



Avalon City Council Weekly Update 5-23-14

City Manager and City Attorney's Offices - Heal The Bay's 2014 Beach Report Card:

Yes, we're still celebrating yesterday's announcement from Heal The Bay regarding our progress in improving the water quality in the Harbor. The five monitoring sites in Avalon received grades of A, B (two) and C (two) on the A-F scale used in the report. Since 2006, Avalon has not received higher than a C grade; with F grades received approximately 86% of the time. Media coverage of the report was widespread, with mention of Avalon's improved marks and water quality progress within *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Long Beach Press-Telegram*, *The Orange County Register*, *The Long Beach Register*, island media, and other media outlets.

Though it was not reported in the media, I would like to call your attention to the role of the City Attorney, and Best Best and Krieger (BB&K) in this accomplishment. In 2011, before the Notice of Violation was received, and prior to the Cease and Desist Order (CDO), the City Attorney, working with City Staff, began an assessment of what steps could be taken to remedy the chronic water quality issues in Avalon. RBF was subsequently retained to development a plan for repairing crucial infrastructure. In late 2011/early 2012, the City Attorney's office became aware that the Governor and State Legislation were moving towards dissolving the Redevelopment Agencies (also referred to as "ACIA"), and looking to take back funds that were not committed to public projects. In March of 2012, the City's Redevelopment Agency entered into a contract with RBF that committed millions of Redevelopment dollars to sewer repairs, thus safeguarding these funds from the State's money grab. Avalon Redevelopment Agency's commitment to these repairs was instrumental in lessening penalties that could have been imposed by the State Water Board. Specifically, Shawn Hagerty of BB&K was able to convince the State Water Board NOT to impose any fines and NOT to enact a moratorium that could have prevented all new development in Avalon. The City Attorney's office has continued to work with the State Water Board to enact the programs mandated by the CDO which, combined with the infrastructure repairs, have helped greatly to improve the water quality in Avalon Harbor.

In summary, we are emboldened by Heal The Bay's 2014 Report Card, and are proud of our progress. I would like to thank the Avalon City Council past and present, City staff, the City Attorney's Office, and key community stakeholders for the ongoing support and determination to complete our work in this area.

City Manager's Office – DMV (re)-Visit:

Thanks to the assistance of Mike McGowan, Deputy Director of the DMV, we have secured additional, confirmed dates for on-island DMV service of July 7 - 10, 2014. As you may recall, the DMV encountered technical difficulties during their scheduled visit last month. Considering the unique geographic constraints of the island and our special needs, Deputy Director McGowan lobbied for an additional visit to ensure islanders were able to receive DMV service here in Avalon, rather than having to go overtown. We will be forwarding a public announcement and appointment sheets as customary in the near future.

City Manager's Office – Three (3) Budget Study Sessions (6/18, 6/25 and 7/1):

We are planning three (3) budget study sessions to introduce the proposed FY14-15 City of Avalon budget. The first session is scheduled for Wednesday, June 11th at 9:00 AM covering the topic of the Miscellaneous Fee Schedule. The City Council adopts the fee schedule each fiscal year with a proposed CPI component that is intended to cover increasing costs associated with providing the fee-related services. Staff may also present proposed new fees, revised fees or the removal of fees. It will also be an opportunity for the City Council to brainstorm new revenue ideas.

The second and third Budget Study Sessions will be held on Wednesday, June 18th and 25th at 9:00 AM. The budget study session on June 18th will focus on the overall budget, with discussion on key funds. The June 25th Budget Study Session will be convened to address any outstanding questions, and to allow for discussion of any modifications to the proposed budget.

