

AVILA VALLEY ADVISORY COUNCIL (AVAC)

San Luis Obispo County, CA

PO Box 65

Avila Beach, CA 93424

October 7, 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, Julia Hartzell, Marti Brand (voting alternate), Sherri Danoff, Jim Hartig, Ken Thompson, Saul Goldberg, Lynn Walter (voting alternate), Denise Allen and Kirt Collins. (not present): Anne Brown, MaryEl Hansen, Martin Suits, Steve Benedict, Carol Hayden, Denise Allen, Mike Casola, Liz Guho-Johnson, Margaret Greenough. Quorum established.

2. **Approve Minutes:** A motion was made by Danoff and seconded by Hartzell to approve the September 9, 2019 meeting minutes. Thanks to Mary for stepping up to take the minutes in Lynn's absence. The minutes were approved unanimously.
3. **Chair's Comments:** Jim Hartig: Jim said that Mike Casola is no longer able to come to the AVAC meetings and has stepped down from the Council. Anyone living in See Canyon should contact Denise Allen if interested in taking his place.
4. **Public Comments:** There was one public comment. Steve Rossi of the Avila Beach Resort announced an open house for the resort on October 20th at 3:00 pm. The Resort will send out invites. The purpose of the open house is to discuss the future vision or the Resort.
5. **Treasurer's Report:** Julia Hartzell: There were no expenses in September 2019. The checking balance remains at \$1,695.63.
6. **County and Local Agency Reports:**
 - a) **Sheriff** – Commander Justin Nelson: No representative from the Sheriff's office was present and no report was provided.
 - b) **Highway Patrol** – Sergeant Heiderbrink: No statistics were available for the meeting. However, the Sheriff reminded the public that active traffic control would be implemented for the upcoming concert event at the Resort. Also, there was a fatality at last Sunday from a car driving from 101 Northbound on to Avila Beach Road exit. This offramp and the entire intersection has been historically problematic.
 - c) **CAL Fire** - Batt. Chief Paul Lee: In September there were 62 calls for service of which 33 were medically related. Several fire department response occurrences were highlighted. The structure fire in San Luis Bay Estates where the Harbor patrol helped to save an elderly veteran from his home resulted in the home being fully consumed by the fire and destroyed. Cal Fire was able to keep the fire from advancing to other homes. Next there was a fatality as previously reported by the Sheriff. Unfortunately, this tragedy could have been prevented as the individual was not wearing his seatbelt. There was a boat fire at the port where the response was a multi-agency force. There were eight people in the boat who were rescued

while Cal Fire boarded the boat to find that the fire was an overheated engine. Finally, there was a fire at the Lopez Lake campground due to a reckless camper not putting out their campfire. The weather forecast of rain at the end of October isn't lessening the focus of Cal Fire which is to fully staff for upcoming winds and dry weather in the next week. Also, they have completed vegetation management in the Hartford escape route and the Baron Canyon Rocky canyon lane. These are now viable escape routes in case of fire. Chief Lee reminded the public again that if medical needs will be impacted by power outages to have at least two back ups for power and to test those methods prior to ensure they are in working order. Chief Lee also said that there is a new way to keep track of Cal Fire activities in their Pulse Point APP and by Twitter. Saul noted that during the structure fire in San Luis Bay Estates, which was just below his house, there were several nearby homeowners trying to call the fire station (911) and got a busy signal. Chief Lee said that this was because they are in the shadow of a cell tower and get spotty reception. The best bet is to call on a land line. Many people do not have a land line. In this case a resident drove down to the Fire Station to get some attention to the blaze. In response to another question, Chief Lee said that access through the gate at San Luis Bay Estates was not delayed.

