



Agenda and Report for the Bird Rock Community Council Monthly Community Meeting

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

6:00-7:30 PM

Bird Rock Elementary School Auditorium

(Enter from La Jolla Hermosa at the south end gate.)

Zoom access at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85891572247?pwd=QTdCMytqMDYrT1dJb081ZC9pVmhnQT09>

A. BRCC COMMUNITY MEETING

1. Welcome, Board Member Introductions, Remarks

Joe Terry – President

Craig Bender – Merchants' Group

Joe Parker – Vice President

Representative

Jennifer Van Galder – Secretary

Janet Gentile

Barbara Dunbar – Treasurer, MAD

Marco Gentile

Representative and BR Newsletter Editor

Eric Kleinbub

Kristin Barret

Lake Price– Web Administer

Janette Williams

2. Brief Updates from the Representatives of Elected Officials.

Please see Appendix A for written updates.

a. Emily Lynch, Community Representative for the Office of Council President Pro Tem Joe LaCava, ERLynch@san Diego.gov

Emily joined us via Zoom. Please see Appendix A for Emily's report, including info about both Council President Pro Tem LaCava's 5:30-6:30PM town hall meeting, Tuesday, March 26 at the La Jolla Recreation Center and the Budget Crash Course, which the Office of the Independent Budget Analyst is offering to the public on March 21, 2024, from 5-6 p.m. via Zoom.

b. Emily Piatanesi, Community Representative, Office of Mayor Todd Gloria, Epiatanesi@san Diego.gov, C: 619-964-6637

Emily attended in person and mentioned the following: 1) the San Diego Police Chief and Fire Chief will be retiring soon and the process will start to find replacements; 2) storm recovery programs; and 3) the Pavement Management Program. In addition, Emily's report in Appendix A also mentions the Budget Crash Course.

Trace Wilson asked Emily about the status of the \$2 million project to replace the beach access stairs of Camino de la Costa and Emily said she would find out.

c. Allie Apfeld, District Scheduler, Congressman Scott Peters, Allison.Apfeld@mail.house.gov

Allie attended via Zoom and provided a written report on several important issues (see Appendix A).

d. Aurora Livingston, District Representative for Senator Catherine Blakespear | 38th District, Aurora.Livingston@sen.ca.gov (760) 642-0809

Aurora is not here tonight but sent the following info:

WOMEN WHO INSPIRE: Nominate women in the community who you admire for their achievements and/or service. The Senator will recognize all the nominees during Women's Month in March. A link to the website is in Appendix A

FENTANYL TOWN HALL, featuring District Attorney Summer Stephan and Fire Chief Josh Gordon on Wednesday, March 20, 6:00 - 7:30 at Mira Costa College San Elijo Campus in Cardiff by the Sea.

RSVP and CONTACT info are in App A.

3. Public Announcements (2 minutes each on non-agenda topics)

Joe Parker introduced Ian Campbell, who is a local arborist, and Ian spoke briefly about his company.

4. Updates on BRCC Projects and Activities

If you have any questions or comments about the following projects, please email them to info@birdrockcc.org,

a. Blvd Lighting Project

The BRCC is making progress on this three-part project (i.e., sidewalk tree and bush lighting, median lighting and exterior building lighting), which will benefit residents, merchants and visitors by providing increased community aesthetics, greater public safety, and enhanced commercial identity. This month, we hope to have a demonstration of tree lighting options and

identify one or more options for exterior building lighting fixtures. The third part of this project, median lighting, is on hold as we wait to learn both what the City will do to repair/replace the median lighting and the scheduled repair date.

After the meeting, the BRCC learned that tree lighting would be sufficient to meet its objective to increase community aesthetics, provide greater public safety and enhance the identity of the commercial district. Therefore, the BRCC is expected to drop the building lighting fixtures part of the project. That would eliminate the need to get buy-in from each commercial property owner and would substantially reduce the cost of the lighting project. In addition, the BRCC contacted the City to determine if City approval is required for the tree lighting demonstration mentioned above and if it would be possible to tap into the electric power at the pedestrian crossing signals to get electricity for tree lighting.

