

PVP Watch Newsletter – October - 13 - 2019

To Our Friends and Supporters

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Tuesday November 5th is Election Day in RPV.

This year there are three (3) Council seats open. Mayor Jerry Duhovic and Council member Susan Brooks are “termed out” and cannot run for reelection. Council member Dyda has completed one term and is a candidate for reelection.

Four other RPV residents; Barbara Ferraro, Dave Emenhiser, Dave Bradley and Steve Perestam are also qualified RPV Council Candidates. **Barbara Ferraro, Dave Emenhiser and Dave Bradley are endorsed by PVP Watch as the three best candidates for the three open RPV Council positions.**

The League of Women voters are also hosting a forum concerning Measure B at Hesse Park on October 17th. Hopefully, RPV residents are well aware of “**Measure B**” the **Hospitality Initiative** that was initiated by labor union Unite Here 11. The intent of the Ordinance is to have RPV residents approve the Initiative which would mandate that RPV carry the burden of managing the Union initiated Ordinance without compensation.

Measure B is posted at www.pvpwatch.com / Current Events page.

PVP Watch Urges RPV Residents – Vote NO on Measure B

PVP Watch supports the right of workers to have a Union if they so decide but worker choice is NOT on the Ballot. Terranea did offer the Unite Here 11 Union an opportunity to solicit Terranea employees but the Union rejected the offer. It would seem that the Union has recognized that the employees weren't interested. Instead, the Union solicited RPV resident's signatures on the Union Unite Here Initiative petitions that is now known as Measure B. The union is now engaged in a newly allowed process referred to as “Ballot Harvesting.” The Union is targeting Absentee ballots (over 50% of the ballots in RPV). PV Residents can anticipate Union

representatives; young and well-dressed younger people to be renewing their canvassing in RPV neighborhoods.. Don't be vulnerable; don't let anyone in your door offering to discuss or taking your Ballot that you don't know.

Absentee Ballots have been mailed to RPV Voters

Yard Signs

Yard signs have long been a mainstay of politicking, both local and National campaigns. It is recognized that not everyone is thrilled with campaign signs but yard signs have long been an effective tool in candidate recognition. As one would expect RPV has a policy defining where yard signs may be placed. Also as one might anticipate the policy is antiquated and has been largely ignored for the past 8 / 10 years.

October 7th RPV vehicles were observed removing yard signs. Over 100 signs were removed during that period. Perhaps others removed signs as well A disturbing fact is that the preponderance of the signs were **“No on B”** signs that were there to ensure RPV voters were aware of what Measure B really is, a detriment to Terranea employees and RPV residents.

Needless to report some of the current Council candidates are furious that their signs were removed and the antiquated yard sign process will likely be updated with a new Council.

Hydrogen Fueling Station

At its October 8th, 2019 regularly scheduled meeting the Planning Commission approved request for a Hydrogen Fueling Station on the Shell property at the corner of Hawthorne Blvd. and Granvia Altamira.

According to the California State representative who appeared before the RPV Planning Commission, there are some 8,000 Hydrogen fueled automobiles now in California and this is the first Hydrogen fuel station on the Peninsula. It is not clear whether or not there will be an association between the Shell station operations and the Hydrogen fuel station.

This is a State driven program with a goal of 100 Hydrogen fuel stations state wide by 2025. Currently there are 48 Hydrogen fuel stations in California with another 18 being under “discussion.”

We hope that this works out well for all RPV residents but since it is a State driven process one never knows.

RPV – City Manager

RPV City Manager Doug Willmore announced his resignation at the September 3rd City Council meeting. We believe his last day will on or about November 22nd.

Community Development Director Ara Mihranian has been appointed Interim City Manager and PVP Watch supports that decision. Mr. Mihranian has long been an RPV employee having *“risen thru the ranks”* and knows

RPV issues well. It is a “**GOOD THING**” when existing employees are given an opportunity to advance their careers. What is objectionable is the rush to hire a search firm for a new City Manager. A search firm has already been retained at a cost of \$27,000. Why retain the search firm if Mr. Mihranian is going to be given an opportunity to demonstrate his capabilities? We wonder what search was done to select the search firm Packham & McKenney, Inc.

