

President's Report – Jan 22, 2024 – State of the LJPB in the Community

First of all, I want to sincerely thank all you fellow Directors for your time and service and energy into LJPB over the last year. Its thanks for helping to improve and grow this organization to be better and better, and its thanks for most importantly helping to deliver a positive impact to the community.

I want to give an added thanks to my fellow officers – Brenda, Marie, Barbara, and Tim. They do a lot of behind scenes work in their officer roles, and support me so that we can keep LJPB rolling along in its best way month after month.

I'm going to take a few minutes and recap and shine on some of the highlights and efforts and notables that we Directors and LJPB were involved in the past year –

In January,

- We heard from Matt Mangano and his presentation on the engineering report on Structural Observation and Assessment of Children's Pool, which report was funded by LJPB and with key leadership and support by Phyllis.
- A few weeks earlier, we had just celebrated with the grand opening ceremony of the Picnic Grove at Scripps Park, which included the presence and honoring of the donors, key City Parks & Rec Director Andy Field and Councilmember LaCava and staff, and a lot of friends— put together by Alexandra and others in her work group.
- I announced the new project of Coast Blvd White Fence to repair the shabby dilapidated eye-sore and safety hazard, and got the first draft of the Right Of Entry request to the City.
- Based on much of our Directors' efforts, we were informed by the City that the Sidewalk Vending Ordinance would finally be enforced in all up and down the beach communities come Feb 1, and rid the coastline of the commercial vending take-over and swap-meet looking atmosphere that we're seeing on the boardwalks and parks.

In February,

- we saw a detailed presentation on the Fay Ave path by Debbie Adams, which was a recap and plans forward for all the work that she and her small army of community volunteers accomplish- literally tons yearly of debris, brush, and trash.
- I got involved with a new informal group calling themselves Coastal Coalition as formed, and it's an assembly of beach community leaders- LJ, MB, PB, OB – who convene regularly to discuss and work-through common beach community issues and work with City Council and Mayor's staff in such.

March 2023,

- we saw an extensive presentation and discussion of the La Jolla Coastal Historic District by Seonaid McArthur, and including our strong support for City, State, and National historical designation.

In April,

- we first heard publicly about the proposal for the City to close down Pt La Jolla area year-round for sea lion protection, and remove access for people.
- We see that vendors are quickly back to being present at our shoreline parks and beaches, while the City says they can't enforce many of them.

In May,

- we were presented with a great vision and idea of an Ellen Browning Scripps statue or tribute, which to honor such an amazing local philanthropist and woman of leadership. That project and vision is still ongoing within the La Jolla Foundation.
- Tim as the leader of a new work group, announced Scripps Park Picnic Grove II, which is of similar concept and is progressing along, and its close to the first Picnic Grove completed late last year.

For June,

- Brenda hosted our second Projects and Development Workshop, as she shared much of her success and experience in heading up Coast Walk Trail and in working with the various City departments, and led us to form new potential community projects.
- LJPB continued its support and commitment to the La Jolla Coastal Historic District, as it works its way- against opposition- toward State and National designations.
- And finally, the good-news decision that the California Coastal Commission decides for our Windansea bluff project and Belvedere can go forward, and no more baseless appeals to try to block it.

In July,

- a few of us Directors and other public met multiple times with City Council Environmental Committee, in effort to present our community's desire for the City to NOT close Pt La Jolla and keep access open- but later in the year its to be all in vain.
- We hosted a presentation by Volker Hoehne with Ken, and his group's project to memorialize and tribute the 'Bottom Scratchers' with a plaque and to remember their rich free-dive history and contributions in the community.
- Along with teaming up with La Jolla Community Planning Assoc and the La Jolla Shores Assoc, we developed and endorsed and submitted to the City our joint priorities for Capital Improvement Project, including for a cement repaving of the broken Neptune St at Windansea and for a whole new sidewalk and widening at Scripps Park/ along Coast Blvd.

At our August meeting,

- we were updated that initial plans and design has started on the Windansea bluff and Belvedere project, and Melinda reports a \$25,000 donation specific for the re-construction of the Belvedere.
- Ann Dynes starts new project and leads a workgroup for Whale View Point for new fencing repairs and area maintenance, which includes to writing up of an ROE to be submitted to the City for approval.

At our October meeting,

- we were informed by Debbie Adams and more recent huge cleanup project along Fay Ave path and more removal of tons debris, brush, and trash.
- Barbara announces the finish of the Eagle Scout bench replacement project at Calumet Park, and their continued work and benefit to the community. As a side-note, we have another project in Bird Rock the works with an anonymous resident donor... stay tuned.

In December,

- we learn from the City and their report on their 'framework' for the new Sidewalk Vending Ordinance and enforcement changes, which includes bringing back and allowing limited vending spaces and new rules in the shoreline parks and beaches for vendors to setup. A few of us Directors and other community leaders meet with Council and Mayor staff to voice displeasure with these proposed changes that continues to allow vending in the shoreline parks.
- At Picnic Grove 1, its reported by Alexandra that she was able to work with the City to install new grass sod in surrounding dirt areas so to complete and beautify the area.
- And reports for Tim that Picnic Grove 2 is nicely moving along with topographical and design work by Jim Neri and the City.

Bob Evans | President

