

AVILA VALLEY ADVISORY COUNCIL (AVAC)

San Luis Obispo County, CA

PO Box 65

Avila Beach, CA 93424

July 8, 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, MaryEl Hansen, Marti Brand (alt), Sherri Danoff, Jim Hartig, Ken Thompson, Martin Suits, Steve Benedict, Saul Goldberg, Lynn Walter (alt), Kirt Collins, and Margaret Greenough. Carol Hayden (alt), Denise Allen, Mike Casola, and Liz Guho-Johnson (alt) were not present. Quorum established.

2. **Approve Minutes:** There was a question on the June minutes regarding the Calls for Service by Cal Fire and the number of those that were medically related. It was determined that the minutes should reflect "twenty three were medically related." Based on that change a motion was made by Brown and seconded by Danoff to approve minutes. The minutes were approved with unanimous vote.
3. **Chair's Comments:** Jim Hartig: (1) The All-Way stop at the 101 and San Luis Bay Drive, Ontario Road intersection is in! (Much applause following that comment). (2) The San Luis Bay Estates hiking club again participated in the annual Civic Center Association's pancake breakfast. The food was delicious and the even was as fun as ever.
4. **Public Comments:** There were two public comments. (1) Katie Sturtevant from Avila Beach Resort was pleased with the Lyle Lovett concert held July 7th where the Resort invited the community members to attend free of charge. There were about 1500 attendees of which 500 or so were from Avila. Upcoming events include; July 14th from 10:00am to 3:00pm "Gears on the Green" which is a free car show on the 18th green, July 18th concert with Rufus du Sol, July 24th family movie night "Moana" (bring your golf cart), August 2nd concert with "Slightly Stoopid", and August 9th concert with Buddy Guy. Katie answered several questions about smoking allowed on the Resort during events. She answered that smoking marijuana is not allowed but cigarettes are and designated smoking locations are provided. The Resort uses Miller's Security service that is a licensed security detail and the numbers of security guards vary depending on the size of the crowd. The resort stages numerous fire extinguishers around the resort site. (2) Mary Chiu of Friends of Avila Pier announced that there will be a meeting of this non-profit on July 29th at the yacht club. The "Donate" website is almost up and running. She also thanked the Avila Beach Resort for the free admission to the Lyle Lovett concert. She enjoyed the concert and the opportunity to have the experience of attending an event at the Resort. She thought it was well-run and a fun experience, however there was a bit of a backup with the traffic going to the event.
5. **Treasurer's Report:** Julia Hartzell: There were no expenses for June 2019 and the checking balance remains at \$1,751.63.
6. **County and Local Agency Reports:**

