



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

**Tuesday, April 9, 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/84974707143?pwd=dHNEeDJNdjJPVFYzQ1VnUSt4TWcyUT09>**

### **BRCC COMMUNITY MEETING**

#### **1. Welcome, Board Member Introductions, Remarks**

Joe Terry – President

Joe Parker – Vice President

Jennifer Van Galder – Secretary

Barbara Dunbar – Treasurer, MAD

Representative and BR Newsletter Editor

Kristin Barret

Craig Bender – Merchants' Group

Representative

Janet Gentile

Marco Gentile

Eric Kleinbub

Lake Price– Web Administer

Janette Williams

#### **2. Brief Updates from the Representatives of Elected Officials**

Emily Lynch (Community Outreach Director, Office of Council President Pro Tem Joe LaCava) attended via Zoom and both Aurora Livingston (District Representative for Senator Catherine Blakespear) and Cole Reed (District Representative, Office of Senator Toni G. Atkins) attended in person.

App A contains reports submitted by Codi Vierra (Our new Field Representative for Congressman Scott Peters) Cole Reed.

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

Joyce Snell and Don Schmidt mentioned that they and others have had trouble receiving BRCC email, which often goes to their SPAM folder. The BRCC will see if it can do anything about this at its end. It was mentioned that, if you have this problem, one remedy is to go to your SPAM folder and mark BRCC email as not SPAM.

Barbara Dunbar noted the agenda did not mention that the next quarterly Bird Rock MAD meeting will be immediately after the May 7 BRCC Community Meeting.

#### **4. Path between Camino De La Costa and Nautilus**

Debbie Adams and Glen Rasmussen were unable to attend the meeting; therefore, Craig Bender read the following statement for them.

La Jolla Parks and Beaches and the Kiwanis Club of La Jolla have partnered to provide volunteers, financial responsibility and insurance for volunteers wishing to help to maintain the La Jolla Bike Path, which runs between Nautilus Street and Camino De La Costa! We have a Right of Entry Permit and are authorized by the city to provide this volunteer effort.

Volunteers continue to prune, weed to keep the foxtails down and to increase visibility along the path. In several parts of the path, it is quite narrow so it's important to widen it with pruning as well as to encourage bikers to slow down and keep to the right.

The city has surveyed the path and has determined it is a Class One Bike Path. They will soon install updated signage to mark dangerous intersections and to post regulations including the maximum allowed speed limit to keep all users safe. Only pedal-assisted e-bikes are allowed. Riding is prohibited on the slopes as this interrupts native plants and animals and causes erosion.

Every effort is made to engage neighbors who live along the path to adopt sections for maintenance. Many are willing to help by weeding and beautifying in back of their residences. Only native vegetation is allowed.

On Saturday, April 20 from 9-noon we will partner with I Love A Clean San Diego for the annual Coast to Creek city-wide cleanup. Volunteers are needed to help with this half-day effort at the north end of the path. Check-in is at 751 Bonair Street. Adults must sign a waiver at the check in and volunteers under 16 will need a parent signature.

Please contact Debbie Adams at 858 752 2171 if you would like to join the April 20 cleanup and she will provide you with specific details.

The BRCC will send an email reminder about the April 20 cleanup.

#### **5. Updates on BRCC Projects and Activities**

If you have any questions or comments about the following projects, please email them to [info@birdrockcc.org](mailto:info@birdrockcc.org),

**a. Bird Rock Perks App**

Craig Bender will demonstrate the Bird Rock Perks app. The app will launch this week with more than 20 merchants. The app will let you save money with special discounts at Bird Rock merchants, support our Bird Rock businesses, reinforce our community spirit, and encourage you to try new Bird Rock businesses. All BRCC members will have free access to the app. Watch for a BRCC email with a link to the app and remember to check your SPAM folder if you do not receive it. The app is available; only to current BRCC members; however, anyone can become a member at [https://birdrockcc.org/join\\_the\\_brcc.php](https://birdrockcc.org/join_the_brcc.php). The membership is from January 1 to December 31 each year, but membership dues received on or after November 1 are credited towards the following year. You can see more about the Bird Rock Perks App at [https://www.birdrockcc.org/bird\\_rock\\_merchants\\_perks\\_app.php](https://www.birdrockcc.org/bird_rock_merchants_perks_app.php).

**b. Blvd Lighting Project**

Please join us for a tree lighting demonstration, Wednesday, April 10, between 7:45 and 8:45 pm, on the west side of La Jolla Blvd between Forward Street and Beaumont's. The demonstration will allow our community to see several tree lighting options.

The objectives of the lighting project are to continue to increase community aesthetics, provide greater public safety and enhance the identity of the Bird Rock commercial district in the evening hours. The lighting demonstration will help us determine if tree lighting is sufficient to meet those objectives.

The following outline describes the planned one-hour tree lighting demonstration.

- They will set up the temporary lights on 4-9-24, mid-day.
- They will use 4 total trees for the demo.
- 1 tree will have 2 hanging lights from the branches.
- 1 tree will have 2 can lights set above grade (for demo only).
- 1 tree will have 2 up-lights spiked into the soil.
- 1 tree will have wrap lighting.
- They will be onsite 4-10-24 around 5:00 to 6:00 pm with the generator.
- They will set up the transformer to make sure everything is working.
- The demonstration will run for one hour in the dark (7:45 to 8:45 pm) so everyone can see the full effects of each option.
- They will remove the lights etc. right after the demo.

