



Avalon City Council Weekly Update 10-18-13

City Attorney

- I asked the City Attorney to review the City's intended donation of mooring nights to PLAY Preschool to determine if the donation would constitute a gift of public funds. There have been some reports regarding some issues with the City of Long Beach's mooring giveaways and I wanted to make sure that our donations were legal. The City Attorney has concluded that because proceeds from the donation of moorings for several days would be used by the preschool which (1) educates and socializes children in Avalon, thus promoting public safety and also decreases the numbers of unsupervised children (2) provides necessary child care to working parents, increasing the number of residents who are able to work, the donations would not constitute a gift of public funds.
- Amy Rhodes, Deputy City Attorney, was able to successfully work with the Island Company to obtain past TOT owed the City for the tent cabins at the Hermit Gulch campground. We're appreciative of her efforts - and the follow through from the Island Company - which resulted in the City receiving a check for \$31,000, going back to January of 2010 (including an accompanying summary of tent cabin revenues provided as back-up). We let Randy Herrel know of our appreciation for this payment during a meeting with him on Tuesday of this week.

Public Works:

- We will commence comprehensive sidewalk steam cleaning efforts this coming week, starting with the downtown business district and the ancillary streets. We will eventually address all of our sidewalks in town.

Finance

- This week we spent a great amount of time working on Successor Agency books, and the transfer of those from the Agency side over to the City side.
- We were able to complete posting of FY 12/13 Accounts Receivable and all direct deposits for FY 13/14, along with daily receipts and business licenses this week.
- The State Controller's Report and State Lands Commission reports were completed and submitted today.
- Preparation for the upcoming MTA audit is going slower than expected due to all the Successor and Housing Agency efforts going on this week.
- PCG staff (Stacey) worked on cash balances and trial balances this week, which were provided to Gina for budget purposes.
- After a candid meeting with the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem this week, we will be preparing a more focused final draft budget review next week for any/all interested City Council Members (Council Member Morrow is scheduled for Tuesday; please advise as to your interest and/or availability – we will need to avoid any potential Brown Act violation, of course). This is in advance of our budget document presentation at the November 5 City Council meeting.

Planning

- The City convened an internal meeting to review the Island Company's proposed new development. We are scheduled to meet with the Island Company this coming Wednesday (10/23), and the Island Company has provided us with a proposed agenda for this meeting. We will be adding discussion points to the agenda, and providing this revised agenda to the Island Company prior to our meeting on Wednesday.

Information Technology

- Following the City Council's approval Tuesday night of his contract for oversight and implementation of a comprehensive IT upgrade, Pat Grady of Beyond Software Solutions commenced a two phased effort to focus on bringing the critical and core systems to current standards, (i.e. desktops, operating systems, email functionality, broadband connection, etc.), to be followed soon after by a focus on an improvement to address efficiencies and productivity aspects, using technology where feasible. Pat is proposing to resolve the broadband connection speed, the connection between City Hall and the Pier, and the connections among the Casino Pump House, the Pier and the Cabrillo Mole for the camera network. All of this involves Catalina Broadband, with whom Pat met with on Wednesday of this week. Pat is also developing and installing an IT support ticket system to track and implement City operation needs.
- Beginning next week, Pat will be onsite for a minimum of two days to commence the implementation of other IT improvements on the "soon to happen" list, including:
 1. Install and configure a new firewall at City Hall.
 2. Convert the email system to the hosted Exchange server to achieve syncing of emails, contacts, calendar and tasks and implementing new smart phones for department managers and/or other key personnel.
 3. Re-organize the data on the file server and Install data backup devices
 4. Install wireless access points at City Hall.
 5. Implement the terminal servers to replace the all desktops. This will contain the latest operating system and the latest version of Office.

Media

- The anticipated *USA Today* story on the falconry program appeared in the form of an online story and a video. It is a positive piece that will bring additional interest to Avalon, and nuisance bird abatement programs. Here is the link to access the story: <http://usat.ly/1aSMSQW>

Falconry Services/Nuisance Bird Abatement

- I remain interested in working with key island stakeholders to form a partnership/coalition to allow for continued falconry services at a reduced rate of City contribution. In separate meetings this week with the Island Company, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Catalina Conservancy, all three organizations expressed an interest and a willingness to commit resources (cash, or otherwise) towards falconry services. I will be sending Rocky a communication to let him know of this, and asking him to reach out (again) to the interested parties to put together a meeting so that some type of proposed agreement could be reached to allow for continued services here in Avalon.

Intergovernmental Relations

- This coming Monday (10/21), The City of Avalon is convening a site visit with representatives from the Metro Transit Authority (MTA) and Field and Transportation Deputies from Supervisor Knabe's office for the purpose of brainstorming possible funding solutions/opportunities for those un-funded transportation and transit projects located within the City. We will provide you with an update following this meeting.
- We are joining a coalition comprised of the City of Long Beach and Congressman Lowenthal's Office for the purpose of pressuring the Army Corps of Engineers to dredge the channel in Long Beach in the near future to prevent Catalina Express from the potential of having to shift operations completely to San Pedro due to reduced water depths caused by accumulated silt. The Chamber has agreed to strengthen our argument in this effort by providing data that demonstrates the economic impact of cross channel traffic on the City of Avalon and greater Catalina Island.

Respectfully submitted,



Ben Harvey
City Manager
City of Avalon

Internal Distribution:

Chief Administrative Officer/City Clerk
City Attorney
Department Heads
Mr. Jaich
Ms. Schuchard
Ms. Byerrum

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