



Avalon City Council Weekly Update 11-01-13

Finance

- Preparation for the MTA audit is complete. The auditors will be onsite next week.
- Cindy met with Ken Lee (RSG) and Bob Callahan (prior auditors) to review Successor Agency dissolution accounting. It has been determined that a follow up meeting with Betty Jo, Bob, and Cindy will need to take place to accurately complete the FY 12 accounting – we are targeting the next two weeks for this meeting.
- Quotes are being obtained for the infrastructure valuation needed for the FY 12 audit.
- FY 13 accounting is about 85% complete.
- FY 14 accounting will be worked on next week to ensure that Staff is accounting in the new budget categories, funds, and accounts.

Public Works

- We have convened separate, successful collaborative discussions with the Island Company and SCE regarding our upcoming Lower Terrace project. Initially we were working to remove/relocate palm trees on Island Company property as part of the project – but we have been advised that we will not need to move forward with this, resulting in a project cost savings of approximately \$75k. We were also including within our scope of work approximately \$50k for the relocation of two utility poles and guy wires, along with a light pole and appurtenances. SCE has informed us that this work will be undertaken at the utility's cost. We are appreciative to both the Island Company and SCE for their partnership and assistance in our efforts on Lower Terrace.
- Sidewalk cleaning in the downtown district will continue on Mondays and Fridays. Today we were scheduled to clean sidewalks on Crescent Avenue, west of the Metropole complex as well as Catalina Avenue.

Parks and Recreation

- We have made good progress on our skate park work plan this week. As of this afternoon, the basketball poles and deconstructed ramps have been removed, along with some other debris. The palm trees and weeds will be removed next week (dig alert was called), and a ramp will be bolted down. Phil Hernandez has identified two salvaged gates at the Public Works Yard that will be added to the fencing. I'm in communication with representatives from the informal skate park community, letting them know of our progress. I'm also asking them to determine a date in November for the volunteer day to erect the fence. I continue to encourage them to establish themselves formally as a non-profit 501c(3) organization.

Grand Prix

- We will be convening a kick-off meeting for the proposed 2014 Grand Prix (a multi-year concept) with the Island Company and the Catalina Island Conservancy – I am trying to obtain potential windows of time now from Randy and Ann. Separately, I am also planning on meeting with Buddy Minuto next week.

Catalina Island Museum

- Work on the museum lot this week has been temporary, in preparation for their ground breaking ceremony scheduled for tomorrow. The museum has been cooperative and understanding in our efforts to minimize/mitigate dust, erosion, run-off and dirt/debris in the street. Prior to the museum

commencing their efforts to grade at the location, a grading plan will need to be approved. The museum is currently in the process of satisfying the requirements for the plan.

Information Technology

- We successfully implemented the City's new email Exchange hosting solution this week. While it was our goal to have staff immediately begin using the added functionality provided by the new server (calendar functionality, etc.), this was not universally possible due to the severely antiquated versions of Microsoft Outlook that are installed throughout the municipal organization. This benefit will be realized once all of our users have the latest version of Microsoft Office operating off of the new terminal server environment. Pat Grady will next be onsite November 12th and 13th. In the interim, he will be completing equipment specifications to commence the ordering process, as well as completing development of an IT trouble ticket system that will allow City users to log issues to which Pat will respond.

SCE

- The upcoming SCE planned outage impacting City Hall will now take place on Friday, November 15, 2013 (instead of Tuesday, November 12 as originally planned). This is better for our operations. We will be open for business as usual on this day, operating off of generators.
- Ron Hite has advised me that the desalination plant is running at 100% capacity, and has been for some time now. With this in mind, Mr. Hite predicts that should the island receive no additional rain, Phase 2 rationing will occur in March. If the island does receive a significant amount of rainfall between now and March, this will postpone the commencement of Phase 2 rationing.

Housekeeping

- Next week, I will be overtown for doctor appointments on Thursday. Denise and Gabby will also be overtown for a meeting with LA County Health and CR&R on Thursday as well. Brian Bray will be Acting City Manager in our absences – however, we both will be accessible via cell phone and email (email likely in my case only – we will be upgrading Denise and the Department Heads to a true City-synchronized smart phone in the near future). Denise and Gabby will also be overtown on Friday for annual City Clerk training.
- Should any of you have a good lead on any available (or potentially available) 2 or 3 bedroom long-term rentals here in town, please let me know. While my current housing arrangement is solid through January, I would like to firm up a longer term solution for me and my family.

Respectfully submitted,



Ben Harvey
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City of Avalon

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LASD
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Catalina Island Conservancy
SCE