

Corona del Mar Residents Assn

From: Kiff, Dave <DKiff@newportbeachca.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 6, 2016 3:59 PM
To: undisclosed-recipients:
Subject: Insider's Guide for Tuesday, May 10, 2016

A pleasant (and somewhat damp) Friday to you.

Here's what's on the schedule for the Newport Beach City Council meeting of **Tuesday, May 10, 2016**.

Some up-front notes before I get too wordy: (1) Get helpful advanced notice of upcoming traffic advisories [here](#). It helps you plan your cursing in advance!; and (2) with no appropriate segue from cursing, the City's proposed FY 16-17 Budget is now online [here](#).

More detailed Council meeting information is at the end of this e-mail, and here is [a link to the full Council agenda](#). I don't summarize every item on the agenda.

The **Study Session starts at 4:00 p.m.** with three items:

- An update on **arts and cultural activities**. The City Arts Commission has worked on a plan moving more arts programming to privately-funded efforts. This came at the direction of the City Council about a year ago, when Council members expressed a hope that more activities, like the next phases of the Civic Center sculpture garden, have less taxpayer support.
- Our Public Works staff will roll out the proposed **infrastructure program** for the coming fiscal year, asking the Council and community if it's on target. Before you hit the snooze button here, this is NOT a boring subject. It's not, it's not (minor temper tantrum there). It's vital to our success as a community – from repairing Harbor sea walls to keeping our streets and alleys well-paved to upgrading older water and sewer lines. We are an old city – over 100 years. And our infrastructure must be regularly upgraded. Please peruse the **CIP** or tune into the presentation – it's a good way to know what may be coming to a neighborhood near you.
- I also have an item on there about **John Wayne Airport**, following up on a request by the Aviation Committee to have the Council consider whether to embark on additional air or water quality studies regarding aircraft emissions (we had [study](#) done in 2009-10). I am on the fence about this. I think more data is usually good, but also under consideration must be what can be done – if anything – with the data. And localities have no success record at all in using emission data to change airport operations or aircraft standards. The 2009 study was interesting, but concluded in part that our area always met Federal air quality standards.

The nighttime **Regular Session at 7:00 p.m.** has some interesting subjects (but most are not nearly as much fun as two weeks ago), and I'll highlight the neighborhoods that might have a special interest:

- If you live in **Newport Heights** and you're part of the rather vociferous **utility undergrounding** or assessment district (AD) discussion, the Council will consider whether to move to a ballot vote for proposed AD 114 (bounded by Tustin, 15th Street, Irvine Ave and Cliff Drive) and AD 114b (bounded by Riverside, 15th Street, Tustin, and Cliff). This comes at the request not of our staff but of the undergrounding proponents. Here's what's not under debate: By law, all assessment district formations (and levies) require property owners who control over **50%** of the proposed assessment to OK the district's formation in a formal ballot proceeding before an AD can be formed. Still with me? Good. The mild controversy is this: Our past rule of thumb has been that in order to invest City funds up-front in moving to a formal ballot question, property owners representing at least **60%** of the proposed assessment sign petitions saying generally "indeed, we'll vote yes if asked." The petitioners in AD 114 and AD 114(b) appear to have signatures representing 54.21% and 59.71% of the proposed assessment respectively (though even this can change between now and Tuesday as different sides work the neighborhood). So if Council wants to move to a ballot (again, the balloting requires only >50% approval), doing it without 60% petition support would be a change to past

practice. If you're a supporter of this district, you want the rule of thumb set-aside here and believe that each petitioner will come through with yes votes when formally asked. If you're not a supporter, you'll suggest that moving forward with less than 60% on the petitions puts City dollars at risk as the actual ballot measure might be defeated. Hopefully I put that equitably enough so that I will not get trolled ☺ by either side. Please. No trolling. Just trying to do my job. If you're curious about the AD process overall, click [here](#).

- A minor one, but our contractors have just re-done circuits and transitioned another **214 streetlights to LEDs** – at a cost of about \$972K (mostly in the Westcliff and Irvine Avenue areas). This project also involved major rehabilitation to the lights' infrastructure, thus the higher per-light standard cost. Another item later in the agenda (this time \$1.06M) will “just” replace **3,113 light fixtures to LED**. This is funded in large part by Edison incentives and “on-bill” financing (also by Edison) due to the significant reductions in energy costs – and regular maintenance costs - that LEDs bring.
- **Balboa Village** will soon get its new “entry arch” at Balboa Boulevard and Adams. This is a \$260K project and looks like [this](#). Will entry arches become a “thing” in other villages? I could see this in Newport Shores, for instance (kidding!!).
- Council Member Duffield “called for review” of the Planning Commission’s recent OK of a conditional use permit (CUP) for the **Newport Dunes**, more specifically its special events. We’d been issuing the Dunes regular special event permits event-by-event, each with its own fee and conditions, and both the Dunes and the City staff thought that wasn’t the best way of going about this. A master permit system that applied to all events might work better. So the Planning Commission approved a process like that, and most folks thought it was pretty good. With a few minor adjustments, I get the sense that all involved (Dunes, Dover Shores, more) are OK with it – thus the call-up to make the adjustments at the Council level. But as I’m often told, what do I know?

