

City Manager's Weekly Update

June 9, 2017

PARKS AND RECREATION

Frederick Street Park Improvements

Parks and Recreation staff has upgraded the hardware on the ADA bucket swing at Frederick Street Park. This swing is one of two bucket swings county-wide, a very popular amenity designed for special needs children.



Grant Park Restroom Improvements

The Grant Park restroom ADA renovations are currently underway. The outdoor pad has been expanded for increased turning radius, and wider stalls will be created to comply with current ADA Standards.



Louden Nelson Community Center

Utilizing grant funding, LNCC has are continuing to coordinate significant improvements to the Center. Some of the latest improvements include construction of more efficient office and public spaces, reconfiguring the Teen Center walls and offices, installation of new fans in the auditorium to improve ventilation. A contractor has also been selected to make repairs to several sections of the roof. This year's winter storms, exposed several flaws in the roofing.



Other LNCC events:

Friday June 9, Santa Cruz Parks & Recreation Junior Theater will present “**Mary Poppins**” in two shows at 4pm and 7pm in the Auditorium; **Saturday June 10** The annual Juneteenth Celebration in Laurel Park will be held from 12:00pm – 5:00pm at Laurel Park!

Events

Japanese Cultural Fair SATURDAY June 10, 11:00 am – 6:00 pm in Mission Plaza. Full schedule at www.jcfsantacruz.org.



Santa Cruz Sunrise Rotary Club Memorial

Santa Cruz Sunrise Rotary Club dedicated the San Lorenzo Pump Track Memorial Monument on Saturday, June 3rd with a new plaque designed by artist Sean Monaghan and provided a \$25,000 check to the City. The donation was the second installment of a \$50,000 donation the Club made to purchase the portable pump track for the Bench Lands. The Rotary Club's donation was from their annual bike ride fundraiser, "Jon and Ken's Most Excellent Adventure" Ride in 2016 and 2017. A HUGE thank you to Club for supporting the youth of Santa Cruz!



Gay Pride Parade Participants

Parks and Recreation displayed their Santa Cruz pride as they marched in the annual downtown Pride parade. Decked out in super hero capes of all colors of the rainbow, Parks and Recreation staff showed their high-energy, while reminding the community to register for classes.



University Terrace Dog Park Improvements

Parks staff along with a local contractor completed a new “viewing platform” at the small dog area at University Terrace Park. This platform allows for ADA access. Future improvements include a new table for the platform and additional fencing separating large dogs from small dogs at the off-leash park.



Neary Lagoon Illegal Encampment Cleanup

The Park Ranger unit along with the Police Department completed a large illegal encampment cleanup at Neary Lagoon. A total of 4,030 pounds of debris were removed from this site, San Lorenzo Park and the SL River over the past week.



(before)

(after)

PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Housing

On June 1st, the Planning Commission heard two items related to housing. The first item was **708, 712 and 718 Water Street**, a 41-unit 100% affordable housing project, with 8 units reserved for developmentally disabled tenants. The project received a state Density Bonus concession to allow for a fourth story. The project was recommended for approval by the Planning Commission and will be scheduled for review by the City Council on June 27th.

The state has made modifications to the **Density Bonus law**, which were considered and recommended for approval by the Planning Commission. This legally and technically complex law is intended to incentivize construction of affordable housing, but has not been used much in the City of Santa Cruz. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the ordinance with a comment that the Council should determine if this law is a tool that the City wants to promote through simplification and guidance for developers.

The Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on June 15, 2017, to receive public comment on topics to evaluate in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) associated with the **Amendments to the Downtown Recovery Plan**. The meeting is also an opportunity for public and commission input on the proposed changes and other associated land use regulations.



The plan amendments will be considered in conjunction with amendments to the General Plan (Floor Area Ratio for the Regional Visitor Commercial land use designation), policy amendments to the Local Coastal Plan for the development standards interface with the San Lorenzo River, and zoning ordinance amendments, which will also include establishing a permanent Parklet ordinance.

The Draft EIR will collectively evaluate of these amendments and is expected to be completed for review sometime in July or August. Planning Commission and City Council hearings will follow in the fall.

In keeping with the City Council's **focus on Housing**, Councilmembers may have seen the Santa Cruz Chamber sponsored lunch event on June 30th at the Seacliff Inn in Aptos. State Senator Scott Wiener, 11th District San Francisco, will be discussing issues and possible solutions to address the state wide housing problems, and this presentation will be relevant to our coastal City. Senator Wiener introduced SB 35 which is under consideration by the State Senate. SB 35 would ease the development process statewide. There are similarities between this bill and an unsuccessful by-right housing proposal made last year by Governor Jerry Brown.

