



Avalon City Council Weekly Update 2-20-15

City Manager's Office/Harbor and Recreation Departments- Aqua Park Proposal

Following Tuesday's City Council meeting, at my request in accordance with City Council direction, the Harbor Master and Recreation Coordinator will be reaching out to Mr. D'Albero, the applicant for the proposed Aqua Park. The following items will be addressed with Mr. D'Albero in order to move forward in consideration of his Aqua Park proposal:

1. Under Harbor Department review and approval, the Applicant will install the swim line in the proposed areas of operation in front of the Blue Water Grill, as well as South Beach.
2. The Applicant will contact surrounding businesses for a written opinion of the proposed Aqua Park, including any possible impacts to businesses. Businesses to be contacted by the Applicant will include the Blue Water Grill, Antonio's, and the Santa Catalina Island Company (the landlord for the aforementioned businesses).
3. The Applicant will reimburse the City for the publication of notices placed within the local paper(s) to inform the public of the dates the so-called "story floats" will be installed.
4. The Applicant will install large fenders, lines, and anchors to cordon off the proposed 70'x 30' areas of the proposed Aqua Park at the specified locations.
5. The Applicant and Harbor Master will take water depth readings at high and low tides within each of the "story float" areas to be cordoned off.
6. The Applicant will identify a proposed storefront location for the business.
7. The Harbor Master and the Applicant will jointly convene two conference calls with the California Coastal Commission and State Lands Commission (separate from each other) to "re-review" questions posed earlier about the application (whether the City needs to be a co-applicant, whether local discounts would be permitted, and any other outstanding questions/concerns about the project that either agency may have).

Considering the amount of "homework" to be completed on this application, it is not anticipated that it will return for City Council review and consideration until the 2nd meeting in April at the earliest.

City Attorney's Office – Proposed Vons Project and City Council Appeal

The appeal of the Planning Commission's prior approval of the proposed new Vons store has been tentatively rescheduled for hearing by the City Council from March 18th to April 21st. In light of the comment letters received from the public concerning the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) and the environmental impacts of the proposed project, as well as interest in the public for a revised loading dock configuration, the City has decided to conduct additional analysis, revise the MND, and recirculate it for a second 20-day comment period. Rescheduling the appeal's public hearing will allow this to occur in compliance with the state's environmental laws and would allow the public a second chance to participate in the environmental process. It should be noted that revising the MND does not represent a change in the project itself, and the project will be presented to the City Council with the same site plan as was approved by the Planning Commission, so no second hearing in front of the Planning Commission will be necessary.

Finance Department – City FY15 Accounting Update

The Finance Department is happy to report that we have now posted all of the July-December 2014 activity to the General Ledger. Additionally, Gina Schuchard, who handled putting the FY15 Budget together, has now loaded the Budget into the General Ledger, so we can now compare Budget with Actuals. All expenses, revenues, payroll and overhead allocations have been posted, and each of the ten bank and investment accounts have been reconciled through December with this activity also having been posted to the General Ledger. We are now in the process of reviewing the activity with the Department Heads for any reclasses. Reclasses are needed because the FY15 Budget, which was adopted in November 2014, had new accounts and Funds that had not yet been contemplated when we started the fiscal year back in July 2014. Once the Department Heads and I have approved the reports, we will communicate the information to the City Council. Going forward, we're looking to getting on a schedule whereby we can provide the Department Heads with updated financial information within 3-4 weeks, after closing the prior month.

Finance Department – Successor Accounting

The Successor Agency accounting has been caught up and is now reconciled through December 31, 2014. There had been various Due To and Due From balances between the City, Successor Agency and Housing Authority that had existed since the ACIA was dissolved. These balances had been building up over the years because the accounting was not current, and because before these balances could be paid off, the overall Successor Agency cash analysis and ROPS analysis had to be updated. This, too, has now been completed.

This was a very time intensive task that involved several consultants over the years to get to where we now are. Before we could liquidate the Due To/From balances, an overall review was needed to be completed again of the prior activity and to summarize this in an understandable manner. Three bond draws were required in December, in addition to one in November, to catch us up on usage of unspent bond proceeds. Essentially, the City had paid for expenses that bond proceeds were designated for, but was behind in seeking reimbursement. Additionally, the Successor Agency had to hold onto other monies until the overall ROPS reconciliations were completed. As of December 31, there was now sufficient cash to liquidate all of the Due To/From balances between the Successor, City and Housing Authority, and so this was done.

In summary, the city was paid back a total of \$1,366,027 by the Successor, while the Housing Authority paid the Successor \$7,715 to eliminate these internal balances. Going forward there is sufficient monies in the Successor and Housing Authority separate bank accounts to pay their bills directly, so further borrowings from the city are not anticipated.

The bond draws amounted to \$1,055,262 of TAB A redevelopment project area money (mostly related to Lower Terrace project) and \$100,000 of TAB B bond money pertaining to funding low income housing assistance loans. The remaining unspent Tab A bond proceeds is \$156,178, with these monies earmarked for the Pebbly Beach Road Fencing project. The available unspent Tab B bond proceeds amount to \$4,260,307, which is earmarked for affordable housing initiatives.

Finance Department – Time Entry Software Update

While we're delayed in rolling out the Time Entry software, we can report that we have previewed demonstrations both this and last week with the developer. They have been taking our instructions to tailor the software further to our needs. Additionally, all city staff have been added and the scanner time clock is due to be received this week. Very soon we will be

speaking with the Public Works Dept. staff to obtain their access information so we can finalize the set-up of the scanner time clock with them. Depending on how effective the scanner time clock is, we can add additional units for the other departments. Testing continues by the Finance Dept. and in the next week we plan to preview the software with a staff member from each department to make sure their interactions are positive before we roll it out city-wide.