RPV – Fire Prevention

At last, the over abundant fire prone material (dried weeds) in the “Preserve” area was addressed by the RPV Council at their (Sept. 3) meeting. At long last, the PVP Land Conservancy is aggressively removing the highly volatile Acacia plants / trees that are highly flammable in the “Preserve” area. This is not an end solution and the project will be supervised by the RPV Public Works Department. We also believe the goat herd has also been expanded.

PVP Watch will follow and continue to post on this very important matter.

RPV - Proposed Civic Center

PVP Watch has previously voiced opposition to the latest rendition of the proposed Taj Mahal.

The next meeting of the Civic Center committee will be with the RPV Council on October 15th with the Gensler presentation of their concept for a new Civic Center.

Following is the staff Report for item 2 on the Councils October 15th agenda.

“Consideration and possible action to receive a presentation from the Civic Center Advisory Committee; approve the Civic Center programming document prepared by M. Arthur Gensler Jr. & Associates, Inc.; and authorize an environmental impact report for Point Vicente Park/Civic Center, authorize staff to develop a Request for Proposal with two phases for an architect to provide master plan design services and construction drawings, and hiring an experienced consultant to evaluate financing options (Waters) (1 hour)

Recommendation: *(1) Receive and file a presentation from the Civic Center Advisory Committee (CCAC); (2) Approve the Civic Center programming document prepared by M. Arthur Gensler Jr. & Associates, Inc.; (3) Authorize an environmental impact report for Point Vicente Park/Civic Center; (4) Authorize staff to develop a Request for Proposal with two phases for an architect to provide master plan design services and construction drawings; and (5) Authorize hiring a professional consultant to evaluate financing options.”*

This matter is scheduled for one hour and the Council has two perhaps three meetings remaining in this term. Is this Council going to attempt to approve staff’s recommendations to move forward with no time for fact finding? Depending on who is elected on November 5th, the new Council will likely postpone this project to some future date unknown.

As we previously reported, it does not appear that “rehabbing” the existing building was ever considered... An analysis was performed by the firm Gonzalez & Goodale Architects in 2010 and their report is posted **at**

www.pvpwatch.com. Go to the Current Issues page. Generally, the building was / is in good condition but did / does need some upgrading.

We have suggested that RPV's annual budget can accommodate a diversion of \$2 million annually for an initial period of 5 years. What can be done with a budget of \$10 million? And the City does not have to seek outside consultants as there is ample talent on RPV staff.

RPV – NCCP

We have posted previously on land use issues brought forward by the Pacific Legal Foundation (www.pacificlegal.org), a public interest law firm with primary offices in Sacramento, Ca.

The continuing issue is the Endangered Species Act and the revision announcement this past August. In short this revision expands the protection of wildlife (where it exists) and prevents the "taking of personal property where certain wildlife does not presently exist. Our reading of the revision is that no longer can land to be set aside (Taken) where there is merely an assumption that "endangered or threatened species" might exist at some future time. Presently, there are several examples of these conditions in RPV.

While there is much "hoop-la" about protecting Gnatcatchers and Palos Verdes Blue Butterfly (PVB) those two species (according to the Draft Environmental Assessment for the Rancho Palos Verdes NCCP/HCP page 1-5) do not now exist in RPV. Of importance is that the revised Endangered Species Act specifically states that land not now occupied with said species cannot be "taken" for Preserve purposes. Should there be a desire to acquire such land, Fair Market Value must be paid to the land owner. This also includes land already set aside for nonexistent species including Gnatcatchers or Palos Verdes Blue Butterflies.

We have asked RPV what their position is on this latest Endangered Species Act Federal decision and there has been no response. Interested residents can go to the Pacific Legal Foundation (www.pacificlegal.org).

The NCCP scheduled for the October 29th Council agenda. Will the Council delay decisions for the new Council or proceed ignoring the revisions in the revised Endangered Species Act?

There is no law that requires RPV to enact an NCCP.

