



Avalon City Council Weekly Update

04-29-16

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Avalon Fire – Significant Items Summary:

A small aircraft crashed short of the Catalina Island Airport runway Sunday April 17th with two persons onboard. Avalon Fire provided a mutual aid response to LACOFD with a rescue ambulance and engine. Both persons were transported directly from the scene by helicopter, to the mainland in serious condition.

The Office of the California State Fire Marshall recently had a representative in Avalon assisting with various inspection and compliance issues. This asset and cooperation was extremely helpful and educational for all involved.

The Avalon Fire Department recently began the latest addition of Hazardous Materials Response Training through the Los Angeles Area Regional Training Group.

Avalon Fire Weekly Significant Items Summary:

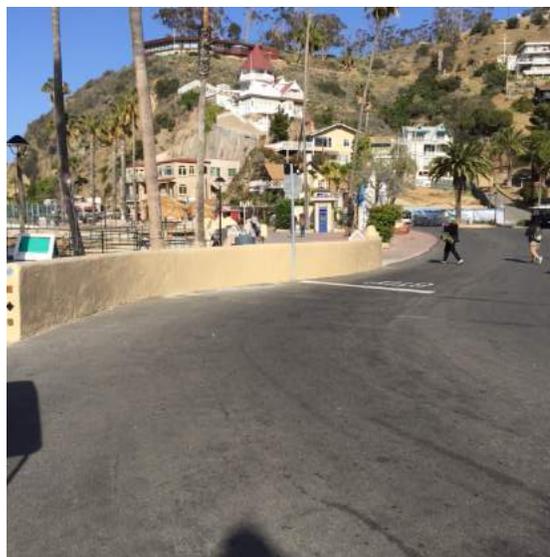
An illegal vagrant type campsite was reported and found to be operating a cooking fire in a high fire hazard area. The campsite was dismantled and the person turned over to LASD Deputy's.

AFD staged resources in the event they could provide support to the Avalon Harbor Department and Baywatch Avalon during this weeks high wind conditions, while those agencies were assisting a large vessel in distress.

Multiple public safety agencies participated this week in a active shooter training sponsored by the Los Angeles County Fire Department. Trainings like these are extremely valuable to the individual departments and allow for interagency coordination.

Public Works - Serpentine Wall

The Serpentine Wall closure for the gap across from Pic Nic Fry was, at the direction of the City Council, closed last week. Crews reconnected the block wall, smoothed and finished the wall with paint. The cross walk was also painted over and removed.



Planning Dept. - Underwater Sculptures Exhibit

The Doug Aitken Workshop, in conjunction with the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), Los Angeles has requested authorization to temporarily place three underwater sculptures in Avalon Bay. This would be the premier of this exhibit, which could subsequently be taken to other coastal communities across the country and elsewhere. The underwater exhibit would be located within the City's Dive Park, outside of the Marine Protected Area at Casino Point. The underwater sculptures would be installed for a period of three months (mid to late summer of this year) and would be free and open to the public. These sculptures, which would be geometric in design, would be moored to the bay floor and floating under the surface at varying depths in order to make this artistic experience accessible to divers/swimmers of all skill levels.

Portions of each sculpture would be mirrored to reflect the underwater landscape and thereby create a kaleidoscopic encounter for the viewer. Other surfaces would have a rough, rock-like texture. Each of the sculptures would be approximately 11 feet by 13 feet in size, constructed of balsa wood and covered with an eco-epoxy, and designed to allow divers/swimmers to pass through them. A custom-built floating platform would identify the location of the sculptures on the surface of the bay and serve as a staging and rest area for divers and swimmers visiting the sculptures. The sculptures would only be accessible by swimming to the exhibit from Casino Point

The California Coastal Commission will have to approve a Coastal Development Permit for the installation of the exhibit. However, since the sculptures would be placed in the Avalon's jurisdictional waters, the Commission has requested City authorization to do so before they will approve the permit. At their meeting last Tuesday evening, the City Council did provide the requested authorization, subject to the Doug Aitken Workshop executing an agreement with the City that addresses environmental, safety, and liability considerations. The City Attorney's office is currently drafting the agreement.



