

AVILA VALLEY ADVISORY COUNCIL (AVAC)

San Luis Obispo County, CA

PO Box 65

Avila Beach, CA 93424

April 12, 2021 www.avac-avila.org

- 1. Call to Order:** Chairman Steve Benedict called the meeting to order at 7:05pm, via Zoom. Roll Call (present): Steve Benedict, Julia Hartzell, Lisa Newton, Sherri Danoff, Jim Hartig, Ken Thompson, Kirt Collins, MaryEl Hansen, Carol Hayden, Bill Crewe, Curtis Cole, Marti Brand. Introduced as a new member on AVAC (and present) is John Janowicz, representing the town of Avila Beach.
Excused: Margaret Greenough Absent: Denise Allen, Mary Matakovich
Quorum was established.
- 2. Approve Minutes:** Motion was made and seconded to approve the March 8, 2021 meeting minutes. Motion carried.
- 3. Chair's Comments:** Chairman Steve Benedict commented that sometime this year we hope to have in-person meetings again at the P. G. and E. Information Center
- 4. Public Comment:** The Avila Beach Resort submitted a Memo from Steve Rossi in which he expressed hope that this Fall it will be again a safe to gather, including at Avila Beach Resort. Their business, along with many other businesses, have suffered during the COVID period. The Resort, and their staff, are excited and looking forward to accommodating its usual functions for both fun and recreation.
- 5. Treasurer's Report:** No report. The treasurer will email the report to the members later.
- 6. County and Local Agency Reports:**

 - a) Sheriff** – Sgt Arauza is present as a representative. Last month they received 66 calls for service. This is up from 48 calls from March last year. 6 for disturbance, 3 burglary, 3 suspicious circumstances, 11 enforcement stops, 3 preventative Patrol Activity.
Total calls for service last year from 1-1-2020 to 12-31-2020 was 423. Ken Thompson inquired about extra protection this summer. Sgt. Arauza responded that extra protection has already been provided on a busy weekend and this summer the Sheriff will request extra assistance from the Highway Patrol and the Harbor Patrol when necessary.
 - b) Highway Patrol** – Captain Greg Klingenberg. In the month of March there was one DUI on Ontario Ridge, and 3 collisions. A new motorcycle officer has been assigned to Avila Beach.
 - c) Cal Fire:** Battalion Chief Paul Lee. 53 calls for service, including one rescue at Cave Landing. Vegetation clearing of Gregg Canyon, Phase I has been completed. 14 miles of fire breaks completed. He complimented San Luis Bay Estates on their excellent job on weed abatement and road improvements. Again, Chief Lee urged all homes in fire danger areas to have plenty of clearance of vegetation around the structures.

d) Planning - Planner Kimmie Nguyen was not present but Susan Strachan was there and gave a report on the Diablo Nuclear Plant. P. G and E has filed applications for a Coastal Development permit which were forwarded to various agencies. AVAC has 60 days for comments.

The Project Spreadsheet has been updated and submitted to the Council.

Julia Hartzell mentioned the King Project #9 conducting activity at 350 Alliance Way continues to be problematic and it is causing the neighbors to question whether the activity is authorized since it is on information hold. Supervisor Ortiz-Leeg said she would look into it.

e) Public Works – John Waddell. No significant updates for AVAC this month.

f) County Parks – Nick Franco gave a Cave Landing update: Next step is the cleanup then the Cave Landing project will start. Re. The Bob Jones Trail: 18.2 million dollars were awarded by the California Transportation Agency for the next phase in the completion of the trail which is from the Octagon Barn to Ontario Road.

g) Harbor District – Harbor Manager Andrea Lueker reported as follows:

Harbor Terrace Project – the project continues to move ahead and is entering week 59. Currently road base is being installed which will be followed by curb and gutter taking about 2-3 weeks and then paving of the roads. Pending is utility work along Avila Beach Drive, but that work may begin as soon as next week. Model cabins are currently stored at the beginning of Wild Cherry Canyon.

April 14th there will be a joint meeting with the Avila Beach CSD and the Port to discuss the Waste Water Treatment plant redundancy project.