- a) **Sheriff** – Commander Justin Nelson (Senior Deputy Bird filling in): In the month of June there were one hundred forty three calls for service which resulted in thirty three reports. This included five assault/battery, four disturbances, three burglaries, two thefts, one phone scam and six suspicious circumstances. A notable event occurred on June 9th that involved an argument beginning at a party on the Cal Poly Beach (also known as the dog beach or olde port beach) and ending with someone brandishing a gun at the intersection at First and Avila Beach drive. Additionally problems continue at Pirates Cove. Over the July 4th week, the Sheriff noticed through social media that a DJ was advertising a rap concert in the evening at Pirates Cove. This event was unpermitted and the Sheriff moved to shut it down. A 21 year old male was found on the beach in a state of alcohol poisoning which required EMT and Fire assistance. The Sheriff department recognizes that holiday weekend activities are recurring at Pirates Cove – they will be seeking more resources to handle things that arise during the upcoming Labor Day weekend. Last month Deputy Bird heard the AVAC concerns about the homeless and transient population infiltrating Avila and mentioned that they now have someone on their force who is an expert in available services to people who live on the streets, parks and open space. He will be assigned to connect these people with services. Finally, Bike Patrols will be periodically extending their tour through Avila. Though not specifically assigned to Avila, they will be present in Avila occasionally. Julia Hartzell mentioned that she had called 911 due to illegal fireworks in Avila Valley estates. Deputy Bird responded that the law is such that they basically have to catch someone in the act to issue a citation for illegal fireworks. If it gets called in, the call gets put in as a “patrol check” and it is lower on the priority of everything else they have to focus on. Another option is to call the non-emergency hotline at (805) 781- 4550. MaryEl Hansen provided information about a recent, sophisticated internet scam. She had received an email where the sender had their password and that they had installed malware on their computers. The sender offered to remove it for 1200 Bit Coin. The Sheriff recommended a resource “IC3” which accepts internet crime complaints from victims.
- b) **Highway Patrol** – Captain Kurker: Is the new lieutenant who has arrived in SLO from the LA area. He wanted to introduce himself to the community but in the future other sergeants will be providing the monthly AVAC update. Captain Kurker has had a 21 year career with the CHP starting on motorcycles and various assignments in LA, Sacramento, Concord, and San Fernando Valley. He teaches leadership classes for the CHP and he was on the special response team during the Woolsey Fire.
- c) **CAL Fire** - Batt. Chief Paul Lee (not present but provided this input): Chief Lee wanted to extend his thanks for so many people clearing their property of weeds and flammable brush. Cal Fire will be moving forward with more Fire Safe Grants over the next several months to help harden our communities. Finally, Cal Fire is fully staffed for wildfire season and no more burning is allowed until season ending rain fall occurs. Please remind folks to call if they have any concerns, since it is better to keep small issues small.
- d) **Planning** - Sara Sanders: Updates to the planning spreadsheet included: Project #10, “Once Upon a Time LLC” – hotel expansion in Avila Village which is now slated for a planning commission hearing on July 25th. Also, Sara announced that this was her last time attending AVAC for the County Planning department. She will be taking a new position as planner focusing on long range and housing projects at SLOCOG. July 26th is her last day with the County. There has been no decision/announcement as to who would be taking her place but for specific questions she suggested that AVAC contact the planner assigned to each specific project or Matt Janssen for those projects assigned to Sara. Many people applauded her work for AVAC and appreciated her patience and responsive updates.

- e) **Public Works** - Dave Flynn: The new All-Way stop is really not a 5-way stop. It is actually the way to deal with 2 distinct intersections; that of the 101 on and off-ramp and that of the Ontario Road and San Luis Bay Drive intersection. He reminded that this is a 5-10 years solution but they have started to work with Cal Trans to address a future traffic signal that will control a safe flow of traffic. The parking survey for the downtown area is complete, and a lot of responses were received. They will be posting the results on the County Public Works website under "Current Projects". They will also be bringing the results to a future Land Use Committee meeting. The consultant GHG has completed the Avila Circulation Study and will be presenting to AVAC at the August 12th meeting. This will result in an important update to the road impact fees. The improvement at the Avila Beach Drive and 101 intersections is undergoing an environmental impact review. This should be ready for public comment in November. Saul Goldberg asked Dave to check in to the function of the green/red bicycle light when the pedestrian "walk" button is pushed from the street crosswalk.
- f) **County Parks** - Nick Franco: County Parks has held a pre-application meeting to get last minute input from all interested parties. The engineering consultant is tracking and resolving all comments and then the application will be submitted. There has already been an informal meeting with the coastal commission staff. However, the goal is to have the application submitted and approved. If it doesn't get appealed then it will not be going to the Coastal Commission. Nick mentioned that the ADA parking at the Bob Jones trailhead has been repainted so it is visible. The trees in the Avila beach park appear to have a fungal disease due to the years of drought followed by a very wet season. These scraggly looking trees will recover. Karla Bitner asked if the County could replace or repair the very badly rusted signs near the Avila Beach Park basketball court that display the flora and fauna of the area. Lisa Newton implored County Parks to consider doing something about the trash in the park. The trash cans overflow and trash left out in plastic bags next to the overfull trash cans gets distributed by the seagulls. Nick said he would look into solutions; possibly relocating trash cans, providing more (but same size) trash cans, and looking at stipulating as part of the reservation agreement of park space/tables that trash be carried out with those using the reserved space.
- g) **Port San Luis** - Andrea Lueker (not present but provided by Mary Matakovich):

Harbor Terrace Project – Red Tail Acquisitions is preparing their responses to the County's comments on their permit submissions. District staff is moving the last of the District equipment from the site this week or early next week.

Credible Shark Sightings – last week, the Harbor Patrol received three separate credible white shark sighting reports within the mooring field. Officers made necessary notifications and posted advisory signs for 72 hours.

