

Avila Valley Advisory Council (AVAC)

San Luis Obispo, CA

PO Box 65

Avila Beach, CA 93424

Date 9/12/2022

www.avac-avila.org

1. **Call to Order:** by the chair, Steve Benedict, for regular meeting at 6:00, via Zoom
Role call (present): Denise Allen, Mary El Hansen, Mary Matakovich, Jim Hartig, Carol Hayden, Kirt Collins, Ken Thompson, Steve Benedict, Michael Clayton.
Quorum was established.
2. **Approval of Minutes:**
 - Motion was made and seconded to approve minutes of the August 09, 2022, with a minor correction made by Ken Thompson. Motion carried.
3. **Chair's Comments:**
 - The Chair recognized the many, excellent contributions made to AVAC by Sherri Danoff. Sherri has moved to San Diego. Her informative contributions will be missed.
 - Carol Hayden will replace Sherri's membership position effective immediately.
4. **Public Comment:**
 - No public comment.
5. **Treasurer's Report: Denise Allen reports:**
 - Balance of Checking Account: \$ 1936.43
 - Expenses: \$ 14.99 for Zoom
6. **County and Local Agency Reports:**
 - A. **Sheriff: Sgt. Abbas reports**
 - 164 calls for service, 36 in Avila Beach proper. Cave Landing had 5 calls for service.
 - Ken Thompson voiced concern as to the monthly stats not adding up to printed report. Sgt. Abbas noted that many calls for service are not from Avila Beach proper. This will be followed in subsequent reports.
 - B. **Highway Patrol: Lieutenant Jason Grimm reports:**
 - 2 collisions occurred in August, mostly non-injury. 1 solo vehicle, another 2-car, non-injury collision.
 - C. **Cal Fire: Battalion Chief Paul Lee reports:**
 - Chief Paul Lee absent attending meeting. No report for August.

D. Planning: Nicole Ellis/Susan Strachan reports:

The September 2022 project list has been updated to reflect project status updates. Where updates were made, the various spreadsheet cells have been highlighted in yellow.

The following projects have been updated:

- C-DRC2021-00010 (item 1 on the Active/In Process list)- revised Project Updates to reflect “Approved on consent at August 19, 2022 Planning Department Hearing.”
- C-DRC2021-00028 (item 2 on the Active/In Process list)- revised Project Updates to reflect “As of 8/29/22 Peer review payment pending and resubmittal materials pending. Applicant will revise plans to include repository.”
- C-DRC2021-00029 (item 4 on the Active/In Process list)- revised Project Updates to reflect “Avila Committee's letter with recommendations and comments was presented at the July 2022 AVAC meeting and was approved. Pending Public Works referral hold items.”
- DRC2021-00126 & AMEND2022-00002 (item 7 on the Active/In Process list)- revised Project Updates to reflect “Appeal APPL2022-00004 by Mr. Pusanik scheduled for November 1, 2022 BOS hearing.”
- DRC2018-00067 (item 16 on the Active/In Process list)- revised Project Updates to reflect “EIR Contract has been scheduled for October 4, 2022 BOS consent agenda.”

E. Public Works: John Waddell reports:

- John Waddell advised that he will not be able to attend the meeting on Monday. There are no significant issues to update the committee.
- No report

F. County Parks: Nick Franco / Shaun Cooper reports:

- Nick Franco advised that he will not be attending tonight but here are a few updates.
- Avila Park, Promenade, and Bob Jones trail was very busy this summer. Staff performed three restroom/trash runs daily to help keep areas clean and safe.
- Avila Park tot swing set support beam has been fractured. Parks is looking into funding options to repair or replace.
- The Avila Park restrooms have had multiple doors with failing hinges and county maintenance is working on door replacement.
- The benches throughout the park and throughout the promenade are in needed repairs. Rangers have making temporary repairs, but we are looking into a more long-term fix by replacing the benches with engineered wood rather than cement rather than concrete so that they will last longer and be easier to repair. The issue is that these don't conform to the Community Design Standards so will need to get some type of approval to deviate from those.

- Cave Landing Project – Parks has submitted for the permit with building and planning and once that is approved, we have a contractor already lined up to begin the work. The project will take approximately 6 weeks and will be completed this fall.
- Ontario Ride Trail easements – Supervisor Ortiz-Legg will give an update on this.

G. Port San Luis: Suzy Watkins-Harbor Director reports report:

- No report.

