

AVILA VALLEY ADVISORY COUNCIL (AVAC)

San Luis Obispo County, CA

January 14, 2019

www.avac-avila.org

1. **Call to Order:** by Chair, Jim Hartig for regular meeting held at 7:00 pm, at the Avila Beach Yacht Club.

Roll Call (present): Mary Matakovich, Lisa Newton, Anne Brown, Julia Hartzell, MaryEl Hansen, Marti Brand (alt), Sherri Danoff, Jim Hartig, Ken Thompson, Martin Suits, Steve Benedict, Saul Goldberg, Lynn Walter (alt), Carol Hayden (alt), Mike Casola, Liz Guho-Johnson (alt), Kirt Collins and Margaret Greenough. Roll Call (excused): Denise Allen. Quorum established.

2. **Approve Minutes:** Minutes for December 10, 2018 were approved following a motion to approve by Danoff and a second by Hartzell. Many thanks to Mary Matakovich for substituting as secretary and preparing these minutes last month.
3. **Chair's Comments:** Jim Hartig: The PG&E Energy center is no longer available to AVAC for meetings for at least the next year. Thanks to Mary Matakovich for securing the Avila Beach Yacht Club for tonight's meeting. Jim, Julia and Mary are together working on finding a substitute adequate facility for future meetings. Considerations include; size of venue, logistics (layout), sound system capability, presentation space/provisions, cost, availability (would like to maintain second Monday), and proximity. The team has made numerous calls and emails to various possible venues including; Yacht Club, Coastal gateway office, Avila Community center, Bellevue/Santa Fe school, Avila Lighthouse Suites, San Luis Bay Estates Clubhouse, SLO Buddhist Temple, Pismo Beach City Hall, and Shell Beach Veterans Hall. Adam Hill offered to provide some contribution for the cost. There is no decision at this time but the team will keep everyone informed about the progress and eventual choice of the location for future AVAC meetings. Anne Brown suggested that AVAC send a written thank you letter to PG&E for allowing the use of a very nice facility for so many years.
4. **Public Comments:** There were 3 public comments: (1) Shirley Goetz of Avila Beach, and founder of the Avila Beach Bird Sanctuary, announced that the sanctuary is now 5 years old. During an internet search she discovered there were 20 entries soliciting donations. Sadly, none of the benefits of this non-profit is returning to the community. This was not the original vision Shirley had of the Bird Sanctuary. (2) Mark Pinto of San Luis Bay Estates recalled a 2011 incident where he assisted a heart attack victim on Blue Heron Drive, Bob Jones Trail by providing CPR. At the time he was disappointed on the response by the Fire Department who had brought one engineer with only 2 firemen and 1 EMT. His opinion is that our local fire department staffing and resources are inadequate and advocates getting funding to increase resources in this area. (3) Vicky Book of Avila Beach invited and requested supporters to come to the Board of Supervisors meeting on February 5th when the Board will hear an appeal regarding a project in Avila Beach that involves both commercial and residential lots.
5. **Treasurer's Report:** Julia Hartzell: There was no activity last month and 2018 closed out with a balance of: \$1,751.63. Total expenses for 2018 were \$137.04.

