



Avalon City Council Weekly Update 12-19-14

City Manager and City Attorney's Offices – Meeting with Mike Flynn re. Revised Affordable Housing Proposal

Along with Elizabeth Hull from the City Attorney's Office and Jim Draughon from RSG, I met with Mike Flynn and his team yesterday to review his revised affordable housing proposal. We walked through the numbers and discussed the questions that we had from his most recent, revised proposal. At the Housing Authority meeting in January we will return the signed extended exclusive negotiations agreement and make a presentation on Mr. Flynn's revised proposal to obtain the Housing Authority's direction as to how best to move forward.

City Manager's Office – Revised Social Media Policy

We have revised the City's Social Media Use and Public Outreach Policy's guidelines and policy overview to provide some context and meaning to the policy, especially the sections titled "Officials must avoid interacting with each other about city business" and "Avoid taking final positions on issues". Also revised is the Social Media Response Assessment, which still highlights the City's general desire to not respond or comment. If you haven't yet already, you will receive the revised policy shortly.

Planning Department – Proposed Vons Application

Earlier this week, the City convened a conference call with representatives from Vons regarding their proposed project. One of the conditions of approval imposed by the Planning Commission was that Vons submit alternative loading dock plans to the Planning Commission for review. Such plans have been prepared, and were submitted to the City. These plans are public documents, and are available for the public to review at City Hall. These plans will be discussed by the Planning Commission at a public hearing that will be noticed and scheduled for January 21, 2014. After that meeting, based upon the input of the Planning Commission, Vons will erect story poles to show the contours of the proposed structure.

Planning Department/Grants Administration – Commuter Subsidy Program for Dana Point

Starting January 1, 2015 residents who qualify for subsidized commuter books will now be allowed to use their books to travel to Dana Point. Commuters will be required to pay the \$1.00 surcharge for the Dana Point route. City staff has been negotiating with Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority staff to authorize the additional port arguing that all subsidized commuter trips originate in Los Angeles County, regardless of the destination port. Catalina Express Staff have been working diligently as well, making changes in their computer system to handle the new rules. We are excited to be able to offer an additional port to the eligible residents of Avalon.

Fire Department – SCE Drill

This week, Avalon Fire, Los Angeles County Fire and Los Angeles County Sheriff's representatives participated in a joint agency incident command tabletop exercise sponsored by Southern California Edison. This training allowed for a unified command response on a simulated gas leak within the City of Avalon. Training such as this allows for all stakeholders to establish lines of communication and streamline procedures prior to a "real world" event. Moreover, it builds on existing partnerships and cooperation to allow for the best possible outcomes when emergencies arise.

Public Works Department – Testing of Drinkable Air

Testing of the water from the Drinkable Air unit confirmed the company's claims that the water was pure and safe to drink. The water tested comparably to results found for bottled water, and had improved marks over that garnered from tap water. We will be conducting a review of the energy efficiency of the unit next to determine the cost effectiveness.

Public Works Department – Storm Preparedness

The 2nd welcomed rainfall of the winter season hit the island again this week. Department staff handled the situation as usual, with vigilance and care. Bare areas were covered, and sand bags were prepared for placement. Although this particular storm did not deposit as much rainfall as we hoped, it posed significant issues due to the saturation value as a result of the previous rainfall. Fortunately, no significant negative impacts were realized due to the positive action of Department Staff.

Public Works/Capital Improvements- Re-seeding Process

The recent Phase 2 water restrictions have created many dry areas, and have affected our landscaped areas negatively as a result of the water shortage. With the latest rainfall, irrigation has been achieved and welcomed. Staff is therefore attempting to save the rooted areas by adding seed, and nutrients, to the damaged areas. We have been attending to the park areas downtown, planters, and the cemetery. It is likely that with our continued efforts, many areas will improve, and we will once again be able to have some appealing green lawns and gardens.

Public Works/Capital Improvements – Sewer Testing and Repairs

As is consistent during regular weekly activities, video testing and cleaning of City sewer lines is an ongoing process. The low flow diverters downtown are cleaned and jetted weekly, the sewer main lines are cleaned and inspected, and the City laterals are inspected. As time goes on, the old lines need attention. It is prudent and necessary that the City is proactive with these approaches to ensure minimal, if any, adverse effects that may cause unwanted infiltration of unclean waters into our Bay. The PWD staff is cognizant of the seriousness of this issue, and deals with the required procedures efficiently.

Chief Administrator's Office – Insurance Certificates are Going Paperless

City staff received training and initiated a new program this week regarding the delivery, storage and maintenance of insurance certificates. The cloud-based technology provides a paperless solution plus a notification system indicating when certificates are expiring. The program, Pins Advantage, provides a secure and accessible way to maintain and store certificates. The City will be using this program for all contracts, leases, transportation permits or general services that require insurance certificates. Those who work with the City in this capacity will be receiving communication to initiate the program with their respective insurance provider.

Respectfully submitted,

Ben Harvey

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City Manager
City of Avalon