

City Manager's Weekly Update

December 18, 2015

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Helpdesk Returned

On Monday, November 2nd, IT re-launched its Helpdesk so that employees can call and speak with an IT Specialist rather than only having e-tickets and email as a means of getting IT support. The IT survey results prompted this as the Helpdesk was much asked for by employees.

This return, we believe, correlates to an improved average days to completion for our IT work orders. While historically, the average number of days to completion has ranged from 3-6 days in a given month, it was 2.62 days in November after the Helpdesk Returned. One key benefit is getting our users help on the phone when they call and getting the item resolved then and there if possible.

San Lorenzo Park Security

To address security concerns, IT has been working with the Parks and Recreation Department on a plan and technology for video cameras at San Lorenzo Park. The project is now scoped and budgeted to move forward.

PC Replacements Completed

The Force awoke in our Workplace Services team, who replaced all of our FY15-16 PC's already.

On-going Virtualization of Servers

The team migrated another application to our virtual server farm. This is an on-going project over the next few years as our physical servers reach end of life. We are about 70% complete in our migration/virtualization at City Hall.

PUBLIC WORKS

Engineering

Our second diking of the San Lorenzo River began Wednesday given approval from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The location of this San Lorenzo River Flood Control Project work is between the Highway 1 and Water Street bridges. It is intended to improve the flood carrying capacity of the river in anticipation of predicted extreme winter storms. Work continues through Friday with a biologist on site to monitor construction work.



Miramar/King Intersection Improvements Project: Concrete for the four new ADA-compliant ramps and the valley gutters has been placed. The Valley gutters will be covered with steel plates for at least the next seven days as the concrete cures. This project is expected to be completed by the end of December, weather depending. Some traffic control should be expected.

Levee Lighting Project: All of the civil work (lights, exercise area and equipment, bench, conduit and conductors) is complete. The contractor will be testing circuits and demobilizing next week. PG&E is expected to energize the circuit within the next four weeks. A project lighting ceremony is tentatively scheduled for the 22nd of January, 2016.

Community Relations

Staff met with the director of Beach Flats Community Center in planning an El Nino storm prep workshop targeted to Beach Flats residents. The event will feature nine booths plus a sandbag-making station on Thursday, January 7, from 6-8 p.m. at the Beach Flats Community Center. The flyer below is now being distributed.

Taller GRATUITO de preparación para la tormenta El Niño
Jueves 7 de enero de 6-8 pm Beach Flats Centro Comunitario

Aprenda a preparar su hogar y familia para las tormentas de invierno.
Hable con representantes de la Cruz Roja, Departamento de Bomberos,
Servicios de Emergencia, Obras Públicas, PG&E y Servicios para Animales.
Estación familiar de cómo llenar bolsas de arena. Llévese a casa 10 bolsas de arena gratis.
Co-patrocinado por PG&E y la Santa Cruz Seaside Company, que están proporcionando
equipos de emergencia gratuitos para las primeras 75 familias.

Two press releases were distributed:

- [Santa Cruz Scheduled to Begin Second Sediment Disking in San Lorenzo River Flood Control Project](#)
- [Santa Cruz Hosts Parking for Hope Downtown Program Dec. 18-25](#)

Parking Services

We received four electric enforcement vehicles this week to replace old gas-powered vehicles. Chargers for the vehicles were installed by parking maintenance personnel.



PARKS AND RECREATION

Civic



Nutcracker!

The Nutcracker returns to the Civic for their ever-popular holiday performance. The Santa Cruz Ballet Theatre brings the Nutcracker alive this Friday night at 8pm, and Saturday and Sunday at 1pm & 4:30pm. Performances feature live orchestra and principal dancers from renowned companies such as the Houston Ballet! This is a family favorite as well as a Civic favorite!

Louden Nelson Community Center

Shepherds Play

The annual 'Oberufer Shepherds Play' is on Saturday, December 19th at 6:00 pm. Once again the Santa Cruz Monterey Branch of the Anthroposophical Society is sponsoring local thespians in their production of this classic play. More info go to www.anthroposophysantacruz.com/the-oberufer-shepherds-play/



Project Pollinate’s Winter Solstice Community Celebration

The Celebration is Saturday, December 17th 11:00 am – 6:00 pm in multi-purpose room. This is a FREE event! For more info go to www.projectpollinate.org.

Parks



John Franks Park Playground Installation

The installation of the new John Franks Park playground equipment has been completed by Ross Recreation in coordination with – and with the support of – Parks staff. The selection of the equipment involved extensive communication based on a very well attended neighborhood meeting. The 25 or so

participants were “unanimous” in selecting this equipment to meet the needs of the park and playground users. Parks staff will be adding ‘Fibar’ (soft, processed wood fibers) to the surface and open the playground for public use on Monday, December 21, 2015.

