



Avalon City Council Weekly Update 10-04-13

Public Works:

- All components are in place for the repair and remedial work on the salt water valves on Upper Marilla/Hiawatha. The requisite parts arrived on the barge at 8:00 AM today (Friday 10/4), and we contracted with Jordahl for the installation of 3 new valves, and appurtenances. On Thursday, an Environ employee was in the excavation preparing the old piping for the new installations. This prep work was undertaken to improve and aid our intent to limit the downtime of the salt water main shutdown while we are actually completing the repair. As outlined within my email to you on Wednesday evening, it is anticipated that this repair will be completed and backfilled by late today (Friday - barring any unforeseen complications, of course). Upon completion of the repair, the area will be completely cleaned and swept, with all old materials and debris transported. A layer of temporary asphalt will be placed and compacted at the location.
- We continue to face challenges with the outside restrooms at the Casino building. A plumbing issue forced the closure of the bathrooms mid-week. The requisite work to make the repair is significant, requiring us to obtain temporary facilities (port-a-potties) to make certain that we have bathrooms available not only for the museum and the restaurant, but also for our JazzTrax visitors and divers.

Finance

- Work continued this week on the FY 12 audit. With this said, it has unfortunately been delayed due to auditor scheduling conflicts (despite the efforts on our end). We remain hopeful for a December audit report, but are concerned about the availability of our external audit manager.
- PCG staff (Stacey) will be onsite again next week to help continue work on FY 13 audit items and Successor Agency accounting for FY 13.
- Ongoing work to complete the MTA audit at the end of this month continues.
- We are on track to complete the State Controllers Report this month.
- Trial balances for FY 13 will be going to WNDE (the old CPA firm that we previously contracted with) on Monday.
- We remain on track to present a first quarter FY 14 budget update (complete with unaudited FY 13 revenues, expenses, and fund balances), as well as a budget document, at the November 5th City Council meeting.
- We have determined that we will have an ending balance of approximately \$1.5M in our housing bond account, which will become available for the City to use in January. This is a significant increase from earlier forecasts, and the headline here is that with this money, the City will not only be able to likely entirely cover the costs of the Lower Terrance project, but also possibly some other qualified public works project costs as well.

Planning

- Following City Council approval of the Reimbursement Agreement with the Santa Catalina Island Company (SCI CO) at Tuesday's meeting, the Planning Department has requested from SCI CO the submittal of the project scope information package by COB this coming Monday, October 7th. Receiving this information from SCI CO by this date will allow City staff the opportunity to internally review the information to be properly prepared for the

scheduled meeting with SCI CO to discuss the proposed development on the 23rd of this month.

Public Safety

- Despite the hullabaloo regarding the Island Company "Groove Cruise" this past weekend, LASD reports that there were no arrests made, no fights, and no criminal reports taken related to the event. Event staff and Descanso Beach security handled all the minor incidents. AFD reports that the event had low impact on the department, with no EMS calls for service.

Information Technology

- Council Member Morrow and City staff met with Catalina Broadband, the Island's provider of internet, wifi and cable services, on Wednesday regarding the next steps associated with the City's IT Assessment Plan. Topics discussed included upgrading internet and wifi capacity, identifying possible IT support services and assistance with audio/visual equipment in the Council Chambers. The immediate priority is to upgrade city facilities to the highest internet capacity available. The upgrade will greatly improve efficiency and productivity associated with our internet based software systems

Grand Prix

- On Monday, a letter outlining Island transportation and accommodation cancellation policies from various providers was sent to Buddy and Ericka Minuto, the Chamber, the Conservancy, SCI CO and Island media. A kick-off meeting with key stakeholders will be convened in the next couple of weeks to start the planning process for the 2014 Grand Prix - and the years following as part of the City Council's direction for a multi-year event. In the event that you receive inquiries, please be advised that no date has (yet) been set for the 2014 Grand Prix.

Media Inquiry

- Rocky Post and I were interviewed on Thursday of this week for a story on our contract falconry service that should be appearing in the *USA Today* later this month (print and online editions). We believe that this will be a positive article. Efforts continue to determine partnership and cost-sharing possibilities that may allow us to continue to avail ourselves of falconry services at a price that fits the City's budget.

Intergovernmental Relations

- Denise Radde and I are scheduled to meet with Connie Sziebl, Field Deputy for Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe, next Thursday, October 10th at the Supervisor's Signal Hill office. We plan on discussing the pass-through agreement (and monies owed the City by the County), as well as the paramedic contract, among other topics. Please note that Supervisor Knabe, his wife Julie and friends are scheduled to be on the Island this weekend to enjoy the Jazz Trax festival. The Supervisor has no official meetings scheduled with the City during his stay.

Housekeeping

- As a reminder, I will be on vacation today (Friday, October 4th) through Tuesday, October 8th. I will be back at work on Wednesday, October 9th. In my absence, Denise Radde will be Acting City Manager, with the exception of this coming Monday, October 7 when Brian Bray will be serving as Acting City Manager. During vacation I will be available should you need to reach me via my cell phone (213.364.2699) and email account(s).

- I'm hopeful you had the opportunity to read the email that I sent on Wednesday evening regarding the salt water line valve failure in the Upper Marilla and Hiawatha area of town. It is my intention to send you all urgent updates via email so that you do not need to wait for crucial information and/or status updates until Friday's Council Update document. If it does not work for you to receive these types of urgent updates via email, please let me know.

Respectfully submitted,

Ben Harvey
City Manager
City of Avalon

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