

AVILA VALLEY ADVISORY COUNCIL (AVAC)

San Luis Obispo County, CA

PO Box 65

Avila Beach, CA 93424

February 8, 2021

www.avac-avila.org

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

Roll Call (present): Steve Benedict, Mary Matakovich, Julia Hartzell, Mary El Hansen, Marti Brand, Sherri Danoff, Jim Hartig, Ken Thompson, Curtis Cole, Denise Allen, Carol Hayden, Margaret Greenough, Lisa Newton, Bill Crewe. Quorum was established.

2. **Approve Minutes:** Motion was made and seconded (Jim Hartig/Margaret Greenough) to approve the January, 2020 meeting minutes as amended. Motion carried.
3. **Chair's Comments:** Steve Benedict thanks new officers, with minutes approval we can have the new treasurer update the bank records.
4. **Public Comment:** No written comments received.
5. **Treasurer's Report:** Denise Allen gives the January report.
January expenses: Zoom 14.99.
Balance in Checking Acct: \$3092.22
6. **County and Local Agency Reports:**
 - a) **Sheriff** – Sgt Arauza is present as a representative. Report received. Calls for service 31 (last year 29). One assault/battery COVID complaints. In general, activity depends on weather, etc. There is increased preventative patrol in Avila. Comments on disturbance at Avila Bay Inn, 2 suspects arrested who were wanted for a homicide in Fresno. Overall a good outcome.
 - b) **Highway Patrol** – Captain Klingenberg. In Avila for January: 3 collisions (1 property damage, 2 hit and runs). Total collision reports from 2016-2020 Avila beach drive/Ontario: 9. Avila Beach/Shell beach road 12 collisions. Summary from last year, decreased traffic overall so many of the issues faced by Hwy Patrol in a normal year did not occur (due to COVID). When events in Avila start again they expect traffic to increase.
 - c) **Cal Fire:** Battalion Chief Paul Lee. 51 calls for service, 28 medically related. Higher than normal this year because of nice weather. Happy with recent rain, bringing moisture levels up. Type 3 incident management team deployed for one month now helping the county with running COVID immunization centers. Lighthouse burn postponed to mid-fall because of wet roads and bird nesting. Squire canyon/Fern Canyon burn last weekend. Vegetation management along the Bob Jones trail and Cave Landing through early summer. Fire road grading in Irish hills. Currently undergoing grant review for San Luis Bay Estates, Baron Canyon, Squire Canyon (approved). Prevention wise, good time for vegetation removal and burns on your property. Please be aware of your surroundings, if you are going to call for help, be able to describe your location.
 - d) **Planning** - Planner Kimmie Nguyen not available. The February project spreadsheet was reviewed with written updates from Kimmie.
 - a. **#1:** New project proposal for temporary events at the Avila Valley Barn. Referrals were distributed on January 26th.
 - b. **#4:** Avila Beach Drive/101 interchange project. Planning Commission date is coming up this week, February 11th.
 - c. **#12:** RV resort application on Ontario Road/Alliance Way. Wetland rehabilitation per California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Regional Water Quality Control Board has been completed. The applicant has revised the application, and the project is currently in information hold.
 - d. **#22:** Conversion of tasting room to a daycare, Ontario Road. Minor improvements needed to convert the facility to a daycare have been completed, with County staff approving water tanks.
 - e. **Avila Community Plan:** The Planning & Building Department is anticipating releasing the public review draft of the Avila Community Plan. The Ad Hoc Subcommittee is currently reviewing the second package of chapters from the plan, and the County will meet and discuss with the Subcommittee when comments are received after this week.

