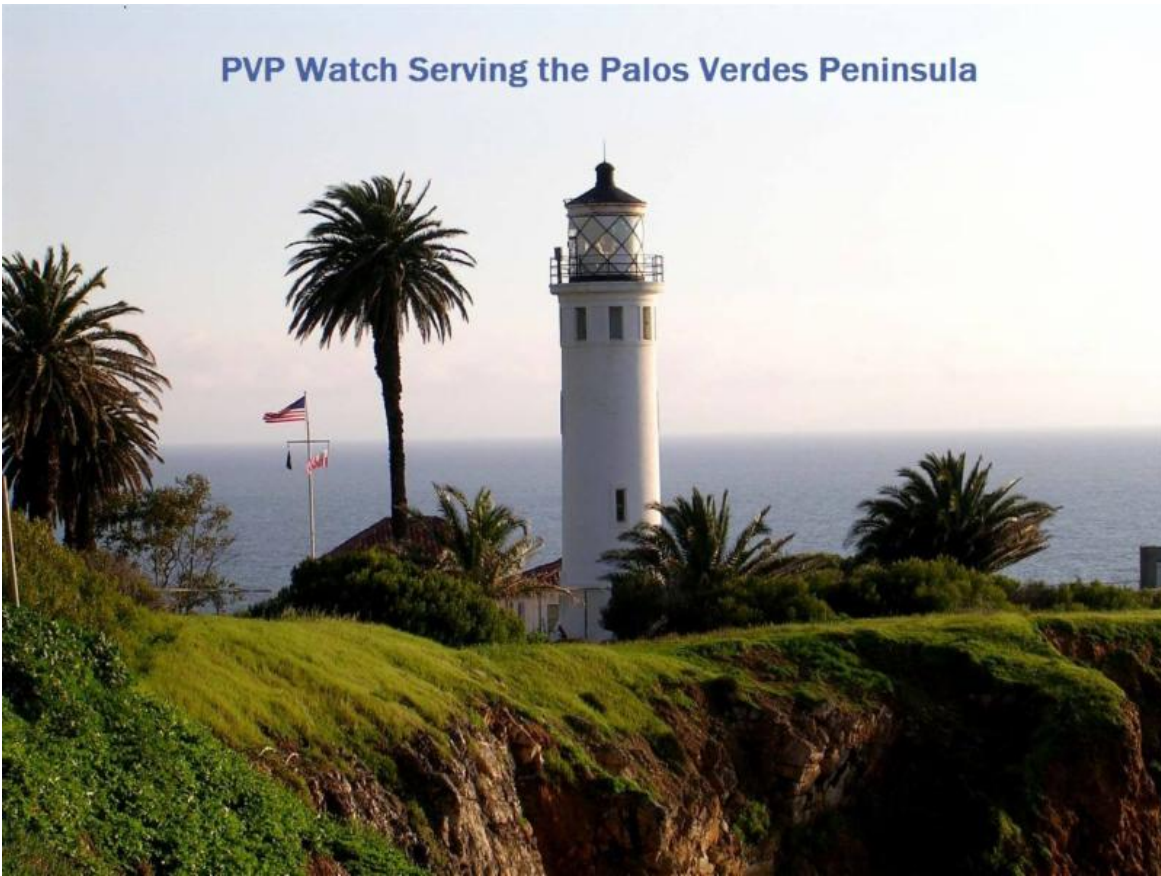


## PVP Watch Newsletter –

### PVP Watch Serving the Palos Verdes Peninsula



December - 6 - 2019

*To Our Friends and Supporters*

*I*

*n This Newsletter*

*RPV – Elections*

*RPV – City Manager*

*RPV - Proposed Civic Center*

*RPV –NCCP*

*PVE – HOA Election*

***Merry Christmas – Happy New Year***

It's now December and Santa Claus will soon be arriving. Much has happened on the Peninsula this past year mostly in RPV and PVE. At RHE long time City Manager Doug Prichard retired and he was replaced by Greg Grammer a long time RHE employee.

PVE was a little more exciting when three new Council members were elected last March, and the City Manager promptly resigned. PVE continues to face significant budget deficiencies and it is reported that the PVE Police Department costs are the primary reason for the budget deficiencies.

At RPV there were several issues but the union Unite Here Local 11 efforts to enact a Municipal Ordinance (Measure B) that that would have controlled “Hospitality” (Terranea) employees was soundly (3 to1) defeated. Terranea offered the union an opportunity to solicit employees to join the union but the union wanted a “Closed Shop” deal. Terranea employees were not interested in having a union-controlled work environment.

***RPV residents are to be congratulated for recognizing the detriment of the Union proposal and wisely voting in opposition to Measure B.***

RPV residents also elected two new Council members, Barbara Ferraro and Dave Bradley and returned Ken Dyda to another term as an RPV Council member. Recent Mayor Jerry Duhovic and Council member Susan Brooks were termed out.

