

AVILA VALLEY ADVISORY COUNCIL (AVAC)

San Luis Obispo County, CA

PO Box 65

Avila Beach, CA 93424

May 13, 2019

www.avac-avila.org

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

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

2. **Approve Minutes:** Motion was made by Danoff and seconded by Suits to approve minutes. Approval of minutes by vote was unanimous.
3. **Chair's Comments:** Jim Hartig: no comments.
4. **Public Comments:** There were five public comments. (1) Mary Chiu provided an update on the renovation at the Avila Post Office. Mailboxes will be moved to a temporary location and the retail window will move into the community center near the elevator (this will be a permanent move). Asbestos work will be in progress on the ceiling and floor of the old post office. Mary also provided appreciation of the Avila Bay Estates subcommittee and all the work they put in to the examining of development plans, ordinances and public works projects. (2) Shirley Goetz of Avila Beach reminded the council that her right to speak in public forums is protected by the First Amendment. Someone had called her at home regarding her previous public comments on the status of a local non-profit. (3) Katy Sturtevant of Avila Beach Resorts provided an update on the upcoming events that will be held at the resort. On May 25th the Tequila festival will be held from 12:00 – 5:00pm. On May 26th the Blues Festival will take place. On May 31st the resort will host a concert. She mentioned that for any issues including at all hours and whatever the emergency, calling the resort line, listening to the prompt, and then pressing 9 for emergencies will get you a real person on the line. The number is (805) 595 – 4000. (4) Jerry Shay of Avila Beach discussed the temporary storage of the Fisherman's gear in the parking lot near the post office while the Harbor is constructing a new Harbor Terrace facility. He advocated that the temporary storage could be better located and that he had just heard about it last Thursday. His house is located adjacent to the area where temporary storage, consisting of searain storage containers, will be located. (5) Vicky Book witnessed a scary situation near the Kraken coffee place. One of the wooden umbrellas had been tossed by the wind and narrowly avoided hurting anyone.
5. **Treasurer's Report:** Julia Hartzell: There were no expenses for April 2019 and the checking balance remains at \$1,751.63.
6. **County and Local Agency Reports:**
 - a) **Sheriff** – Commander Michael Manuele: There were 143 calls for service during the month of April in Avila. This represents a 42% increase from last year. Commander Manuele

couldn't see a reason for the uptick. There were 2 reports of physical altercations, a burglary of a construction job site and a break-in of a storage shed at the golf course. There were also several thefts; a bicycle stolen from a carport, items stolen from a car at the Bob Jones Trail head, a stolen wallet from a person, a phone stolen from a backpack at an event and \$10,000 fraudulent charges to an account. Suspicious circumstances included a suspicious subject attempting to engage a 5 year old at the park. There was trespasser arrested at the Marre house; the suspect was arrested for trespassing, burglary, vandalism and possession of stolen property. A resident brought up the issue of gunshots on the King property near Ontario Road, the Avila Barn and the Bob Jones Trail. These gunshots happen for almost an hour, several times a week. Commander Manuele said that this is not a prohibited activity. A further question was asked about at what point the gunshots becomes a public safety issue or a nuisance (for example from the noise)? Commander Manuele stated that if the shooting goes off the property or some other form of negligence is determined then they could step in.

