proposed budget includes approximately \$1.1 million in capital improvements.

City staff (all departments and offices) has spent a considerable amount of time this week reviewing all proposed department expenditures and capital improvement projects. As a result, the proposed City operations budget being presented for review on Monday now includes a (very) modest surplus (approximately \$250,000). The 218 fund budget (the sewer and salt water ratepayer supported funds) reflects a proposed deficit of approximately \$580,000.

City Manager and City Attorney's Offices – LAFCO Visit

The Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) for Los Angeles County paid a visit to the City of Avalon this week, meeting with the City Manager and the City Attorney. In question and of discussion were the boundaries of the City, the City's sphere of influence, and the steps involved with creating a proposed community services district (should an effort be undertaken to form one for the purposes of overseeing the water and gas utilities on the island, for example). Boundaries and spheres of influence are significant in that they determine jurisdiction for review and approval of development and projects, receipt of sales tax dollars, etc. In the not-too-distant future, the City will likely work with LAFCO to pursue some boundary and sphere of influence clean up issues that have been identified.

City Manager's Office and Finance Department – Top City Revenue Producers FY 13-14

Working through the Finance Department, a list has been compiled of the City's top revenue producers for Fiscal Year 13-14. This list was sent to you all via email earlier this week. This list is comprised of those businesses who remit wharfage fees, transit occupancy taxes, admissions taxes and user fees to the City of Avalon (sales tax and property tax are considerably smaller revenue streams to the City). The amounts remitted by these businesses are significant; the City's top producer of revenue to City coffers generated wharfage fees that would fund the Avalon Fire Department's operations for the entire year! TOT through our vacation rentals and hotels is an equally impressive number. In light of the significance of these businesses to the City's ongoing success, I will be coming to the City Council in the near term with a proposal for a recognition event for representatives of these businesses.

City Manager's Office – Class/Compensation Study

The City is making its way through the class/compensation study. On the heels of the completion of the position description questionnaire by all full-time employees, individual interviews were conducted this week by the firm overseeing the study. Tomorrow (Friday), an informational session with interested employees will be held to discuss the proposed list of comparator agencies that may be used as part of the study, and the reasons as to why these agencies were selected.

Harbor Department – Staff Training

Six Harbor Patrol Officers attended a Maritime Criminal Indicators & Response Course in Los Angeles on Thursday November 6, 2014. The Maritime Smuggling Indicators Course was hosted at the LA Port Police training facility and is an 8 hour session specifically designed to educate Harbor Patrol Officers on the California maritime smuggling threat and the tactics, techniques and procedures used by traffickers.

Harbor Department - Winter Dinghy Dock Removal

In preparation of the winter season, the dinghy docks that are normally located between the Yacht Club and Tuna Club and the dinghy dock located near the Cabrillo Mole have been removed from the water and stored at the City warehouse. They will receive their yearly maintenance and will be re-installed in April 2015 for the boating season.

Public Works Department – Hardscape Cleanup Issues

Many areas of sidewalks and brick paving within the City are stained and discolored due to gum deposits and spills of food items. The PWD crews are continually attempting to pressure wash, and do all that is possible to clean up the unwanted blemishes. However, the gum deposits have become the most bothersome material to deal with. Pressure washing alone has shown minimal results, and the scraping/rubbing in these areas have produced negligible effects. Consequently, we have developed a plan of contacting various vendors for solutions. In so doing, we are testing many different chemicals and other equipment that may be a remedy to finally achieve our goal of removing the stains/gum. As time goes on, the PWD will be experimenting at various locations, with different products, in an effort to finally remove unwanted stains. This process may take some time; however, we will continue to sample various products that may hopefully enhance the appearance of our existing walkways.

Public Works Department – Broken Concrete Removals and Repairs

As reported previously, existing curb/gutters and sidewalks have shown their age and are cracking. The PWD crews are in the process of continuing with the removal and replacement at specific areas. Currently we have started the repair procedures on the corner of Beacon and Sumner, as well as the sidewalk walkway down Metropole Avenue. It is our desire to continue to schedule more areas for restorations on an as needed basis.

Public Works Department – Sewer Maintenance

Our ongoing efforts to properly maintain our sewer system continues on a daily basis. As required by the Cease & Desist Order (CDO) issued to the City by the State of California, we are mandated to comply with numerous rules and regulations regarding the sewer system. As you may notice frequently on Crescent Ave., the newly purchased Vactor truck is utilized by our partners, Environ Strategies (ES). On a regular basis ES uses this equipment to jet, clean, and maintain our sewer collection lines. Additionally, they regularly clean and maintain our Low Flow Diverter system. Our thanks go out to ES for their competence and fine work. Additionally we would like to thank our residents and visitors for their understanding and consideration as to the inconveniences during this process; it is appreciated.

Public Works Department/Capital Improvements - Curb/Street Markings

Ongoing efforts are being made to refresh pavement and curb markings throughout the City. Additionally, a study of restrictive parking (loading zones, handicap, time-sensitive areas), is being evaluated and considered in the overall scheme, in order to enhance and clarify parking restrictions. Once staff has completed their evaluations, a comprehensive report will be issued to the City Council for their review, action, and direction.

Planning Department/Grants Administration –Grants and Design for Five Corners Intersection

This Council Update item is being brought to you as a result of a request voiced at the October 27, 2014 budget study session; specifically, the request was that you all be brought up to speed on the history of grants and design work for the five-corners intersection.