**Other Changes at RPV**

**RPV – City Manager**

RPV City Manager Doug Willmore resigned and has departed for a private industry position. 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. PVP Watch believes Mr. Mihranian will bring greater leadership to the City Manager position with openness and seeking input from all parties.

Deputy City Manager Yap also resigned to take a similar position at Beverly Hills City Hall where she had been employed previously.

This gives Interim City Manager Mihranian flexibility in redesigning City Hall responsibilities

**RPV - Proposed Civic Center**

The proposed new City Hall will undoubtedly go into a “hold” position. The “drivers” of this proposal was Council member Susan Brooks and City Manager Doug Willmore, and both have now departed from City Hall. The new Council members, Ferraro and Bradley, have voiced concerns about the project and we doubt that there will be much activity on this matter in the near future.

Never considered, at least so far, was “rehabbing” the existing building was ever discussed. An analysis was performed by the firm Gonzalez & Goodale Architects in 2010 and their report is posted at [www.pvpwatch.com](http://www.pvpwatch.com). Go to the Current Issues page. Generally, the building was / is in good condition but did / does need some upgrading.

As 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**

At its last meeting on November 19<sup>th</sup>, the outgoing Council approved the long discussed “NCCP.” The State / Federal wildlife agencies now must approve it. The Implementation

plan seems quite cumbersome and we will have to see what happens next.

One matter to be resolved is Jim York's lawsuit against the City relative to "Taking" of property without paying Fair Market Value for said property. A 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.

As we previously reported, there has been 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 landowner. This also includes land already set aside for nonexistent species including Gnatcatchers or Palos Verdes Blue Butterflies.

### **RPV – Fire Prevention**

Fire prevention in the Preserve and canyon areas has long been a concern. Thankfully, recent rains have reduced that problem.

### **PVE – HOA Election**

*Ballots are out for the Palos Verdes Homes Association Board of Directors Election.*  
After first ballot returns (as of 11/12/19), only 341 (6%) of ballots accepted (and another 94 ballots rejected for lack of signature) -- well short of the quorum requirement to have a valid election. This will be an important election for two reasons:

**REASON #1.** For the first time members will be asked whether they support lowering the quorum from 50% to 35%. If the majority says "no", then the quorum stays at 50% and probably will not be revisited by the Superior Court in the future. ROBE (Resident for Open Board Elections) has been fighting for a lower quorum because a 50% (+1) quorum was achieved only 29% of the time since 1941, and only three times in the last 25 years. There have been no valid elections in the past ten years, and none of the current Board members have been elected. We need to bring democracy to PVHA. In the last three contested elections, the vote count only reached 35% once -- 32.5% in 2016, 29.2% in 2017 and 39.5% in 2018, so even a 35% quorum goal will be a challenge and voter participation is critical. But since a goal of 35% is more attainable than 50%, it is very important to vote "yes" on this question.

**REASON #2.** *Progress has been made with two new board members, but more new leadership is needed*

Beginning in February 2019, two of ROBE's past candidates (Dick Fay and Marlene Breene) joined the five-member PVHA Board when the Board replaced current members (Carolbeth Cozen -- subsequent to her Art Jury appointment -- and Phil Frengs -- when he resigned from the Board). This brought significant, fresh perspectives to the Board;

however, there were several subsequent decisions where the two new ROBE directors were in the minority (2-3). One of those decisions related to proposed changes to the PVHA View Policy; this resulted in restricting roughly half of PVE homes from bringing tree/view disputes to the PVHA.

Unfortunately, the new/more restrictive policy was approved by the Board (with Fay and Breene voting against the new more restrictive policy.) Since then, Marlene Breene has been working diligently on a new more comprehensive policy and we are hopeful that a version of that will replace the current flawed policy; but the outcome is not known. Thus, we have concluded that ROBE must stay active this year to promote additional changes to the composition of the Board. John Harbison and Ried Schott are the other two ROBE candidates.

For bios on the six candidates for five seats, positioning statements and candidate answers to questions on current issues, see <https://www.pvrrg.org/2020-pvha-election>. Also, for ROBE's platform on issues, see <http://www.pvegoodgov.org/pvha-2020-election-issues>. Finally, there will be a Candidate Forum hosted by the League of Women Voters in PVE City Council Chambers on December 11 at 6:30pm.

***Editor: Further change in PVE is needed. Please vote for new PVE HOA Board members.***

### **PVP Watch Welcomes Subscriber Comments**

PVP Watch welcomes subscriber Comments. Please send comments to [info@pvpwatch.com](mailto:info@pvpwatch.com).

A current email issue is overactive "spam" detectors and we urge everyone to enter [info@pvpwatch.com](mailto: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](mailto:info@pvpwatch.com) as well.

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

### **PVP Watch Welcomes Contributions**

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### **PVP Watch – Newsletter List**

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*The Editorial Committee*