



Avalon City Council Weekly Update 09-12-14

Fire Department - 9/11 Anniversary

On Thursday September 11, 2014, the 13th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, The Avalon Fire Department, Los Angeles County Fire Department Station 55 and members of the community participated in a memorial stair climb honoring the 343 New York City Firefighters that perished on 9/11, as well as victims at the Pentagon, Flight 93, NYPD, WTC civilians, and members of the Armed Forces. The Memorial Stair Climb is a nationwide event supported by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation that began in 2005, and has grown and been supported by fire departments across the nation. The goal for this year's event (as in years past), was for the combined group to collectively climb the equivalent of the 110 stories of both World Trade Center Towers. To honor the fallen, the event has participants completing the stair climb in full protective gear, carrying two batons that contain the names of all 343 FDNY Firefighters killed. The baton is passed from person to person, while completing their respective section of stairs. While the day and occasion are somber, the event is also a day of camaraderie between firefighters, offering a chance on some small level to try and appreciate the scale of 9/11, and the conditions faced.

City Manager's Office - Random Drug Testing Policy

We now have a draft random drug testing policy being internally vetted, which will be available shortly to the City's bargaining groups for discussion and review. I have wanted to implement a unilateral program since coming to work for the City. Due to complicated legal constraints, and multi-agency jurisdiction resulting from the varied nature of the City's different job classifications (U.S. Department of Transportation for those driving certain large vehicles, U.S. Coast Guard for those piloting boats, etc.), the policy has taken longer than anticipated to develop.

Public Works Department - Capital Improvement Program

The Interim Public Works Director is in the process of developing a comprehensive Capital Improvement Program that will be finalized and presented for internal review in approximately one month. This is in accordance with one of the City Council's goals.

Harbor Department - Outrigger Race

This past Saturday, September 6th, the 55th annual Catalina Channel Crossing Outrigger Race began with the women's teams racing from Newport Beach, with the 1st place finisher arriving at the harbor entrance about 12:50 PM. 65 outriggers and 77 chase boats participated in the event, which brought about 1000 people to Avalon. The atmosphere was festive and everyone who participated appreciated the welcome they

received. On Sunday, the men's teams gathered in front of Lovers Cove and left the starting line at 10:00 AM on their way back to Newport Beach.

Harbor Department - Hurricane Norbert

This past weekend was challenged by the forecast of Hurricane Norbert in the Pacific off the coast of Baja. Precaution measures were put in place by lowering the ramps and releasing the pier end float, and luckily the prediction of large southerly swells and higher than normal tides only produced a small amount of storm surge with little impact to Avalon Harbor.

Harbor Department - Never Quit Challenge

On Wednesday September 10th, it was a pleasure for Avalon Harbor to briefly host some Veterans who were participating in the Never Quit Challenge Personal Water Craft Adventure. These veterans are raising money for charities, including the Wounded Warrior and Second Chance Foundations.

Harbor Department - West Coast Watercraft Club

This coming Sunday September 14th, we will welcome West Coast Watercraft Club who will be making the journey from Long Beach on 40 personal watercraft. The group plans to enjoy Avalon for a couple hours before they head back to the mainland.

Recreation Department - Oktoberfest

Oktoberfest will take place on **Saturday, October 25th from 1:00 – 4:00 PM on South Beach here in Avalon.** A flyer has been prepared (attached to the update this week), and will be mass distributed shortly. Unfortunately, efforts to get articles included within the *Avalon Bay News* and *The Catalina Islander* this week were unsuccessful. I am frustrated by this, and will be following up directly with both newspapers. The event will cost \$60 (\$20 for the kinderfest – yes, children will be welcome!), and will include unlimited beer tastings (responsible drinking encouraged, of course), a souvenir beer stein, a German zeitgeist band, complimentary appetizers and a silent auction. Proceeds will benefit island youth charities. Tickets are being sold by the Catalina Chamber – call **310.510.1520** for details. I am VERY excited about this event, and hope that it will only build in the years to come. Prost!

Finance Department - Successor and Housing Accounting

Last week the Finance Department took over the accounting responsibilities for the Successor and Housing functions. Due to other unforeseen client commitments, Cindy Byerrum (Platinum Consulting) transferred the responsibilities sooner than scheduled. We are in the process of posting all the activity for FY2013-14 onto the City's General Ledger, and will have this wrapped up next week.

Finance Department - FY2013-14 Accounting

The activity for May and June (revenue and expenses) has been posted to the General Ledger and all of the bank accounts have been reconciled through June. We also posted revenue accruals through last week applicable to FY2013-14 amounting to \$1.8M as well as expense accruals of \$1.1M. Once we have the entire Successor and Housing related accounting recorded as mentioned above, we will be able to complete the reconciliation of cash across all funds and then adjust the overhead costs that have been allocated to all Funds.

Finance Department - Successor and Housing Reporting

We worked with RSG and Cindy Byerrum to complete the ROPS budget for the January-June 2015 period, as well as the Annual Housing reporting requirements. These are included on the Tuesday Council meeting Agenda.

Information Technology - Surveillance System at Pier

The new server was installed and is now operational, with the majority of the cameras integrated. The project is at 90% completion, as the contractors need to return and finish integrating some additional cameras and complete some calibrations.

Information Technology - MyGov Software

Software to streamline the City's planning, permitting and payment processes was evaluated by Staff. The software is a basic clearinghouse where contractors, developers, inspectors and City staff would utilize to collaborate on projects in a transparent manner with tracking and aging capabilities. The software provides a centralized view of each project, its status and items to complete. It ensures that all steps are followed through by the appropriate department using automated workflows and notifications.

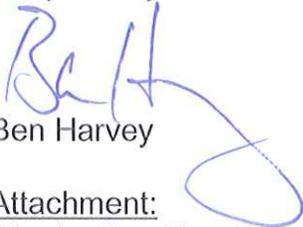
Information Technology - Time Entry Automation

Staff evaluated a second software solution to completely automate the payroll processing function, specifically employee time entry. Currently, this process is manual. Automation of this function will increase efficiency and enhanced tracking of employee time keeping as well as time off requests.

Planning Department - Proposed Vons Project

Vons has submitted their application, which is being internally reviewed for completeness. Next week, the Vons team will be on the island conducting outreach regarding the project with the City Council and Planning Commission (meeting individually with members), as well as some key community stakeholder groups, such as the Catalina Island Chamber of Commerce.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ben Harvey

Attachment:
Oktoberfest Flyer

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
Catalina Express
Supervisor Knabe's Office
Assembly Member Lowenthal's Office
Congressman Lowenthal's Office



OCT 25 · 1 - 4 PM

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KINDERFEST ADMISSION \$20

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THE GERMAN ZEITGEIST BAND
COMPLEMENTARY APPETIZERS
SILENT AUCTION**

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catalinachamber.com
310.510.1520**