- d) **Planning** – Yet to be determined planner liaison: County Planning provided an updated spreadsheet for review by the Council this month. They will continue to provide the spreadsheet. Currently, there are several planning department vacancies they are trying to fill – one of which is a liaison for AVAC. The estimate is another one to two months before they can onboard someone and get them up to speed for the liaison for AVAC. Meanwhile, AVAC noted that projects #20 and #23 didn't have the correct status. Particularly project #23 has yet to be reviewed by the Avila Beach Committee.
- e) **Public Works** - Dave Flynn – Updates from Public Works included the federal safety grant to improve crosswalks. Plans for the Bob Jones Trail crossing at Ontario Road are being sent to the Land Use Committee for review. The Avila Beach Drive negative mitigation declaration is currently being prepared. Public Works is working closely with SLOCOG to enhance the 101 corridor, particularly in the South County, through the Shell Beach straights. Of interest, is the Avila Beach drive interchange. The projects are getting ready to compete at the state level for funding and will be submitted to the State in February 2020. Julia thanked Public Works for clearing the plants and weeds that were obstructing views of turning or incoming traffic when exiting 101 north bound offramp on to San Luis Bay Drive.
- f) **County Parks** - Nick Franco: Now that it is “off-season” the Rangers will be working on projects such as vegetation management on the Bob Jones trail, scrubbing the plaza, sign replacements including some interpretive signs previously identified as corroding, and grinding of the pavement on Bob Jones to take care of the tree roots that are uplifting the path. The Cave Landing project is continuing to resolve storm water runoff and ADA issues. It looks like the plan will be ready in November to bring again to the public for review. Lisa asked that the trash in the Park was still an ongoing problem. Parks should look for other options such as reservations only at the park.
- g) **Port San Luis** - Andrea Lueker:

Avila Pier – as reported last month, Moffat and Nichol, have completed their underwater and above water inspection of the Avila Pier and are working on the final report about their findings which will then help determine the next steps. At the last Board of Commissioners meeting, the Harbor Commission approved resolutions for two grants for the Avila Pier from the Division of Boating and Waterways, one for \$200k (rehabbing the landing and funding a

portion of the overall Pier renovation), and one for \$1.5M (reconfiguration of the landing, RR rebuild and funding a portion of the overall Pier renovation).

Harbor Terrace Project – Red Tail has not yet been able to pull their grading permit due to a few outstanding items. As reported a few months ago, the County issued a use permit for the sea trains (Fishermen’s Gear Storage units) to be temporarily located on a small County parcel adjacent to the district owned Avila Parking lot. That use permit was cancelled by the County and the District will soon be moving those units to the Avila Parking.

Harbor Patrol Busy Season – On September 25th, there was a life/safety call about a fire in Indian Hills (just outside of Avila). In this situation, the Harbor Patrol was the closest law enforcement agency to assist. Due to the nature of the call – where there was a threat of death or great bodily injury, the Harbor responded. Supervising Harbor Patrol Officer Jake Vierra was successful in effecting the rescue of the WWII Veteran in his nineties as well as his dog while Cal Fire engaged in fighting the fire that affected nearby vegetation and other residences. Yesterday morning, a call came in that a 50-foot fishing boat was on fire just off the coast. With the knowledge that eight people were on board the distressed vessel, Port San Luis Harbor Patrol Officers Shaffer and Doonahoo got underway and immediately transported the six passengers and two crew members safely to shore and brought CALFIRE back to the boat to control the fire, which luckily turned out to be an overheating engine. The F/V Phenix was towed to Port San Luis and hauled out for repairs. Two recent and great examples of allied agencies working together and protecting the public.

- h) **County Supervisor** - Adam Hill: Adam passed out postcards that advertise the location and further reference location for the County’s annual report. Adam has been busy participating on a very important governmental task force on homelessness. This is a problem statewide that needs to have attention from our county to ensure that the right policies and funding are in place to benefit our community. Adam also reported that the health care in the County Jail has been completely revamped/improved. There are now behavioral, mental health and homelessness resources in the jail to service those that need it. The county has put the funding in place to ensure safety and health services are available to those who are incarcerated. Adam discussed his oversight and involvement in the PG&E bankruptcy litigations. This is going to have a large impact on the County and even though the County has hired a bankruptcy lawyer to advocate and fight for communities, the Supervisors need to be vigilant in defending the interests of the County. He also discussed the funding for SLOCOG projects. The County is hoping for \$24M from the State to improve Highway 227, the 101 Shell Beach straights and the interchange projects. Adam expects no contract related issues on the EIR contract for the Community Plan which is going forward and probably ready in late November.
- 7. **Old Business:** Rachel Kovesdi and Paul Rubison from the Somera Cottages project gave a short presentation on the project with a map of the utilities and cottage and main lodge locations. The EIR for this project will start with a scoping meeting on October 10th at 6:00 pm at the Avila Beach Community Center. The sewer service will be from San Miguelito Water Company. The project has been coordinating with Cal Fire and utilities to finalize the plans. There will be 50 cottages and a main lodge. The cottages will be various sizes up to 950 square feet. This project is located East of the San Luis Bay Inn in the eastern corner as you enter Wild Cherry Canyon.
- 8. **New Business:** none.
- 9. **Community Liaisons:**

