



Avalon City Council Weekly Update 2-13-15

Chief Administrative Officer – AES/CR&R Commercial Pick Up Route (and Schedule) Change

Following citizen complaints and a Council Member request concerning noise, staff inquired with Avalon Environmental Services (AES, aka CR&R) as to whether they were able to tweak their commercial trash pick up schedule and/or route to impact neighborhoods at a later hour in the morning during the off-season months. Currently, commercial trash pick up commences around 7:00 AM daily, and impacts neighborhoods immediately. To respond to this request for change, AES evaluated their current commercial pickup schedule, and came up with a proposed route change that appears to address the City's request, meets AES' needs for additional pickup at another commercial location, and above all, is safe to residents, visitors and AES employees. The proposed route change will now not impact neighborhoods until approximately 8:30 AM. AES conducted a trial run of the proposed new route with their Safety Director, who gave them the go-ahead to proceed. As the busy season approaches here in Avalon, and as vehicular and pedestrian traffic correspondingly increases, AES may need to alter the route. We will keep you posted, of course.

City Manager's Office – Threats to Code Enforcement Officers

Code Enforcement Officers are asked to perform a lot of difficult tasks, many of which are not always popular with our residents (particularly in those instances where our residents are being cited for code violations). Sometimes, our residents are so frustrated with the citation(s) that they turn to threats against our Code Enforcement Officers and their respective families. It's an unfortunate situation that the City takes very seriously. It is against the law to threaten peace officers. We have tasked the Sheriff's Department with following up and responding to some recent threats our Code Enforcement Officers have received, and some corresponding threatening postings on social media. Code Enforcement is an important function of the City, and we need to ensure that our Code Enforcement Officers are able to perform in an environment where they are not subject to harassment and/or fear for their safety (or that of their families) while they are in the course of doing their jobs.

Harbor Department - Float 5 Tendering For Carnival Cruises

Following City concerns, and after receiving complaints regarding congestion above Float 5 during Carnival Cruise Line's tendering operations, the Harbor Master visited the site on Tuesday 2/10. The Harbor Master found cruise ship photographers in 3 different locations (instead of the 1 location previously agreed to by the City and Carnival) and the approved "guest information booth" on the walkway selling tour tickets, instead of being used as an informational booth on the approved grass area. Carnival employees were immediately advised and, the Harbor Master's pictures and concerns were transmitted to the Carnival's corporate office. The Harbor Master is in the process of working with Carnival management to swiftly address these issues, and rectify the situation observed earlier this week.

Harbor Department – North East Wind Prediction

The National Weather Service had issued NE wind warnings for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Appropriate measures were taken to notify boat owners to move to a safe harbor,

and our pier floats were removed and placed on our winter storm moorings. Those boaters who decided to stay in Avalon were moved to moorings closer towards the Casino. Fortunately, the winds never reached Avalon, and all pier floats were re-installed this morning.

Harbor Department - Weekend Shaping Up To Be Busy

With summer like conditions, and a 3 day weekend upon us, we have already put 60 boats on moorings as of 1:00 PM on Friday (!), and anticipate the inside harbor to get close to capacity by tomorrow afternoon.

Chief Administrative Officer - Vehicle Registration

Vehicle registration season is off to a grand start. Permits issued so far include: 73 residential golf carts, 12 non-residential golf carts and 41 full-size vehicle permits. Just as a reminder, vehicle registration hours are 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM, and 2:00 PM – 4:30 PM Monday – Wednesday, and on Friday. No vehicle permits are issued on Thursdays. The cost for autoette and full-size vehicle permits is \$30.00.

Public Works Department – Street Hardscape Repairs

Existing street hardscape/brickwork and concrete curb & gutter repairs are ongoing at specific locations where they are worn and degraded. Efforts are being made to repair these areas with extreme care to emphasize safe passage for pedestrians, but also, to return the areas to their appealing good aesthetic conditions. This process will continue when necessary and, as the areas are accessible.

