



Avalon City Council Weekly Update 12-20-13

Law Enforcement

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Special Victims Bureau detectives are investigating allegations of multiple cases involving Lewd and Lascivious Act with a Child and Annoying a Minor by an Avalon resident. The case was initially reported to the Avalon Sheriff's Station on Wednesday. One victim disclosed the molestation to a family member. Special Victims Bureau detectives immediately commenced an investigation, wherein three additional victims were identified. The acts of molestation took place over a ten year period beginning in 2003. On Thursday an Arrest Warrant was issued by the Long Beach Superior Court. Subsequently our Avalon Station deputies arrested the suspect, who was transported off the island, and will be arraigned on Monday.

Water Quality

A draft Water Quality Mitigation Plan, a requirement resulting from the City's Stormwater Ordinance adopted earlier this year, was presented by Shawn Hagerty (BBK) and Daniel Apt (RBF) and reviewed with City staff on Wednesday. This plan, which has multiple action items due in 2014, will be presented along with an update regarding progress and deliverables from the Cease and Desist Order at the first City Council meeting in February.

2014 Avalon City Council Elections

The following individuals have pulled papers for the office of Mayor: Robert Kennedy and Richard Hernandez. The following individuals have pulled papers for the two City Council seats that will be open: Michael Ponce, Ralph Morrow, Burney Ramming, Tim Winslow, and Cinde Cassidy. The deadline to return completed papers is January 10, 2014.

Catalina Island Medical Center

I met with John Friel, CEO of the Catalina Island Medical Center on Tuesday. Among the topics of conversation was ensuring that the City employees were able to avail themselves of all potential treatment available from the medical center using their City-provided insurance. I will share with you what I hear back from John about this.

Nuisance Bird Abatement/Falconry Services

Randy Herrel, Wayne Griffin and I met with Rocky Post and Cynthia Shelton of On the Wing Falconry on Tuesday. Rocky and Cynthia unveiled two new proposals for nuisance bird abatement and falconry experience services. The more attractive of the two proposals to Randy, Wayne and me was a three-way split for nuisance bird abatement (no falconry experience service) for three days a week. Monthly cost to each organization was proposed at \$2200. This proposal would require that Randy commute with the birds. I will be inquiring with a couple of other known falconry services to determine if the proposed charge is within the normal realm for this type of offering. If it turns out to be, I will likely recommend that the City pursue an agreement with On the Wing Falconry (with The Santa Catalina Island Company and The Catalina Island Chamber of Commerce entering into their own, separate agreements). Randy, Wayne and I were concerned about the additional delay that a request for proposal (RFP) process would introduce before the community is again able to benefit from nuisance bird abatement services.

Finance

The Finance Department has been working to complete the MTA Audit by early next week. A representative from the State Controller's Office was here this week to finalize the Annual Street Report for FY 12/13. All went well and the report was filed with the Controller's Office yesterday. Work continues as we strive towards closing the FY 12/13 books.

Information Technology

The new firewall, which adds additional security to the City's network with enhanced protection and content filtering (preventing users from accessing questionable and inappropriate web material), was installed this week. The firewall will also allow safe and secure remote access to users, as well as additional flexibility for Pat Grady, our IT consultant, allowing him remote access for troubleshooting, changes and upgrades. Pat will be back after the holidays to continue the City's IT upgrade.

Parks and Recreation

Staff met with David Thompson Construction to develop a timeline for the Joe Machado Concession Stand Project. We believe we will have received all of the required bonds & documents from the contractor, and sign the contract the first week of January. Work will commence immediately thereafter, and the project is scheduled to be completed prior to mid-April. A Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Joe Machado Concessionaire Contract is being prepared for City Council review and consideration at the January 7 meeting. All suggestions for inclusion in this RFP should be forwarded to Jen Monroe.

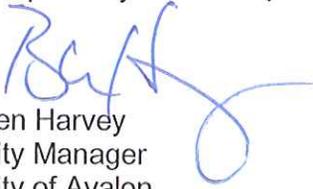
Public Works:

The 2nd Phase of the Pebbly Beach Road Gravity Main and Sewer Replacement Project was completed on Wednesday (two more phases remain). We are working in an effort to get most of the replacement pipe in place by Christmas.

Southern California Edison (SCE)

Following the approval of the encroachment permit for the replacement of the underground vaults at Tuesday's City Council meeting, we are working closely with SCE to obtain a revised project schedule that ensures the vault closest to Von's is replaced first, as well as additional details pertaining to impacted customers and forecasted planned outage durations. SCE will be coming back to the City Council at the January 7 meeting with this information – as well as other follow-up to concerns voiced on Tuesday evening.

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
Mr. Grady

External Distribution:

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
Los Angeles County Fire Department
Santa Catalina Island Company
Catalina Island Conservancy
Catalina Island Chamber of Commerce
Southern California Edison
Catalina Island Medical Center