

AVILA VALLEY ADVISORY COUNCIL (AVAC)

San Luis Obispo County, CA

PO Box 65

Avila Beach, CA 93424

September 14, 2020

www.avac-avila.org

1. **Call to Order:** by the Chair, Jim Hartig, for regular meeting at 7:00pm, via Zoom.

Roll Call (present): Mary Matakovich, Lisa Newton, Julia Hartzell, MaryEl Hansen, Marti Bland, Sherri Danoff, Jim Hartig, Ken Thompson, Steve Benedict, Michael Clayton, Kirt Collins, Carol Hayden. Quorum was established.

2. **Approve Minutes:** Motion was made and seconded (Clayton/Newton) to approve the August 10, 2020 meeting minutes as amended. Motion carried.
3. **Chair's Comments:** Jim Hartig noted that this is the Council's fourth Zoom meeting, which is getting more complicated as the number attending the meeting is increasing. This is a good thing. He asked the Council for their patience and that the members stay muted until they determine they want to speak.
4. **Public Comment:** No written comments received.
5. **Treasurer's Report:** Julia Hartzell reported that there was one expense, Zoom Meeting fee - \$14.99. The balance is \$970.17.
6. **County and Local Agency Reports:**
 - a) **Sheriff** – Commander Justin Nelson's report indicated that there were 277 calls for service compared to 142 last year. There were: two batteries or assaults, 12 service disruptions, 6 burglaries, 4 thefts, 1 vandalism and four suspicious circumstances reported.
 - b) **Highway Patrol** – Commander Greg Klingenburg indicated that there were five traffic collisions, of which 2 were non-injury and three minor injury. There was one DUI. He also is working with the Harbor Patrol as there are issues with the RVs parking on Avila Beach Drive. "A question was asked regarding reporting shooting in the area of Alliance Way and the response was that residents should contact the Sheriffs Department."
 - c) **CAL Fire** - Batt. Chief Paul Lee stated that there were 61 calls for service of which 34 were medically-related. The lightning series that pushed through Santa Barbara County and moved into Northern California started many fires in the SLO County. Throughout the State lightning series resulted in the 2nd and 3rd largest fires ever in California's history. Many of the fires are now contained but with the past heat wave additional fires have started in California stretching resources as far as they can. The local station in Battalion 6 are fully-staffed and additional contract aircraft and National Guard aircraft are being put into service. All local vegetation management projects have been put on-hold as top priority is containment of the large fires in the State. Please remind people that if they see something that could cause a fire, to please call immediately to keep small problems small.
 - d) **Planning** - Planner Kimmie Nguyen presented a written report which reviewed projects: # 1, the Cave Landing Trailhead Project proposed by County Parks and Recreation presented at this meeting; #2 – 51 San Luis St. is on-hold; #3 – the King RV Project which is scheduled for rehabilitation of the wetland planting for this month. Thanks to the over two hundred participants who took the survey. The feedback on land use and vacation rental policy will be closely followed as the draft report is developed. A summary memo of the survey results will be in the appendix of the draft plan. The Team is preparing a package of four chapters to be reviewed by the Ad-hoc Committee

this month. The Team is reaching out to the Avila business community. Council members are encouraged to give businesses Kimmie's contact information; so, they can participate in this process.

e) County Parks – Nick Franco referenced a presentation on the Cave Landing Project in this meeting. He briefly talked about the Coastal Conservancy assisting with funding possibly. He again noted that the trash situation is overwhelming for the staff and he appreciates the volunteers who are helping out.

f) Public Works - John Waddell provided a written report stating that County Public Works and the Parks Department are jointly submitting a grant application to the Caltrans Active Transportation Program for the Bob Jones Completion Program. The application is for \$18.2M to complete the project. This is a competitive grant program; so, funding is not guaranteed. Please notify Public Works right away if you have any road maintenance issues.

g) Harbor District – Harbor Manager Andrea Lueker presented a report which stated that the Harbor Terrace Project is in its 29th week. Utility work is continuing along with work on the Harbor District sites: Trailer Boat Storage area, Harbor District Storage yard and the Fishermen's Gear Storage. The Avila Pier Repair Plan is due for the Commissioners' action at their September or their October meeting. Harbor Terrace Project's opening is down the road! Harford Pier Site Plan is in the works. The Board has authorized a local company, FraserSeiple, to complete a site plan. This process will involve a variety of stakeholders. To stay informed, subscribe to the Notify Me Program on the District website; sign-up to receive the "News Flashes" by email. The Ocean Rose, the historic kelp cutter vessel that harvested kelp from the San Luis Bay to feed the red abalone at the Abalone Farms for 30 years, is retiring because the farm is closed.