6. **County and Local Agency Reports:**

- a) **Sheriff** – Commander Michael Manuele: Reporting for the month of December 2018, there were 73 calls for service (compared with 91 from December 2017, 617 calls for Los Osos and 43 calls for San Simeon). There was 1 assault/battery, 4 disturbance calls including 1 burglary, vandalizing of the county's own electronic road sign, 4 arrests, and 1 trespass call for someone illegally accessing PG&E property. A member of the public reported that from her residence off of Ontario Road, she often heard gunshots and was wondering if that was allowed and in that area. She is not sure where the gunshots were coming from – possibly the Avila Barn area. The Sheriff responded that they are allowed but that it was important that the shooting was done in a safe manner. The Sheriff encourages calls to their office so they can investigate the safety of the gun play.
- b) **Highway Patrol** – Captain Michael Bueno/Sergeant Heiderbrink: No representative present and no report.
- c) **CAL Fire** - Batt. Chief Paul Lee: In the last December there were 48 calls for service, 17 of which were medical related. There were the structure fires of December 4th, a rescue on the Ontario Ridge, and a rescue at Cave Landing. They are still working on a solid escape route in Barron Canyon. San Luis Bay Estates in conjunction with the Fire Safe Council is joining in a project in the Estates with Cal Poly for developing a Coastal Wildland Protection Plan. Watch to see Cal Poly students walking and working around the neighborhood to complete this project. Fire Permits have been let in areas of See Canyon and the golf course. Chief Lee cautioned about the winter storms and to stay clear of rivers and creeks that will swell with dirty and dangerous storm runoff. He also said it was time to evict your Christmas tree if one was still in the house. Anne Brown asked about the burn piles along highway 101. Chief Lee responded that they haven't been contacted about these piles and if they want to burn these piles, they will have to take a permit out from the air pollution control district. Ken Thompson asked if Chief Lee could comment on the public statement earlier in this meeting regarding the staffing and medical resources for the Avila Engines. Chief Lee commented that the website has a strategic plan in draft form regarding staffing a paramedic service. What is needed is establishing a focus group and determining exactly what is desired by the community. Then funding for that needs to be obtained. He is more than happy to work with the community on this, but funding has always been a problem. Furthermore the statistics for the area don't support the contention that the Engines are understaffed. Mary Matakovich reminded that AVAC had a subcommittee look in detail at the various community desires and after a couple of years, the team was told that the Avila location didn't qualify for an EMT based on distance to the ambulance and history of the number of calls. Julia Hartzell offered that the ambulance meets a 10 minute arrival performance. Bob Pusanik asked about the process for gaining funding. Chief Lee emphasized that the first step was to get agreement about what exactly to fund. He is willing to work with a community focus group to do this. Once the wants and needs of the community are determined, how to meet those needs can be resolved. This might include sharing resources across other communities, training existing staff to EMT level, or adding staff to the Fire Station (most expensive option).
- d) **Planning** - Sara Sanders: Changes from last month include: Project #6 (General Plan Amendment) – The county received three proposals that are currently being reviewed. There may be some interviews that take place. Project #11 (Minor Use Permit for 3 story hotel) is under Environmental Review. Project #12 (single family residence on Avila Beach Drive) is tentatively scheduled for the Planning Commission on February 28th.

Sherri Danoff asked if the Environmental Review for Project #1 (PG&E request for North road improvements) could be expedited. Sara responded that the review is moving along, and the county and PG&E will be meeting on January 25th. Sherri commented that road improvements on PG&E property are helpful to the community in case they might be needed in the future. Julia Hartzell commented that the Avila Valley committee has received the 227-page project information and will begin reviewing the application on Project #8. Sherri asked how the legality of the lots near Cave Landing has been resolved between the County and Pismo Beach. Sara said she would research this and get back to AVAC on the answer.

- e) **Public Works** - Dave Flynn: The seismic retrofit project for the Avila Beach Drive Bridge continues behind schedule. Dave estimates that the project will extend to the end of March. Proposed design for the intersection at San Luis Bay Drive at Ontario road has been received by the Consultant. Dave expects that in a couple of weeks the report will be ready to provide to the Land Use Committee and post it on the County website. Public Works anticipates flooding in the usual places due to the series of storms that will be occurring this week. They have installed a stand pipe to put back pressure on the rising tide that usually floods the parking lot. Dave also announced that there will be a combined meeting on February 19th of the trails and bike committees. It will be open to the public and will start at 6pm at the government center Room 161. Some of the topics will include parking arrangements at the Johnson Ranch trail and the speed limit of San Luis Bay Drive. Kirt Collins mentioned that San Luis Bay Drive east of the 101 usually floods. Mostly this is due to the debris and overgrowth that builds up in the creek. He asked if the County could clean out this debris to avoid the flooding. Dave responded that cleaning the debris is a multi-year process, requiring environmental review and partnership with bordering owners along the run of the creek. Mary Matakovich asked about the County jurisdiction along the road. Generally, Dave answered, if limbs and other debris fall into the road or the right of way, the County can clean that up. However, the County can't clean debris out of private property.
- f) **County Parks** - Nick Franco: The County now has preliminary plans for a scaled back project for Cave Landing from the engineering consultant. He thinks this scope will be approvable by the Coastal Commission, and he will be setting up another workshop for the community stakeholders. There was then a lot of discussion about signage on Blue Heron Drive. Many commented that the behavior of users of the Bob Jones trail were less than polite when cars and even golf carts were used to get from the Coffee Berry gate to the golf course and back. This is a multi-use road and people don't seem to understand that cars and golf carts use this road and have a right to use the road. AVAC and the public emphasized to Nick that they didn't want sign pollution but a sign that was very clear about the use of cars on Blue Heron Drive that is shared by the Bob Jones trail traffic.
- g) **Port San Luis** - Andrea Lueker: (Not present but report provided):