b. Bird Rock Signage/Monument Project

The highlight of the meeting was having Trace Wilson present options for this project and providing attendees the opportunity to ask questions and share their thoughts (see the presentation [here](#)). Trace presented several options, each of which included a welcome to Bird Rock signage/monument that consists of a natural rock, lettering cut into the rock and one or more bronze pelicans atop the rock. The options varied in size and location. The locations were: 1) two roundabouts (e.g., Colima Street and Camino de la Costa); 2) the medians about 50 feet from the crosswalks by those two roundabouts and 3) a mid-block monument in the median of the 5600 block of La Jolla Blvd. A much larger rock could be used in the medians. Trace said that all the options would help with traffic calming, both PB and MB have median signage, it's time to select an option and move ahead with the project, and suggested landscape changes if the roundabout option is selected. The additional line of sight issues were mentioned for drivers coming up a hill to a roundabout. At the meeting, there was more support for roundabouts option and the Bird Rock Merchants Association supports that option. The BRCC will encourage additional members of the Bird Rock Community to provide input. It will do that by sharing the options via email and asking for their input. The BRCC will use all the input it receives to select the option it will submit to the City for approval.

c. Pedestrian Crossing Signal Project

We asked Council President Pro Tem Joe LaCava to help convince the City to address this urgent safety problem by replacing the pedestrian crossing signals at the five La Jolla Blvd. roundabouts in the Bird Rock with the highly visible, horizontal, rapid flashing, beacon system pedestrian crossing signals, which would increase pedestrian safety. We have also asked for County and State grants to support this and the lighting and signage projects.

If you see a problem with a signal, please report it via the City's Get It Done app or to info@birdrockcc.org. Generally, the City has been good at responding and repairing the signals when someone reports a problem via the Get It Done app.

d. I Love a Clean San Diego, Adopt-A-Beach Program

The BRCC and JPMorgan Chase's NextGen and GoodWorks are jointly participating in the Adopt-A-Beach Program. Our first beach cleanup will be Saturday, March 30 from 7:00 am - 11:00 am at the beach from PB Point south to Tourmaline Surf Park. We will meet at the top of the beach access stairs located off Sea Ridge Drive at the intersection of Linda Way and Sea Ridge Drive and collect the required signed waiver from each participant. More info about this event will be available via email, on the March calendar of the BRCC website at <https://birdrockcc.org> and on flyers we hope Bird Rock merchants will display. Please join us for this special Bird Rock Community event.

If you have any questions or suggestions or are willing to help in any way, please send an email to info@birdrockcc.org.

e. Highlight the History of Bird Rock Project

There is nothing to report on this project.

f. Happy Hours Project

There is nothing to report on this project.

g. La Jolla Community Planning Association (LJCPA)

The LJCPA has an important advisory role in land use issues in Bird Rock and the rest of La Jolla. Therefore, the BRCC is pursuing efforts to ensure that the LJCPA hears and adequately considers the interests of the Greater Bird Rock Community.

The 2024 annual election of LJCPA Trustees will take place in person from 3 pm until 7 pm on Thursday March 7 at the La Jolla Recreation Center (615 Prospect, La Jolla). The list of candidates is online at <https://lajollacpa.org/about/elections/2024-elections/>

The annual membership meeting will be at 6 PM and immediately followed by the March Trustees meeting. Both are open to the public.

At the Special Member Meeting January 4, the members approved changes to the bylaws and the LJCPA President said the Members might have to consider additional changes at the Member Meeting in March. The BRCC Board supports the following addition.

Within three months of the approval of the 2024 revisions to the Bylaws, the LJCPA will add a separate checklist for it and each of its permit review committees to use in the project review process. The checklists will include: 1) a list of the City prepared project review products needed before the LJCPA and its project review committees can complete their review and 2) other items that will help ensure a well-informed and objective review of each project by each relevant project review committee and the LJCPA.

The justification is as follows.

Adding this would help ensure consistent, well-informed and objective reviews of development projects, as well as to build on the review expertise the LJCAP and its committees have developed over time and make sure new members understand the process for producing well-informed and objective reviews. Using a checklist, which is a standard practice for pilots, surgeons and many others, has assisted in obtaining desired results and avoiding unwanted results.

There is at least some chance of adding this to the bylaws at the March 7 Members meeting. Whether or not you are a member of the LJCPA, it would be great if you would attend that meeting and lend support for that change if you agree it would help.

To join the LJCPA online, you can use this link [LJCPA Membership](https://lajollacpa.org/membership-application/) or go to <https://lajollacpa.org/membership-application/>.

h. E-blast Project

If you have an e-blast to share with the Bird Rock Community, send it to info@birdrockcc.org.

