

AVILA VALLEY ADVISORY COUNCIL (AVAC)

San Luis Obispo County, CA

September 10, 2018

www.avac-avila.org

1. **Call to Order:** by Chair, Jim Hartig for regular meeting held at 7:00 p.m., PG&E Community Center.

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

2. **Approve Minutes:** Minutes for August 13, 2018 were unanimously approved following a motion to approve by Danoff and a second by Matakovich.
3. **Chair's Comments:** Jim Hartig reminded us that in the last AVAC meeting we agreed to move the dates of the next two public meetings pending availability for the Energy Center space. It was confirmed available in the last few weeks so the next meeting will be October 1st. The November meeting will be held on November 5th.
4. **Public Comments:** There were 3 members of the public who spoke during this time: (1) Karen Aydelott from Heal SLO Healthy Communities discussed how housing can have a profound impact on health. She invited us all that there will be a half-day summit to learn from state and local innovators in health and housing. Planners, builders, developers, architects, community leaders and advocates will gain new knowledge and practical tips. You must register at www.healslo.com. (2) Shirley Goetz of Avila Beach discussed that due to a conflict of interest the Avila Beach Bird Sanctuary project's holding account was terminated. This has resulted in not holding events related to birds and wildlife in the area. Apparently there was a non-profit that was formed in February of 2016 named "Avila Beach Bird Sanctuary, Inc" but there is no evidence that it exists or is functioning today, resulting in no benefit for Avila Beach related to the bird sanctuary. (3) Steve Rossi of the Avila Village Inn related an incident at the Inn that involved the sheriff, patrons and a stranger who has not been apprehended at this time. The incident occurred on the balcony of a guest room where the guests noticed a man who proceeded to disturb them. The Inn staff called the sheriff but the man fled. The man returned a second time and again the sheriff was called. The man appeared to have fled in a golf cart like vehicle. The Sheriff has some photos and video of the incident however the identity is hard to discern. Keep a watchful eye.
5. **Treasurer's Report:** Julia Hartzell: There was no activity last month and the current balance remains at: \$1,766.63.
6. **County and Local Agency Reports:**
 - a) **Sheriff** – Commander Jim Voge: not present - no report.
 - b) **Highway Patrol** - Sergeant Heiderbrink: not present - no report.
 - c) **CAL Fire** - Batt. Chief Paul Lee: Last month there were 59 calls for service, 33 of those were medical related. The wildfires in the state have been a challenge. There are 12 large

wildland fires still burning in California, mostly in the Redding area but some also in Southern California. The Governor has been supportive of the need for resources and Cal Fire has been able to hire an additional 300 firefighters. SLO County now has a large air tanker stationed at the Paso Robles airport, as well as a helicopter water dropper – a helicopter that can replenish its water from the ocean. Unfortunately there was a significant accident at Ontario Road and Avila Bay Drive. Two vehicles had a head on collision and both drivers were knocked unconscious. The new Jaws of Life were used to extricate the drivers and both were taken to a trauma center. They are expected to make a full recovery. Cal Fire continues to do vegetation management at Cave Landing. Their goal in this location is to keep the illegal fires that are common at the beach from sparking a wild land fire towards the neighboring homes. Chief Lee also reminded us to keep our “go bag” handy in case we have to evacuate at any time. Particularly important is to remember to keep needed daily medications in that bag. Finally he reminded us to call Cal Fire if we see anything suspicious related to smoke or fire. MaryEl Hansen then provided some information regarding her fire insurance. The insurance company had done a fly-over and took aerial photos of her location within Bassi Ranch. Even though their house has sprinklers, concrete shingles and clear space surrounding, the insurance company decided to cancel what they thought was a high risk for fire wildland area. She made a case that for any proposed future development in our area takes seriously the consideration about the potential for fires. Chief Lee recommended a reach out to the California Insurance Commission, which she has done.

- d) **Planning** - Sara Sanders: Sara provided the following updates to the planning spreadsheet: (Item #3). The board denied the appeal for Nolte project at 157 San Luis Street; however Sherri Danoff noted that the appeal was partially approved because there were certain conditions (extra parking) that were required by the board. (Item #7) The General Plan Update/Community Plan Update RFP is being reviewed by Planning Department Management which will take a couple of weeks and then it will be released to hire the consultant. (Item #15) The King property Conditional Use Permit/Development Plan continues the status of a stop work order. The project continues to be on Information Hold since 12/17. The Regional Water Quality Board has received an application for a 401 Permit which is intended to rehabilitate the wetland site.

Next Sara introduced us to Trevor Keith who is our new SLO County Planning Department Director. He has lived in SLO County for several years having attended Cal Poly in the early 90's. Then he moved into environmental consulting and even worked in County Planning almost a decade ago. He loves and spends time in Avila, as do his kids who love the beach. He is also on the Diablo Canyon Engagement Council which is an important related process to his job as Planning Director for the County. His first order of business is to take 3 months and assess the department workload, customer service, commitment and efficiencies. He will be making changes as he sees necessary. He said “customer” for the planning department includes Avila citizens.

