

AVILA VALLEY ADVISORY COUNCIL (AVAC)

San Luis Obispo County, CA

PO Box 65

Avila Beach, CA 93424

February 11, 2019

www.avac-avila.org

1. **Call to Order:** by Chair, Jim Hartig for regular meeting held at 7:00 pm, at the PG&E Energy Education Center.

Roll Call (present): Mary Matakovich, Julia Hartzell, MaryEl Hansen, Sherri Danoff, Jim Hartig, Ken Thompson, Martin Suits, Steve Benedict, Lynn Walter (alt -voting), Carol Hayden (alt), Denise Allen, Mike Casola, and Kirt Collins. Roll Call (excused): Lisa Newton, Anne Brown, Marti Brand (alt), Saul Goldberg and Margaret Greenough. Liz Guho-Johnson (alt) was not present. Quorum established.

2. **Approve Minutes:** There was discussion regarding County Counsel Rita Neal based on Denise Allen's conversation between Neal and Allen. Denise was concerned that wording under Supervisor Hill's portion of the minutes implied that Neal had made a statement that Avila Beach Resorts will most likely sue the County if they have to use the normal permitting process and abide by an Event ordinance. Those that had been at the meeting in January (Allen was not present) clarified that those were Hill's comments – not Neal's. Allen stated that in her conversation with her, Neal had explicitly said that AVAC and the community are rational and reasonable to ask a business to abide by the business license and event ordinance requirements. Once explained it was agreed to leave the minutes unchanged. Minutes for January 14, 2019 were unanimously approved following a motion to approve by Thompson and a second by Hartzell.
3. **Chair's Comments:** Jim Hartig: AVAC is glad to be back at the PG&E Energy center! A lot of hard work was put in to find alternate locations (fourteen were investigated) and all the information will be saved in case the AVAC meeting gets displaced from the Energy Center in the future. Jim thanked Eric for allowing the continued AVAC use of the building.
4. **Public Comments:** There were two public comments: (1) Shirley Goetz of Avila Beach, founder of the Avila Beach Bird Sanctuary, announced that the non-profit organization for the sanctuary is now 3 years old. She advocated that AVAC investigate what this non-profit is now being used for and who is benefitting from it. The non-profit is not currently benefiting the community and this doesn't reflect Goetz's vision for the bird sanctuary. Denise Allen added that she would like to have a discussion on this topic since Goetz brings it up at each meeting. Allen asked if there was anything that AVAC could do and Jim Hartig responded that Goetz had every right to voice her public opinion in the AVAC forum; however, other than enthusiastically enjoying living in a Bird Sanctuary, delving into the non-profit logistics is not part of AVAC's scope of responsibility and AVAC is not the entity that can bring about any change to the situation. (2) Vicky Book noted that Supervisor Gibson had recently supported a community meeting in Cambria with county planning department personnel regarding vacation rentals. Book would like AVAC to consider setting up a similar meeting in Avila Beach. The item was referred to the Avila Beach Committee.
5. **Treasurer's Report:** Julia Hartzell: There were no expenses for January 2019 and the checking balance remains at \$1,751.63.

6. County and Local Agency Reports:

- a) **Sheriff** – Commander Michael Manuele: There were 87 Calls for Service in the Avila area during the month of January. This compares to 87 calls last year and 185 calls in Cayucos, 299 in Cambria, 517 in Los Osos, and 55 in San Simeon. One call involved a subject refusing to leave a local drinking establishment who punched a victim in the face. There were 5 calls for disturbances; an intoxicated subject, construction noise, a family disturbance, and out-of-control juvenile and a party. There was a purse taken from an unlocked vehicle at the Sycamore Mineral Springs. There was a phone scam in the area – the caller reported they were from the Sheriff’s Office and the victim had a warrant. Luckily, the victim was advised it was a scam at CBS, presumably where the victim was going to buy a gift card for the payment for the warrant. Lesson: when someone on the phone tells you to buy a gift card for any reason – it is a scam! Also notable; there were 2 different incidents at Cave Landing that involved 3 arrests – 2 for narcotics related charges and 1 for narcotic and weapons charges. Some members of the public and of AVAC commented on a couple of homeless encampments; one off the Bob Jones trail near the fish ladder and one between Heron Crest and the golf course. The Sheriff will look into the one off the Bob Jones trail and also work with the Golf Course to offer services for those located on their private property.
- b) **Highway Patrol** – Captain Michael Bueno/Sergeant Heiderbrink: No representative present and no report.
- c) **CAL Fire** - Batt. Chief Paul Lee: For January there were 34 calls for service of which 13 were medical related. Cal Fire personnel are in the middle of their training cycle. They are also actively making progress in the fire safe projects at Heron Crest and Baron Canyon areas. Chief Lee cautioned everyone to watch for and stay away from downed power lines and standing water from the ongoing storms.
- d) **Planning** - Sara Sanders (not present but report provided by Jim Hartig): Changes to the Avila Planning and Building Projects include; Project #1 (PG&E Conditional Use Permit Development Plan for road improvements) – the site visit has been rescheduled to March. Project #2 (Salucci and Hodge) – the project and the director determination appeals were both denied at the February 5th Board of Supervisors meeting. Project #6 (General Plan Amendment) – the selection committee has completed proposal ratings. Project #12 (Spearman) has been tentatively schedule for planning commission hearing on March 14th. Also, Sara is researching the development lots that are within the County jurisdiction for the Cave Landing area between Pismo and Avila. She plans on carrying these on the project spreadsheet if deemed prudent.
- e) **Public Works** - Dave Flynn: Due to weather and other issues, the seismic retrofit has at least 4 more weeks left and is anticipated to be complete mid-March. There has been flooding again in the parking lot on 1st street during the last 6 foot King Tide. There has been a nice channel formed for the creek so that there will be less water in the lagoon and that will help the flooding situation but not completely eliminate it when there is an extreme high tide. Public works will be meeting with Cal Trans on February 21st to discuss the San Luis Bay Drive and Ontario road intersection. At this time it looks like an “all-way” stop can be installed in the interim prior to installation of traffic signals. Installation of traffic signals can take around 3 years.

