



Avalon City Council Weekly Update 3-28-14

Long Beach Channel Dredging

Thanks to the determination and efforts of Congressman Lowenthal, the City of Long Beach and Catalina Express, approximately \$7.5 Million has been included in the Federal Budget to allow for the Army Corps of Engineers to dredge the Long Beach Channel, starting in May of this year. Different from years past, this year's effort will NOT require the temporary closure of the Catalina Express Long Beach terminal and the accompanying rerouting of passengers to San Pedro. Instead, the Army Corps of Engineers will be using a smaller dredging barge, and will operate in a manner that will allow for Catalina Express to navigate around the dredging effort and continue service out of Long Beach while the dredging effort is underway. Obviously, the Congressman's tenacity to ensure that the funding came through (along with that of the City of Long Beach and Catalina Express, too) is greatly appreciated, and I will be sending out thank you letters from the City of Avalon shortly.

Crescent Avenue Project – City of Avalon and Santa Catalina Island Company Infrastructure

Dennis Jaich and I met with Randy Herrel, Harry Peterson and Kris Willhelm of SCICo this week to discuss the Crescent Avenue project, storm drain culverts and how the City of Avalon and SCICo may better work together to identify and resolve infrastructure issues - including sewer problems. While we don't (yet) have resolution as to ownership of the failed storm drain culvert below Crescent Avenue, both the City and SCICo are resolved to jointly determine where infrastructure problems lie throughout town, and how we may work together to resolve them. I expect ongoing discussions going forward. Further, we will be forwarding an informal working list of problem areas to SCICo so that we may better share, document and agree upon our problem areas, as well as the corresponding plan of attack. Finally, we will be providing Randy, Harry and Kris with comprehensive Cease & Desist Order packages (the order from the State, as well as the corresponding ordinances that were enacted by the City) so that they may have this reference and compliance information readily available to them. SCICo was agreeable to meeting with representatives from the Water Board when they are out in Avalon next month for inspections.

Catalina Island Medical Center

In response to direction from Council Member Olson at the last City Council meeting, I met with John Freil, CEO of the Catalina Island Medical Center (CIMC) yesterday to discuss gaps in the availability of coverage for City employees trying to obtain treatment at CIMC using City provided health insurance - particularly the HMO plan coverage. Previously, it was my (uninformed) understanding that the reason the City was unable to achieve 100% coverage up at the hospital was due to CIMC's business model. That is not the case. The real reason is that the HMOs have been unwilling to negotiate, consider and include CIMC within their approved health care provider networks. This is an issue not only for the City of Avalon, but also the other major employers on the island, including the Catalina Island Conservancy and the Santa Catalina Island Company. Accordingly, John has put together some near-future meetings with the HMOs and overtown hospital CEOs in an effort to resolve this matter. I will keep you all posted on our progress.

Information Technology

- WiFi Project: The City's WiFi project is complete. The Fire Station now has WiFi throughout the building, consistent with the WiFi network at City Hall and the Pier. The Fire Station had been using a WiFi device that was not commercial grade and therefore had security vulnerabilities. With the WiFi network, any City employee can now connect to the same network whether they are at City Hall, the Pier, or the Fire Station, with a single logon.
- Fire Station Network Switch: A new network switch was configured and installed at the Fire Station to permanently replace the device that was damaged during the unplanned power outage a few weeks ago. Concurrently, a new UPS device was installed at the Fire Station.
- Terminal Servers: Configuration of the terminal servers continued and additional staff members were provided the icon to begin using the new desktop environment.

Southern California Edison (SCE)

Work at the lower Metropole underground utility vault is now proceeding nicely with the cultural remains issues resolved. SCE's subcontractor, Henkels & McCoy, set the pre-cast vault sections earlier this week in an effort to reduce visibility and disruption to businesses and visitors. The process went well. The City is currently waiting for the upper Metropole vault construction schedule. A ceremonial reburial of human remains at the lower Metropole underground utility vault project site is scheduled for Saturday, April 12, at 8:30 am. Tribal representatives have extended an invitation to City Council Members, should any of you wish to be on hand for the ceremony. Please advise.

Law Enforcement

Captain Feteroll and I continue to work on revised approaches to narcotics enforcement. We have begun deploying a new canine resource (the Springer Spaniel that you may have seen at the Mole and around town), and we are looking at possibilities in potentially altering our on-island Sheriff resources to better target narcotic traffic. I will keep you posted as to our progress.

April 17th Spring Fest and Catalina Art Fair Exhibition

Jordon Monroe has been actively working to lure alternative fuel vehicles to Avalon as part of the upcoming Spring Fest on April 17th. He has made terrific "inroads" here. In particular, he has arranged to have on hand a Mercedes-Benz hydrogen fuel cell vehicle, as well as the ELF, which is a hybrid bike/electric solar and pedal powered vehicle. Others participants who are willing to demonstrate alternative transportation are falling into place, too. The thought is the transportation world is being rapidly transformed by technology - and we want our community to see what is possible in 2014. This is in keeping with our broader goals of improving our town's mobility, reducing emissions and noise, and limiting congestion.

Respectfully submitted,



Ben Harvey
City Manager
City of Avalon

Internal Distribution:

Chief Administrative Officer/City Clerk
City Attorney
Department Heads
Mr. Jaich
Ms. Schuchard
Ms. Byerrum
Mr. Grady

External Distribution:

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
Los Angeles County Fire Department
Santa Catalina Island Company
Catalina Island Conservancy
Catalina Island Chamber of Commerce
Southern California Edison
Catalina Island Medical Center
Long Beach Unified School District
Catalina Express