

BALBOA ISLAND IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION
General Membership Meeting
November 17th, 2011

The Balboa Island Improvement Association General Membership Meeting was held at the Beek Center on Thursday November 17, 2011. Association Vice President Terry Janssen called the meeting to order at 7:10 P.M. The meeting began with the pledge of allegiance to the Flag. Board members in attendance: Terry Janssen, Bill Longfield, Tom Houston, Cam Woods, Sue Sibley, Ken Yonkers, Ryan Gunderson, Sue Olsen, Jack Callahan, Joel Holmberg and Jeannie Galey. Jeff Herdman and Kristine Taft were absent. In addition, there were approximately 30 attendees representing the general membership.

As the members arrived at Beek Center and signed in, each family received a ballot listing Board members up for election/re-election. There are 12 candidates listed for 11 positions.

Results would be ratified at Special Board Meeting following General Membership Meeting.

Terry started the evening with a contest and the prize was a Starbucks card. Terry read the quote:

“Your time is limited, so don’t waste it living someone else’s life. Don’t be trapped by dogma — which is living with the results of other people’s thinking. Don’t let the noise of others’ opinions drown out your own inner voice. And most important, have the courage to follow your heart and intuition. They somehow already know what you truly want to become. Everything else is secondary.”

The correct answer was: Steve Jobs: Stanford commencement speech, June 2005

Winner was: (I didn’t catch her name – anyone know?)

Terry introduced the Guest speaker: Ed Selich, Newport Beach City Council member representing the District 5.

Ed Selich: Past, Present and Future

In the past, the city council has sometimes taken on too many projects and not always been able to complete everything in an efficient and timely and economical manner.

For 2011 and in the future, we will continue to focus on further belt tightening, maintaining a cohesive infrastructure and setting attainable goals and objectives.

Review of 2011

In 2011 the city council set 5 areas of focus.

1. John Wayne Airport.

The settlement agreement presently in place will expire in 2015. We need to gather information and prepare for new negotiations to be able to achieve our objectives in the areas of land use, noise abatement, traffic control, aviation issues and curfews. There are a number of committees in place including the airport working group (AWG) that will be looking at each of the above areas in depth. The FAA regulates aviation operations which John Wayne Airport must adhere to. Land use for the Airport fall under the direction of Orange County.

Establish relationships going forward with cities that have common concerns and face similar impact.

2. Revitalization

The objective of revitalization is to bring underperforming areas of Newport Beach

Up to par. Some of the areas that are “works in progress” include:

- Lido-Marine Village area including the present city hall site, drawing people to the area to support local businesses. Attract new businesses and investment to the area.
- West Newport Beach – Landscaping and beautification.
- Balboa Village – Build on the development of the Nautical Museum and the renovated Balboa Theater to make Balboa Village a destination for both locals and tourists. The city has purchased the old Balboa Market which will be torn down and the property combined with existing parking to build a parking structure to support all local activities.

- Mariners Mile - Planned development of buildings and businesses along Mariners mile including landscaping and beautification.
- Irvine Avenue to Jamboree – Landscaping and beautification.
- MacArthur and Avocado - Redesign and improve traffic flow around new city hall and park.

3. Tidelands Management Committee meets once a month at Oasis Senior Center

- Dredging completed in the upper bay.
- Requirement to dredge and remove contaminated material in Newport Bay area of the Cannery and Blue Water Grill to a toxic waste dump inland. Projected cost of 20 Million Dollars. Opportunity came along instead to move material to Long Beach by barge to be used as land fill for the new terminal at a cost of 4 Million Dollars. There is also an agreement through the Corps of Engineers for Long Beach to accept further contaminated material from the lower bay which will also save the city considerable money.
- When Eel grass situation is resolved, dredging around local docks will be allowed and dredging down to design level will be accomplished. Last time that happened was in 1930.
- Sand for Beaches – local source from the Santa Ana River
- Long term capital improvements scheduled for piers, pump out stations, marinas, water quality and storm drains.
- Study and concern over raising sea level and the financial and logistic impact it would have on beaches, the bay and local properties especially Island communities. Worst case projection could see an increase of 2 feet above today's levels.
- Development and maximizing revenue from oil and gas reserves.

- More active management of what goes into storm drains and upstream waters which flow into the bay to help control and protect water quality.

4. Reorganization, workforce, pension and retirement reform

- Present system of public employee retirement is unsustainable.
- Newport Beach negotiating a deal that freezes wages, increases employee pension contributions and enrolls newly hired workers into a significantly less-generous retirement program (two tiers).
- The accord would affect rank-and-file employees as well as technical specialists and supervisors, and the signing of contracts with police and firefighters that are less lucrative than in the past.
- Eventually go to 401 K type plans that are presently not acceptable under Calipers agreements.

5. City Restructuring

- Move to a smaller, multi-tasking workforce will help the city balance its budget. Have reduced 75 permanent positions in 3 years.
- Since July 1st of last year the city has accumulated a 12 Million Dollar budget surplus which will be put into the city general fund.
- During boom times city got fat with employees
- Plan for strategic reduction of personnel. 1st year special retirement incentives. 2nd year –layoffs, 3rd year selective multi-tasking of workers to take on more than one job responsibility.
- A negative of this restructuring is a decreased response time from city services.
- Financial outlook improved between July 30th 2010 and July 30th, 2011. Increases: Assessed valuation 1%, Sales tax 8.4%, and Hotel tax 8.5% with revenue up 10.9% over previous year.
- In many ways the recession helped the city improve their focus and management.