f) **County Parks** - Nick Franco (not present but provided a report): County Parks are scheduling a public workshop for the evening of February 26th at 6:00 pm at the PG&E Energy Education Center. At the meeting they will walk through the concept for a project at Cave Landing for a non-paved surfacing of the parking area and installation of trash cans, signs and boulders to protect the archeological site in anticipation of applying for a permit to do the work.

g) **Port San Luis** - Andrea Lueker:

Avila Pier – the engineering firm of Moffat and Nichol will be presenting the results of their Load Capacity Study at a Special Board of Commissioners meeting this Wednesday, February 13th beginning at 2:00 p.m. The meeting will be at the Coastal Gateway building at the Port.

Harbor Terrace Project – the District continues to actively relocate the Harbor uses from Harbor Terrace to other locations. Those uses include, Trailer Boat Storage, Commercial Fishermen’s Gear Storage and the Harbor equipment and supplies yards. As of last week, Red Tail was continuing to fine tune their grading plans.

Winter Weather and Beached Vessels – On the evening of February 1st and early morning of February 2nd there were some destructive wind and waves resulting in two vessels coming ashore – one at Fishermen’s Beach and one at Olde Port Beach. The recreational vessel on Olde Port Beach was destroyed and removed by sunset on February 2nd. The Commercial Vessel on Fishermen’s Beach is still on site and has been posted for removal. It is the responsibility of the vessel owner in a process outlined in the Harbor and Navigation Code. If the vessel is not removed, the District will likely take steps to do the removal and charge back those costs. A question was asked about the fuel on the vessel. Andrea answered that Hazardous Material removal was already performed including some sand that was contaminated by fuel oil.

h) **County Supervisor** - Adam Hill: Adam spoke about the upcoming meeting on Pirates Cove as discussed under County Parks’ report and mentioned that the money for the project was significantly less than asked for prior when the project was a lot more grandiose. This meeting will be the last public input meeting and funding will be requested by February 26th. Next, Adam mentioned that the Board of Supervisors approved hiring of a bankruptcy lawyer to ensure county interests are at the forefront of deliberations by the bankruptcy judge over the PG&E bankruptcy. Adam next discussed the tension that existed in the community surrounding the golf course events among other issues. He mentioned that Rick Cohen had a good idea of facilitating a discussion where mutual respect and mutual purpose could be built. The idea is to hire a professional, objective facilitator to coordinate public and community discourse including between AVAC, Avila Concerned Citizens, Avila Beach Resort and the County. This wouldn’t be mediation in the legal sense – just an opportunity to gather the community together and have a facilitated discussion where everyone could be heard. Adam suggested that Avila Resort could provide funds for that effort or even Adam himself would consider using some of his funds to hire a professional facilitator. Adam’s gesture was appreciated. Kirt Collins thought that adding CAL Fire, the Highway Patrol and the Sheriff would also benefit the conversation. Many people voiced their opinions of how an integrated and complete community calendar would be a beneficial outcome of this discussion.

7. **Old Business:** none.

8. **New Business:** County Public Works provided a presentation on an interim and long term parking solution for Avila Beach. Building on a previous study performed by the Harbor District in 2013, Public Works has engaged a consultant (TJKM) to study immediate, interim and future solutions to traffic flow and parking scarcity for Avila Beach. They presented the draft study to the Land Use Committee earlier this month and will be engaging the Avila business community on February 27th at 4:00 pm at the steps near the pier. Comments from the Land Use Committee, AVAC and the business community will be addressed prior to the final report. The draft report will be posted on the Public Works website. Dave stressed the need to “think outside the box” – to be innovative. Currently there are 2040 parking spaces in Avila and at the Port. Immediately there can be a gain of 49 spaces by simply providing some angle parking and improving the bike lane and traffic by making some of the streets one way. There was a question from the public about the use of off-site parking locations with shuttles and also for more transit lines to and from Avila Beach. Dave answered that transit lines are expensive for the amount of benefit that is projected. He emphasized that employee parking had to be addressed as part of the immediate and interim solutions – where off-site parking and shuttles can be utilized. A question was asked about future SMART parking meters – would they accept cell phone payment, credit cards and coins? The answer is that the meters accept all of these. Many voiced their approval of using “Avila Parking Full” signage along 101 to discourage people even getting off the freeway to cruise through looking for parking in Avila. Residents noted and Dave acknowledged that when parking gets more restricted along Front Street, there ends up being more parking in front of Avila residences.