In the recent past (sorry, don't have the date at my disposal at this time), two grants were awarded to the City from the Safe Routes to Schools program:

- One for design and construction of traffic calming and crosswalk improvements - \$300,000
- One for a Safe Routes to schools "program" (education, pedometers, bike helmets) - \$100,000

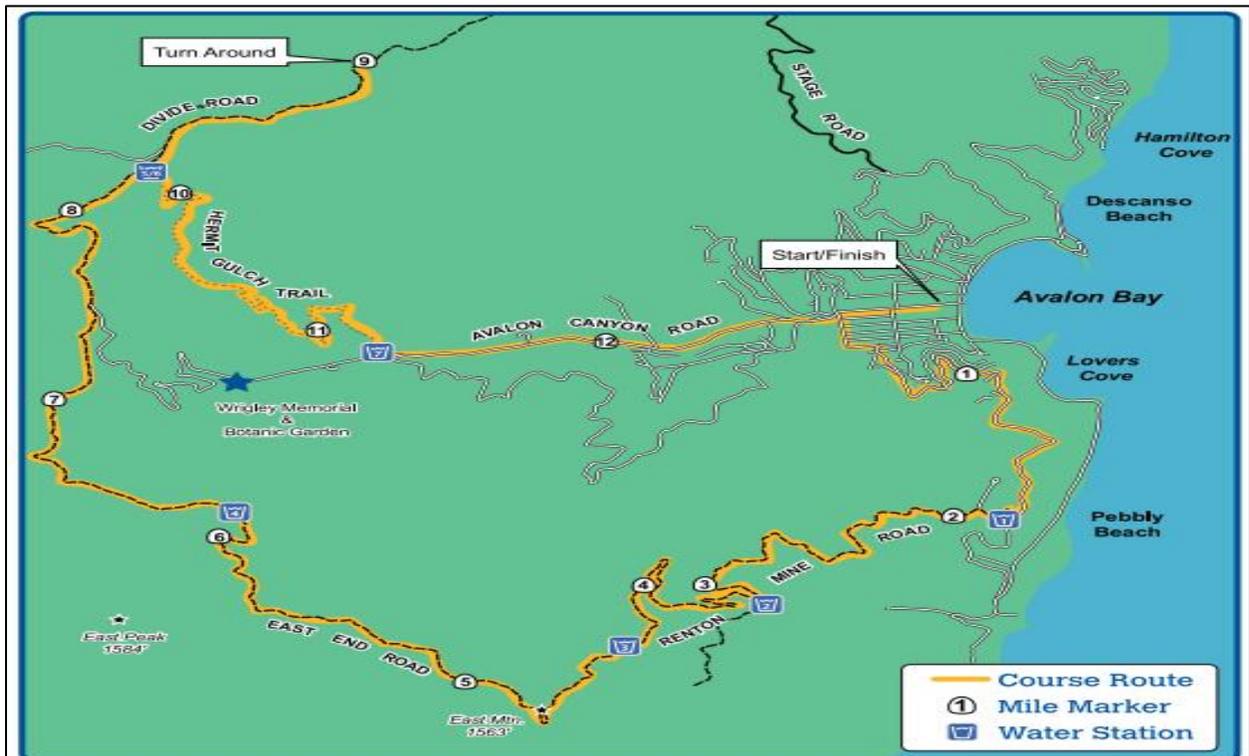
The construction grant was designed, and construction drawings were approximately 90% complete when it was determined that the cost to construct the project far exceed the grant (I believe estimates were around \$1.5 Million at the time). The City did not have the additional funds to complete the project, so the grant money was not collected.

The program grant has not been implemented due changes in the State agency oversight (Caltrans to Public Health). Accordingly, a discussion needs to happen at the staff level about the cost and benefit to the City of implementing this grant. This discussion will take place shortly, and we will report back to you.

At the December 2, 2014 City Council meeting, we will be bringing forward a request for Council consideration to apply for grant funds for 3 individual pedestrian projects, one of which will be the five-corners intersection.

Recreation Department - Catalina Island Eco Marathon, ½ Marathon, 10K, & Kid's Fun Run

This Saturday is the Catalina Island Eco Marathon (8:00 AM, start at Hour Trail, finish @ Sumner/Crescent), ½ Marathon (8:25 AM, start & finish @ Sumner/Crescent), 10K (8:30 AM, start @ Metropole/Crescent, finish @ Sumner/Crescent) and Kids Fun Run (9:30 AM, start & finish @ Sumner/Crescent). As with last weekend's Triathlon, please be mindful of congestion in town: share the road and consider walking instead of driving this Saturday morning. Below are the two courses that effect residents the most (1/2 Marathon & 10K):



Fire Department – Alleged Water Leak

Occasionally the Avalon Fire Department will receive a request for service to investigate an alleged water leak coming from an above ground discharge pipe located next to Veterans Park at the Mole (see photo below). This device is an overpressure relief valve built in as a protection measure on the fresh water system by Southern California Edison. It does operate infrequently, and it does occasionally discharge fresh water onto the grass, but ultimately it actually saves fresh water by preventing a failure and damage to the fresh water distribution system.



Respectfully submitted,

Ben Harvey

Ben Harvey
City Manager
City of Avalon

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