



Avalon City Council Weekly Update 6-05-15



City Manager's Office – Whatever, USA

For a brief weekend, the City of Avalon became "Whatever, USA" - part of Bud Light's #UpForWhatever campaign. And, after such an experience, WHATEVER evokes a positive response when you hear it around Catalina Island. Not only did this national event bring 1,000 contestant winners and their guest to the island, but over 2,000 residents took part in the weekend's adventures. However, it took the whole community, multiple production companies, and, yes, even a 40 foot Bud Light bottle in the middle of the beach to make this momentous event a success.

The City of Avalon would like to thank SO many people and organizations that helped to make this event a reality. Accordingly, in an effort to not rival "The Fountainhead" in length here, we will just simply say, "Wow! Thank you so much!" to everyone. A production of this size has a lot going on, and many moving parts – some of which were moving all the way up till the opening

parade, and we understand the impacts are far reaching throughout the community. The economic impacts from the weekend are still being assessed, including the numerous donations of equipment from the event to varying organizations around town, such as the school, the Recreation Department and other youth programs. Not to mention the half million dollars donated to artificially turf Joe Machado Field, helping to manage our fresh water resources and provide additional recreational opportunities.

The cultural impact leaves us with memories of truly being up for whatever in the most positive of ways, and also lets us see the potential opportunities for Avalon to venture outside the box – or bottle, as the case may be here. But really, this event is exactly what Avalon does: Invites people to the island for experiences that keep bringing them back. One of the most impressive aspects of the event was the attention to detail. Not just the details that made everything run smoothly, but the attention that celebrates the details of Avalon – the tiles, the big bands, the history and style that helped build this town. I hope that everyone remembers that Avalon is a small town, a relaxing getaway, a place with history - and part of that history is doing BIG things. Thank you for helping make history this past weekend; we hope to continue to make worthy memories, WHATEVER may come.

City Manager's Office – Sales Tax Update

The City's Sales Tax advisors, HdL Companies reported that receipts for the City's January through March sales were 14% higher than the same quarter one year ago. Actual sales activity was up 14.9% when reporting aberrations were factored out. The addition of new restaurants helped boost revenues from casual dining and the food and drug sector experienced a strong quarter. Regionally, the taxable sales for all of Los Angeles County increased 5% while the Southern California region as a whole was up by 4.3%. The City continues to outpace the region with continued increases that have surpassed pre-recessionary levels.

City Manager's Office - Governor's RDA Dissolution Proposal/Bill May Revise

The League of California Cities held a webinar regarding the Governor's RDA Dissolution Proposal. The City will be writing a letter in solidarity with the League and other cities opposing the following provisions included in the Governor's proposal: revoking authority to cover legal costs outside of the administrative cost allowance which protects the city from the threat of litigation, retroactively placing new restrictions on city loans to successor agencies which penalizes the City from helping the Successor Agency carry out its enforceable obligations and projects that improve the community and the exemption of all Department of Finance (DOF) actions from the Administrative Procedures Act which insulates the DOF from transparency, accountability and scrutiny. City staff and advisors will continue to monitor this proposal and possible impacts.

City Manager's Office - IT Training

As a part of our on-going IT training program, the City held an Intermediate Excel 2010 Tips & Technique's for Increased Productivity and Improved Financial Modeling class in May for City staff. We also extended the offer to participate to the community via the Chamber of Commerce weekly email communications, which resulted in a diverse class with twenty attendees. The instructor, Eric Augusta, provided a detailed presentation entirely in Excel (that appeared like a Powerpoint presentation) and distributed a binder with printouts and a CD with Excel demonstrations reflecting the teachings.

Finance Department – FY2013-14 Financial Statements Issuance

Last week we completed the audit and issued the Financial Statements for FY2013-14. The reports are now being filed with all the appropriate external parties to bring us current with those reporting requirements, as well as put us on the same footing with our fellow cities in the state. Within the last 15 months, the City has been able to get caught up and issue City financial statements for (FY2012, FY2013 and FY2014), the last two audits being completed within nine months. The period elapsing between fiscal year end and financial statement issuance date is also decreasing, from 16 months from FY2012 yearend, to 14 months from FY2013 yearend, and finally eleven months from FY14 yearend. Given that the City's accounting records are caught up through March of the current fiscal year, we're targeting completing the FY2014-15 (current FY) audit and issuance of those financial statements within six months (December) after FY end (typical for most cities).

Finance Department – Budget Study Session for User Fees and Financial Policies

This week we held a budget study session to discuss the City's User Fees and new financial Fiscal Policies for the City to adopt. Existing City fees are being increased to incorporate the changed costs associated with doing business next fiscal year and a few new ones have been added for new services or requirements imposed upon the City. Additionally, we discussed the adoption of important financial policies and good fiscal practices for the City. Gina Schuchard from RGS has been very helpful in these efforts.

Finance Department – State Lands Commission Financial Information Filing

We've completed and filed with the State Lands Commission our report summarizing the Harbor Department's operations for FY2014. They've also received our FY2014 audit. This is an annual filing summarizing revenues and expenditures that must be reported to ensure proper use of public lands. From time to time the question comes up as to whether revenues generated in the Harbor can be used for non-Harbor purposes, and the answer is no. The State Lands Commission requires all revenues generated from Public Lands be used for those Public Lands purposes. Accordingly, the city records all revenues related to the Harbor Enterprise Fund in that Fund as well as only the related expenditures.

