

PIERPONT COMMUNITY COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of Meeting on Tuesday, April 18, 2017

ATTENDANCE: Total membership in attendance: 22

PCC Officers: Dan Scully, Chair
Howard Stern, Treasurer
Laura Kinney, Secretary
Jim McCaslin, Committee Chair

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM

MAY ELECTION OF PCC OFFICERS: Dan Scully again reached out to all PCC members at the meeting, and through email and NextDoor, asking members to volunteer to serve on the PCC Board. Elections will be held at the May PCC meeting. Please contact Dan if you have an interest in becoming a Board member.

VERIZON CELL TOWER: Pierpont resident Kate Gullickson provided an update on the proposed Verizon cell tower to be installed near Vons. Verizon appealed the City Council's decision to deny the tower. A land-use attorney has advised opponents of the tower to appear at the hearing, write letters of opposition, and gather signatures on a petition. If you are interested in opposing the tower, please email celltowerletters@gmail.com for instructions and to submit your letter.

POLICE REPORT: Report presented by Commander David Dickey, Ventura Police Department
Crime was down in Pierpont this month compared to Ventura in general (just one car theft and one bike theft). Car and bike thefts were up 24% in Ventura as a whole (but down in Pierpont), and business robberies were up 40% in Ventura (but none in Pierpont).

UPDATE ON CITY COUNCIL'S STVR REVIEW PROCESS: presented by Jim McCaslin
The City selected a panel of seven (7) stakeholders to meet with City officials over the next several months to conduct in-depth analysis and research potential solutions to issues involving short-term vacation rentals within the City. The seven stakeholders apparently include a neutral person, three pro STVR people, and three against STVR people. The first stakeholder meeting is next week. The stakeholder group will utilize input from the community meetings held on December 13, 2016 and January 31, 2017 to guide their discussion (summary of which can be found on the City of Ventura website at <http://www.cityofventura.net/ft/STVR>)

BEACH UPDATE: presented by Dan Scully

- Numerous events will occur at the beach in the next month, including the Surf and Suds beer feast on 5/20 from 11:30 AM to 5:00 PM
- Seven sea lions have been found on the beach lately. It is a natural occurrence for seals and sea lions to rest and warm up on the beach. PLEASE do not approach, touch or try to help the animals. Please give them room and leave them alone to return to the water as they wish.
- Dan is trying to meet with Danita Rodriguez, the new State Parks Superintendent, to address dealing with the rocks on the beach and replacing the sand that blows onto the lanes. State Parks is not opposed to returning the sand directly to our beaches, but the Coastal Commission has to agree. In the meantime, the May cleanup will still involve trucking sand to Surfer's Point. The issue of returning sand to the beaches has escalated due to all the rocks on the beach.

REAL ESTATE UPDATE: presented by Marty Harder, Helen Yunker Realty

- Marty provided an update on the real estate market in Pierpont. Currently, it's a very tight market with only 5 current listings, 2 in escrow, and 9 total sales in the past 6 months. Low interest rates and low inventory are contributing to an increase in sale prices. The limited inventory is causing appraisers difficulty finding comps. When asked about comps in Oxnard, Marty stated that Pierpont prices are most closely aligned with Oxnard Shores, while our prices tend to be lower than Hollywood Beach but higher than Silver Strand. Ventura beach property prices are still considerably lower than other coastal areas (the South Bay, Los Angeles, Malibu) partially due to a lack of high paying jobs in Ventura.
- Marty shared an article in Pacific Coast Business Times that cited a city revenue drop in Santa Barbara, largely due to loss of retail space (Macy's moved out) and a drop in TOT taxes. In contrast, City of Ventura revenue is increasing due to increased TOT taxes and the 0.5% sales tax increase voted in in November.

STATE BILL AB1129: presented by Howard Stern

A bill is being considered by the state to remove the rights of property owners to "armor" their beachfront property against damage from the ocean with manmade barriers (sea walls, bringing in large boulders, etc.) Since 1977, homeowners have had the right to protect their homes; this new bill would remove this right. Concerned homeowners are encouraged to contact their council member in Sacramento.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM

Laura Kinney, Secretary
Pierpont Community Council