Planning Dept. - Proposed Vons Store

On April 5th, Vons' Real Estate Manager, Sam Shink and Carlos Illingworth, the company's Director of Communications and Government Affairs, met with most of the residents whose properties have been designated as qualifying for noise reduction improvements pursuant to the conditions of approval for the new Vons store, in order to begin evaluating the needs of the properties for this purpose. Designation of the qualifying properties was determined by the Catalina/Eucalyptus/Sumner Associations' (CESA's) attorney, the City, and Vons. The City has been and will continue to be in regular contact with Vons and Mr. Illingworth, who plans to be on the island next week for additional meetings with residents, and has confirmed that the company is in the process of assessing noise reduction requirements with the expectation that a plan of action will be determined within the next few weeks.

Windy Weather- GALE WARNING

At 5:00pm Monday April 25th an 87 foot vessel on Mooring 252 wrapped its propellers while trying to leave the mooring. West to North West winds were blowing 25 to 49 mph. Harbor Patrol Boat 6 and Baywatch Avalon responded to assist. Baywatch placed a diver in the water who was able to unwrap the propellers and the vessel made its way to anchor in the Whites Landing area.

Sheriff - Vehicle Stickers

Avalon Sheriff's Station has received several complaints of vehicles being driven on the streets of Avalon with expired state registration stickers and or no city permits as required by local ordinance. Allowing these infractions to occur is not fair to the people who pay their DMV and city fees for the privilege of operating a vehicle on our streets. Beginning in May, we will increase our enforcement efforts in this area to ensure compliance with state laws and city ordinances. Please do your part to ensure your stickers and permits are current.

Sheriff - Narcotic Detection Operations

The Sheriff's Department and the Avalon School collaboratively conducted a non-intrusive search of the Middle and High School lockers using a narcotics detection canine. The search was done for the safety of all the students in an attempt to locate any and all types of drugs. No drugs were found. *** Deputies conducted a random, non-intrusive narcotics operation at the Cabrillo Mole using a narcotics detection canine. The dog alerted to the presence of a small quantity of Marijuana in the possession of one visitor to the island. Deputies determined the Marijuana was legally possessed for medical reasons. No other drugs were found at the location.

The Sheriff's Department will continue to conduct random, non-intrusive narcotic detection operations at the above locations in an effort to enforce the laws of the State of California and for the safety of the community.

Sheriff - Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

Deputies assigned to Avalon Station recognized their strong cadre of Sheriff's Station volunteers by honoring them with a barbecue dinner. Special recognition was given to Arlene Blake who received the Sheriff's Department's Volunteer of the Year Award for Avalon Station at a recent ceremony in the city of Industry. Congratulations Arlene and our thanks to all.



Public Hearing Notice - June 7th - Sewer and Salt Water Service Fees

At the April 5, 2016 City Council Meeting, the Finance Department proposed new Sewer and Salt Water service fees effective July 1, 2016 to fully fund the projected cost of service. The service fees are collected through the County property tax bill. The City Council directed staff to proceed with the proposed service fees in compliance with California's Proposition 218 which requires a public hearing.

A Notice of Public Hearing was mailed today to all Avalon property owners of record, notifying them of the proposed rates and of the Public Hearing to be held on June 7, 2016. Printed copies of the notice are on the front counter of City Hall and an electronic version is posted on our web site.

Protests must be written and submitted by mail or in person to the City Clerk to be considered in the protest count. Any protest submitted via e-mail or other electronic means will not be accepted. Only one protest per parcel number is allowed.

Feel free to direct all questions regarding the Sewer and Salt Water service fees to Robert Mescher, 310-510-0220 ext 170 rmescher@cityofavalon.com.

Finance - CD Investment Report

This month, the City started investing in long-term FDIC insured Certificates of Deposits (CDs) to increase investment earnings, while ensuring the safety of the investment and availability of cash to meet obligations.

A CD Investment Report will be included in future quarterly Treasurer's Reports. It was not included in the last Treasurer's Report because the investment was not completed until after the end of last quarter.

An interim report can be found on the Finance Department's web page. Here's a summary:

- <> Total CD investment is \$2,978,000;
- <> Weighted average interest rate is 1.183%, compared to only 0.506% from California's Local Agency investment Fund (LAIF);
- <> Maturity of the CD's is one to five years, a weighted average of 3 years (1,098 days); and
- <> The annual CD investment earnings is \$35,000.