Avila Pier – Moffat and Nichol, who are doing the next phase of evaluating the Avila Pier, are putting together their schedule of work and the District hopes to have that in the next few weeks. A portion of the next phase includes diving on the piles to assess their condition as well as doing an above water inspection (stringers, caps, decking).

Dredging – the District has completed their annual dredging, which is done in-house with District staff. The dredging went later than normal this year due to the southern swell that we experienced in June. Dredging typically begins in March, ends in early June with

approximately 25,000 cubic yards of sand dredged from in front of the Travel Hoist and Trailer Boat Hoist. Without dredging, those facilities will be extremely limited in use due to sand accumulation.

- h) **County Supervisor** - Adam Hill (not present but report provided by Nicole Nix): Nicole provided everyone a pamphlet with a summary of the Recommended Budget for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 prepared by the County Administrative Office. The board is expected to approve the final budget in September 2019. Julia Hartzell asked if next time Adam could present the status of the cannabis ordinance, specifically how it addresses smoking cannabis in public. Lynn Walter noted that Adam has been absent more frequently at AVAC meetings this year compared to past years and wondered why.

7. **Old Business:** None.

8. **New Business:** None.

9. **Community Liaisons:**

- a) **Avila Beach Civic Association** – Anne Brown: The pancake breakfast was a success! This event provides good income for the association. Also, there will be a 60th birthday celebratory event for the Civic Association. The celebration will begin at the Yacht Club and will continue to the Community Center. Anne will provide more information at the next meeting .
- b) **Avila Beach Foundation** - Rick Cohen: It's officially grant making season! The Foundation has sent notices to all prior grant recipients. The foundation's website has the downloadable application form. The deadline is mid-September. If anyone would like help in completing the application, Rick is available to contact. The recent Foundation survey has closed and they obtained a lot of good information. Currently Rick is trying to encapsulate the data in an understandable form and will be sharing that with us soon. There was a winner drawn for completing the survey and a \$100 gift certificate, good at any Avila restaurant, was awarded.
- c) **PG&E/Diablo Canyon** – Eric Daniels: Both units are at 100% power and running reliably. Next year's Community Engagement Panel on Decommissioning is not finalized, but upcoming meetings for the rest of this year are scheduled; September 18th on the topic of economic impacts, and November 13th on the topic of transportation. The meetings are at the County government center with a poster session at 6:00pm and the meeting beginning at 6:30pm. Sherri Danoff stressed the importance of the second meeting for all those who are living in Avila who will be most impacted by transporting of materials to and from the decommissioning site. PG&E has committed to studying alternate ways of transportation of materials. Eric also mentioned that the World Association of Nuclear Operators did a peer review of the Emergency Response Program for Diablo Canyon. Their comments were positive.

10. **AVAC Committees:**

- a. **Land Use** - Sherri Danoff: The committee met twice with Public Works in June; once with Dave Flynn and once with Genaro Diaz. The land use committee provided comments regarding ideas and design for the Avila Beach Drive and 101 intersections. The Environmental Impact Report should be ready in November for public comments.

- b. **Diablo** - Ken Thompson: Salud Carbajal wrote to the NRC with a request to come discuss safety, funds for decommissioning and changes within the NRC at a community forum. The response is that NRC will be coming to SLO in August or September and Ken will inform the council when plans are firm.
 - c. **Port** – Mary Matakovich: Nothing to add.
 - d. **Avila Beach** - Anne Brown: There have been no new projects reviewed over the last month.
 - e. **San Luis Bay Estates** - Jim Hartig: nothing to report.
 - f. **Avila Valley**: - Julia Hartzell: Mr. King has applied for a permit for site restoration at the location of his proposed 44 RV cabin resort and Brewery (project #11 on the project spreadsheet). The planner will contact the Water Board mid-July to understand the schedule for processing the permit and let Julia know of the status.
 - g. **See Canyon** - Denise Allen: not present no report.
 - h. **Squire Canyon** – Kirt Collins: There was another bad accident recently at the 101 northbound off-ramp and the left turn from Avila Beach Drive on to Monte Road and the 101 northbound on-ramp.
 - i. **Ad Hoc Committees** - Jim Hartig: There have been no ad-hoc meetings in the last month.
11. **Next meeting date**: Monday, August 12, 2019
12. **Adjourn**: Meeting was adjourned at 8:13pm.

Respectfully submitted:
Lynn Walter
Secretary