H. County Supervisor: Supervisor Dawn Ortiz-Legg reports:

- **Ontario Ridge Easements:**

- On Aug. 23rd Board of Supervisors approved two resolutions authorizing perpetual easement agreements for the Ontario Ridge Trail in the unincorporated community of Avila Beach.
- Parks has been working with the property owners to acquire the necessary Ontario Ridge Trail easements to facilitate connectivity between the Cave Landing parking lot trailhead, and a future parking lot on Shell Beach Road, in Pismo Beach.
- An informal trail that currently exists across private property does not meet Parks trail standards.
- Executing these trail easement agreements does not immediately fully align the current informal trail and the easement. However, it does provide the opportunity to establish a future public trail consistent with sustainable design and permanently held for public use.

- **The Avila Community Plan Update & Clarifications:**

- The Avila Community Plan Draft released April 2021 did not meet community expectations due to poor layout and quality of content. The plan, compiled by a consultancy, was rejected by community and local businesses.
- Planning staff regrouped, and since has been making steady and consistent progress meeting regularly with the AVAC subcommittee to review and update the planning area standards and land use components of the Community Plan.
- A Second draft scheduled for release by March of 2023.
- Draft will be followed by an Environmental Impact Report and hearings before the Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors, and Coastal Commission.

- **Moratorium in Avila:**

- There is not sufficient evidence for a moratorium to be initiated and subsequently held up in a court of law.
- For a moratorium to stop development, until the Avila Community Plan is adopted, to be legally defensible, the County would basically need to show that the current policy and zoning, which it has operated under for years, creates a current and immediate threat to public health, safety or welfare.

- This would be inconsistent to the findings for approval that the County has made on the many land use permits which have come before it for Avila.
- Current projects in Avila are conditioned to address immediate risk.
- **Secondary Evacuation Route:**
 - The Diablo Canyon north access route is a “**secondary route**” not a road and designated to be used in an emergency should other routes be blocked.
 - The north access route has the necessary qualities to evacuate residents and visitors in Avila.
 - **The County Office of Emergency Services** is work with **PG&E** on a **Memorandum of Understanding** to memorialize. The MOU will formalize and finalize once and for all this important route.
 - Further study can be included in the Avila Community Plan EIR on route(s) and number of hours each area will take to evacuate, depending on the disaster.
 - The DC North Access Road will connect with Los Osos, and will serve for any declared emergency.
 - San Luis Bay Creek water is safe and is constantly tested.

7. **Old Business**

- No report.

8. **New Business:**

- No report.

9. **Community Liaisons:**

- **Avila Beach Civic Association:** Mary Matakovich reports:
 - No report.
- a. **Avila Beach Foundation:** Rick Cohen reports:
 - No report.
- b. **PG&E / Diablo Canyon:** Tom Jones reports:
 - Two assembly bills passed, #160 for funding, # 846 authorizing operating extension. Refer to posted emails.
 - Thanks given to PG&E for excellent community work and great tours.

10. **AVAC Committees:**

- a. **Land Use:**
 - No report
- b. **Diablo Canyon:** Ken Thompson reports:
 - FEMA and NRC are having another Evaluated Emergency Exercise scheduled for 9/14/2022. This will evaluate emergency simulations., involving Central Coast

Counties and State agencies. A report on the exercise will be presented by Scott Jalbert, County Emergency Services Manager to AVAC members once completed.

- DC Independent Safety Committee coming back into the area with scheduled meetings 9/28-29/2022 at Avila Lighthouse Suites. One may attend in person or by Zoom. Zoom invite and agenda to be posted when available.
- c. **Port:** Mary Matakovich reports:
- Survived a very busy summer for the Port San Luis.
 - Breakwater being repaired, will take time. An 11+ million dollar grant.
- d. **Avila Beach:** Mary Matakovich reports:
- No projects to report.
- e. **San Luis Bay Estates:** Curtis Cole absent:
- No report.
- f. **Avila Valley:** Julia Hartzell excused:
- No report by Mary El Hansen.
- g. **Sea Canyon:** Denise Allen reports:
- Concerns about the drought and natural habitat reductions with people killing wild animals, such a mountain lions, foxes, bears, and coyotes. She is having difficulty reaching Fish & Game. Asking neighbors to be respectful for animals. Looking for related informational literature and such from County Fish & Game.
- h. **Squire Canyon:** Kirt Collins reports:
- No report.
- i. **Ad Hoc APU (Avila Plan update):** Jim Hartig reports:
- Last meeting 8/24/2022 with review of chapter 10 with Ani and Planning. Awaiting response. No further meetings scheduled at this time.

11. Next Meeting Date:

- October 03, 2022

12. Adjourn:

- 7:02 PM