

## AVILA VALLEY ADVISORY COUNCIL (AVAC)

San Luis Obispo County, CA

PO Box 65

Avila Beach, CA 93424

June 10, 2019

[www.avac-avila.org](http://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, MaryEl Hansen, Marti Brand (alt), Sherri Danoff, Jim Hartig, Ken Thompson, Martin Suits, Saul Goldberg, Lynn Walter (alt - voting), Denise Allen, Kirt Collins, and Margaret Greenough. Steve Benedict, Carol Hayden (alt), Mike Casola, and Liz Guho-Johnson (alt) were not present. Quorum established.

2. **Approve Minutes:** Motion was made by Newton and seconded by Matakovich to approve minutes. The minutes were approved with 2 people (Hansen and Thompson) abstaining due to not attending last month.
3. **Chair's Comments:** Jim Hartig: Jim encouraged the public to pick up a brochure that was prepared for the Community Spotlight event. It explains AVAC's activities and purpose. He noted that AVAC is an advisory council whose main activity is to provide comments to the County Supervisor and the various County government departments. AVAC does not legislate or enforce. More information can be found on the AVAC website at [www.avac-avila.org](http://www.avac-avila.org).
4. **Public Comments:** There were three public comments. (1) Katie Sturtevant from Avila Beach Resort mentioned that Memorial Day weekend events went very well. July 7<sup>th</sup> is the Lyle Lovett concert and the Resort wants to invite Avila residents to the event. For more information email her at [Katie@rossi-ent.com](mailto:Katie@rossi-ent.com). There have been over 2500 tickets sold for this event so far. Katie reminded everyone that for each event the Resort provides free parking and that SLO Safe Ride, a charter service, provides rides to event goers. (2) Mary Chiu spoke about her appreciation of the people in public service that attend all the AVAC meetings. She also gave an update of the post office transformation; the temporary mailbox location will be in place within the next week and then within two weeks of that they will be able to move into the new post office. Also, Friends of Avila Pier now has a website [avilapier.org](http://avilapier.org). Donations are already coming in and checks can be mailed to PO Box 685 at zip code 93424. (3) Vicky Book of Avila Beach shared an incident that illustrated how development has really changed the look and feel of the town. She also thanked the government folks for all the work they do and for the respect they show towards Avila residents and their opinions.
5. **Treasurer's Report:** Julia Hartzell: There were no expenses for May 2019 and the checking balance remains at \$1,751.63.
6. **County and Local Agency Reports:**
  - a) **Sheriff** – Senior Deputy Bird: There were 111 calls for service during the month of May in Avila which resulted in 6 reports generated. These reports included an assault and battery, a disturbance at Pirates Cove that may have resulted in a victim being stabbed, items stolen from an unlocked car in the Avila Village parking lot, another vehicle content theft via a smashed window, a car vandalized at Pirates Cove and a phone scam regarding social

security number compromises. Ken Thompson asked if there were going to be increased manpower during the summer and/or bicycle patrols. Deputy Bird didn't know the answer but he would ask Commander Manuele to provide the information at the next meeting. Another question was about the homeless encampments within Avila. Deputy Bird said that homelessness is a problem on the rise throughout the state and encouraged residents to call if they were concerned about any particular encampments.