- e) **Public Works** – John Waddell event permit received from Avila Barn. They are reviewing traffic impact. Avila overall fared fairly well during the storm. Retaining wall issues on Perfumo Cynyn will be repaired. First St. in Avila: Significant flooding 1st/San Francisco. Community has expressed much concern. It tends to flood during high tide and during heavy rain. It is only 5-7 ft above sea level. During recent king tides the sandbar was pushed in and the lagoon levels are up. Public works has attempted to pump the flooding with portable pumps unfortunately, they cannot keep up with storm inflows. The county received emergency permits to trench the sandbar so the storm could breach it and improve flow. Storm water did breach the sandbar in the evening of the first day of the storm, this helped drainage but the intersection still flooded and one home had water on the ground floor. JW admits this problem (although intermittent) isn't going away. They are working with Sup. Ortiz-Legg to find a more permanent solution especially with rising sea levels and more extreme storms. There is no current plan, no funding (yet).
- f) **County Parks** –
- a. Nick Franco reports. Cave Landing update: permit received for scaled down project, will be going to board of supervisors for confirmation of funding. \$250,000 has been earmarked from the Coastal Commission. They will need further funding most likely. Board will need to add Cave Landing to the parks system. They will request a ranger to be assigned to the region for patrol and management. He admits current condition has gone downhill. There is a large encampment currently, it poses a health and safety issue. This group of individuals are participating in trash clean up but they have also built non-sanctioned latrines and dug firepits. CP is taking a multiagency approach, Parks, Calfire, Health agency, Sheriffs dept, County Mental Health etc. Trying to have the group voluntarily leave with appropriate services available. The encampment must be removed, then full cleanup and vegetation management can be performed. Only then can the project proceed. No timeline on this yet, hopefully be the end of the calendar year.
 - b. Comments:
 - i. Status on toilets/latrines for the encampment? NF: permits are required to install toilets, they don't have any.
 - ii. How many people involved? NF: 20-25 vehicles on average, 40 vehicles sometimes.
 - iii. Mary Matakovich went on a ride along with harbor patrol, was shocked and horrified by the state of the region, expressed concern for the safety of those in the encampment. She asks if they need help. NF: admits the situation need mitigation. They want to do the right thing, find appropriate services for the individuals in the encampment. Coastal Commission does not want a heavy handed approach. There will be no gate or hours of operation to start, just a ranger patrolling. If this is not successful the next step will occur (posted hours, restrooms etc.).
 - iv. Large encampment on South Higuera, concern for trash accumulation and contamination of the stream with human waste. NF: agrees, admits right now there is no good solution.
 - v. With recent flooding the debris and trash coming down the SLO Creek to Squire Canyon is a short term solution to put dumpsters near the creek? Allowing camping and trash accumulation is the opposite of protecting the environment. Potentool for a grant from SL Garbage for donation?
 - vi. What can we do? NF: Other issues have taken priority, health department, social services swamped with COVID. Parks has 300% increase in trash etc. Have the owners of the private property near Cave Landing lodged complaints about encroachment? NF: No.
- g) **Harbor District** – Harbor Manager Andrea Lueker.
- a. Harbor Terrace Project – the project continues to move ahead and is entering week 51. Next week, barring significant rain, base will be installed on the roads, followed by curb and gutter taking about 2-3 weeks and then paving of the roads. Sea Trains can then be removed. You may have noticed that some of the cabin units are being temporarily stored at the entrance to Wild Cherry Canyon.
 - b. Camping – has reopened beginning on February 1st. At this time, reservations are being taking for the month of February only, due to uncertainties with COVID-19 and weather.
 - c. Fishermen's Market – hours for the Fishermen's Market are 11-4, Sat and Sun, and 1-4 Wednesday. Crab as well as other species are available, whole, and unprocessed. Great chance to meet and support your local fishermen and women. There have been some issues on mask and COVID precaution compliance, they are working on it.
 - d. Storm Safety – with the significant weather a few weeks ago, all vessels survived. Approximately 6 vessels temporarily relocated to Morro Bay before the storm. The vessel owners played an important part along with our Harbor Patrol and Mooring Crew to check their vessels pre-storm. We did lose a few pier piles, and if you happen to see a pile floating in the water after/during a storm, please do not hesitate to report that as our goal is to remove those from the water asap for safety.
 - e. Harbor Patrol Key Statistics – December 2020

Outer Harbor Tows – 1
Other Harbor Tow - 1
Inner Harbor Vessel Assists – 17
Inner Harbor Rescues – 3
Water Taxi – 104 runs, with 186 people

- f. Property committee meeting coming up, discussing the murals on the lifeguard towers.
- g. After winter will discuss policies on mammals in the port. Zoom link on the website.

Comments:

Thanks for allowing the fisherman's market to take place, very positive for the community. Any plans to clear debris after the storm? AL: yes. Please call if you see anything that needs to be taken care of.

h) County Supervisor –Supervisor Ortiz-Legg:

- a. Thank you to all the government representatives for their hard work. She is prioritizing the flooding issue, trying to find funding. Public works did a great job.
- b. Re: encampment at Cave Landing. There is a multipronged approach in place re. the homeless encampment. Trying to arrange for parking areas for those living in their vehicles. A housing 'czarina' is addressing the issue. Hopefully tomorrow at the BOS meeting 5.4 million dollars will be approved to combat COVID and homelessness. She would also like to see dumpsters available for trash. Expresses frustration in the pace of change. She is hopeful there is momentum to push for change.
- c. COVID 19: 31k vaccines have come into the county. 21k have been administered, the remaining are mostly second doses. Everyone is frustrated with the pace of distribution, the inconsistencies in allocations etc. She and her team are working hard to advocate for our county.
- d. This Weds at Integrated Waste Management meeting the Styrofoam ordinance could possibly be pushed through albeit with modifications.
- e. Dawn is available by: email – dortizlegg@co.slo.ca.us and phone 805-781-5450.
- f. Legislative Assistant Aidan Beals is available at 805-781-4336, abeals@co.slo.ca.us

7. Old Business: None

8. New Business: None

9. Community Liaisons

- a. **Avila Beach Civic Association** – Mary Matakovich. The Avila Beach Community Center has been closed since March 19, 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic shelter-at-home requirement. We have continued to maintain the facility for use by the Post Office, but have not been allowed to hold the AA meetings, Cuesta Emeritus classes or the San Luis Coastal Unified School District classes, etc. We look forward to being able to rent the facility for special events and to host our family-fun fundraiser events such as our Spaghetti Dinners/Bingo Nights, Pancake Breakfast, Avila Apple Festival, and our Doggie Parades. In addition, we have not been able to host our Easter Festival or Holiday Potluck which bring our community together.
The one new program we are projecting to begin later this spring or early summer is our Little Free Library outside the Post Office by our Healing Garden. This is a nationwide program that encourages people to take books, read them, pass them on to others, or return them to one of the many Little Free Libraries in our community. This program has been spearheaded by Sylvia Remmenga and her team of Avila Bookies including Nora Burton, Lori O'Connor, Vicki Book, and Susan Luken.
Finally, one of the major ways we are able to maintain the Community Center is through your memberships. Please let me know if you would like to become a member or renew your membership. Donations are also very welcomed. Thank you.

