



PACIFIC GROVE WEEKLY SUMMARY

January 18, 2013

CITY COUNCIL

A suggestion has been made that, given it takes a week or so for the Council meeting videos to become available, this weekly summary could include highlights of the Council meetings. Here are the notable Council actions at its meeting on January 16, 2013.

Conducted the second conceptual review of changes to the zoning code regarding allowable uses, primarily in the downtown and on Forest Hill, and streamlining the permitting process, as recommended by the Planning Commission. (First reading of the ordinance that would formalize the change will be held on February 6.)

Appointed members to the City's boards and commissions for the 2013-5 term. (Note: there are still vacancies if you or someone you know is interested. See listing at <http://www.ci.pg.ca.us/>)

Authorized approval of a contract to construct improvements on Lighthouse Avenue at Forest Avenue, funded by the Jeannette McIndoo bequest. This project is scheduled to be completed before Good Old Days, April 13-4.

Authorized applications for state grants to help fund the City's proposed small water projects and to purchase trees for public lands throughout the City.

Authorized a letter of support for Caltrans to relinquish Hwy 68 to the City.

Received an entrancing paean to poetry, Pacific Grove, and poetry in Pacific Grove by Barbara Mossberg, the City's Poet in Residence.

If you don't find this summary valuable or if you have a suggestion on how to improve it, please let us know.

LIBRARY

Teen Graphic Novel Club. The Pacific Grove Public Library is hosting a 6-week "Graphic Novel" club, just for teens ages 12 to 18 beginning Thursday, January 24 at 5 p.m. The first meeting will feature a visit by award-winning graphic novel artist Gene Luen Yang, author of "American Born Chinese" and "Avatar: the Last Airbender". Subsequent club meetings will take place on Thursdays and Saturdays through March 2. The "California Center for the Book" supplies multiple free copies of different graphic novels for club members to read and discuss. For more information on the club, or to sign up, please call 648-5762.

PUBLIC WORKS

Point Pinos Lighthouse. Over the past few weeks, a tremendous amount of work has been completed by the volunteers and the City, in collaboration, for the restoration of the Point Pinos Lighthouse. Among other actions, we retained the services of Chris Wilson Plumbing to upgrade the wastewater sewer line. This job consisted of replacing over 600 feet of Orangeburg sewer line (that has been out of service for more than 15 years) with new SDR26 plastic sewer pipe. The process that was used to replace this line was a method known as trenchless sewer line replacement, or pipe bursting. This is a non-disruptive method that utilized two manholes that were already in place on the property. Chris Wilson plumbing seamed together all of the pipes above ground, and then, starting at the manhole on the Lighthouse property, pulled the new pipe through the existing sewer line to a manhole located above the driving range on the golf course. Once that connection was made, then the new pipe was pulled from the golf course manhole to a new cleanout that was installed just to the side of Asilomar Blvd. The two coast guard housing units located at the lighthouse property were tied into the new line and the line is functioning properly.

In conjunction with Wilson Plumbing, Building and Grounds staff also completed several upgrades including a new water line for the Lighthouse. The Lighthouse has been using water supplied from the Coast Guard housing units, and a stipulation of the deed between the City and Coast Guard for the Lighthouse property, specifies that the City get all utilities in the City's name. We have had the water meter in place for about three months, and this connection will end the last utility service that has needed to be separated from the Coast Guard units. We anticipate this job being completed early next week and then the Lighthouse utilities will be independent of the Coast Guard.

We have also been doing all of the preparation work for the two new outbuildings-- the visitors center/gift shop and restrooms. We are preparing an RFP for their construction; they will replicate outbuildings that once stood on the property. Plans have been drawn for the buildings and are being reviewed by the building department, in order for the permit to be issued.

Streets Division. The streets division has been working to cut back all the vegetation that has encroached into the bike trail from Asilomar State beach to Asilomar Boulevard just beyond the Golf Course's 18th tee. This consisted of removing thousands of pounds of vegetation from ice plant to trimming back Cypress trees and everything in between as the bike trail had really become over grown and it was becoming a safety issue for pedestrians and bike riders. The streets department completed this early this week and is now working on the trails along our coast line that run along Sunset Drive, cutting back vegetation that has encroached into the trail paths.

Fire equipment maintenance agreement. The City has entered into an agreement with the City of Monterey to work collaboratively to provide vehicle maintenance for fire apparatus. In 2008, the Cities of Monterey and Pacific Grove merged their Fire Departments in order to take advantage of operational efficiencies and cost savings while continuing to provide high quality emergency response for residents. The agreement to provide shared fire equipment maintenance services will result in cost savings and enhanced services to both Pacific Grove and Monterey.

CDD

Jessica Hamill, of Rincon Consultants, started as a contract planner this week in CDD. She is assisting to cover the planning counter and is working on staff-level permit processing. Please welcome her if you get the chance.

HOUSING

The City of Pacific Grove has funds to help with HOME REPAIRS!

The City's Housing Division runs the Rehabilitation Loan Program, which provides affordable financing for repairs and improvements of owner occupied homes in the City of Pacific Grove. The intent of the program is to help residents improve the safety of their homes and to preserve and protect the current housing stock. The City will be applying for a new 2013 Community Development Program grant to continue to fund this valuable program.

The Housing Division screens interested homeowners to determine if they meet the Income Guidelines. Loans are affordable with no money down, no monthly payments, 3% simple interest due in 30 years, or when property transfers title or the owner no longer occupies the home. Each loan is administered via escrow and is secured by a deed of trust.

Interested homeowners are encouraged to call the Pacific Grove Housing Division at 831-648-3199, email Housing@ci.pg.ca.us or go to City Hall, 2nd floor. City staff will help with the application process, will inspect the home, help select a contractor, and monitor the work until the project is complete. More details can be found on the website at <http://ci.pg.ca.us/housing>

RECREATION

Please save **Saturday, January 26th, from 4-8 p.m.** for a wonderful **Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser** for the Lovers Point Pool Campaign. This event will be held at the P.G. Mason's Hall, at 130 Congress Ave. (next to the Post Office) and is completely sponsored by the Pacific Grove Masonic Lodge!

Tickets are \$10 and are on sale now at City Hall and may also be purchased at the door. Also, please know that we did receive a Pledge for **\$3,000** at Wednesday's City Council meeting from the **Pacific Grove Volunteer Firefighter's Association.**

If you would like to help sell tickets, we have books of 10 tickets each available at City Hall. If everyone took just one book, think how many tickets we could sell!