- e) **Public Works** - Dave Flynn: Dave Updated us on several initiatives his team is working on for Avila: The Avila Beach Drive Bridge seismic retrofit has so far been entirely below the deck (traffic level). Tomorrow begins the closing of 1 lane of traffic for a concrete pour and in early October the excavation behind the concrete walls at each end of the bridge will occur. New structural stabilizers will be installed at each end. They will be working with Chevron to excavate out the remaining of the oil pipelines. To the extent possible, the lane closures will avoid Diablo Canyon commute traffic. The project expects to complete in mid-December. The Omni-Means (consultant) traffic demand management study is now

uploaded on the website. Public Works will meet with the Land Use Committee of AVAC to discuss this report. There is also a parking study posted on the County Public Works website under "current projects". This study, performed by another consultant will also be discussed with the Land Use Committee. Public Works is also expecting another report to be available mid-November regarding the intersection of Ontario Road and San Luis Bay Drive. Dave plans to bring this to AVAC in early 2019 for discussion. At the November meeting, Dave plans on presenting the Avila Beach Drive and Highway 101 interchange study and the environmental documents that are currently being prepared. Saul Goldberg was curious about the Omni-Means report crediting the Bob Jones Trail for bicycle egress and ingress for Golf Course events. Saul pointed out that the Bob Jones Trail is actually closed at night and is too dark for traffic at night. Dave agreed with his comment. Julia Hartzell mentioned to Dave that the San Luis Bay Drive and its lower intersection with Avila Valley Estates Drive has some overgrowth causing drivers to have to pull far out on the road to turn out of the Avila Valley Estates Drive. Dave said he would look into removing the interfering vegetation. Also, Julia mentioned that there is a portion of the Avila Valley Estates Drive that is owned by the county and is in need of mowing. Dave said he would look into that also. MaryEl Hansen asked whether Cal Trans is still considering adding lighting for 101 off ramps and on ramps to San Luis Bay Drive. Dave answered that Cal Trans has budgeted for it but it looks like it is 1-2 years away in priority.

- f) **County Parks** - Nick Franco: The Cave Landing project is proceeding but slowly. Tomorrow the request for funding to go back to the original engineering group to re-design the project is on the Board of Supervisors consent agenda. The goal now is to manage this area as a natural area rather than a park, which was a common agreement between all the parties involved. The scope is a one-time cleanup of the trash and graffiti with ongoing maintenance and ranger presence, consolidation of signs, vandalism resistant trash cans, using native rock on the parking area and bounding the parking area with boulders. There was a lot of discussion from the public and AVAC about installing public restrooms. Unfortunately that is not one of the areas of mutual agreement among all parties so that is not part of the current project scope. Kirt Collins asked if the park would be closed at night. Again, that is not currently in the scope. Betty Hartig asked about budget for follow up maintenance which Nick said is part of the planned scope. Beverly Henry stated that Rangers are not enforcers and wondered how they could be a deterrent to graffiti artists and unlawful behavior. Nick agreed that Rangers are not enforcers but they are the eyes and ears for the Sheriff. Also, he mentioned that for some subset of people, seeing an official ranger vehicle will encourage better behaviors.

- g) **Port San Luis** - Andrea Lueker (not present but report provided):

1. Avila Pier - The Board of Harbor Commissioners, at their August meeting, directed staff to move forward with the engineering firm of Moffat and Nichol to complete a study to look at the condition of the Avila Pier and provide a more specific cost estimate for repairs/replacement. Expect to have a completed study by late 2018.

2. District's Interest in Property Owned by PG&E - District staff will be presented to the Diablo Canyon Decommissioning Engagement Panel at the upcoming Facility Repurposing Workshop scheduled for Saturday, September 15 at 8:30 am. The presentation will include information on the Diablo/PG&E assets the Harbor District has interest in and area associated with District operations.

3. Cruise Ships – National Geographic is planning on being anchored in San Luis Bay on December 5th between 8:00 am and 3:00 pm. The vessel is the National Geographic Venture built in 2018 (293 ft. long, 48 ft. wide, 9 ft. draft) with capacity for 100 passengers. If conditions are favorable, the passengers will board their inflatable tenders (Zodiacs) and access the Harford Pier from the floating public landing. From there, several excursions are planned for the passengers. The Harbor District continues to work on further specifics and will provide those as they come available.