- b) **Highway Patrol** –Sergeant Heiderbrink: In the month of May, there were three collisions, two of which resulted in injuries, involved DUI's and resulted in two arrests. The CHP is actively enforcing parking at Pirates Cove and, in fact, issues six parking citations on Sunday. The bike lane along Avila Beach Drive between Cave Landing Road and San Luis Street has been re-signed by Public Works. This makes it easier to enforce the parking restrictions in the bike lane. A question was asked about RV parking in Avila. Sergeant Heiderbrink encouraged people to call the CHP if someone is camping in a “no-overnight camping” zone or has parked on the street for greater than 72 hours.
- c) **CAL Fire** - Batt. Chief Paul Lee: In May there were forty three calls for service of which twenty three were medical related. Fire season has begun, unfortunately. They are adding three engines and over 50 firefighters to the County resources. Also, new air support planes will be brought in to replace aging equipment. There will be a few more controlled burns. Chief Lee also reminded us that there should be no mowing after 10:00 am and now is the time to get that brush cleared – at least 100' from homes. In preparation for any emergency, people should check their “go-bags” to make sure they are up to date and adequate. Information on any fire related event can be found on their Twitter feed @Calfire\_SLO. Also, if you have not already done so, you should sign up for reverse 911 on your cell phone (land lines are automatically reverse 911).
- d) **Planning** - Sara Sanders: Updates to the planning spreadsheet included: Project #1 (PG&E) – Planning management has completed the environmental document review and Sara should be able to publicly post it next month. Project #12 (PG&E) – The applicant is looking at options instead of a full size tower. Questions were asked about: Project #5 (Chevron) – This has been and continues to be in a waiting status since its application in 2015. Sara doesn't know if there is a time limit or how long the County will wait. Project #6 (General Plan Amendment) – the contract is done and Sara is waiting for things to move forward. Project #11 (King) – There doesn't seem to be any time limit on this project either. Also asked was the status of the Miller apartments on San Luis Street – these have been taking a long time to retrofit and everyone is anxious to find out when they will be done. Sara will report back next AVAC.
- e) **Public Works** - Dave Flynn: On June 21<sup>st</sup> the all-way stop will be installed at the Ontario Road, San Luis Bay Estates, and 101 off-ramp location. Dave reminded everyone that this is about a 10 year fix but soon with the increase in population and traffic it won't be effective and so a long term solution is being worked on with Cal Trans. Dave would like to present the consultant's Avila Beach Circulation study to AVAC in August. The circulation study will most likely result in a doubling of the road impact fees which is much needed. There will be enhanced pedestrian crosswalk between the Bob Jones Trail and the parking lot, with pedestrian activated caution lights. Dave expects this will be installed by the beginning of next summer. Ontario Road between South Higuera and San Luis Bay Drive will be re-posted to 50mph. This represents a “decrease” in speed as it is currently unposted with a de-facto speed of 55mph. Members of the Council and the public mentioned various concerns, one was the continual parking of bicycles in street parking spaces in front of the

bike rental shop. According to Dave the County has been enforcing that but can't be there all the time. Also he noted that the business owner declined to get an easement for legal use of the spaces. There was a discussion about delivery trucks being double parked as there is no room for them to park in the delivery zones. This is because often people are using the delivery zones to park their personal vehicles or because the delivery trucks are too big to fit in the small delivery space. No solution is eminent.

f) **County Parks** - Nick Franco: not present and no report.

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

Harbor District Budget – the District recently approved their preliminary FY 2019/20 budget. The budget includes operating revenues of approximately \$6M with an additional \$3M in capital projects, some of which are dependent on grants. The final budget is slated for adoption at the June 25th Board of Commissioners meeting.

Harbor Terrace Project – the District approved the 90% design review of the Harbor Terrace project at their May meeting. The presentation is available on the District's website under May 28th Board Agenda item. There was some discussion at the Commission meeting in regard to cross walks and access across Avila Beach Drive. The plans show two access ways to the beach with cross walk or "enhanced crossing treatments" which could include in road flashing lights, high visibility marking patterns, special paving materials or raised crossing. These two points are basically at or near where the access points are now – one in the Babe Lane area and the other just east of the Diablo Canyon Road. Also shown on the plans is an access that is between those two points but doesn't include a crosswalk. There is a specific condition of approval, #67 that addresses crosswalks and notes that the applicant – Red Tail Acquisitions will coordinate with County Public Works on the crosswalks.

Harbor Patrol Statistics – May

Inner Harbor 7 rescues

4 tows

11 vessel assists

179 Water Taxi runs serving 480 people

Agency Assists 22, including 4 at Pirates Cove

Lifeguards are now working on Avila Beach 7 days a week and Olde Port Beach on the weekends, through Labor Day.

h) **County Supervisor** - Adam Hill (not present but report provided by Jim Hartig): Adam was able to get more funding in the County Budget to address homelessness as the problem worsens throughout the state. Adam will have a budget summary pamphlet for next month's AVAC meeting. The impacts of Diablo's eventual closure and the uncertainty that derives from PG&E's bankruptcy remain a serious concern. Some economic forecasts are predicting a major economic downturn in the coming year, so the County continues to prepare for that as best they can. Adam spoke with County Counsel and she believes she is close to having something on ABR and permitting to present to AVAC. Finally, there was a DJ party planned last Friday by young people for Pirate's Cove. Adam got word of it and alerted the Fire Chief and Undersheriff and the party was prevented.