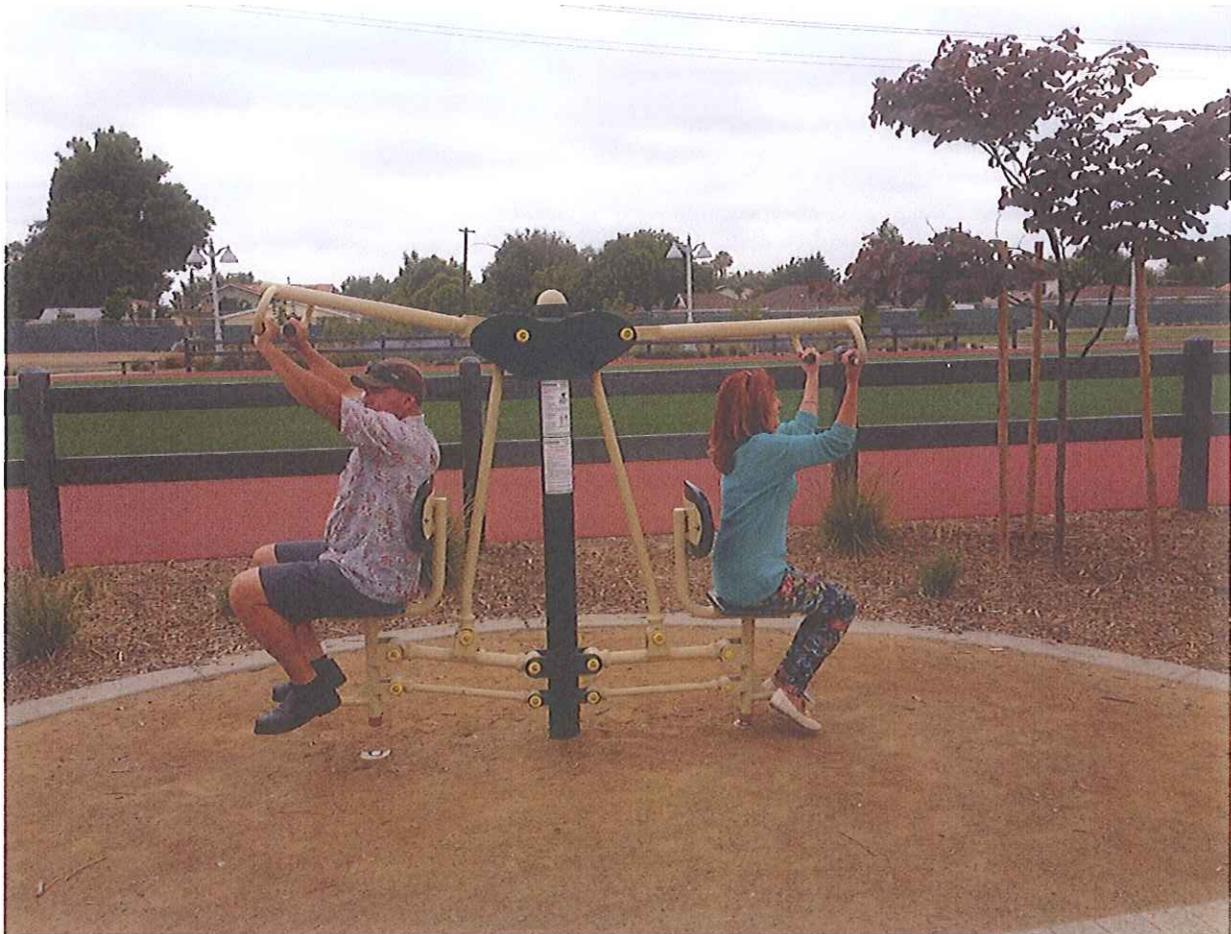
The proposed budget and corresponding fees will be presented for consideration and proposed adoption at the July 1st City Council Meeting.

Finance Department – Interim Chief Finance Officer:

The Interim Finance Director position has been filled by Chris Woidzik, who has now been working here at City Hall these past two weeks. During this time he has been meeting City staff and familiarizing himself with operations of the City and the Finance Department. Certain policies and procedures are being looked at to streamline operations. A review of staff assignments is also underway to allow for both cross training, as well as professional development. Additionally, Cindy Byerrum and Stacey Tang of PCG Consulting were also here this week to continue their efforts to compile final reconciliations of the accounting records required for the FY2012-13 audit.

