

# PCC General Meeting | MINUTES

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Meeting date | time 9/12/2017 7:00 PM | Meeting location Marriot Hotel Meeting room

Meeting called by PCC Board

Type of meeting General meeting

Quorum Yes

Meeting Started 7:02 PM

Attendees

Howard Stern – President

Sharon Rishel – Vice President

Terry Foley – Treasurer

Joseph Vandertol – Secretary

John Whitman – Present Chair STVR Committee

Dan Scully – Present Chair Sand Committee

General Membership about 45 members

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**Time Started | 7:02 pm | Topic Meeting Opening | Presenter Howard Stern**

Howard Stern opened the meeting. Howard delivered the report on State Parks and provided dates for upcoming events: Amgen Arthritis Ride Sept 15-56, Ventura Marathon Oct. 21.

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**Time Started | 7:04 pm | Topic Pierpont Crime Report – Event Policing | Presenter Commander Dickey Ventura Police Department**

Report: Best month for Pierpont. 1 domestic assault, 1 vehicle burglary, 4 larcenies. Commander Dickey recommended that we all lock our vehicles and store valuables safely or not in our vehicle. The VPD made a significant arrest of a burglary ring responsible for about 40 or so residential burglaries. Said the police are first responder for homeless/mentally ill. For the VPD to respond they have to be a danger to themselves or others. 300 transported to county mental health YTD. Around 10% kept for 72 hour observation. 32 active beds all at Ventura County. Can't arrest our way out of the problem due to the current laws in place. There are 8 squad cars available at any one time. One stop due to a homeless person will take 2 to three units until situation resolved.

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**Time Started | 7:15 pm | Topic Homelessness | Presenter Peter Brown City of Ventura**

Two types of people still on the street, those that can't help themselves because of drug addiction or mental health and those that don't want to help themselves. Some 300 people actively living on the streets. Those who give money or any type of support are contributing to the problem. People or organizations who feed people in parks are also contributing to the problem. It is his opinion that assistance organizations should track the people they help so that they can identify those in the population who have no interest or who cannot move themselves out of the population. He believes we don't have enough beds of the type that the population on the street will use. Supports the presence of "wet" housing where homeless can live without conforming to a program to move them away from substance abuse or into a self-supporting situation. Because we are the county seat, Ventura city will tend to have a higher population because of the jail and court facilities which bring the population to this area. Believes that supporting the Homeless Prevention Fund is a good program to keep people who may become homeless because of a specific situation is a good program to support.

Other programs are Salvation Army, Project Understanding. Peter Brown retires this December 28<sup>th</sup>.

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**Time Started | 7:50 pm | Topic STVR Committee | Presenter John Whitman**

John reported that the committee plan to survey the entire community regarding their view on STVRs is on-going. One vote per household. The plan on how to reach out to the community is unchanged.

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**Time Started | 7:55 pm | Topic Treasurer Report | Presenter Terry Foley**

Terry stated the finances are relatively unchanged with our only regular bill being for the website.

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**Time Started | 8:00 pm | Topic Sand Committee | Presenter Dan Scully**

Dan Scully thanked his committed members Laura McKinney and Susanne McComb. He reported that they have met with the state and has a written report which is incorporated into these meeting minutes as an attachment. **(ATTACHED DAN'S REPORT)** The report documents what is the status of the situation and states that in order for the city to cover the exposed cobble they would need to get a permit. Without some intervention the beach will ultimately recover though that could take several years.

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**Time Started | 8:05 pm | Topic Community Forum | Presenter NA**

Howard Stern mentioned that the meeting rooms will be closing in December and that we needed a new location. He asked for suggestions. Stefanie Roth asked for signs at the end of lanes stating that beach fires are not allowed. Tyson of State parks said he needed PCC approval. A motion for a vote was brought and seconded. A voice vote was taken and the motion was passed. Deborah Washauer has lost her dog. She has placed signs and ask that if anyone sees to contact her. Deanne and Stephen Ball stated their thanks to the community for being welcoming in their new apartment on Seaward and Pierpont.

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**Meeting Adjourned: 8:30 pm**

## **PCC Beach Committee**

Notes from meeting with State Parks on Tuesday, 8/8/2017

Attendees:

PCC – Dan Scully, Committee Chair, Suzanne McCombs and Laura Kinney

State Parks – Danita Rodriguez, Tyson Butzke, and Nathan Shasha

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss issues/options regarding:

- 1) Covering or removing rocks or “cobble” on the beach, and
- 2) Possibility of restoring the displaced sand that blows into the lanes directly back onto the beach, rather than trucking the sand to remote locations

## **Background on Sand and Cobble**

According to Nat (the environmentalist), the cobble under the sand is critical for long-term stability of the beaches. The cobble provides a base for the sand. Nat also mentioned that the cobble covers old construction materials below the cobble (from the original demolition when the area was developed). The “cobble sill” is also an important habitat for microorganisms at the start of the food chain, and therefore is highly protected by California Coastal Commission (CCC). The CCC’s position is that “the cover berm is never allowed to be manipulated.”

In 2012, Ventura was added to the recovery plan for the endangered species “snowy plover” since the birds like the Ventura dunes as a nesting ground. This further restricts what the city can do at the beaches.

Nat said that the last couple of years have been a “fluke” with regard to sand movement, because we had El Nino wave energy without the precipitation. Typically, in the winter, the waves wash out the sand and push in the cobble. In the summer, the waves push the sand back onto the beach. In an El Nino year with heavy rain, lots of sand and cobble wash down the river beds into the ocean, to eventually get redeposited on the beach. This past El Nino did not bring the rain, therefore we had high wave energy washing out the sand from the beach, without the sand being replenished from the river beds. He speculated that the beach will recover, but it could take several years.

## **Current Sand Movement Practices**

Currently, twice a year, the City of Ventura, removes the sand buildup along Shore Drive and transports it to another area. In 2008, a judge ruled that the ongoing sand accumulation along Shore Drive was a nuisance. This sand accumulation was ongoing and would accumulate to the point where it completely covered stair access to the beach as well as spilling over the ends of the lanes into the street. Rather than appeal the ruling, the City entered into a settlement agreement whereby the sand would be removed moved twice a year.

Regarding the sand that blows onto the lanes and gets trucked away, this process is governed by the Coastal Act through the City's LCP ("Local Coastal Plan"). At this time, the City is not allowed to put the sand from the lanes back onto the beach. The City has permits to move sand back onto certain specified beach areas (Surfers Point, the area between Kalorama and the pier, etc.) The areas permitted to receive sand appear to be determined by economics (e.g., need to have sand in front of the hotels for tourism).

According to those present at the meeting, 90% of the sand that is trucked off of the lanes gets redeposited on city property in front of the hotels and surfers point. Theoretically, this sand will eventually wash south. Some of the sand will get back on the beach, and some will clog the harbor (which will then get dredged). However, in past years, significantly more sand was deposited on the lanes and had to be trucked away, and a large quantity of sand from prior years is stored at the River Haven stockpile area. There is some speculation that the city is "saving" this stockpile of sand for Phase 2 of the Surfer's Point restoration.

State Parks is allowed a "safety exception" to move small amounts of sand for the safety of the lifeguards and participants in the Junior Lifeguard program without a separate permit. These are considered "small, discretionary projects."

**Conclusion:**

In order for the City to move sand from the lanes back onto the beach, or cover the cobble with sand, or to place anything in the "coastal zone", the City must get a permit from the CCC. The State Parks representatives said they are not opposed to putting the sand back on the beach within their jurisdiction, but that it is up to the City to get the proper CCC permits.