Public Works Department – Gas Line Excavation at Green Pier Area

As was previously reported, the PWD uncovered possible Native American remains in the excavation for a new gas line in front of the Green Pier. The LA County Coroner's office was immediately involved, and has now released the area, clearing the way for the future excavation and installation of the piping. Arrangements are being made to proceed in compliance with the City's protocol for excavations within the confines of a determined Native American Burial Ground. We anticipate that the construction will recommence the last week of February.

Public Works Department /Capital Improvements – Museum Stairs

The City will be administering the contract to install new stairs at the future museum building site on Metropole. Meetings are taking place between the City and museum management to finalize the plans and administer a contract for the construction. It is anticipated that bids will be received in the near future, and that the construction may begin sometime in late April.

Public Works/Capital Improvements- Professional Structural Evaluation – Fuel Dock

A draft report from the Council-authorized Fuel Dock study as been submitted to the City, but the full formal report, including estimated costs for temporary repairs, will not be submitted until Monday. Preliminary information available to us now appears to point to the fact that the current state of the structure is of major concern, and that substantial repair/restorations will need to be completed before any consideration can be given to use of the complete building. When the estimated costs are presented within the formal report, the City Council can determine if temporary repairs are warranted, or if the City should pursue the reconstruction effort instead. .

Public Works/Capital Improvements- Sewer Evaluations and Future Development

Efforts are ongoing to evaluate the current state of our sewer system, and the affects that future development may cause on our collector pipelines and treatment plant. These efforts involve substantial considerations and planning, but are continuing as necessary. It is our desire to be fully informed as to any negative effects or actions that will be necessary, when more demand is placed upon our existing infrastructure. It is the intent of these studies that we become fully aware of the monetary value that future improvement may generate.

Planning Department-Grants

Over \$4 Million in grant applications were submitted by the City for proposed funding the last week of January. The \$4 Million represents two grant applications requesting funding for pedestrian improvements in and around the five-corners intersection, and rehabilitation of the restrooms at the Cabrillo Mole. Notification of grant awards for both applications should be received by July of this year.

Recreation Department - Metro Bike Roundtable

Staff attended the Metro Bike Roundtable in Los Angeles last night. Topics presented and discussed included the Complete Streets Initiatives, and how adoption of a policy will affect funding opportunities during future calls for projects, Bike Week events in May, and current and upcoming bike amenities for riders, such as bike lockers, bike hubs for easy storage and transition to metro, and bus racks. Staff met with several Metro staff members following the Roundtable to discuss the unique challenges to the biking community and public transportation in Avalon.

Planning Department – Story Poles for Proposed Von’s Project

Story poles for the proposed Vons project have been installed, including the additional poles determined to be needed following last week’s discussions. We are currently working to review the heights of the poles, and anticipate that additional “tweaks” here and there (including some potential height decreases for some poles) may be required. Should this be the case, corresponding adjustments will be made at the location.

Planning Department – Upcoming Planning Commission Agenda Items

Upcoming Planning Commission agenda items for the next three months include: the proposed grading of the hillside behind the Descanso Beach Kitchen project, the proposed Zane Grey Hotel renovation and restoration, and a prosed expansion of the Catalina Golf Course.

Finance Department – CSMFO Conference

Next week, Chris Woidzik, our Interim Chief Financial Officer, will be attending the California Society of Municipal Finance Officer’s (CSMFO) annual conference in Monterrey. In keeping with this City Council’s goal to provide additional staff development opportunities and further professionalize the City team, we continue to send our folks to conferences, trainings and seminar opportunities that will provide them with additional tools to perform their job duties better, learn of recent initiatives and impacting legislation, network with colleagues to develop valuable relationships, and gain outside perspective.

Avalon Fire Department

The Avalon Fire Department was recently able to purchase a small mobile pressure washer and place it into service this week. Normally such an item might seem inconsequential; however, with the ongoing drought and water conservation efforts this item will hopefully allow the fire station to reduce its water consumption for required maintenance items. The pressure washer operates on a high pressure (1200 psi) low volume (2 GPM) electric compressor to make more efficient use of available water. This item will allow AFD to continue its responsibilities and mandates to keep equipment in good condition and ready for service while being good stewards of our precious island water resource.

Respectfully submitted,

Ben Harvey

Ben Harvey
City Manager
City of Avalon