7. **Old Business:** None.

8. **New Business:** None.

9. **Community Liaisons:**

- a) **Avila Beach Civic Association** – Anne Brown: Anne reminded everyone that the Pancake Breakfast will be July 7<sup>th</sup>. People report that the pancakes are really good. The cost is \$7 for adults. On August 24<sup>th</sup> the Civic Association will celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Community Center and an honoring of the local apple growers. The celebration will begin at the Yacht Club with old Avila exhibits and continue to the community center where there will be a silent auction and ciders and wine. Tickets will be around \$35.
- b) **Avila Beach Foundation** - Rick Cohen: The Community Newspaper is back! Rick hopes that the paper does well with advertising sales and can stay afloat. The Foundation continues to fund the home and/or PO Box delivery in the Avila Community. There is a survey on the Foundation's website which will only take about 3 minutes. Rick invited people to share their thoughts on how the foundation can further help the community. Everyone filling out the survey will be entered into a drawing for a \$100 gift card for an Avila restaurant of the winner's choice. On Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings a work crew from Path Point will be working to clear the sand and debris from the sidewalk and beach steps on either side of the Promenade. This effort has been funded by the Foundation partnering with Chevron. The crews will be working until mid-October.
- c) **PG&E/Diablo Canyon** – Eric Daniels: The next decommissioning Engagement Panel is June 12<sup>th</sup>. The discussion will be on the future role of the engagement panel itself. In September and November the topics will be economic impacts and transportation. Anyone wanting more information can easily find the website for the decommissioning panel by a Google search. Both Units at Diablo Canyon are currently at 100% power. Eric also mentioned that the Community Wildfire Safety program is multi-dimensional. There will be a public workshop to discuss power shut off to prevent wildfire at the Embassy Suites on June 20<sup>th</sup>. He reminded people that unless you have an inverter and/or a battery wall your rooftop solar will not be providing you electricity during any power outages.

10. **AVAC Committees:**

- a. **Land Use** - Sherri Danoff: Sherri passed out copies of "Downtown Avila Beach – Informal Parking Survey". She encouraged everyone to complete the survey and provide it back to Dave Flynn of County Public Works as soon as possible.
- b. **Diablo** - Ken Thompson: The take-a-ways from the Diablo Independent Safety Committee meetings last week were that HOLTEC is working on securing a temporary long term spent fuel storage site in New Mexico. To view the video of the meeting, go to SLO\_span.org. Also, the next Diablo Canyon refueling outage will begin in September for Unit 2. The NRC will be providing at local public meeting on the decommissioning process in the future. When Ken learns of the exact date, he will provide the information to members of AVAC.
- c. **Port** – Mary Matakovich: nothing to add.
- d. **Avila Beach** - Anne Brown: Still waiting to hear if the Coastal Commission will hear the appeal of the Salucci/Hodge project in July.

- e. **San Luis Bay Estates** - Jim Hartig: The Grand Jury report “Emergency Medical Services – Are we Covered?” was reviewed and noted that the comments were similar to comments, studies, and advocacy made by AVAC in the past. Jim made a motion to support a draft letter to Adam Hill regarding AVAC’s support of the Grand Jury report. The comments included providing additional paramedics on County-funded engines. Danoff seconded the motion. Some discussion followed regarding the cost and funding of the recommendations. The motions was then voted on and passed unanimously.
  - f. **Avila Valley**: - Julia Hartzell: nothing to report.
  - g. **See Canyon** - Denise Allen: nothing to report.
  - h. **Squire Canyon** – Kirt Collins: On May 24<sup>th</sup> there was a break-in in Squire Canyon, so beware of the summer months bringing in people looking for opportunities.
  - i. **Ad Hoc Committees** - Jim Hartig: There have been no ad-hoc meetings in the last month.
11. **Next meeting date**: Monday, July 8, 2019
12. **Adjourn**: Meeting was adjourned at 8:26pm.

Respectfully submitted:  
Lynn Walter  
Secretary