Some notes for your calendars...

- I do have some current news here for those following the **Banning Ranch Project’s** review by the California Coastal Commission. The item was to be heard on Thursday, May 12th, here at the Newport Beach Civic Center as the **Commission** comes to town for its 3-day May meeting session. But this afternoon, the project proponents sent out an e-mail asking the Commission for more time to review and respond to Commission staff’s comments. Proponents have the right and ability to ask for a postponement, so I would assume that this will be granted. As such, it is unlikely that Banning Ranch will be discussed at all during this visit of the Commission. Which makes for a very short day on Thursday for them. Their next meetings are in Santa Barbara (June) and San Diego (July). Typically, the Commission’s goal is to meet in a geographic area close to any controversial project’s location, so that interested parties can attend fairly easily.
- You’ve seen the signs. On Saturday, May 14, 2016 the community’s nationally-recognized and award-winning **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** Volunteers will conduct their 3rd annual multi-neighborhood Emergency Preparedness Drill as part of FEMA’s “America PrepareAthon” Event. Participating neighborhoods from all over Newport Beach will set-up Neighborhood CERT Command Posts in accordance with FEMA/City of Newport Beach activation procedures and protocols. CERT volunteers will display more signs around their respective neighborhoods to indicate a simulated disaster incident. As they survey their neighborhoods and discover these “incidents” they will respond according to their training and protocols, using search and rescue techniques, first aid/CPR, HAM radio and telephonic communications, as well as utilizing their organizational skills to manage their command post personnel and incoming information. CERT encourages you to visit any of the clearly marked CERT Neighborhood Command Posts, and observe these dedicated volunteers in action. This is all very timely given the recent news about The Big One on the San Andreas fault just waiting to happen. Gosh.
- Don’t forget **Mom**. Sunday.

As always, thanks for reading. Feel free to forward this e-mail to family, friends and members of your HOA if you represent one. I always like hearing from you, too, so please don’t hesitate to ask a question or offer a comment.

Sincerely,

Dave Kiff
City Manager

City Council Meeting Information: The Newport Beach City Council meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of most months (the exceptions are August and December). Typically, there is a **Study Session** that starts at 4:00 p.m. Study sessions are times for the Council to take a deeper look at a specific issue, or hear a presentation, that might eventually lead to a specific and more formal action. A **closed session** often follows the Study Session. Closed sessions are typically to address legal, personnel, and other matters where additional confidentiality is important. The **Regular (evening) Session** typically starts at 7:00 p.m., and often has a specific listing of 20-40 different items ready for formal votes. Items on the “Consent Calendar” are heard all at once, unless a Council member has removed (aka “pulled”) an item from the Consent Calendar for specific discussion and separate vote. If an item on the agenda is recommended to be “continued”, it means that the item won’t be heard nor voted on that evening, but will be pushed forward to another noticed meeting.

Public Comment is welcomed at both the Study Session and the Regular Session. The public can comment on any item on the agenda. If you want to comment on a Consent Calendar item that was not pulled from the Consent Calendar by a Council Member, you will want to do so at the time listed on the agenda – right before the Council votes on the entire Consent Calendar (it’s Roman Numeral XIII on the posted agenda). If an item is pulled, the Mayor will offer that members of the public can comment as that specific item is heard separately. Additionally, there is a specific section of Public Comment for items not on the agenda, but on a subject of some relationship to the city government. If you cannot attend a meeting and/or want to communicate with the City Council directly, this e-mail gets to all of them: CityCouncil@newportbeachca.gov. Please know that I get a copy of that e-mail, too, because in almost all cases it’s something that the City Manager follows-up on. It’s my head-start.

The Council meets in the Council Chambers at 100 Civic Center Drive, off of Avocado between San Miguel and East Coast Highway. There is plenty of parking in the parking structure behind City Hall. You are always welcome to attend in person, but you can also watch on TV (Channels 3/31) or on your computer.

This *Insider’s Guide* is not an attempt to summarize every item on the Agenda – just the ones that seem of specific interest to Dave. I encourage you to read the full agenda if you wish.