Current Newport Beach City Projects

1. City Hall, emergency operation center, Library, parking structure and park North of City Center. Budget 104 Million and on schedule for completion in December 2012. Change orders have been nonexistent. Recession has helped by keeping cost of labor and materials down.

2. Sunset Ridge Park. Budget 12 Million – Yet to be approved. Project Elements:

Proposed 13.67 acre Sunset Ridge Park is situated on the northern corner of the Pacific Coast Highway and Superior Avenue in West Newport Beach. The main vehicular access point is from Pacific Coast Highway and will require an access easement from the adjacent landowner. This route of travel will increase the project area by approximately 3.81 acres as the alignment will require grading of the rolling topography. The proposed park (concept plan) is to be an ‘active’ park per the city’s General Plan. Therefore, there are several amenities within the park including: Pony League Baseball Field, Soccer Fields, Parking Area with Specialty Paving, Play Area, Memorial Butterfly Garden , Overlook Area with Shade Structure, Vehicular Access, Meandering Concrete Walkways, Meandering Retaining Walls, Park Sign, Fence at Adjacent Residences.

3. Marina Park

Moving ahead slowly, 30 Million budgets. Replace mobile home Park with sailing center, community center, library branch, large park and 40 slip marina. Will create long term revenue for city.

4. West Newport Beach Community Center

City has land assets (8.5 acres) in West Newport Beach near 16th street and Newport Blvd. Presently is city corporate yard. This could be site for new West Newport Beach Community center and possibly a location for New Police Department Facility replacing existing facility near Newport Center. City would retain ownership of Newport Center land assets and it has good long term revenue potential.

5. Areas of focus by City of Newport Beach on Balboa Island,

- Sand Replenishment, groin repair and fixing old sea walls. Fixing is allowed without going to coastal commission for permission.
- Long term study and observation (between now and 2021) of sea walls and looking at feasibility and cost of raising sea walls by 2 feet.
- Most attention on sea walls on west end of Island near Collins Island. Extreme tides getting higher and higher – City Engineers looking at possibility of putting 6” caps on existing walls as an interim measure. If flooding started on West end it would flood Whole Island.
- Worst case scenario would require raising all sea walls, utilities and foundations by 2 feet.
- This year was first year where sea water crossed the peninsula into Newport Bay.

5.1 Other areas of concern on Balboa Island

- Pavement management for concrete streets – most of concrete streets in Newport Beach are located on Balboa Island. Numerous repairs are needed on big island. Money has been budgeted for work.
- Traffic – motor and bicycle - regulation and enforcement needed. City traffic engineers looking for solutions.

Questions to Ed Selich:

1. Grand Canal dredging.

Answer: 2 issues – condition of sea walls and must be an approval for the eel grass management program before dredging can take place.

2. City in competition with private enterprise.

Answer: City run in best interests of the city and citizens.

3. Traffic control and traffic signal improvement in Newport Beach.

Answer: Newport Beach has an 8 phase traffic control improvement program now in phase six. Computers monitoring and controlling traffic signals (can modify for events or congestion) not operational as yet – decisions on priority yet to be made.

4. Are City reserves being spent?

Answer: No being invested (conservative investment so returns aren't high. Problem when City has surplus – the State will get into the Cities pockets by dropping obligations that have typically been the States' and requiring the Cities to assume responsibility.

5. Problems on Balboa Island with pedestrians crossing streets without any restriction causing traffic backups.

Answer: Will look at problem.

6. Private Jet's takeoffs not under Airport agreement?

Answer: Nothing can be done legally – Private jets do not fall under airport agreement. Can only call and report excessive noise. Hard to pinpoint responsibility to take any action.

7. Irresponsibility of bicyclists on Balboa Island – Rodger Van Pelt. Bicyclists do not obey traffic rules; ride in center of streets and on sidewalks, do not stop at stop signs and generally treat the Island as a playground. The main issue is safety and responsibility. If it is allowed to continue someone will be killed. Need enforcement.

Answer: Will look at problem. Refer to PD

8. Vans and Cars (in poor condition) parked on Island with sole purpose of advertising golf cart sales.

Answer: Will look at problem. Refer to PD

Terry Thanks to Ed Selich for coming.

Terry announces Bill Stewart's retirement and commends him on a great job.

Election Completed. Received mail backs from absentee ballots.

Jon received 9 votes as a write in. Joel Holmberg also elected to Board.

Treasures Report.

No Treasurer to give report. Copy of P&L sent by Bill Stewart to meeting shows \$ 600 +/- in bank accounts. Causes some disruption as several members question Boards

Fiscal responsibility. Terry states that we are electing a new Treasurer and that the Board will review problem and come back with a resolution.

Island Decorating

Volunteers this Saturday report Sue Olsen at the store room at 8 am.

Home Tour

- Set up with 8 homes on the tour. Everything coming together for Sunday the 11th of December. Still short by 20+ docents. Balboa Island Museum also opens on the 11th as well as the Christmas Walk.
- Ken Yonkers is working on consolidating and adding to – Informal Island Rules – objective is to clarify for residents and visitors how we can all get along better and show courtesy and friendliness.
- There will be a replacement for the existing bridge to little island – temporary bridge will be built out from Balboa Avenue to little Island.
- Spending a lot of money on Doggy bags – bill looking at alternative sources that may be less expensive.
- Greeter program underway. 12 new homes (families) listed as homes sold – so far only been able to contact 2.
- We need to collect as many of BIIA memberships email addresses as possible – way to expedite communication with members.
- \$ 5800 budgeted for holiday season – decorations will need \$ 6400. To complete everything. Board voted approval of extra money.

Meeting adjourned by Terry Janssen at 8: 40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Sibley, Secretary
By Scott Sibley