4. Other Topics

The work of the phantom “slow down” street graffiti artists demonstrates that some believe we have a speeding problem in Bird Rock. There are additional; traffic Issues we may want to address with the help of the City. Examples include ignoring stop signs and failing to yield to cars etc. entering La Jolla Blvd. from cross streets. These are equal opportunity problems with contributors ranging from quite young e-bike riders to drivers old enough to know better and the potential victims ranging from young children to our oldest and most revered residents.

What should we do about these problems?

5. Updates from Bird Rock Working Groups

a. Neighborhood Watch

If you have any questions about the Bird Rock Neighborhood Watch or want to volunteer, send an email to info@birdrockcc.org.

b. Ad hoc Bird Rock Coastal Committee (Mary Lynn Hyde)

- Lind Way - maintained by Parks & Rec. Bird Rock volunteers are participating in Adopt - A- Beach program to pick up litter on the rocks & beach at bottom of Linda Way staircase.
- Bandera corridor - the native vegetation is quite green and lush with flowering shrubs after all the rains. The footpath is barely passable. The corridor is quite popular viewing spot for surfers doing wave checks.

- Calumet Park - maintained by Parks & Rec is heavily used from early morning until after sunset.
- Midway overlook - is lush & green with flowering native shrubs maintained by neighborhood volunteers. Additional help welcome to attend weekly Monday morning sessions.
- The Forward St overlook looks great thanks to neighbors who look out for it.
- Bird Rock Ave has a graffiti issue on the walls & pump station, which we are aware of and working on.
- Moss Lane - overlook looks great except for the mud puddles that have developed due to rain runoff. Some dirt fill & funds are needed.
- LJ Hermosa Park- the reworked drainage system seems to be working. The erosion is under control. It's time to replace the viewing bench that was removed by Parks & Rec. The committee is looking onto that.

c. Bird Rock Merchants Group (Craig Bender and Ron Fineman)

- There was a good turnout for the first meeting of the BR Merchant Board February 29 with several new businesses represented.
- Signage: Merchants wanted bookends unanimously.
- Most wanted a mid-block monument too.
- They recommended a fundraiser adding names to the monument, memorializing family names.
- The BR Merchant Perks App is launching in March.
- The Noble building renovation is going through the permitting process.
- They are excited about the tree lighting demonstration coming soon.
- They talked about lighting on buildings for sidewalk safety etc.

6. Next Community Meeting

Please join us in person on Tuesday, April 2 at the Bird Rock Elementary School Auditorium. There will be limited Zoom access. Zoom details will be available at <https://www.birdrockcc.org>.

7. Adjournment

Appendix A

Written Updates from the Representatives of Elected Officials

**1. Emily Lynch, Community Representative, Office of Council President Pro Tem Joe LaCava,
ERLynch@sandiego.gov**

Report for the Bird Rock Community Council Community Meeting, *March 5, 2024*

Town Hall

My main update is that Council President Pro Tem LaCava is holding a town hall in La Jolla on Tuesday, March 26th from 5:30-6:30PM. The town hall will be held at the La Jolla Recreation Center. The RSVP link will be activated shortly, and I will share it with you all once it's available.

IBA Budget Crash Course

I also want to mention that the IBA's Office is holding a Budget Crash Course on March 21st from 5-6 pm on Zoom. This is a great overview of what the City budget process is, how it works, and how you can get involved.

Feel free to shoot me an email if you are interested in this and I will send you the registration link.

**2. Allie Apfeld, District Scheduler, Congressman Scott Peters,
Allison.Apfeld@mail.house.gov, 858-455-5550**

Update from the Office of Congressman Scott Peters
Bird Rock Community Council, 3/5/2024

Updates from Washington

- On February 29, Representatives Scott Peters (D-CA-50) and Derrick Van Orden (R-WI-3) introduced bipartisan legislation to cut through red tape and make it easier for current and former military service members to receive student loan forgiveness they have earned through the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program. They were joined by Representatives Don Davis (D-NC-01) and Elise Stefanik (R-NY-21) as original cosponsors.

In 2021, the U.S. Department of Education announced they would automatically count military members' service toward the PSLF program instead of requiring them to go through a lengthy and complicated certification process, but the change was never

implemented because the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Defense failed to finalize a critical data-sharing agreement. This legislation will ensure that it gets done.

