

City Manager's Weekly Update

September 11, 2015

CITY MANAGER

Upcoming Agenda Items

- Strategic Plan – September 29
- One-Way Pacific – September 29
- Library Agreements – September/October
- Downtown Ordinances – September/October
- Broadband – September/October
- Arena Feasibility Study – September/October
- Pacific Station – October

Upcoming Study Sessions

- Parks Master Plan – September 29
- Parking: Status and Opportunities – October 6
- Public Safety – November 3

PARKS AND RECREATION

Wharf Testing Mesh for Environmental and Safety

Staff at the Wharf is testing a new stainless steel wire mesh along the wooden rails as a means to reduce debris that blows off the Wharf into the Monterey Bay. In addition, the mesh will serve as an extra safeguard for children small enough to slip through the wooden planks.



Jessie Street Marsh Annual Maintenance

As part of the Parks and Recreation Department's Annual Maintenance Agreement with the CA Fish and Wildlife Department, work has begun in Jessie Street Marsh to remove debris and reduce the vegetation. Crews from Cal Fire and Parks and Recreation will be on site over the next week to perform this work. Because Cal Fire uses Department of Corrections personnel,

the public cannot interact or approach the worksite. The Police Department has assigned Community Service Officers to ensure this occurs.

Bay Street Pathway/Tannery

Annual vegetation removal has been completed along the Bay Street pathway and behind the Tanner Arts Complex. Also permitted by the CA Fish and Wildlife, Bay Street yielded over 150 yards of vegetation which was removed and disposed. The Tannery project, which has slightly different requirements, included removal of a significant amount of invasive plant material, tree limb removal and trash and debris removal. Both projects received many accolades from the residents of the Tannery and Bay Street pathway users.

Louden Nelson Community Center

The first weekend of Santa Cruz Performing Arts Teen Theatre's *American Idiot* was a great success. Don't miss the final weekend of this groundbreaking show! SCPA Teen Theatre is a local non-profit theater company founded by teens for teens. Show Times are Friday at 7:30 pm and Saturday at 2:00 and 7:30 pm.

The Senior Walking Adventure Group (WAG) was truly adventurous and braved the heat for a beautiful walk on West Cliff. Everyone enjoyed breathtaking views including dolphin sightings on the three mile journey. Senior Walkers picked up more seniors along the way. The next walk is at Arana Gulch on September 17th with Santa Cruz Parks and Recreation Rangers.

Mark your calendars for the annual Halloween and Mask Making Festival on October 24th. Louden Nelson staff are busy planning this year's Haunted House with the theme, radioactive zombies. Plus *Thrill the World* performs at 3:00 pm, don't miss it!

PUBLIC WORKS

Engineering/Traffic Engineering

The second in a series of four public workshops for the Active Transportation Plan was held on Wednesday evening at Bay View Elementary School. This series of workshops is combined with the Planning Department's Corridor Planning and Zoning Update project. About 40 people attended the meeting and provided feedback on desired citywide bike and pedestrian projects. Many people had positive comments about existing bike and pedestrian infrastructure, including the recent Westlake Safe Routes to School project, Arana Gulch, and the Laurel Street green lanes. Barriers to active transportation included difficult intersections, areas with higher traffic volumes and speeds, and areas with missing sidewalk links. Many people spoke strongly about the need for improved alternatives to Mission Street for bikes and pedestrians, excitement for the completion of Segment 7 of the Rail Trail, and a continued focus on safety improvements.



Restroom Pilot Program

The 24/7 restroom pilot program, at Soquel Garage, continues to run without any closures or problems.

Lot 9 (Elm Street Parking Lot) Conversion to Pay by Space

Lot 9 conversion to pay by space is progressing. The LUKE pay machine and solar equipment has been installed and programming will be finished next week. The space numberings are in place and the lot signage is scheduled to be installed by the end of this week. As soon as the programming is finished and everything is cleared, we will have a soft start for the conversion to pay lot.

Community Events

El Portal Carnegie Memorial ribbon cutting event now set for 2 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 27 (during SC Neighbors Block Party day) to complement Mayor Lane's schedule. Invitations are in the works.



El Portal Library in the 1960s



El Portal site in the 1970s (formerly Eastside Triangle)

Waste Reduction

Invitations went out for the Santa Cruz Recycles Poster unveiling. The date is set for Wednesday Sept 30. The winning student artists, their families, teachers and school principals will gather in the Corp yard to see the large posters on the trucks for the very first time.



The fall issue of One Person's Trash is in the final edit stage and should be out by the end of Sept. The feature article is about Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and product stewardship programs in California.

Collection

We delivered to our largest special event to date: Ironman Santa Cruz. Paul Soderstrom worked with the event coordinator to divert the majority of their collection. We delivered six 20 yard roll-off containers (four for recycling), ten four-yard containers (five recycling), and 84 clear streams.