h) County Supervisor – No report

Old Business: None

New Business:

Discussion: Proposed Cave Landing Project County Parks presented by Shaun Cooper. Shaun highlighted the goal of the project is to protect the natural area of the beach and allow public access. He noted the issues: trash, graffiti, partying, and poor parking. He reviewed the 24-hour public access issue and the historical clothing-optional practice. The proposal is a result of two public workshops. Aspects of the plan include: cleaning-up the property of the trash, placing trash cans, removing all graffiti, having the presence of a Park Ranger, and smoothing-out the parking lot. There are 68 parking spaces and four handicapped spots. There will be a Planning Commission Hearing for a Minor Use Permit on Oct. 16; the details will be posted on the Planning Commission's website. The Coastal Conservancy is looking at partial funding of this project at their Nov. 16th meeting. If there are any questions, contact Shaun at secooper@co.slo.ca.us. Brian LoConte shared a recommendation to increase the parking area – east of the handicapped parking area; this recommendation will be presented at the Planning Commission Hearing. Gene Quayle commended the Parks Dept. for their work and wanted to be sure that they emphasize the historical public access use of the Pirates Cove being a clothing-optional beach. The issue of crime and partying was raised; staff responded with additional presence of the Parks Staff and the Sheriff, given it will be under the County Parks system. Mr. Wilkerson, a neighbor, addressed the 24 hour access along with the camping overnight and for weeks, etc. Nick responded that this plan is a starting point which will evolve based upon the need to provide a safe environment for the public. The plan is to phase-in the plan and ramp it up as needed to address what the public needs.

Community Liaisons:

- a) Avila Beach Civic Association** – The Avila Beach Civic Association Building is still closed; therefore, no scheduled events nor activities.
- b) Avila Beach Foundation** – Rick Cohen indicated that the Foundation-funded PathPoint participants are taking a break from their work on the sweeping the sidewalks of the promenade; this is due to the bad air quality. They plan to return when the air quality is better.
- c) PG&E/Diablo Canyon** – Eric Daniels reported that both towers are 100%. He stated that a letter of support for the expansion of the Bob Jones Trail was written. He suggested that members go

to the Diablo Canyon Decommissioning Panel website for details as to their next hearing on October 28 at 6:30PM when they will be addressing the Water Resources at Diablo, to include the tidal pools, the re-purposing of the Breakwater, etc. Also, there are new members to the panel and they are listed on the website.

10. AVAC Committees:

- a. **Land Use** – Sherri Danoff presented a letter from the committee on the Cave Landing Project. Motion was made and seconded (Danoff/Newton) to accept the Committee’s letter to the County. Motion approved.
- b. **Diablo** – No report
- c. **Port** – Mary Matakovich wanted to congratulate the Staff on their decision to move the gate on the Avila Pier to Bent 59. This now allows the public walking access further on the pier. This means additional maintenance attention to the pier along with the hope of the social distancing. They are making this work for the public.
- d. **Avila Beach** – Sherri Danoff, on behalf of Anne Brown, presented a committee letter with recommendations for the project at 51 San Luis Street Project. Motion was made and seconded (Danoff/Matakovich) to forward the letter to County Planning Dept. Motion carried.
- e. **San Luis Bay Estates** - No report.
- f. **Avila Valley:** - Julia Hartzell stated that this committee will follow-up with Commander Nelson regarding the firing of weapons in the neighborhood.
- g. **See Canyon** – No report
- h. **Squire Canyon** – Kirt Collins recommended to Parks Dept. to consider closing Cave Landing from 9PM to 5AM, as this is the window when most of the problems occur.
- i. **Ad Hoc Committee** – Meeting will be set for the Committee to review of the first four chapters drafted by the Team. This will occur this month per Kimmie’s report.

11. Next meeting date: Monday, October 5, 7 PM

12. Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM

Respectfully submitted:
Mary Matakovich, Secretary