Public Works Department – Step Beach Update

The Public Works Department staff is proud to announce that our popular and historic Steps Beach is now open to the Public! Just in time for the season.

The process was arduous due to the adverse challenges the Pacific Ocean often presents, but our crews dealt with the effects in a professional, qualified way. We had to measure our opportunities by the hour in order to make the repairs properly, and schedule various tasks accordingly. Although project completion was delayed somewhat, we are proud of the results, and even more so, pleased that we can now announce that this area is safe and can be accessed by our residents and the visitors.

Public Works Department /Capital Improvements – Master Water Development Plan RFP

The City had solicited a Request For Proposal (RFP) to qualified engineering firms with experience and proficiency in preparing a Recycled Water Sub-Plan as part of a Master Development Plan for potable water, wastewater, seawater, electricity, desalination possibilities, and municipal solid waste. This RFP will also include a feasibility study, conceptual design

analysis, and funding sources that may be available for a recycled water system. This is the first step in our attempt to help this island deal and combat the drought both now and in the future.

Of the six engineering firms that were solicited, the City received two quotes. These proposals are being analyzed and evaluated at the current time by staff. Upon the selection of the successful bidder, the matter will move forward to the City Council for their consideration, and action.

Public Works Department /Capital Improvements – Interim K Rail Rock fall Protection Project

City staff has also compiled the Contract Documents, arranged for major advertising to contractors throughout the Southern California region, and managed the Public Bid for this required work on Pebbly Beach Road and Casino Way.

This project is of major importance to the community. Along Pebbly Beach Road, there exists “K Rail” barriers to protect against some small rocks that may become dislodged and fall on the roadway. The new construction plans that were prepared for this project have incorporated fencing panels that will be mounted on top of the K Rail. This fencing should add additional protection against even more rocks that may fall.

Of the 6 plan-holders, the City received 2 bids this week. The bids were sealed and publically opened in Council Chambers yesterday. Once the information contained in these bids are verified and analyzed, the lowest responsible bidder will be selected, and presented to the City Council for consideration and action. If this project is approved, it is anticipated that the Notice to Proceed (NTP) will be in early August.

Recreation Department - Synthetic Turf on Joe Machado Field:

Over the last 2 weeks, David Hart and Dennis Jaich have met with 5 different synthetic turf companies (FieldTurf, Sprint Turf, Domo/Desso, UBU, and Shaw Turf), and have received quotes from 4 of the 5. They have also met with a representative consultant of Lloyds Sports Engineering, and will continue to meet with other sports engineer consultants. David and Dennis are also meeting with Jordahl and Hellas Construction on bidding out the base work for the project. Grant opportunities to bridge the gap between Anheuser-Busch’s \$500k donation and the estimated \$1.2M project cost are being pursued. The City "Turf Team" will be meeting next week to move the project along, and we will continue to keep you updated.

Harbor Department – Whatever, USA

In preparation for Whatever, USA the Harbor Department moved all Green Pier dinghy docks to be additions of the dinghy dock near the Tuna Club and all Green Pier loading floats were removed to allow for the private event on the Green Pier. Visiting boaters were appreciative of the dinghy access to shore and we only received a couple noise complaints regarding the volume of music.



Harbor Department – Swim Float

The new swim float has been installed for the season. A big thank you to the harbor maintenance crew for building and getting this in service for all the kids (and kids at heart) to enjoy!



Community Development Block Grant Program Senior Housing Elevator/Lift Project

Earlier this week staff met with a group at the Beacon Hill Senior Housing to develop a working plan for the installation of an elevator/lift to provide easier access to residents of Beacon Hill. The meeting was very productive and preliminary plan was developed. City staff also participated in a conference call with CDBG staff to review the preliminary plan which was approved in concept. The project will be brought to a City Council meeting in the near future for final review and approval. Below you'll find a concept rendering of the proposed elevator.



Chief Administrative Officer/City Clerk's Office - Storm Water (Small MS4 Permit)- Year 2 Tasks

In June of 2013, the City of Avalon was required to file a permit covering the "Small MS4 Permit", identifying Avalon as the "Avalon Urban Cluster" with the State Water Resources Control Board. The City has been working closely with RBF Consulting, who has assisted the City thus far through this process in Year 1. As part of the Year 2 compliance, the City is responsible for completion of numerous additional requirements. Staff will be bringing to Council at the next meeting an approval of this contract with RBF. Monies have been allocated within the adopted FY 14/15 and FY 15/16 proposed budgets.

Chief Administrative Officer/City Clerk's Office - Property Related Fees

A public hearing was held at the last City Council meeting to receive oral or written protest on the proposed rate increase for two of the three annual property related fees that go on the Los Angeles County rolls. Council introduced and waived an ordinance establishing rates for saltwater and sewer service fees, with a 35% rate increase for salt water fees, and a 15% rate increase on sewer fees.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ben Harvey

Ben Harvey
City Manager