Avila Pier – the engineering firm of Moffat and Nichol have conducted a Load Capacity Study on the Avila Pier to further determine and refine what a repair or replacement looks like in terms of “how extensive”. As reported last month, we hope to have a preliminary report in the first quarter of 2019 for the Board of Commissioners to review and determine a course of action.

Harbor Terrace Project – the District has alerted all Trailer Boat Storage patrons that their vessels must be off the Harbor Terrace site by March 31, 2019. The District is also working the Fishermen's Gear Storage patrons on temporary relocation of their equipment. At this

time, the development schedule has not been amended with groundbreaking in February and completion in late 2019.

Business Opportunities at Port San Luis – the Request for Proposals (RFP) for a Retail Market, Deli and/or Other Related Retail Services at the District's Trailer Boat Launch Building (next to Avila Paddle Sports) is open with a deadline for submission is February 8th. The RFP can be found on the District's Website, www.portsanluis.com, under the **Bids and Proposals** tab on the left-hand side of the home page.

Winter Weather – at this time there are significant wind and wave predictions for mid-week, with extremely high tides over the weekend which could lead to coastal flooding. District staff is monitoring the weather closely as this appears to be the most significant storm(s) of the season to date. Harbor Patrol is also monitoring the mooring field closely to ensure all vessels are safely and adequately moored.

- h) **County Supervisor** - Adam Hill: Supervisor Hill discussed the impending PG&E Bankruptcy and vowed to keep the County involved in the proceedings to ensure that commitments of money to the County will be represented in bankruptcy court. Adam pointed out that it is important that Diablo Canyon run to its full license because the replacement of the power with renewables isn't ready yet. Adam pointed to the abrupt closure of the San Onofre Plant and the resulting increase in emissions due to replacing the power profile with natural gas generators. Adam is concerned about jobs in the community and sees that bankruptcy will have a large impact on jobs and an orderly transition to a post-Diablo environment. Though the decommissioning engagement panel has been very good, no agreements or recommendations from the panel are binding. On a different topic, the hearing for the Avila Bay resort events decision has been continued indefinitely and off-calendar. Adam has asked Rita Neal, County Council, to take over the issue and come to a legal ruling and resolution. Adam stated this is basically a land use designation dispute and Avila Beach Resorts will most likely sue the County if they have to use the normal permitting process and abide by an Event Ordinance. Adam then opined that members of the council and the community were using fear-mongering tactics regarding events. Adam pointed out that the resort always had a protocol for safety of every event, hiring police and fire professionals to keep things safe; so to say otherwise was disingenuous since actual impacts to the community do not rise to the level of panic. At this point dissenting opinions were offered.

At the end of Adam's comment period all of the County personnel left the meeting.

7. **Old Business:** 2019 Officer Elections - This item was actually pulled forward and discussed following the Approval of last month's minutes but is documented here in accordance with the agenda template. The slate of officers for 2019 had been presented last meeting and they are; Jim Hartig (Chair), Mary Matakovich (Vice Chair), Julia Hartzell (Treasurer) and Lynn Walter (Secretary). Lisa Newton moved and MaryEl Hansen seconded that the slate be approved for the 2019 officers. The vote was unanimously in favor.
8. **New Business:** AVAC will have a table set up at the next Avila Community Spotlight on February 28th. Jim is asking for volunteers to come and help answer questions at the table. There will be a laptop set up to show visitors the AVAC website.