The City's total investment earnings were \$29,000 last fiscal year and are projected to be about \$35,000 this year. With the slowly rising rates from LAIF and the new long-term CD investments, investment income is anticipated to be at least \$70,000 next fiscal year.

Free Safety Training

This year, the City employees received essential safety training that would have normally cost the City almost \$10,000. However, the City took advantage of grant funds available through its insurance group, PARSAC. The grant reimburses the City for the total cost up to \$10,000.

Finance - California Unclaimed Property

California requires businesses to annually report and deliver property to the California State Controller's Office after there has been no activity on the account or contact with the owner for a period of time specified in the law (usually three years.) It is very easy to search for your own name or business name to know if the State has money or property that you can claim. Just go to the State's web site <https://ucpi.sco.ca.gov/ucp/>. Search for your friends' names too!

Rec - Spring Festival

The COA had produced another successful Spring Fest. Local band Black Jack played for a recipient crowd. There was plenty of food and games for all to have. One of the best games implemented this year was Pongagedon, the ping pong tournament on the beach. The Recreation Dept has been speaking with the teen center to keep bringing game experiences to the beach through out the summer. Big shout out to Jeffery Hernandez and the Public Works crew for the quick set up and break down.



Rec. Dept - Avalon Kids Park Dedication

In the spirit of National Volunteer week, we honored 8 community members, past and present, who have given unselfishly to our youth of Avalon. Either by their time given to, organizing of, or philanthropically supporting Youth programs.

We held a ceremony at Avalon's Kid Park and revealed the name of 8 new members on to the dedication wall.

Joining Frank Saldana, Fern Whelan, and Robert Rockwell are 8 outstanding community members. The people we are honoring today will be Lolo Saldana, Joseph "Lipe" & Maui Hernandez, Brian Dawes, Arnie Gonzales, Bob & Carol Butte and Paxson "Packy" Offield.

Thank you to the Mayor and Council Member Cinde MacGugan-Cassidy for their representation and for bestowing the Certification of Appreciation to the members and family members of those who were being honored.



Rec. Dept - New Soccer Goals

The Recreation Department was looking for a way to expand their soccer programs and get equipment that would be portable, light, yet durable. They found it in the Skilz Pro Training Goals. Mark Costello from the Just for the Halibut Tournament offered to help. Just for the Halibut Tournament a non profit organization that raises money to help to fund programs and activities for the youth in Avalon.

Just for the Halibut last year purchased 2 adjustable basketball goals to so the City can increase the age limits to start playing Basketball early. This year it lead to an increase from 135 participants to 167 participants, a 20% increase. With the 4 portable 6' x 12' goals, not only will it make for quicker set ups for games, but are safer goals than what the city currently has. The goals can also be used off site and the Rec. Dept plans on doing Beach Soccer in the summer.

We are very appreciative of those who gave their time and resources to better their community. We would like to thank Just for the Halibut Tournament: Mark Costello, Kim Felix, Nicole Permann, and Judy Rios.



Administration/Public Works - A Trashy Collaboration

Last week the Conservancy, the Island Company and the City got together to take care of an area that has become a hazard to the Island Fox. The Bird Park park with the BBQ adjacent to the golf course is frequented by parties and events and the trash from these events often litters the area, in part due to the fact that the old bins were not animal proof allowing ravens and foxes to scatter the trash, attracting more ravens and foxes. This is a problem for everyone, as it is dangerous for the foxes which the Conservancy are working hard to protect, it is a relentless maintenance issue for the Island Company, and it is unsightly for residents and visitors looking to enjoy the reaches of our City. Recognizing all that the three organizations who all have a stake in this issue came together to install four new animal proof trashcans, three of which were funded by the Friends of the Island Fox (learn more at www1.islandfox.org). Thanks to Julie King, Calvin Duncan, Zeek Zendejas, Frank Rojo and Jeffrey Hernandez the trash cans are installed and ready to handle a Friday Update gathering BBQ, so when ever you are ready...



Earth Day

Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together... all things connect.

~Chief Seattle

When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe.

~John Muir

Respectfully Submitted,

The Avalon City Staff



Sprint Fest 2016. Photo Credit Bob Mescher