

CAYUCOS CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL

February 7, 2024, 7:00 pm

Hybrid meeting held at Cayucos School and via zoom

The meeting was called to order at 7: 04 pm by Chair John Carsel and the roll was called. Present: Chair John Carsel, Carol Kramer, Paul Choucalas, Glenn Oelker, Francie Farinet, Marie Jaqua, Roland Hutchinson, Steve Beightler, Greg Bettencort, Larry Fishman, Lynne Harrington. Excused absences: Rachel Wilson, Jim Dantona, and Jan Meslin.

The minutes of the meeting of January 3, 2024 were tabled.

There was no change in the Treasurer's report from last month.

There were no announcements.

Public Comment

Alexis Todd, a teacher at Cayucos School, spoke in favor of expanding and improving Norma Rose Park in south Cayucos near the cemetery. She is sending a letter [attached] to County Supervisor Bruce Gibson. Ms. Todd emphasized that it is not just a dog park, and there are no parks in the areas where most of the children in Cayucos live. She spoke about seeing children play in or around the cemetery because there is no play equipment at the park. She would like for Cayucos to invest in its children by improving the park. At the request of Chair Carsel, Ms. Todd will provide a copy of her letter to the Council. Blake Fixler, aide to County Supervisor Bruce Gibson, responded favorably to Ms. Todd's statement and Chair Carsel spoke about the history of the development of the park. When asked by Advisory Council member Francie Farinet asked whether the goal is to build a skateboard park as well as a regular park, Ms. Todd replied that playground equipment with a grassy area would be the minimum improvement needed.

A second public comment was made by Rylan Ender, one of Ms. Todd's students. The student stated that all parks in Cayucos are on the east side of Highway 1, so a park on the west side is desired.

A third public comment was given by Bob and Luanne Kittle, residents of the 300 block of North Ocean Avenue. They stated that they have lived there for 20 years and are concerned about the "parcel just west of the pier" [known to the Advisory Council as

property owned by developer Jay Cobb where a hotel was previously proposed.] Mr. Kittle said that the developer has “come back with modifications...It’s just a terrible project...That parcel is eroding rapidly...Four feet have disappeared because of king tides.”

Council member Comments

Council member Farinet asked about the public access to the beach and Chair Carsel replied that the project now is solely under the jurisdiction of the Coastal Commission. Mr. Kittle explained that the public had used the beach access on the condo property but there was incorrect signage on it for a time. Ms. Kittle added that correct signage is being made now and will soon be placed on the public beach access stairway.

Council member Larry Fishman announced that Ed Carnegie, former Chair of the Advisory Council, has unfortunately passed away at the age of 89. A memorial service is planned for February 19, 2024 at 2:00 pm at the Community Church on Ocean Avenue, followed by a reception at the Morro Bay Yacht Club.

Chair Carsel announced that there is no zoom recording for the January, 2024 meeting because the projector was stored in his garage after which he had to bring all of his work files home when he retired. There was no electricity to open the garage door. The projector was behind too many boxes and could not be reached from the inside. Council member Paul Choucalas discovered that a water leak had tripped the circuit breaker and he was able to make the necessary repairs, after which the projector could be reached in time for the February meeting.

Estero Bay Fire Department

Captain Vic Carillo reported on 45 total incidents to which his department responded in the past month. One was a medical incident at one was a structure fire. Captain Carillo said that his crews have driven to each of the creeks in the area to check on them whenever we’ve had heavy rainfall. He also stated that the Cayucos pier was closed down because some structural issues at the very end were evident. The pier will remain closed until further notice in the interest of safety of the public.

SLO CHP

Captain Klingenberger said that he did not have the January statistics at hand but he invited questions. Advisory Council member Marie Jaqua expressed a complaint about a motor home that has been parked in front of 43 Pacific Avenue. Captain Klingenberger said that he was well familiar with this issue as Council member Jaqua had reported the problem several times; he assured her that he would address it again.

Public Works

No report.

Parks and Recreation

No report.

Cayucos Sanitary District

No report.

Cayucos Chamber of Commerce

Advisory Council member Carol Kramer reported that the next Chamber-sponsored event is the Antiques Street Fair. She also reported that she is adopting 3rd Street park which is in need of new equipment. She has further plans for the park which she will discuss at a future time.

Cayucos School

Jen Gaviola, Superintendent, reported that the School Board members have decided to take turns attending the Advisory Council meetings based on positive remarks made about the meetings by Kerry Friend. Ms. Gaviola said that the next school board meeting at the school is on February 14, 2024 at 6:30 pm. She also stated that the lower field of the school has been flooding. New classes are being added including jewelry-making and floral design. The next school play is Willy Wonka. Ms. Gaviola went on to explain about developers fees affecting the school and Advisory Council member Choucalas expressed that fees of \$9,000 to \$15,000 would make it even harder for families to afford to live here.

Supervisor Gibson's Report

As Supervisor Gibson was out of town, Mr. Fixler provided a report. Regarding the closure of the pier, he said that the next step would be for the Parks Department to inspect above and below the water to assess the damage at the end of the pier. He also announced that voting ballots for the primary elections had gone out the previous day.

Land Use Committee

Advisory Council member Glenn Oelker indicated that two projects were reviewed and both passed unanimously, 5-0. The first project is the remodeling of a home on Pacific Avenue, and the other is a house where a larger house will be added on the property, and then the original house will be designated as an Additional Dwelling Unit (ADU). Council member Oelker moved to approve the two recommendations of the Land Use Committee and Council member Farinet seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Advisory Council Elections

Council Vice President Steve Beightler listed the precinct vacancies and presented the proposed ballot. There are two contested races: Precincts 2 and 4. The election will be held on March 12, 2024 in the small meeting room at the Cayucos Library between 4:00 and 8:00 pm. Each voter can vote for up to two candidates per precinct. It was moved and seconded to accept the form of the ballot and the motion passed unanimously.

New Advisory Council Handbook

Mr. Fixler reported on the new Advisory Council Handbook and answered questions from Council members. Chair Carsel asked that members review the Handbook as we will discuss it at our next meeting.

Chair Carsel announced that the next meeting will be held on March 6, 2024. The next Land Use Committee meeting will be on February 28, 2024. The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Vicki Tamoush

Acting Secretary