4. Statistics for August - Extremely busy summer!

Harbor Patrol

11 Inner Harbor rescues

1 Outer Harbor rescue

14 Vessel assists

22 Aid other Agencies (such as Cal Fire, Fish and Wildlife, CHP, Sheriff)

Water Taxi

180 Water Taxi runs serving 577 individuals

Lifeguard

38 preventative actions

1 rescue aided by Harbor Patrol and their vessel

13 medical aids

516 public contacts

136 dog ordinance reminders

21,575 beach crowd estimate

- h) County Supervisor** - Adam Hill: Supervisor Hill made it clear that the County has only owned the Cave landing property for 5 years. The problems were inherited although they have gotten increasingly worse over time. The project that the County Parks is now engaged in has the support from all groups of people and the most opportunity to get approved by the Coastal Commission. There was much discussion about this and almost outrage that the Coastal Commission would allow the property to be so damaged but the previous project's appeal by existing users of Cave Landing was what the Coastal Commission based their previous denial of the project. Adam felt certain that the money for the revised project would be approved tomorrow at the BOS meeting. Adam mentioned his points he presented to the Diablo Canyon Engagement panel regarding splitting off the Wild Cherry Canyon portion of the land into a detached schedule – apart from the decommissioning timeline. This is an important statement in that he is optimistic about getting the funding for Wild Cherry Canyon conservation which he has been working on with various conservation groups and the State for the last two years. Adam then spoke about MaryEl's earlier comment to Chief Lee regarding the Fire considerations of new development projects. Especially with climate change, development near wild lands will most likely not be approved in the years to come due to the extreme fire dangers. Adam articulated how when he first came to the role of Supervisor the discussion was on preventing or turning around climate change – but now he finds the discussion is about how to deal with the inevitable climate change that we are experiencing and see getting even worse. Finally, Adam implored us to vote "No" on Proposition 6 which is the proposition to

roll back the tax on gasoline that has been funding key projects for our County (and the rest of the State). He pointed out that if the tax gets repealed the projects we have been talking about will probably be scrapped -in his opinion. The SLO Council of Governments has also endorsed an opposition position to Proposition 6.

7. **Old Business:** None.

8. **New Business:** None.

9. **Community Liaisons:**

a) **Avila Beach Civic Association** (Mary Matakovich for Anne Brown): The annual Apple Festival Gala is set for September 22nd and tickets are still available.

b) **Avila Beach Foundation** - Rick Cohen: not present and no report.

c) **PG&E/Diablo Canyon** – Eric Daniels: Both Units at Diablo Canyon are producing clean, carbon-free electricity at 100% power. Reminder that the next workshop days for public input on Diablo Canyon Decommissioning are September 14th and 15th at the Atascadero City Hall Rotunda – all day starting at 8:00 am each day. The workshop ideas will be synthesized and presented and discussed at the full Engagement Panel meeting scheduled for September 26th at the County Board of Supervisors chambers in SLO, starting at 6:00 pm. This set of workshops and meeting will be focused on repurpose and use of existing land and buildings. These workshops and meetings are important input to the process because the ideas will provide a contrast of costs for full dismantlement or re-purpose of some qualifying facilities. For example if the breakwater were to remain, the cost of dismantling could be saved and possibly passed on to rate payers as a savings in decommissioning costs. Future meetings are scheduled for October 24th (focused on Emergency Planning), November 14th (Used fuel storage), and December 12th (Economic impacts). Last month there was much discussion about tours for the AVAC committee and Avila Beach residents who had not been able to secure reservations for the previous tour dates. Eric has since secured a new tour date of Tuesday September 25th from 1:00 to 4:30. He will be sending out an email notification of this to the AVAC and interested people should make a reservation. Any unfilled seats can then be filled by Avila residents. Eric mentioned that the plan for the existing Transmission Lines from the Diablo Canyon Plant will be left in place. They will be available for transmitting future offshore wind or other power generation. The transmission lines are not part of the decommissioning scope.

10. **AVAC Committees:**

a. **Land Use** - Sherri Danoff: The Land Use Committee prepared some draft comments to the County concerning recommendations on the Avila Traffic Circulation Study. A motion was made (Danoff) and seconded (Hartig) and there was no discussion. Everyone had received the comments prior to the AVAC meeting. The vote was unanimous to accept and send the comments in a letter to Public Works with a copy to Planning. The included comments supporting the enforcing of existing county ordinance for event permits, limiting potential for

event traffic coinciding with beach traffic, including cost for parking at assigned locations with event tickets, providing satellite parking lots, etc.

- b. **Diablo** - Ken Thompson: no report.
- c. **Port** - Mary Matakovich: "Friends of Avila Pier", a non-profit to raise funds for repairing the Avila Pier has been formed. For those interested in fundraising and being involved in the non-profit group please attend the October 16th meeting at 6:00 pm at the Yacht Club.
- d. **Avila Beach** - Anne Brown: (delivered by Jim Hartig) There was no meeting of the Avila Beach committee this month. Anne and Vicki Book's appeal to the BOS on the Nolte project was denied with some modifications. There is also an appeal of the Hodge/Salucci hotel/condo project on 360 First Street to the Planning Commission whose hearing is scheduled for Thursday, September 27th.
- e. **San Luis Bay Estates** - Jim Hartig: nothing to report.
- f. **Avila Valley**: - Julia Hartzell: nothing to report.
- g. **See Canyon** - Denise Allen: See Canyon committee is working with Art Trinidad (County enforcement) on some long-standing and ongoing activities with the DeVinzo property.
- h. **Squire Canyon** – Kirt Collins: nothing to report.
- i. **Ad Hoc Committees** - Jim Hartig: The Ad Hoc committee has not had any meetings yet, waiting for the RFP for the Community Plan Update to be awarded and executed.

11. **Next meeting date**: Monday, **October 1, 2018 (note: not the usual second Monday)**

12. **Adjourn**: Meeting was adjourned at 8:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted:
Lynn Walter
Secretary