12. Avila Beach Foundation – Rick Cohen. Very quiet with COVID. To address the lifeguard stations, one of the panels was stolen. It is in the process of being replaced and painted.

13. PG&E/Diablo Canyon – Eric Daniels. Moving through restarting unit 2. In being brought back to full power, ongoing increased vibrations were noted. Capacity thus decreased to 80%. There is no nuclear danger. Team is still working on bringing it back to full power with recommendations from the manufacturer, Siemens. The refueling outage has been moved up to Mid-March. Full service will be restored by the energy peak in the Summer. Unit 1 has returned to full power.

- a. Ken Thompson: any talk of avoiding repairs and decommissioning sooner? ED: absolutely not. Diablo is needed for reliability in the state grid and the path to the future of clean energy especially in the face of the inconsistent and unreliable renewable energy power sources. Diablo maintains a steady stream of energy when renewables are not available. It is a 'clean' (non-carbon generating) energy source. KT: With the outage moving up, what are the dates and what will be done? ED: cannot say due to market considerations. He restates both units will be 100% by the summer peak. The new CEO has not yet visited Diablo.

- b. NRC dry cast storage licensing renewal application will be submitted soon. New proposal will be reviewed regarding the decommissioning. Diablo canyon decommissioning engagement panel will happen soon to discuss implications of decommissioning.

c.

14. AVAC Committees:

- a. **Land Use** – Sherri Danoff re Avila Barn project:
 - i. They are requesting 144 events annually for 200 attendees from 4-10pm. Worried about sufficient parking as events will be taking place during commercial operation. A large site plan has been requested. Waste water disposal proposals are requested as well. It is in a flood zone, they are not planning on expanding their leech field. Traffic interference on Ontario road could be an issue. Could there be interference with the Bob Jones trail crossing?
 - ii. It seems like 144 events is a lot? SD: Agrees. There needs to be further evaluation.
 - iii. 2nd project is the McCarthy trail, this is with the Coastal Commission for quite some time. New owners of some private property are refusing to grant an easement. AVAC weighed in during 2017 session on erosion concerns, aesthetics along Avila Beach Dr. She is requesting an action to support the appeal and deny the project. This was motioned and seconded.
 - 1. Is the current location of the trail on private property? SD: Yes. Can the trail be moved? SD: Not sure. Can we propose moving the trail? SD: maybe. Motion to support passes.
 - iv. 3rd project: AB Drive and Shell Beach improvement. There are some concerns over aesthetics specifically in the retaining wall. There have been many meetings with the land use committee. There were some inaccuracies over the interpretation of what occurred at the meeting. SD would like them corrected. SD motions to have the concerns addressed and to send a second letter.
 - 1. Didn't we already send this letter? SD: Yes, we have sent a letter regarding our preferences but never received an answer. Isn't this a bit beyond our scope? SD: It is just a comment on the staff report. There is some back and forth on the letter contents and the necessity of AVAC input at this time. JH comments this seems like an opinion on aesthetics, again potentially outside the scope of AVAC
 - 2. SD: Motion to Approve the letter. Mary Matakovich: approve
 - 3. Steve Benedict: Requests to edit down the letter to target the areas that need correcting.
- b. **Diablo** – Ken Thompson. The Diablo Canyon Independent Safety Committee (which reports is planning to hold Public Meetings via ZOOM on Feb. 16 & 17, next week on Tuesday & Wednesday. The Independent Safety Committee just released their Agenda and I will e-mail this meeting information to the Council Members.
- c. **Port** – No report
- d. **Avila Beach** –Mary Matakovich No Report.
- e. **San Luis Bay Estates** – Jim Hartig no report.
- f. **Avila Valley** – Julia Hartzell re the King project, #12 on the project plan spreadsheet. There are concerns, the regional water board has made suggestions. The owner needs to put in the suggested vegetation. Overall, the project troubles the nearby residents.
- g. **See Canyon** – Denise Allen no report.
- h. **Squire Canyon** – Kirk Collins no report.
- i. **Ad Hoc Committee** – Jim Hartig said that the committee will review the next draft of the Avila Plan sometime this month, he needs comments returned by 2/12/21.

15. **Next meeting date:** Monday, **March 8th, 2021** - 7 PM

16. **Adjourn:** Meeting was adjourned at 8:51 PM

Respectfully submitted:
Margaret Greenough, Secretary