9. Community Liaisons:

- a) **Avila Beach Civic Association** - Lisa Newton: Another Spaghetti and Bingo night will happen on February 1st at 6:00 pm. This event is very fun and she hopes everyone will be able to attend.
- b) **Avila Beach Foundation** - Rick Cohen: Tolosa Press is out of business and will no longer print the Avila Beach News. The foundation will be looking at other ways of getting information out to the community. The Avila Beach News was an important, convenient and effective way to communicate about Avila events, non-profits and volunteer activities. Rick reminded us about the Spotlight event at the community center which will announce and celebrate the "Avilones of Distinction". There will be an email sent out which will have the opportunity to obtain parking tickets for the event (thanks to the Harbor Commission).
- c) **PG&E/Diablo Canyon** – Eric Daniels: Eric first apologized about the use of the Energy Education Center and the fact that it will be unavailable to AVAC for at least all of 2019. The entire center will be used to house the PG&E wild land fire strike team. This team is being set up to service the Los Padres division and parts of Monterey County in the effort to harden infrastructure to the effects of fires. They will be directing vegetation management and changing out wooden poles to metal among other things. They will set up most of this year in that effort. Eric then mentioned he would work with Jim Hartig to help find another venue and even offered to look at some grants that could offset the cost of a different meeting place for AVAC.

Eric then addressed the PG&E Bankruptcy. The devastating and unprecedented Northern California wildfires of 2017 and 2018 have had a big impact and PG&E faces extensive litigation and significant potential liabilities associated with these wildfires. PG&E has determined that initiating Chapter 11 reorganization the only viable option to protect the business and its customers from this liability. The Chapter 11 process is an orderly, fair and expeditious resolution of the company's potential wildfire liabilities, and will enable PG&E to access the financial resources it needs to continue to provide safe service to its customers. They expect to file Chapter 11 on January 29, 2019, but the announcement was made early due to California state law requiring a 15 day advance notice to employees before filing. Eric emphasized that PG&E is not going out of business. During bankruptcy, day-to-day operations will continue without disruption. Agreements ruled by the CPUC will continue to be honored including employee retention bonuses and mitigation funds for the County government.

10. AVAC Committees:

- a. **Land Use** - Sherri Danoff: There was some discussion of the 2004 Board of Supervisors directive, being claimed to exempt golf course events from permitting, and whether or not to send any further communication on this to the county or to the supervisor. AVAC agreed to table to motion for now.
- b.
- c. **Diablo** - Ken Thompson: The Diablo Canyon Independent Assessment Committee (DCISC) will meet again on February 27 and 28th. They weren't able to secure the Avila Beach Conference room location for this date so they will be holding the meeting at the Pismo Light House Suites. There will not be a public tour of the plant offered for this meeting. The public is encouraged to attend and ask questions of the DCISC. There is an upcoming

refueling outage starting in February. Eric Daniels said this is a typical outage and to expect the same amount of additional workers and traffic during peak shift changes.

- d. **Port** – Mary Matakovich: nothing to report.
- e. **Avila Beach** - Anne Brown: The Avila Beach Committee met Wednesday and developed a recommendation regarding the 1st street “streetscape” proposed by the architect of the project to erect 5 new buildings on the street. Anne Brown made a motion that AVAC send a letter to planning stating “accept the streetscape as presented with an exception to provide varying colors of white as shown on lots 9 and 12. The easement landscaping is especially important to relieve the visual bulk of these 5 buildings.” The motion was seconded by Mary Matakovich and the motion passed with a unanimous vote. Anne re-iterated that she and Vicky are appealing the Salucci/Hodge project to the Board of Supervisors on February 5th and would appreciate the support of everyone who could attend.
- f. **San Luis Bay Estates** - Jim Hartig: Nothing to report.
- g. **Avila Valley**: - Julia Hartzell: Avila Valley Committee will be busy reviewing the application for the proposed 22 house development off of Ontario Road.
- h. **See Canyon** - Denise Allen (Liz Guho-Johnson): nothing to report.
- i. **Squire Canyon** – Kirt Collins: The wetland restoration at the east end of San Luis Bay Drive where it connects with Monte Drive is complete. There are now egrets and heron and water fowl enjoying the ponded areas.
- j. **Ad Hoc Committees** - Jim Hartig: No meetings this last month.

11. **Next meeting date**: Monday, February 11, 2019

12. **Adjourn**: Meeting was adjourned at 8:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted:
Lynn Walter
Secretary