708-718 Water Street

On Thursday June 1st, the Planning Commission heard an application to construct a 41 unit, 100% affordable residential development at 708, 712, and 718 Water Street. Eight of the 41 units would be reserved for income-eligible individuals with developmental disabilities.



The project requires approval of a Special Use Permit, Lot Line Adjustment, Design Permit, and Residential and Non-residential Demolition Authorization Permits. Because the project is proposed to be 100% affordable to low and very low income persons and families, it is eligible for incentives and concessions through the State's density bonus law and the City Municipal Code. Incentives and concessions allow for a project to deviate from the required site development standards to facilitate an affordable housing development. The number of concessions available to a project is based on the level of affordability and percentage of affordable units proposed.

The project is eligible for three concessions and has requested the following: 1) An increase in height from 40' and 3 stories to 49' and 4 stories, 2) a reduction in private open space area from 100 square feet per unit to 50-72 square feet per unit, and 3) a reduction in on-site parking from 71 parking spaces to 41 parking spaces. At the Planning Commission hearing, approximately 15 members of the public spoke in support of the development of affordable housing and housing for the developmentally disabled population. In contrast, approximately seven members of the public spoke against the project, citing issues of design incompatibility with the surrounding neighborhood with regard to the proposed mass, height, and location of the building at the front property line of the parcel, and potential impacts of spillover parking on Water Street and surrounding local streets.

The Planning Commission recommended the addition of several conditions of approval intended to address these concerns and voted unanimously to recommend approval of the project to the City Council. The project requires final approval by the City Council due to the request for a concession to height/stories and the item has been scheduled for the June 27th City Council meeting.

PUBLIC WORKS

Traffic Engineering

We will soon be installing the first “bike box” in Santa Cruz County at the intersection of Seabright and Soquel avenues to help prevent right hook collisions by positioning people on bikes in front of drivers so that they are clearly visible. Right hook collisions, in which drivers turn right without checking for cyclists in the bike lane, are a common cause of bike/car crashes. Bike boxes have already been installed throughout 20 U.S. cities including San Francisco, San Luis Obispo and Chicago. The box will be similar to the one below left in Portland, Oregon and right in San Luis Obispo. Rules of the road for both drivers and cyclists can be found [here](#).



Photo by www.nacto.org



Photo by Caltrans

Resource Recovery

Waste Reduction hosted a very successful Santa Cruz Garage Sale Weekend on June 3rd and 4th. 100 residents registered their sales on the City Garage Sale Treasure Map. Of those, 13 were multi-family neighborhood or block sales. This is a great way to support the second R – Reuse and keep durable goods out of the landfill. We promoted the event through social media, City Hall to YOU and display ads in both the Sentinel and the Good Times.



We are offering free summer tours of City recycling center, the Resource Recovery Facility, 605 Dimeo Lane, on Thursdays and Fridays June 15 and 16, July 13 and 14, and August 10 and 11.

The tours, offered 10-11:30 a.m. and 1-2:30 p.m. each day, provide opportunity to learn about the complex recycling process.

To make a reservation, call (831) 420-5593 or email lomalley@cityofsantacruz.com. [More information.](#)



Landfill and Recycling Processing

The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Board conditionally approved the use of Cell 3A for permitted waste disposal. Landfill staff has been busy preparing access roads, stockpiling cover materials, and fine tuning the operation layer in anticipation of starting the first lifts on Monday June 12th.

Collections

We've noticed a slight increase in illegal dumping all over the city. This week we collected 3.98 tons, the week before we collected 2.82 tons. We are also getting ready for our bi-annual bulky item/move out weekend on June 24th.

Engineering

The Fall 2016 Surface Seal Project work we completed consisted of the installation of street striping at several locations.



Rooney St.

The Fall 2016 Overlay Project work we completed consisted of installation of Cold In-Place Recycling (CIR) at Mission Street Extension, Western Drive and Swanton Boulevard. Also, concrete work continued on Ocean Street including removal and replacement of damaged curbs and gutters, sidewalks and curb ramps.



Swanton Blvd. (CIR)



Mission St. Extension (CIR)



Western Dr. (CIR)

Community Outreach

Our Recycle Right! Cardboard video has received about 1,000 views on Facebook this week. Learn what does and doesn't work for pizza boxes and other items in [this quick video](#).



We have planned a lunchtime ribbon cutting celebration for our Pacific Avenue Contraflow Bike Lane on June 27 at Assembly Restaurant's patio. Please join Mayor Cynthia Chase, other City officials and community members to celebrate and learn Contraflow Dos and Don'ts. Here's the [Facebook event](#).

We have created our event poster for the Street Smarts kickoff family-friendly event on Sept.13. A version of this will be crafted into bookmarks for all Santa Cruz elementary students.



We have translated our 9 Street Smarts media messages into Spanish for placement on City vehicles, Telemundo television station and elsewhere.