Golf Course Superintendent Receives 2015 Water Manager Certification:

Miles Hicks, DeLaveaga Golf Course Superintendent, has continued his ongoing effort to more effectively manage water consumption at DeLaveaga Golf Course. As a result of his diligence, he again met the standards required for CLCA Water Manager Certification, which is his third such award of certification. Miles incorporates a variety of techniques and tools to reduce the water consumption at DeLaveaga Golf Course while maintaining a high level of customer satisfaction with the course’s golfing customers.



PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Parklet Update

As a result of Council’s action to approve a pilot program last May, two parklets were recently approved for construction - one in front of *Hula’s Island Grill* at 221 Cathcart Street and the second in front of *The Penny Ice Creamery* at 913 Cedar Street. Each parklet uses two on-street parking spaces and will be a maximum of six feet wide with two foot setbacks from the parking tee’s at each end. The parklet at *The Penny Ice Creamery* will resemble a vintage ice cream truck with angled wood bench seating between the front and rear end of the truck. The parklet at

Hula's Island Grill will resemble a more traditional outdoor patio with tables and chairs and has been designed with horizontal wood board railings and planters at the street and a barrier of nautical line and turnbuckles at the sidewalk to reflect the ocean/island restaurant theme. Building permits are not required to construct the structures. Each permit includes a condition of approval requiring the tracking of information as requested by the City Council. A full review of the parklet pilot program will be presented to the City Council one year from the start of use of the first parklet. Samantha Haschert is the planner working with these two businesses. She is coordinating with all other departments involved in this program.

232 River Street, Townhouse Project

An application was submitted this week to develop 11 units at this address. The long, narrow site is zoned for multi-family residential development at a density of 20-30 units per acre and includes a Craftsman bungalow at the front of the site that is proposed to be retained as part of the project. Earlier this year, the applicant went through a pre-application review of the preliminary plans in an effort to address planning considerations and requirements of all departments early on, before drawings were fully developed. This review often times allows for a more streamlined formal application process. As the project proposes a subdivision to create separate ownership units and a Planned Development Permit, it will require public hearings before both the Planning Commission and City Council, which are expected to occur early 2016. Samantha Haschert is the planner working on this project.

230 Grandview Street, Apartment Project

Also submitted this week, this project proposes demolition of a single-family residence and construction of 12 three bedroom apartment units on this site zoned for multi-family residential development at a density of 10-20 units per acre. The approximately 34,000 square foot underdeveloped parcel is nestled between two townhouse developments visible from Mission Street. Planning staff is awaiting the results of a biotic study being performed for the site. If the biologist concludes that it doesn't contain any sensitive habitat, the project will be eligible for a Coastal Permit exemption, in which case no public hearing will be required. If there is sensitive habitat present, staff will work with the biologist and the developer to protect any resources and the project will require a public hearing before the Zoning Administrator. Either way, a decision on the project is expected to also occur in early 2016. Clara Cartwright is the planner working on the project.

101 Main St. (Casablanca Inn & Suites)

Our department recently received an application to convert some of garages used as part of the *Casablanca Inn* into retail space. The garages currently abut Beach Street, facing Santa Cruz Main Beach. Conversion of the garages would add 1,750 square feet of commercial space and would continue the span of retail along the block, similar to the commercial frontage (i.e. *Picnic Basket*) at the adjacent *Beach Street Inn*. The conversion will also include commercial façade improvements to update the building, as well as the addition of new curb, gutter, sidewalk, and with the elimination of the existing curb cuts, several new on-street parking spaces. The project requires a Design Permit, Coastal Permit, and an Administrative Use Permit that will require approval as part of a Zoning Administrator hearing. Ryan Bane is the planner working on the project.

Santa Cruz Shakespeare at DeLaveaga Park, 495 Upper Park Road

The Santa Cruz Shakespeare (SCS) Initial Environmental Study has been distributed for public comments from December 14 through January 12th, with tentative Planning Commission hearing set for January 21, 2016. As we are planning for significant public participation, the meeting will likely be held at the Civic Auditorium. The project requires approval of a Design Permit, Slope Variance, Watercourse Development Permit and Variance for construction of an outdoor theater at DeLaveaga Park, near the 911 Center and the former Stroke Center site. The theater is proposed for performances of plays produced by Santa Cruz Shakespeare during the summer season with a maximum seating for 483 attendees. The stage and theater area will be available for use under the City's Parks and Recreation Department's rental program for private and/or special events when not in use by SCS for daytime use during a two-month period in September and October for a two-year trial period after SCS has shut down for the season. Parks and Recreation Department has hosted two public information meetings to provide information on the proposal, and to hear comments and questions from the community. Mike Ferry is the planner working on the application.

New Wireless Regulations

The Governor recently signed legislation that will go into effect January 4, 2016 related to processing local permits for wireless telecommunications facilities. The legislation applies to existing as well as new facilities located on private property as well as projects located in the public right-of-way on utility poles. These regulations require decisions on applications for new facilities to be made within 150 days and for modifications to existing facilities to be made within 90 days or they are automatically deemed approved. City staff from several departments is working together with the City Attorney to evaluate amendments to the City's Municipal Code to provide revisions to address the new legislation. It is anticipated that the draft ordinance will be brought to City Council in late February or March.