PVPUSD –

The Palos Verdes Unified School District, Palos Verdes Chamber of Commerce, and Peninsula Education Foundation presented the first annual State of the District on Wednesday, October 2nd where Superintendent Dr. Alex Cherniss discussed the priorities and challenges the District will be addressing in the 2019-2020 school year. The key message of the evening was "Putting Kids First". Due to the overwhelming response to

the initial invitation, the venue was moved to the Harlyne J. Norris Pavilion to accommodate approximately 400 people in attendance.

The event began with a Meet and Greet with people from throughout the community. The presentation was introduced by two Student Board of Education members and included a fabulous “Chicago” performance from Palos Verdes High School Drama Department and an impressive dance routine from Palos Verdes Peninsula High School Choreo team.

Dr. Cherniss highlighted the many partners that support PVPUSD to make it an extraordinary District. These include the Palos Verdes Peninsula Rotary, PVP Council of PTAs, Palos Verdes Library District, CSEA, PVFA, PVPAR, PV Art Center, PV Land Conservancy, PV School Gardens, Lomita Sherriff Department, Palos Verdes Estates Police Dept., the cities of RPV, PVE, RH, and one of our sponsors of the evening, Rolling Hills Estates. He mentioned sponsors USC and Continental Development in conjunction with an innovative new Marine Science Center in the works at the District Malaga Cove location.

There were many accomplishments to be celebrated. Highlights included campus safety with the introduction of Raptor, a campus visitor management system, the addition of two full-time School Resource Officers, updated communication systems, and uniforms for Maintenance. The continued focus on academics, arts, athletics and activities has resulted in being listed as #1 in South Bay, #2 in LA County, and #7 in California on the 2020 Best School Niche Report. The impressive college acceptance rate, intervention offered during the school day, cell phone policy and attention to fiscal responsibility were also highlighted.

Dr. Cherniss addressed the funding challenges PVPUSD faces. It is clear that PVPUSD receives funding well below that of other states and other districts within California. We need to continue to work on increased funding from Sacramento. Unfortunately, many of the facilities at the schools are outdated and in need of upgrades. A Facility Advisory Committee was created to help prioritize the Districts top priorities. These include seismic upgrades, ADA upgrades, restroom replacements, and infrastructure upgrades. These projects will require a significant financial investment and the FAC is asking the Board to explore a potential bond.

Another challenge the Superintendent presented was “preparing students for jobs that don’t yet exist... using technologies that haven’t been invented... in order to solve problems we don’t even know are problems yet.” Top in-demand jobs today did not even exist 10 years ago and we need to give our students the life skills that lead to future employment success. The most important skills for our students include communication, multi-tasking, organizational, critical-thinking, interpersonal, teamwork, problem solving ability and these tools need to be incorporated in every day learning in the classroom.

The presentation concluded with the importance of “Putting kids first”. The goal of PVPUSD is for all kids to have 100% “school connectedness”. Dr. Cherniss stressed the importance of this with respect to academics, mentoring, arts, and the many activities available. Students that are connected are more likely to engage less

in risky behavior, have higher achievement, higher attendance, and stay in school longer. “It is all of our responsibility” as educators, parents, and community members to make sure our students feel that.

“Palos Verdes Unified School District has a legacy of excellence and we will continue to prepare our students to thrive today and tomorrow.”

Thanks to the Chamber of Commerce and Peninsula Education Foundation for co-sponsoring this event. The State of the District video (filmed by Live from 205 Palos Verdes High students) is available on the PVPUSD website

Submission – PVPUSD Superintendent Dr. Alex Cherniss.

PVP Watch Welcomes Subscriber Comments

PVP Watch welcomes subscriber Comments. Please send comments to info@pvpwatch.com.

A current email issue is overactive “spam” detectors and we urge everyone to enter info@pvpwatch.com and pvpwatch into their computer address books. This signals your ISP (Internet Service Provider) that you wish to receive PVP Watch newsletters.

Those who have topics of community interest are encouraged to bring those issues to info@pvpwatch.com as well.

Subscribers should check out [www.pvpwatch](http://www.pvpwatch.com) as well.

PVP Watch Welcomes Contributions

PVP Watch appreciates the financial contributions of the many subscribers who have sent checks to PVP Watch as we remain on the financial support of our many subscribers. Those wishing to make a modest contribution, please send checks to PVP Watch / PO Box 2041 / Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274

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