City Manager's Office – Site Visit to eBus and Salud Park (Paramount, CA):

Mayor Marshall, Council Member Sampson and I visited eBus' manufacturing facility in Downey, and toured Salud Park in Paramount yesterday. The purpose of the trip was to provide Mayor Marshall and Council Member Sampson the opportunity to see and experience the eBus product in person – and, to allow for the opportunity to experience outdoor, resistance-based exercise equipment (as the picture below demonstrates). Of course, these two topics are not related – but were geographically near each other (Downey and Paramount), and allowed for us to kill two birds with one stone during our overtown visit. We anticipate MTA funding in July that will allow for the City's approximate \$1M grant to purchase the three (3) eBus vehicles. We further anticipate bringing forward for City Council review and consideration a request for proposal for a design for the proposed Avalon Fitness Trail that is being made possible through an approximate \$300k grant through the Los Angeles County Parks Department with assistance/input from Supervisor Don Knabe's Office. Below you'll find a picture from our visit to Salud Park in Paramount:



Planning Department – Proposed New Von's Store:

Von's is tentatively scheduled to present a Review in Concept at the June 18th, 2014 Planning Commission meeting. The Review in Concept includes a notice mailing for those property owners located within 300 feet of the proposed development, as well as published notices within island newspapers. Vons has also expressed interest in submitting an article to the island media advising residents and visitors of their proposal, and encouraging participation and attendance at the upcoming June Planning Commission meeting when this proposal will be reviewed, discussed and considered.

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) – Fallen Officers Memorial Ride/Official Bike Patrol Unveiling:

This past Sunday, representatives from LASD Avalon Station and the community participated in the 2014 Fallen Officers Memorial Ride. Convened annually by LASD to honor the memory of those who have sacrificed their lives in the performance of duty, the event was also the official unveiling of the new Sheriff patrol bikes that you will begin seeing around town. These bikes were generously provided through the donations of Levent Alkibay of Catalina Beverage, Jack Tucey (several island businesses), Randy Herrel (Santa Catalina Island Company) and Mesa Bradley (Brown's Bikes). Those Sheriff Deputies participating in the bike patrol program have been provided with training and specialized uniforms. The bike patrol will allow our Sheriff Deputies to be more visible and quickly cover ground on Crescent Avenue and other high traffic areas in town, while simultaneously affording our law enforcement personnel the opportunity to interact with our island residents and visitors. Below you'll find a picture from the Fallen Officers Memorial Ride that shows our LASD crew on their new "rides":



Avalon Fire Department – American Red Cross:

On Wednesday of this week, American Red Cross Disaster Administrators were provided a review and tour of the Avalon Fire Department's disaster response capabilities. The American Red Cross was very impressed with the capabilities of our department, particularly the organization of our fixed and mobile disaster trailers. A summary of The American Red Cross' visit will be available on the Greater Long Beach Red Cross Facebook page.

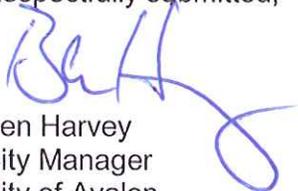
Public Works – Salt Water Line Break at Cabrillo Mole:

We suffered another salt water line break this morning at the Mole. Fortunately, Public Works and Environ Strategies were quickly on the scene, and able to shut the water off and make the requisite repairs to the line. Due to the location of the line break, we will need to remove pavers add sand, and re-compact the area prior to restoring it to its prior appearance. So, while it may not look "pretty" at this particular spot for a few days (unfortunately during Memorial Day weekend, of course), the important thing to be aware of here is that the line has been repaired. This happening on the heels of our first Public Finance Workshop allows us to continue to understand the need for appropriate resources to support our salt water and sewer infrastructure.

Public Works – Casino Bathrooms:

We have come to the realization that despite concerted efforts, the temporary bathrooms procured for installation behind the Casino will NOT work to tie into the sewer line as we had previously hoped. Accordingly, we are shipping the temporary bathrooms off the island, and are moving forward with a proposed modular unit approach that also incorporates a changing area for the divers. Dennis Jaich and I will be speaking with Randy Herrel and Harry Petersen about this development on Tuesday of next week. In our prior conversations with SCICo on this topic, they were supportive of a temporary and long-term solution for restrooms at this location, especially in light of the significance and impact to our diver visitors and residents.

Respectfully submitted,


Ben Harvey
City Manager
City of Avalon

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