



Memo

TO: City Council
FROM: Robert Clark, City Manager
DATE: February 26, 2015
SUBJECT: Weekly Update

Staff Workplan: March 3 Discussion Item

Over the course of the past year the demand for planning, building, code enforcement, and legal services has increased dramatically. This has been particularly intense in the most recent several months. At the same time we have experienced turnover in both planner positions and the City Attorney. We have an interim City Attorney, newly retained contract planners and a newly hired a code compliance inspector who has just begun the training phase. Furthermore, we have discussed, but not found time for, issuing an RFP for building services and inspection. The new City Council is demanding a higher level of scrutiny of various issues. There has been a notable demand by the public for more information to be available in various formats, especially on the web.

The increase in work and lack of dedicated resources has compromised our ability to meet community expectations and has contributed to mistakes that have been made. The budget implications, while significant, are not yet completely clear.

Overlaying all of this is the need to address administrative procedures. Just as our streets suffered severe neglect during the closure of the Ojai Valley Inn and recession, our administrative procedures are at best bare bones. When faced with multiple demands on a daily basis it is very hard to find time to design and implement procedures that will result in more efficiency and better customer service in the long run.

In response to all this there is an immediate need to:

- manage the workload for planning and legal services by setting priorities,
- significantly increase funding for planning and legal services,
- take time to address administrative procedures, and
- convey reasonable expectations for customer service.

For several years we have operated on a philosophy of setting aside money to address deferred maintenance, particularly street maintenance, and operating with a lean staff. As part of the FY 2015-16 budget the City Council will have to wrestle with how to appropriately address both infrastructure and this demand for increased services.

M1 Zone

The initial study for modifications to the M1 Zone has begun. This item is scheduled to go to the Planning Commission at the first meeting in April after the circulation period for the negative declaration is complete.

Cluff Vista Park Review

City is working with the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy (OVLC) to revise Cluff Vista's theme gardens so that ongoing maintenance is simpler, and revising the interpretive displays so they will communicate the current themes. It is also an opportunity to reduce irrigation in light of the current drought. Cluff Vista Park was opened in the fall of 2002 and has served the community for over twelve years. The "hardscapes" of the park (pathways, fountains, trellises, etc) have weathered well considering it is a public park. Most of the challenges that have occurred have been with maintaining the theme gardens - some species that were originally planted did not survive and some thrived and spread. As the trees grow higher, the park's microclimates are changing. Although there have been efforts to re-plant, mulch and control plant boundaries over the years, some of the original "theme gardens" have changed. Much has been learned about how much effort is required to maintain them. The OVLC and City are splitting costs to hire Bostrom Associates, the original landscaper of the park, to consult on this effort at a cost of \$1800 per party.

Country Club Drive Speed Control Pilot

Last year, as part of a grant program, a traffic specialist reviewed traffic issues throughout the City, including speeding complaints on Country Club Drive. The consultant recommended an innovative technique that has been shown to be effective - moving the edge/fog lines in by two feet to narrow the travel lanes to ten feet. This should also be effective at slowing vehicle speed at the bike trail crossing. Speed surveys have been done before, and will be done after, to test the effectiveness of the pilot.

Ojai Ave Tree Replaced

The larger older oak tree on Ojai Avenue across from the old Ford dealership was replaced this week with a new 10 foot oak tree. The ornamental plum that was recently hit by a delivery truck has been replaced on Signal Street in front of the Ojai Village Pharmacy side entrance. The dead ornamental plum at the farmer's market pedestrian crosswalk was replaced.

Public Art List

At the joint City Council-Arts Commission meeting in January, a request was made for the most recent listing of public art in the City of Ojai. Attached, please find the most recent list prepared by members of the Ojai Arts Commission. Copies of the list have also been provided to the City's Community Development and Public Works departments. The listing may also be found on the Arts Commission website: artsojai.org

Theater

We have been advised that the insurance company has approved funds to complete design work and to proceed with the sidewalk, curb and gutter work.

Cultural Resources Procedure

This discussion item has been delayed to provide time for the City Attorney to complete a white paper on the topic.

Upcoming Agendas

The tentative upcoming agendas are listed below.

March 10(Paul gone)

Consent

Cemetery Fees

2nd reading Telecommunications Ord

Direct City Engr to prepare assessment reports

Report: HPC Wall Issue

Report: Clark Zone Change Issue

Report: OVI Art Requirement

Report: ATT Cell Tower Issue

Transportation Development Act Article 3 Bicycle/Pedestrian Fund Grant – FY 2015/2016

Public Hearings

Ordinance - Encroachment permits insurance limits

Twice Sold Books

Discussion

Staff Work Plan

Training for City Council, Commissioners

March 24

Consent

2nd Reading of Ordinance for Encroachment Permits

Award Contract for Sarzotti Master Plan

Montgomery Land Transfer

Discussion

Libbey Bowl Report

RFP for Building Services

Telecommunications Noticing Policy

Award Contract for Libbey Park Playground Equipment and Community Build Consultant

Archeological Processes

Fence Moratorium

Closed Session

City Manager Performance Review

City Attorney Evaluation

April 14

Consent

Application for Federal Transit Admin (FTA) Sect 5311 funding FY 14/15

Public Hearing

Height Limits Ordinance

Approve Engineer Reports and Declare the Council's Intent to Levy and Collect Assessments

Discussion

Transient Rentals