The district welcomed 2 new Harbor Patrol Officers to the ranks.

COVID Relief Funds: The Special Districts and Community Services Districts are excluded from Federal relief funds.

Harbor Patrol Key Statistics: Harbor Tows – 3, Vessel Assists- 17, Water Taxi - 126 runs with 229 people, Assist other agencies (Sheriff, Highway Patrol, Cal-Fire, Fish and Wildlife) - 12

Lifeguard season for 2021 is starting. 5 new lifeguards began the lifeguard training academy. Due to unprecedented crowds, the District provided limited lifeguard staffing on weekends. Typically, Avila Beach is guarded 7 days a week from May through September and Olde Port Beach from June-August.

h) County Supervisor – Supervisor Ortiz-Legg: Supervisor Ortiz-Legg introduced her new legislative assistant Sara Sartain. Sara can be reached at ssartain@co.slo.ca.us.

The County is moving into Budget time. The SLO County budget is looking better than expected partly because the County has received 54 million dollars from the American Recovery Fund. The discussions will be how this money will be spent. \$50,000. Is allocated for businesses in Avila and unincorporated parts of the County, and some businesses have already started applying.

The Supervisor alluded to the homeless population and that she wanted a clear plan for a solution. The Homeless Services Oversight Council (HSOC) offers services to the homeless but so far none of the Cave Landing Rd. campers have asked for their services. She is also working on finding a permanent solution for the flooding on Front and First Street.

Ken Thompson was concerned about a possible reduction in the Sheriff's department and she said that that was not the plan.

7. Old Business: None

8. New Business: None

9. Community Liaisons:

a. Avila Beach Civic Association – no report

b. Avila Beach Foundation – Rick Cohen. Port San Luis Harbor District will be taking over the upkeep and maintenance of the murals on the Life-Guard stations on the beach.

c. PG& E. Eric Daniels: Unit No. 1 is operating safely at 100%. Unit No. 2 will come back online soon. A Permit Application has been filed for a Coastal Development Permit. This is a required permit for decommissioning the plant. Necessary for taking down the plant, not developing. If the applications and permits are not completed and approved by 2024 then decommissioning may be delayed. Eric may give a presentation at the next AVAC meeting. The next decommissioning engagement panel meeting is scheduled for Wednesday May 26, 2021.

10. AVAC Committees:

a. **Land Use** – Sherri Danoff. Sherri commented that the document detailing the Coastal Development permit for Diablo is 3500 pages long, which covers Fuel Storage, Transportation and Desalination.

b. **Diablo** – Ken Thompson. Is helping Sherri Danoff to go through the document and they are asking for volunteers to help.

c. **Port** – Mary Matakovich. **Harbor Terrace**, now to be called “Flying Flags-Avila Beach/Port San Luis”. With an opening just around the corner. The Hartford Pier site is being developed. Avila Pier has received Grants and huge support from the community through the “Friends of Avila Pier”. And, it feels like summertime. The beaches are packed with visitors and businesses are thriving again.

d. **Avila Beach** – Mary Matakovich: Anne Brown has stepped down as chair from the AVAC subcommittee and Mary has agreed to serve as Interim Chair. Serving with her on the committee are Pete Kelley, Lynn Helenius, Bryan Friedman, Betty Woody, Vicky Book, Lisa Newton, Judy Kaatz, Anne Gaebe Hall (new Alternate AVAC representative) and John Janowicz (new AVAC representative). Projects us are: #3 Garris, 6 and 12 - Chevron 14 - County Plan and a newly added project - Keese (no number at this time).

e. **San Luis Bay Estates** – Jim Hartig. No Report

f. **Avila Valley** – Julia Hartzell No Report

g. **See Canyon** – Denise Allen unable to attend.

h. **Squire Canyon** – Kirk Collins. No report.

e. **Ad Hoc Committee** – Jim Hartig Ad Hoc Committee met re. Avila Plan update. Next will be developing the EIR.

11. Next meeting date: Monday, May 10, 2021 - 7 PM

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

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Newton