“Military members have earned these benefits through blood, sweat, and service for their country, but far too many never receive the student loan forgiveness owed to them because of bureaucratic hurdles,” said Rep. Peters. “The federal government knows exactly who these benefits apply to — it just needs to share that data across agencies. Our bill will ensure service members receive their benefits without any delay or burdensome paperwork.”

- On February 2, Representatives Scott Peters (D-CA-50) and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA-1) introduced the Hydrogen Infrastructure and Innovation Act (HIFIA). This bipartisan, bicameral legislation establishes a pilot program to provide grants and flexible, low-interest loans for new or retrofitted hydrogen infrastructure projects (such as transportation, storage, and refueling stations). The companion bill is being led in the U.S. Senate by Senators Chris Coons (D-DE) and John Cornyn (R-TX).

Hydrogen is a high-output energy source that does not emit harmful greenhouse gasses. These traits make it an attractive option for hard to decarbonize sectors like shipping, long-haul trucking, and heavy industry where emissions are high but many renewable energy sources are not viable. Hydrogen will help us fill this gap to meet our climate goals and reduce emissions and pollution in the air our communities breathe.

“Investments in clean hydrogen are essential for meeting our climate goals, reducing pollution, and creating the green energy jobs of the future,” said Rep. Peters. “But for hydrogen to be successful, we also need to invest in the infrastructure that will make it available where it is needed. Our bill will give this emerging industry the kick-start it needs to thrive while helping us act with the urgency the climate crisis demands.”

- On February 1, Representatives Scott Peters (D-CA-50) and Carlos Gimenez (R-FL-28) introduced bipartisan legislation to deter Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, especially by China, in Caribbean and Latin American waters. This problematic behavior damages marine ecosystems, undermines national economies, and threatens food security worldwide. This coercion threatens the national and economic security of the U.S. and its partners in the region, disrupts regional trade, and contradicts international norms and law. Reps. Peters’ and Gimenez’s bill, the Caribbean and Latin America Maritime Security Initiative Act, would provide new sanctions authorities and enhance cooperation between the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Navy, and the maritime forces of countries in the Caribbean and Latin America, among other measures.

“Every day, San Diego benefits from a strong relationship with countries throughout Latin America and a vibrant commercial fishing industry that benefits from a well-regulated and rules-based marketplace,” said Rep Peters. “We must ensure our competition with China prioritizes America’s relationships with states in the Caribbean and Latin America to maintain our status as a leader in both regions and ensure China and other bad actors cannot threaten the ecosystems, food supply, political ties, and international trade system which benefits companies here in San Diego, the U.S., and nations throughout the Caribbean and Latin America.”

- On January 31, Today, Representative Scott Peters (CA-50) voted for bipartisan legislation to help working families and boost American competitiveness by expanding the Child Tax Credit, strengthening the Low Income Housing Tax Credit, and restoring research and development tax incentives.

“I think of our nation’s working families and children and their futures with every vote I take in Congress,” said Rep. Peters. “This legislation will make a meaningful dent in childhood poverty and help struggling families catch their breath. It also makes a significant investment in increasing our affordable housing stock, which will lower prices and help keep our neighbors housed. Finally, the research and development tax incentives in this package are essential for innovative businesses like those in San Diego that may discover the next cure, scientific breakthrough, or technological innovation. I implore my colleagues in the Senate to take up this legislation as soon as possible and send it to the President’s desk.”

- On January 18, Representative Scott Peters (D-CA-50), co-chair of the Bipartisan Fiscal Forum, celebrated the House Committee on Budget advancing his Fiscal Commission Act and Fiscal State of the Nation Act to the House floor with bipartisan support. The Fiscal Commission Act, co-authored by Representative Bill Huizenga (R-MI-4) would establish a bipartisan, bicameral, and open-doored commission to tackle our nation’s long-term debt, help us avoid automatic and across-the-board cuts to Social Security and Medicare, and secure a more prosperous future for our children. The Budget Committee also passed a “manager’s amendment” to the Fiscal Commission Act, which will require the commission to put forward recommendations on tax revenues, hold field hearings and educate the public on its work, and ensure the budgetary benefits that stem from federal investments in infrastructure, education, child care, and more are accounted for.

