



Avalon City Council Weekly Update 11-22-13

City Manager's Office

- I convened two all-hands meetings (mandatory for full-time employees; part-time employees encouraged to attend) on Tuesday of this week. I discussed our fiscal situation, current medical and retirement benefits, and a couple proposed new City policies, including random drug testing. I asked for our employees' assistance in trying to determine greater efficiencies that may assist us with our deficit and/or improve our organization's operations. I also advised our employees that we will commence negotiations with the three employee associations in the near future. The Catalina Islander ran a story on these meetings in this week's edition: <http://www.thecatalinaislander.com/article/manager-meets-town-staff>)

Finance

- Auditors were onsite this week to audit the City's collections of Admissions Tax, TOT, and rental income
- The Gann Limit calculation is in progress and should be ready for the first Council meeting in December
- Work on the FY 14 1st Quarter Budget update has been delayed, which will cause the update to be targeted for the first meeting in January, rather than in December as originally planned

Information Technology

- Finalized a communications agreement with Catalina Broadband that:
 1. Creates a more reliable and faster internet connection to City facilities
 2. Connects all City facilities through a reliable fiber network
 3. Creates a lease revenue stream to the City for existing Catalina Broadband equipment on City facilities.
- Moved city staff from QSend email environment to Microsoft exchange environment, which is the current standard for email communications and collaboration for organizations. Once terminal servers are installed in the next few weeks, users will be transitioned in phases to the benefits of exchange services including calendaring beginning in mid December.
- Reorganized existing city file server to create additional space with the goal of moving all files to the centralized file server and off of aging desktop computers.
- Started a dialogue with Verizon to discuss their need for City property to place infrastructure and the potential trade for high speed internet access to the City.
- Initiated review of providing mobile compatibility with the City's website

Parks and Recreation

- Staff met with the Joe Machado Concession Stand bidder for (hopefully) the final time this week. We reviewed every aspect of the bid and what was left out of the initial bid specifications, and are putting together recommendations for an award and a change order in an agenda item scheduled for City Council consideration at the Dec. 3 meeting.
- Planning is underway for the upcoming overseeding of Joe Machado Field. A memo detailing the process is available if you are interested.
- Santa's Mailbox is getting spruced up and will be placed in the Post Office Arcade the day after Thanksgiving. Santa will mail a response to all that include their return address.
- Thirty-three (33) island families are receiving Thanksgiving food boxes on Monday thanks to the generosity of Lions and Rotary Club donations.
- The fencing for the Skate Park project was delivered to the island on Wednesday of this week. City Staff will be meeting with community members this coming Monday to review their plan & timeline on the upcoming work.

Public Works:

- With Wednesday night's rain, and in accordance with the City's Pebbly Beach Road Gate procedure, the Pebbly Beach Road was closed on Thursday morning and re-opened today.

Planning

- The Latitude 33 project on the corner of Crescent and Sumner received its final entitlements on November 18 and will commence demolition after December 3rd.

Sheriff's Department

- Captain Fetteroll and I met twice this week to cover a variety of law enforcement issues. We will be providing you with an update as to potential mechanisms to recover costs and lost staff time (both City and County) related to drunk in public arrests, citations for loud music at residences, and vehicle thefts. We also hope to soon provide you with an off-island solution to address our need to impound vehicles.

Intergovernmental Relations

- Final payment for the Joe Machado Field Restoration Project was submitted to the Los Angeles County Parks Department today. County personnel performed a site inspection in October, and were quite pleased with the project. We are planning on inviting Supervisor Knabe over sometime in early spring for an official ribbon cutting ceremony.

Chamber of Commerce

- Council Member Olsen (along with his wife, Kate) and I attended Thursday's Chamber Marketing Planning Conference in San Pedro. The Chamber has approximately \$175k in unallocated funds for the upcoming year, and solicited conference attendees as to what they believed would be the best uses for these funds. The majority believed that they would be best put towards helping to reinstate the nuisance bird abatement program (AKA falconry program), and assisting with the Grand Prix effort.

Grand Prix

- The Grand Prix was discussed with representatives from the Catalina Conservancy this week. Required course mitigation and governmental oversight/regulation were addressed. I have a follow-up meeting with Joe Kalla from the Conservancy scheduled for next week. I am also meeting with our attorney in early December to review his work with the regulators. During Thursday's Chamber of Commerce Marketing Planning Conference, I implored the attendees to let the Santa Catalina Island Company and the Conservancy know of the business community's interest in seeing the Grand Prix become a reality again. Both the Island Company and the Conservancy were represented at the Chamber conference.

Respectfully submitted,


Ben Harvey
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City of Avalon

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