Avalon City Council Weekly Update 10-11-13

Public Works:

- Among the topics I will discuss with Randy Herrel during my scheduled meeting with him on Tuesday of next week will be the outside restrooms at the Casino building. Thanks to the quick work of Denise Radde, Dennis Jaich and David Clary (Environ Strategies) and a public works strike force team, temporary facilities were assembled prior to last week's Jazz Trax crowds. These temporary facilities (at additional City expense) will remain in place for the foreseeable future to ensure that the divers, as well as the restaurant and museum (both customers and employees) are not without accommodations.
- I will be discussing options with Public Works leadership for modifying crew work shifts to ensure that the City has seven day a week coverage that endures through the end of the business day. While we are staffed through the weekend each week, and have on-call personnel, recent events have revealed that we have the potential for coverage gaps in the mid to late afternoon time period.

Finance:

- As previously reported, we are hopeful for a partner review of the FY 12 audit from our external auditor in December. Should everything go as planned, a final audit report should be available in January.
- We remain on track to complete the MTA audit at the end of this month.
- The State Controllers Report will be completed at the end of next week.
- At the Mayor's request, we are working to complete our final draft of the budget document by mid-week next week. This will allow for an opportunity for City Council members to have an informal review (not only with the Mayor, but any interested City Council member, of course) prior to the scheduled public presentation of the final budget document at the November 5th City Council meeting. Should you be interested in informally reviewing the budget document with us next week, please let me know so that I may make the appropriate scheduling arrangements to avoid any potential Brown Act violations.
- We will be presenting the first quarter FY 14 budget update at the November 19th City Council meeting (delayed two weeks from the initial schedule to allow for September bills to be received and input - this will allow for a more complete picture of our first quarter results).

Planning:

- As requested, The City has received the proposed development plans for Avalon Canyon Redevelopment from SCICO. Staff has commenced the review process of these plans, and will be convening an internal discussion to delve into the proposal in depth in order to be properly prepared prior to the scheduled meeting with SCICO on the 23rd of this month.

Information Technology:

- On the heels of our meeting with Catalina Broadband last week, we are aggressively moving forward with our proposed Information Technology upgrade. A professional project

management contract to oversee our efforts and provide much needed subject matter expertise is on Tuesday's City Council meeting for consideration.

Parks and Recreation:

- The 5th annual Fall Festival will take place next Thursday, Oct. 17. The event continues to grow, with over 30 vendors registered thus far.
- The Job Walk for the Joe Machado Concession Stand project was convened yesterday (Thursday, Oct. 10). We had two local contractors participate, and both appear eager to bid on the project. Bids are due Oct. 24.
- A meeting was held this week with Senior Meals Volunteer to address finance tracking issues for the program, which is in need of a major overhaul and increased community support. We are encouraging the volunteers to provide a presentation at an upcoming City Council Meeting.

Intergovernmental Relations:

- Denise Radde and I met with Connie Sziebl, Field Deputy for Catalina Island, and Rick Velasquez, Chief of Staff, for Don Knabe, Los Angeles County Fourth District Supervisor. We covered a range of topics of great importance to the City, including the pass-through agreement, the paramedic contract, a pending urban fitness trail grant request, and the City's need for assistance with matching funds to allow the fuel dock grant to be realized. Within the next couple of weeks, follow-up discussions will be convened with the Supervisor's Office to make certain we're moving forward on all these fronts.
- An appeal was made to Assembly Member Lowenthal's office this week via a meeting with Niki Tenant, District Director, for financial assistance from the state in the area of the Cease and Desist Order for the sewer system. Denise and I explained the scope of work the City is undertaking to successfully comply with the order – as well as the shortfalls for funding – in the hope of obtaining some relief in complying with this mandate.
- Congressman Lowenthal's Office is interested in the impact on the shutdown of the federal government on the community. We have asked the Congressman's office to send press-releases to the island media so that the public may know the scope of the impact on the availability of federal services, as well as the Congressman's efforts to try to help in breaking the deadlock. We advised the Congressman's Office that one of our main federal concerns is ensuring that efforts to proceed in the planning of dredging in the Long Beach Channel by the Army Corps of Engineers does not get caught up in this so that Catalina Express traffic does not need to be re-routed from Long Beach to San Pedro.

Respectfully submitted,

Ben Harvey
City Manager
City of Avalon

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