After passage of his bills, Rep. Peters stated, “In the next 10 years, we will spend more on interest on our debt than on defense or Medicaid. This commission allows us to

finally address the unsustainable debt that endangers our children's future. I want an expanded child tax credit. I want affordable child care and college education. I want investments in our clean energy future. All of these priorities are threatened if we cannot have frank discussions about our spending and revenues to get our fiscal house in order. I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to get this legislation passed in both chambers and signed by the President."

During his remarks in committee, Rep. Peters said, "Social Security cuts are baked into the law right now. If we go another 10 years and the lines cross, it's a [23%] across-the-board cut that's in existing law.... The longer we creep toward [23%] cuts across-the-board, the more leverage we give people who want to cut benefits, because the day before it's a [23%] cut, they're going to say, 'How's a 15% cut for you?' If we act today, maybe we can avoid that."

Continuing, Rep. Peters stated, "Regular order is the Congressional 'Big Foot' — we're all told it exists and none of us has ever seen it.... Nobody thinks, and there is no evidence to suggest that this issue will be taken up [without a commission]."

Updates from San Diego

- On February 20, Representative Scott Peters introduced the newest group of Service Academy nominees at the Veterans Museum and Memorial Center. In total, 32 students from the 50th Congressional district received nominations to attend U.S. Military Academy West Point, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, U.S. Naval Academy, or the U.S. Air Force Academy.

These students applied for a nomination from Rep. Peters' office in Fall 2023. After an interview with Peters' independent Service Academy Nominations Board, the most qualified students were offered nominations to attend a service academy. The Nominations Board consisted of academy graduates, a former high school counselor, a former academy liaison, and a veteran advocate. The nomination makes students eligible to be selected for a fully funded education. If accepted by a service academy, graduates are required to serve a minimum of five years in the military.

"I always look forward to the opportunity to nominate students to our country's prestigious military academies," Rep. Peters said. "These students have distinguished themselves as young leaders in their communities and will be future leaders of our Armed Services. Their parents should be very proud of the exceptional, service-minded, patriotic young Americans they have raised."

- In January, Representatives Scott Peters (CA-50), Juan Vargas (CA-52), Sara Jacobs (CA-53), and Mike Levin (CA-49) sent a letter to U.S. Navy Secretary Carlos Del Toro, requesting answers to several questions about the effects cross-border pollution has had on Navy operations.

“As you know, the transboundary pollution flowing from Mexico into the United States is currently carrying untreated wastewater into San Diego County’s shoreline and ocean,” the letter says. “These flows have impacted water quality at beaches in our region—including those where Navy Seals regularly train.”

The letter notes that data provided by the Navy in February 2023 showed that cancellations of in-water training events at the Silver Strand Training Complex jumped from zero in FY2021 to more than 20 in FY2022.

“If the pollution in the [Tijuana River Valley] is not addressed, we are concerned that further training cancellations due to water quality concerns could harm the Navy and our military readiness,” the letter says.

The letter asks Del Toro for updated data on suspended or relocated training or operations, the cost of relocating or canceling training or operations, whether Navy personnel have raised concerns about training in contaminated water, and whether the Navy is collecting data on the effects of polluted water on training.

3. **Emily Piatanesi, Community Representative, Office of Mayor Todd Gloria**

Epiananesi@sandiego.gov, C: 619-964-6637

The City of San Diego’s Office of the Independent Budget Analyst is offering a Budget Crash Course to the public on **March 21, 2024**, from **5-6 p.m. via Zoom** to learn about the City’s budget process and how community members can get involved. The course will also cover key components of the City’s operating and capital improvement budgets and budget equity considerations.

If you have any questions, please call (619)236-6555 or email sdiba@sandiego.gov.

[Register for the Crash Course Now](#)

4. **Aurora Livingston, District Representative for Senator Catherine Blakespear | 38th District, Aurora.Livingston@sen.ca.gov (760) 642-0809**

- **WOMEN WHO INSPIRE:** Nominate women in the community who you admire for their achievements and/or service. The Senator will recognize all the nominees during Women’s Month in March.

Visit our website at: <https://sd38.senate.ca.gov/2024-women-who-inspire>

- **FENTANYL TOWN HALL**, featuring District Attorney Summer Stephan and Fire Chief Josh Gordon on Wednesday, March 20, 6:00 - 7:30 at MiraCosta College San Elijo Campus in Cardiff by the Sea.
RSVP now at bit.ly/Blakespeartownhall
CONTACT: francine.busby@sen.ca.gov | (760) 642-0809

5. **More reports may be forthcoming.**