- a) **Avila Beach Civic Association** – Anne Brown (Mary Matakovich): It's Bingo night on November 1st – come play and have some delicious spaghetti!
- b) **Avila Beach Foundation** - Rick Cohen: Rick thanked those who came to the unveiling and dedication of the newest public art in Avila last Saturday. The Central Coast Aquarium now has an outdoor display of two panels of art. A lot of research and meaning is part of the panel art and is displayed on either side of the gate to the outdoor discovery garden. The foundation is in the middle of their grant season. This year they have received fifteen applications with four of those being brand new. The board will interview all applicants and then make selections. Also, the foundation is hosting an “open APP test” in order to re-familiarize the community with the Historical Tour Application. The APP is compatible with all Android and Apple devices. There are five questions that can be found on the Foundation's website. You can use the APP to answer the questions. If you answer correctly you will be entered in a drawing to win a \$50 gift card for any Avila restaurant and an Avila Trolley Tour of the Lighthouse for two.
- c) **PG&E/Diablo Canyon** – Eric Daniels: Diablo Canyon Unit 1 is at 100% power and Unit 2 is offline undergoing a refueling outage. This outage is longer than most due to extensive work on the Turbine/Generator equipment. Ken Thompson had asked Eric to provide information on the latest results of the employee incentive program. Eric said that over 90% of the employees took the incentive which ensures enough qualified people remain to operate the plant safely until it is shut down permanently. Also Eric provided a reminder and encouragement to attend the Decommissioning Panel Workshop which will be held at the Board of Supervisors Chambers on October 17th from 1:30 to 6:00 pm. The topic of this meeting is on re-purposing projects. This is an opportunity to provide public input. The results of this workshop will be discussed at the next regular Decommissioning Panel meeting on November 13th from 6:00 to 9:30 pm.

10. **AVAC Committees:**

- a. **Land Use** - Sherri Danoff: The Land Use Committee is working with public works on incorporating comments on the Circulation Study. The committee presented a proposed letter to County Supervisors regarding the Avila Circulation Study and Road Improvement Fee Update. The letter expressed support for adoption of the Study but mentioned disappointment for its recommendation on lowering the General Plan's Level of Service for Avila. The letter also recommends that all traffic management measures in the study be implemented promptly. A motion by Goldberg was made to approve the letter and Thompson seconded the motion. The Council voted to approve the letter with eight members voting “yes” and two (Collins and Newton) abstaining.
- b. **Diablo** - Ken Thompson: The Diablo Canyon Independent Safety Committee is here October 23rd and 24th for their routine public meeting. Ken will send out the agenda as soon as it is posted on their website.
- c. **Port** – Mary Matakovich: nothing to add.
- d. **Avila Beach** - Anne Brown (Jim Hartig): The Avila Beach committee will meet on October 23rd. There are four projects to review, two of them regarding the Chevron Property. Another one is related to a second story addition on an existing house. Also, a new project was just received today from Planning.

- e. **San Luis Bay Estates** - Jim Hartig: no report.
- f. **Avila Valley**: - Julia Hartzell: Julia commented that the Project (#21) to turn the schoolhouse wine tasting room into a day care center on Ontario Road has run into water issues.
- g. **See Canyon** - Denise Allen: no report.
- h. **Squire Canyon** – Kirt Collins: Kirt remarked that the fatality this last weekend at the 101 offramp is the second one this year and appealed to the County to focus on improving the safety of this interchange.
- i. **Ad Hoc Committees** - Jim Hartig: The Ad-Hoc committee has and continues to be inactive.

11. Next meeting date: Monday, November 4, 2019 (note this is a change from the second Monday in the month due to Veterans Day which is a county holiday).

12. Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 8:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted:
Lynn Walter
AVAC Secretary