- b) **Highway Patrol** –Sergeant Heiderbrink: In the month of April, there was one property damage collision, 1 DUI collision resulting in 1 arrest. There was also a pursuit of an individual who had been in a chase from San Jose at night. An officer spotted the driver pulling off 101 into the Avila area and re-engaged the pursuit. The CHP will employ all hands for policing traffic and extra DUI units on patrol for the Tequila Festival and other events at the Resort this Memorial Day and throughout the summer.
- c) **CAL Fire** - Batt. Chief Paul Lee: In March there were 50 calls for service of which 23 were medical related. In April there were 45 calls for service of which 28 were medical. The new Jaws of life were used in a major injury accident that resulted in 1 fatality, 1 serious injury and 2 minor injuries. A bystander initiated CPR on the foot bridge in Sycamore Gardens. Over the last weekend assistance was lent to the Shell beach fire department for a structure fire. May 1st is the start of "Fire Season". Additional staffing and engineers will be added throughout the season. Air attack equipment and vessels are being staged at the Paso Robles Airport. Chief Lee was appreciative of the CHP keeping the fire lanes cleared at Cave Landing. Chief Lee implored residents to keep 100ft minimum clearance around their homes, 300ft if possible. Further they are recommending 8ft clearance of all combustibles including things like wicker chairs.
- d) **Planning** - Sara Sanders: Updates to the planning spreadsheet included project #2 (Hodge) which was being appealed but deferred off the Coastal Commission agenda due to a request by the developer to better prepare and look at other options. The appeal will probably be heard in the July meeting which will be held in San Luis Obispo. Sherri Danoff asked Sara about project #10 (the Avila Village Inn hotel expansion). Since the square footage is beyond what is allowed per the Avila Village development plan, why isn't there a required amendment? Sara will ask Terry Wahler the question and get the answer back to AVAC. Sara also mentioned that the County Planning department is working on the county cannabis ordinance. AVAC will have the opportunity to make comments on the ordinance and participate if desired in any of the upcoming hearings on May 23rd (to the Planning commission) and May 23rd (to the board of supervisors).
- e) **Public Works** - Dave Flynn (not present but report delivered by Jim Hartig): Here is a status of various items: (1) The all-way stop intersection for San Luis Bay Drive at Ontario Road will be on the June 4th Board of Supervisors consent agenda for approval. Would expect to install mid-June. (2) Public Works office has mailed out parking survey to Business Owners, Property Owners, and Residents within the town of Avila Beach. We

expect to have results in early June and will review with Land Use Committee this summer. (3) Public Works will be placing temporary changeable message signs on Avila Beach Drive and San Luis Bay Drive at the entrance to Avila Valley. These will be used for advising motorists of Event parking/Event conditions. They will be installed the week of May 20th and remain throughout the summer months. (4) Public Works expects to meet with the land use committee in June/July to go over final Avila beach Drive capacity policy and bring to full AVAC committee in August. The final circulation study update will follow. (5) The Bicycle Advisory Committee supported placing a 50 MPH speed limit on Ontario Road between San Luis Bay Drive and Higuera Street. We will return to AVAC this summer to seek concurrence. (6) The Avila Beach Drive Interchange improvements (west side roundabout) is expected to have a Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (CEQA document) out for public review this fall. Public Works staff will be available to review at AVAC meeting in the October timeframe.

- f) **County Parks** - Nick Franco (not present but report delivered by Jim Hartig): We are still working with the engineers regarding Cave Landing to address public comments on our most recent plan regarding the number of parking spaces and the storm water controls that are required. It looks like a solution is possible, but it will take some time to fully develop the plan revision.

- g) **Port San Luis** - Andrea Lueker: Avila Pier – the District was successful in opening up the Avila Pier to bent 59 on the Friday prior to Easter, this allows access about midway down the pier. The staff has recommended funding in the upcoming budget year to complete inspection and assessment of all piles, design drawings for immediate repair and full repair design drawings to eventually open the pier to full use. Harbor Terrace Project – the District is in the final stages of ramping up for ground- breaking. The old accounting office on the property has been emptied of all contents and asbestos removal will be done this week. All 60 of the trailer boats have been removed from the property. The Harbor District supplies (piles, mooring supplies) are being moved off the site. The Fishermen’s Gear Storage Units are being temporarily relocated to the northeast corner of the Avila Parking lot, as approved by the Board of Commissioners. Approximately 14-18 parking spaces will be used in addition to the dirt property owned by the County, for which the District has acquired a permit. The temporary space will be fenced with access to the commercial fishermen. Eighteen 8 x 40 containers and three 8 x 20 containers will be on stored. Typical equipment will be skiffs, skiff trailers, totes, buoys, etc. The majority of the crab pots will either remain on Harford Pier or stored inside the locked gear storage units. This temporary use will be in existence until the gear units can go back on the site. A resident asked the question about the smell. Andrea answered that there would perhaps be a minor smell but that no hazardous materials will be stored. Another resident asked if an Environmental Impact report was required. Andrea answered that they ran that through legal counsel and they are not required to process and EIR. The time frame for temporary storage is about 5 months. Saturnia – the District had the Saturnia successfully removed from Fishermen’s beach last month. The process went very smooth with the entire vessel being demolished and beach clean-up done within 8 hours.