9. **Community Liaisons:**

a) **Avila Beach Civic Association** - Lisa Newton: Not present however Mary Matakovich mentioned that the Spaghetti and Bingo on February 1st was a sold out event and a big success.

b) **Avila Beach Foundation** - Rick Cohen: Rick advertised the February 28th “Community Spotlight” event that will take place from 3-6 pm at the Avila Beach Community Center at 191 San Miguel Street. Admission is free and there will be door prizes and free refreshments. There will be a celebration for the winners of the “Avilones of Distinction Awards”. Thanks to the Port San Luis Harbor District, there will be free passes for parking available. To acquire a free parking pass, email your RSVP and request for a pass to avilabeachcf@gmail.com. He asked everyone to RSVP so they can get an idea of how much food to order. Chevron is a very generous donor for this event. Spotlight exhibits will include the Avila Beach Civic Association, Avila Valley Advisory Council, Concerned Citizens 4 Avila, Avila Beach Community Services District, Point San Luis Lighthouse Keepers, Central Coast Aquarium, Port San Luis Harbor District, CAL Fire, Avila Beach Community Foundation, Bob Jones Trail Keepers, The Friends of Avila Pier, and Avila Beach Junior Lifeguards. The “Avilones of Distinction” ceremony will take place at 5:00p.m. on the 28th. Seventeen Avilones were nominated for their efforts. An unbiased panel reviewed and scored the narratives, with the names of all nominees redacted, so only deeds and accomplishments were considered. The following individuals were chosen: For Volunteerism: Sherri Danoff, For Philanthropy: Joan Sargen, For Leadership: Anne Brown. Finally, after a highly competitive process, the art selection panel once again chose a proposal submitted by Colleen Gnos, who produced the murals on the Avila Beach Lifeguard Towers. The location identified for this second round of public art is the walled

entrance to the Central Coast Aquarium's Discovery Park. It will consist of two painted sections, one on each side of the gate. It is anticipated that work will be completed sometime late this summer. – murals on the walls of the discovery center at the Aquarium.

- c) **PG&E/Diablo Canyon** – Eric Daniels: The auditorium at the PG&E Energy Center now has 2 clocks! Tom Jones Director of Strategic Initiatives gave an update on Diablo Canyon. (1) The Unit 1 Refueling outage is underway and will last about 35 days. Unit 2 continues to run at 100% power and is planned to do so until its refueling outage in fall of this year. (2) Senate Bill 1090 authored by Monning/Cunningham was signed by the Governor. On February 8th, the Public Utilities Commission approved disbursement of funds as stipulated in the bill for economic development and county essential services reimbursement as well as employee retention bonuses. Once the appeal period is over, PG&E will make these payments. (3) Tom listed the topics and dates for future Decommissioning Engagement Panel meetings; February 22/23 – Used Fuel, March 15 – also used fuel, June 12 – internal panel discussion, September 18 – economic impacts from decommissioning, November 13 – transportation. Ken Thompson asked if the company plans on using contracted labor for meeting shortfalls in positions needed for the plant to run out to 2025. Jones replied that that will be used in some areas except for licensed operators who have a Diablo Canyon Specific license provided by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

10. **AVAC Committees:**

- a. **Land Use** - Sherri Danoff: Nothing to add to Public Works parking discussion.
- b. **Diablo** - Ken Thompson: Ron Alsup has retired as of the end of last year and the new replacement for the position of County Emergency Services manager is Joe Guzzardi. Ken had another reminder for attending the Diablo Canyon Independent Safety Committee public meetings on Wednesday and Thursday, February 27 and 28 at the Pismo Lighthouse Suites. He will e-mail members the agenda and specific presentation information. He also noted that you could observe the meeting via the live stream; he will include the link in his email.
- c. **Port** – Mary Matakovich: Mary encouraged any interested parties to attend a meeting of the “Friends of Avila Pier” non-profit to be held at the Yacht club on Wednesday, February 25th at 6:00 pm.
- d. **Avila Beach** - Anne Brown: No committee report.
- e. **San Luis Bay Estates** - Jim Hartig: Nothing to report.
- f. **Avila Valley**: - Julia Hartzell: Avila Valley Committee did a very thorough review of the proposed development for a 22-unit cluster subdivision located off of Ontario Road. Recommendations were drafted in a letter to County Planning. The letter was submitted to AVAC members for their review prior to the meeting. Danoff moved to approve the letter and Hartig seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.
- g. **See Canyon** - Denise Allen: For the first time in a long time a large steelhead trout was spotted in the creek in See Canyon.
- h. **Squire Canyon** – Kirt Collins: Nothing to report.

i. **Ad Hoc Committees** - Jim Hartig: No meetings this last month.

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

12. **Adjourn:** Meeting was adjourned at 9:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted:
Lynn Walter
Secretary