

Pierpont Bay Community Council

General Meeting Minutes

Date: January 19, 2021
Location: VIA ZOOM
Time: 7:00 PM
Participants: M. Almeida, T. Foley, R. Hovey, R. Birney, L. Almeida, H. Stern, D. Roundtree + 15 other participants

7:03 PM - Meeting was Called to Order by Council Chair Michael Almeida.

Michael welcomed the participants and wished everyone a Happy New Year!

7:04 PM – H. Stern presented the Secretary’s Report which provided summary of last Board Meeting and topics to be discussed tonight.

7:10 PM – T. Foley presented the Treasurer’s Report. He reported that the account balance remained at approximately \$2,500 and that an additional \$1,500 was received and earmarked for the Light Up South Seaward project.

7:11 PM – Police Report was presented by Assistant Chief David Dickey. He provided the following summary:

- Staffing: There are currently 137 on-duty officers. While they have authorization for 143, the six positions have been frozen due to the pandemic related budget issues.
- District Commander Program: This is newly implemented where one command staff member is responsible for each district. This will hold them accountable for recurring crime and safety issues and ensure timely planning, resources and follow-up.
- Strategic Plan Goals: This is comprised of 5 objectives: Crime Control; Team Development; Active Partnerships within the community, Safe Neighborhoods and Efficiency and Accountability.
- Crime Stats: In 2020, Property Crimes increased 8-12%, Small Violent Crimes decreased slightly but calls for service increased and assaults remained flat or a bit down all compared to 2019.

7:20 PM – State Parks Report was presented by Tyson Butzke. On a positive note, staff in conjunction with Ventura Police Department cleared out six dumpsters full of trash and debris adjacent to the Ventura River. Lifeguards continue to monitor beaches due to the very large surf and heavy tides. As a reminder, lifeguards are contracted with the City of Ventura from April to September and do additional off- season work. Unfortunately, they have had to do a good amount of surf rescues and a few of these incidents resulted in fatalities.

A participant asked a question about the sand maintenance program and the option to move sand towards the water rather than spending funds to haul away. Tyson responded that this has been an ongoing question and rather complicated discussion that could not be answered on this call. Joe Yahner, City of Ventura Public Works commented with a brief history of the sand maintenance program and relevant stakeholders.

7:30 PM – This led into the discussion with our guest speaker, Joe Yahner who provided a more detailed history of the sand maintenance program and its current status. Until the late 1990's, Pierpont Beach was always groomed by the City but was abruptly halted by the Coastal Commission. The City stopped all grooming activities and a decade later, the City was sued and the existing sand maintenance program was born out of a settlement with a group of homeowners. Joe reported that the annual sand maintenance budget is \$150,000 but some years the actual amount has reached as high as \$400,000.

Joe also discussed the pending repairs of the Weymouth Lane lift station that were in process and future repair plans for the other lift stations.

7:45 PM -Committee Reports

Seaward Beautification- D. Roundtree thanked those who helped him take down the holiday ornament bows that were put up on the trees on Seaward. He reported that the Seaward monument sign did need a Local Administrative Permit by the Coastal Commission so that will delay the installation by a few weeks. At this time, the Go Fund Me campaign for the Light Up South Seaward has raised around \$12,500 which is 50% of what is needed. He urged all to donate at this time.

STVR's – Terry Foley attended the last City Council meeting via Zoom where he urged the City to revise the current STVR ordinance and incorporate it in the new Local Coastal Plan (LCP). He will appeal to Joe Schroeder and Mike Johnson and see if they can facilitate and encourage the City to address and also take action on this issue.

Kate Hovey mentioned that while encouraging the City to adopt a new STVR ordinance is needed, perhaps we can get the City to address enhanced enforcement of the existing ordinance which seems woefully inadequate. She recommended a possible STVR Enforcement Committee that could be comprised of lane residents/designees who could report any STVR violations or nuisance issues.

Beach- Robin Birney reported there was no Beach Committee meeting in January however they were going to update the Beach Concerns Report. Robin is looking to obtain a copy of the Sand Maintenance Report as well as the South Seaward Design Plan that was drafted 15 years ago.

Events– Lauren Almeida reported that the the Holiday Ornament Event held via Zoom on December 19, 2020 was successful with about 50 participants.

8:03 PM – In Open Forum, Mike Johnson reported that starting on January 21, 2021, the City of Ventura will begin administering the COVID vaccine to residents 75 years +. The link to register is <https://www.venturacountyrecovers.org/vaccine-information/portal/>. Joe Schroeder mentioned that the State will be purchasing a cleaning machine for Pierpont Beach that will be used by the City to clean up beach debris. It will not be used for sand grooming.

M. Almeida notified the participants that the next General Meeting will be on Tuesday, February 16, 2021.

8:05 PM – Meeting was adjourned by Michael Almeida.