- h) **County Supervisor** - Adam Hill: Adam’s major focus this past month has been on the county budget process; balancing the budget, budget hearings, priorities, labor issues. Also he is working on a committee called the hour glass project with Jordan Cunningham and Salud Carbajal and Cal Poly to holistically address how to keep the County economy going strong after Diablo Canyon closes and what other uses could be installed in the industrial area of the PG&E property. Sherri inquired about the status of the community dialog that

Adam had indicated he was going to foster between the Avila Resort and the Avila Community. Adam responded that since there was an ongoing legal dispute between the Avila Bay Resort and the Avila Bay Estates, that there won't be an opportunity for this dialogue at this time. Lisa Newton brought up the concern about trash in the park. She mentioned that this is an ongoing problem that is exacerbated by not having enough garbage can capacity at the right locations and by people being litter bugs. Adam said he would discuss this with Nick Franco.

7. **Old Business:** None.

8. **New Business:** None.

9. **Community Liaisons:**

- a) **Avila Beach Civic Association** - Lisa Newton and Anne Brown: The Apple Festival is a big fundraiser for the Civic Association and is scheduled for late August. Anne has some concern about the impact of the temporary Fisherman's gear storage area that will be near the community center and fundraiser site. More to come. Also, July 4th there will be the annual pancake breakfast and doggie parade.
- b) **Avila Beach Foundation** - Rick Cohen (not present but report delivered by Jim Hartig): The Foundation will post an on-line survey on June 1st to gauge the community's interests. The survey is short and will take under 5 minutes to complete. When completed the community participant will be entered into a drawing. You can go onto the Foundation's website for the survey. "Avila Beach Life" will replace the now defunct "Avila Beach News" starting June 1st. As in the past, the Foundation will fund the distribution of this publication to all homes in Avila.
- c) **PG&E/Diablo Canyon** – Eric Daniels: Both Diablo Canyon units are running at 100% capacity. There will be communication campaign to all PG&E customers regarding the public safety power shut off initiative. This is a last resort effort that will require certain conditions (weather and fire logistics) to be met before implementing. PG&E plans to provide 48 hour notice prior to implementing such a drastic effort. Once turned off, the time to restore power to all customers would take a lot of time. A question was asked about replacement of wood power poles. Eric replied that in certain critical fire zones, wood power poles would be replaced with metal ones over time.

10. **AVAC Committees:**

- a. **Land Use** - Sherri Danoff: The Land Use Committee will be meeting with Public Works on Friday May 24th at 10:00 am at a place to be determined. The subject of the meeting is the Avila Beach Drive and 101 intersections where the County is planning a roundabout project. Sherri is looking for people who would like to be on the Land Use Committee; particularly someone with a Civil Engineering background would be helpful.
- b. **Diablo** - Ken Thompson (delivered by Jim Hartig): The next meeting of the Diablo Canyon Independent Safety Committee is set for June 4th at the Avila Lighthouse Suites. As more information, such as their 2-day agenda is available Ken will send out an e-mail to the Council members.
- c. **Port** – Mary Matakovich: nothing to add.

- d. **Avila Beach** - Anne Brown: Anne spoke about the Hodge property development that had been opposed by the Avila Beach committee, opposed by AVAC, and yet supported by the board of supervisors - even after an appeal by Anne Brown and Vicky Book. The plan was not in accordance with the Avila Specific Plan nor was it in accordance with planning regulations. Even so, this development plan was supported by planning and while public comments were listened to, they were essentially ignored by the County. Now the Coastal Commission is hearing the appeal and the Commission's staff report recognizes that the development is not in accordance with the Avila Beach specific plan. Sherri Danoff expressed appreciation of Anne and Vicky's perseverance. She noted that the Avila residents were let down by the County process. This project didn't meet the basic regulation for the amount of building area compared to the size of the project.
 - e. **San Luis Bay Estates** - Jim Hartig: nothing to report.
 - f. **Avila Valley**: - Julia Hartzell: Two projects remain on information hold. King's 44-unit resort with brewery still needs to submit a remediation permit to the Regional Water Resource Board and the 22-Unit Subdivision still has more documents to submit.
 - g. **See Canyon** - Denise Allen: no report.
 - h. **Squire Canyon** – Kirt Collins: nothing to report.
 - i. **Ad Hoc Committees** - Jim Hartig: There have been no ad-hoc meetings in the last month.
11. **Next meeting date**: Monday, June 10, 2019
12. **Adjourn**: Meeting was adjourned at 8:06pm.

Respectfully submitted:
Lynn Walter
Secretary