City Manager's Office - LACO Public Library Complex Proposed Upgrades

Along with the Mayor, I met with a coalition of stakeholders interested in revitalizing the greater Los Angeles County Library complex on Wednesday of this week. Among those present and signed on to move the revitalization forward included Judy Greer (spearhead of the effort, representing the Friends of the Library Association), Steve Napolitano and Julie Moore (Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe's Office), Gina Long and Alison Northrup (representing SCICo, the landlord), our own Captain Doug Feteroll (of the LASD, whose Avalon Sheriff's Station is within the greater Library, of course), and representatives from the Los Angeles County Library organization. Based upon feedback received from the group, and with review and approval from SCICo, Steve Napolitano will be working to develop a rough outline of work to be completed. The group will then review the proposal, determine areas of responsibility, and set about assembling a plan for proposed renovations. It is intended for this to be a grassroots-type community effort that stretches resources and avails itself of community volunteers to spruce up this important community resource. I will continue to keep you updated on this project.

City Manager's Office - City Pursuit of Relief to Address Storm Damage from Avalon Complex 12/30/14

Based on the reports the City received from the community regarding damages due to the Avalon Complex 12/30/14 and the feedback we received from the County Office of Emergency Management and State Office of Emergency Services we do not qualify for Small Business Association Physical Disaster Declaration. This assistance requires 25 homes and/or business to have suffered at least 40 percent or more of uninsured losses. This covers damages to physical property, and we included the residential and business vessels, local business and the camps outside of the city in this assessment, but unfortunately fell short of the required threshold. The remaining option available to our local businesses affected by this event is to apply under SBA Economic Injury Disaster Declaration. This requires a minimum of five businesses with substantial economic injury due to a disaster, such as loss of business. The Estimated Disaster Economic Injury Worksheet for Businesses has been provided to the affected businesses and responses are to be sent directly to the OES, but we request these businesses keep the City informed so we can provide assistance if possible during this process. If you have any questions or know of any businesses which may have been negatively impacted by the Avalon Complex please contact Jordan Monroe, Management Aide at the City of Avalon, jmonroe@cityofavalon.com 310-510-0220 ex 128.

City Manager's Office/Information Technology - MyGov

The public kiosk in the City Hall lobby has been installed, and is operational. The public may now use the kiosk to access the City's web site, as well as begin using the MyGov site for building permits. Initially, the Planning staff will be assisting those wanting to apply for a building permit directly at the kiosk. Planning will continue to work with Pat Grady, our IT Consultant, to address the remaining items to allow for MyGov to be fully operational, thereby allowing greater efficiency and transparency in our permitting processes. Once Planning is implemented, we will move to other areas and departments (Finance, etc.).

City Manager's Office/Information Technology - Server Room Power Re-configuration

As a result of the recent brown/black-outs that have affected the City's computer equipment, Pat Grady, our IT Consultant, re-arranged the power sources in the City's server room to utilize other uninterruptible power supplies. Pat is hopeful the re-arrangement will better protect the equipment. In the meantime, he will continue to monitor and research other methods to strengthen the City's IT infrastructure in light of the island's unique power challenges stemming from our dependence on SCE's micro-grid.

Public Works Department – Citywide Sewer Inspections

The PWD is continuing with the internal video inspections of sewer piping, both public and private. We are currently focusing on properties that may have possible deficiencies that were observed as a result of previous smoke testing activities. This practice is of extreme importance to the City, as it will ultimately aid in our efforts to keep the bay waters clean.

We respectfully request the public's attention and assistance in our attempts to rectify any problems that may arise in the future that we may not be aware of. If any member of the community observes discharge, or unknown liquids that are exposed, we would sincerely appreciate being informed. Please feel free to contact the Public Works Department if any investigation or determinations are needed at any location. It will be much appreciated.

Public Works Department – Ongoing Tree Trimming

Tree trimming has been taking place during this last week. Specifically along the west side of Tremont Ave., where the palms and other various trees need attention. This activity will continue into next week, and we would like to thank the public for their understanding and cooperation with the vehicular/pedestrian restrictions.

Public Works/Capital Improvements - 10-Year Capital Improvement Program

Staff has received two estimates from firms to help expedite and implement Phase 1 of our Sewer Improvement Plan. The work will involve design, construction management, and all related necessities of a Public Bid for the work. This phase is in compliance with the Cease & Desist order received from the State, and must be implemented in the near future. The work will include piping and manhole improvements, prioritized on an as needed basis. Upon review and approval by staff, the information contained in the proposals will be sent to the City Council for their review, consideration and direction. If so directed to proceed, the construction could be scheduled to begin as early as late September 2015.

Avalon Fire Department:

With the unseasonably warm weather that is continuing to be the rule rather than the exception over the past few weeks, the wildland areas in and around Avalon are beginning to dry out. While the previous rain was welcome and helpful, some green areas of growth are quickly drying out. This is just a friendly reminder to all visitors and islanders to remain vigilant for wildfire, regardless of what the calendar says.

Recreation Department - Catalina Air Show

Staff convened a meeting with the Scheyden Catalina Air Show officials this week to debrief on the 2014 show and discuss the organizers' plans for a 2015 show. While this past year's event was a resounding success, organizers are exploring alternative options for the show's future to ensure its financial sustainability, such as the event being held biennially, rather than annually. Presenting sponsors are currently being pursued, and organizers will let the City know of their desired dates (the first Saturday in October being the likely date to continue with), and plans for the show in the near future.

Respectfully submitted,

Ben Harvey

Ben Harvey
City Manager
City of Avalon