



Memo

TO: City Council
FROM: Robert Clark, City Manager
DATE: September 18, 2014
SUBJECT: Weekly Update

City RDA Loan

The City lent substantial sums of money to its redevelopment agency starting in 1979. Now that redevelopment is being eliminated, the State Department for Finance (DOF) is attempting to limit the amount of interest cities can collect for such loans. This would reduce the value of our loan from \$5.2 million to \$2.2 million. At the request of the City of Glendale we have sent letters of support for AB 1582 which will clarify that interest payments to be paid based upon the interest rates that existed historically. If approved the loan still must be paid out in small increments over an extended period of time.

County Dark Sky Ordinance

At its September 16 meeting the Board of Supervisors voted to direct its staff to develop a "Dark Sky" Ordinance for the Ojai Valley. The City adopted an ordinance over a year ago that requires dark sky fixtures on new construction, and sets operating standards for existing lights. Efforts to encourage voluntary compliance are ongoing.

Community Development Staffing

The flow of applications for new construction and remodeling is continuing to accelerate. We are looking at some adjustments to provide adequate coverage. We are proposing to enter into an agreement with Planning & Energy/Entitlement Services to replace the contract planning firm that had been used in the past. In addition we are considering retention of a contract technician to man the front counter when full time staff is not available, and separating the building inspection and code enforcement functions. We expect to accomplish these changes without increasing the General Fund contribution to the Department. By using contract services we can expand and contract the level of staffing to meet the flow of applications (and fee revenue).

Benefits/Open Enrollment

A memo was sent out this week to all benefitted employees regarding changes in health care benefits, and reminding everyone that open enrollment is now underway for the CalPers medical plans. Rates are mixed this year, with some going down and most seeing modest increases.

Peace Pole

A dedication for the Peace Pole for City Hall has been tentatively set for Wednesday, October 21 at 10:30 a.m. Staff will be working with the artist to have the Pole installed near the entrance to the Community Garden behind City Hall. Local artist Richard Franklin is the designer and fabricator of the piece. Marta Nelson is serving as the organizer for this effort, which is sponsored by local resident Hazel Stillman.

New Video Tech/Recruitment

We have hired a video technician on a temporary basis while we recruit to fill the position. Mr. Jeremy Mansker started his duties with on-the-job training at Wednesday's planning commission meeting. Mr. Mansker has previous experience covering city council meetings in other communities.

Mountains to Beach Marathon 2015

Staff met with Ben DeWitt of Mountains to Beach Marathon, Veronica from the Ojai Visitors Bureau, and Hildegard Tallant from the Ojai Village Merchant Group to discuss how to promote local hotels, restaurants, and businesses to the marathon participants and their supporters and how to encourage them to stay in Ojai. The marathon is Sunday of Memorial Day weekend. It begins at 6 a.m. at Ojai Avenue and Signal Street and finishes at the promenade in Ventura. Last year the Mountains to Beach marathon had over 4,000 entries.

Creek Clean Up

The Green Coalition is staging a creek cleanup event this Saturday, Sept 20, as part of the annual California Coastal Cleanup Day. They will setup in the Libbey Park lower parking lot and pick up litter in Ojai Creek through the park, up across the bike trail, and to Ojai Ave. Depending on the number of volunteers, they may make it to Stewart Creek. EJ Harrison is providing bins at no cost that will be staged in the lower Libbey parking lot. The event runs from 9 am to 1 pm.

Best of the Ojai Valley

Libbey Park was selected as the Best Park in the Ojai Valley News 2014 Best of the Ojai Valley Contest. The Best of Ojai special supplement will be distributed on October 17 with an awards party on October 22, 2014 at The Ojai Art Center.

Whispering Oaks Crosswalk

The Public Works Director and Hasan Consultants met with Caltrans this week to push forward the permitting of the proposed Whispering Oaks and Canada St pedestrian crosswalk improvement on Ojai Avenue. Caltrans is considering the level of study required to proceed with Caltrans review of improvements. The more intensive option requires a voluminous report called a "Fact Sheet" which will take 6 months to 1 year of review with Caltrans. We are hoping they will allow the less intensive peer review which may take 3 to 6 months. There is no assurance the crossing improvements will be approved.

Public Works Crew Miscellaneous:

- The Public Works crew is performing peripheral landscaping and cleanup throughout the Arcade and Lower Libbey Park, such as surrounding alleys and lesser noticed areas.
- The reduced pressure washing schedule of the Arcade and Plaza, as a water saving measure in response to the drought declaration, has some merchants concerned about cleanliness and appearance. In response we are have just started more spot pressure washing/cleaning of sidewalks.

Code Enforcement Stats

The Community Development Department has been making a concerted effort to reduce the backlog of code enforcement complaints. As of this week, there are 20 open cases.

Upcoming Agendas

The tentative upcoming agendas are listed below.

Sept 23

Presentation

School Bond Measure (Hank Bangser)

Ojai Day Poster
Consent
Records Retention
Planning Consultant Contract
Pearl Street Easement
Skate Park Repairs
Proposition 1B Grant
HPC Appointment
Public Hearing
Leaf Blower Ban Ordinance (Ban)
Discussion
Neighborhood Planning Consultant
FLOW funding
Adopt Fee Schedule
Holiday Meeting Schedule
PEG Agreement

September 30 6:30 pm Workforce Housing Workshop

October 14 (Carlton and Rob absent)

Discussion
OBGMA Presentation
Skate Park Security
July 4th Chairs
Stuart Consulting Contract

October 28

6 pm Planning Commission Workshop

Presentations

Consent

Ventura River Algae Plan
Landscape Maintenance Contract
Stuart Consulting Contract
Paving Notice of Completion

Public Hearings

Discussion

Telecommunications Ordinance Workshop

November 11 (Cancelled?)

November 25

6 pm Arts Commission Workshop

Presentations

Consent

Public Hearings

Discussion

December 9

Announcement of Election Results

Reorganization of City Council

Discussion

Final Audit Report

December 23 (Cancelled?)

Planning Commission Upcoming Meetings
Future Agenda Items - ***Tentative***

October 15 Wednesday	November 5 Wednesday	November 19 Wednesday
Mountain Vista Manor 602 E. Oak Street addition of a new building to an existing board and care facility for the elderly		
Landscape Ordinance Regulations City Attorney and Ad Hoc Landscape Committee		
Skatepark Lighting 450 E. Ojai Avenue		

Pending Projects (NOTE: Not all projects have been deemed complete)

Pending Resubmittal from the Applicant

- Emerald Iguana Inn, 108 Pauline Street, modification to existing CUP
- DRP 13-18, Craftsman Village redesign, 611 Pearl Street
- DRP 14-02, California Solar Electric, 302 N. Montgomery Street
- Minor DRP 14-11, 206 N. Signal Street, demolish shed and replace with larger in a VMU zone
- DRP 14-12 & CUP 14-05, 303 Bald Street, replacement 2-story residence destroyed by fire in VMU zone, with guest house on top.
- DRP 14-13 & CUP 14-06 205 N. Signal Street, outdoor dining and alcohol use in the VMU Zone.