The BRCC will use information and feedback from the community and solicit cost estimates from one or more vendors to select the best option to submit to the City for approval.

Please let your friends and neighbors know about the lighting demonstration and encourage them to attend and then share their thoughts with an email to [info@birdrockcc.org](mailto:info@birdrockcc.org). I hope to see you and many other Bird Rockers Wednesday evening.

#### **c. Bird Rock Signage/Monument Project**

The highlight of the meeting last month was having Trace Wilson present options for this project and providing attendees the opportunity to ask questions and share their thoughts. The BRCC has sent/will soon send an email to members of the Bird Rock community. The email will include the options Trace presented last month and ask for comments on those options.. The BRCC will use the input it receives in selecting the option it will submit to the City for approval.

#### **d. Pedestrian Crossing Signal Project**

The BRCC has received no updates on the prospects of City, County and State funding to address this urgent safety problem.

If you see a problem with a signal, please report it via the City's Get It Done app or to [info@birdrockcc.org](mailto: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.

#### **e. Cost and Funding Estimates for Projects a – c**

The estimated cost of this phase of the lighting, signage and pedestrian crossing signal projects is \$345,000 (\$150,000 for lighting, \$95,000 for signage and \$100,000 for signals). The planned sources of funding for this phase of the project are as follows:

- Bird Rock MAD budget for last year (FY 23): \$35,000 (\$15,000 for lighting and \$20,000 for signage)
- Bird Rock MAD budget for the current year (FY 24): \$35,000 (\$15,000 for lighting and \$20,000 for signage)
- Bird Rock MAD budget proposed for next year (FY 25): \$35,000(\$15,000 for lighting and \$20,000 for signage)
- County Neighborhood Reinvestment Program grant awarded by the San Diego County Board of Supervisors: \$25,000
- Requested County Community Enhancement Program grant: \$111,000
- Requested from the City: \$50,000
- Donations from Bird Rock business owners, property owners and residents: \$9,000
- Requested State Community Enhancement funds: \$45,000

Subsequent Bird Rock MAD budgets will include funds to maintain the lighting and signage.

#### **f. I Love a Clean San Diego, Adopt-A-Beach Program**

Considering the weather on March 30, which caused Chase Bank and many other to forego participating, our first beach cleanup was a success and not completely rained out thanks to the great work of Barbara and David Dunbar, Marco, Janette, Lake Lapp (Bird Rock Chase Bank), and Cristina Giorgio. They worked for over one hour before coming to their senses and going home to dry out. They rid the beach of about 20 pounds of trash and 5 pounds of recycling.

Our next beach cleanup will be the second, third or fourth Saturday in June. The day will depend on the time of the morning low tide each Saturday. Ideally, the low tide will be about 9 or 10 am on one of those Saturdays so we can have a later start time. Chase Bank plans to participate in June.

If you have questions or suggestions or are willing to help in any way, please send an email to [info@birdrockcc.org](mailto:info@birdrockcc.org).

**g. Highlight the History of Bird Rock Project**

There is nothing to report on this project.

**h. Happy Hours Project**

Watch for news about a happy hour in early May. .

**i. La Jolla Community Planning Association (LJCPA)**

For the project at 5550 La Jolla Blvd, there was a request for a Coastal Development Permit and Neighborhood Use Permit for sidewalk café consisting of a large existing outdoor patio dining area of restaurant space along La Jolla Blvd. and including exterior facade renovations to an existing commercial structure located at 5550 - 5590 La Jolla Boulevard.

The PDO and DPR committees had tentatively approved the project. Therefore, it was on the consent agenda and subsequently approved with the other items on the consent agenda at its April 4 meeting.

Don Schmidt and Barbara Dunbar thought the dining area should be farther from the street to allow better pedestrian access and perhaps enough space for a bench at the bus stop in front of the current dining area. They had proposed that at the PDO or DPR meetings without a satisfactory response from the applicants or committees. They said the sidewalk is only four feet wide due to an encroachment into the public right of way, which occurred many years ago and perhaps without City approval. In addition, Don said that narrow and/or cluttered sidewalks there and elsewhere in Bird Rock are, among other things, impediments to having a walkable community.

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/>.

**j. E-blast Project**

If you have an e-blast to share with the Bird Rock Community, send it to [info@birdrockcc.org](mailto:info@birdrockcc.org).

## **6. Other Topics**

If you are concerned about drivers exceeding posted speed limits, ignoring stop signs and failing to yield to cars etc. entering La Jolla Blvd. from cross streets or have suggestions to address those traffic issues, send an email to [info@birdrockcc.org](mailto:info@birdrockcc.org).

Janette Williams said speeding is a problem south of Colima, with speeds in excess of 40 MPH, suggested some type of traffic calming is needed and mentioned three very recent accidents on La Jolla Blvd. Barbara Dunbar said that traffic calming was part of what the City did when the Bird Rock MAD was established, that traffic calming projects are very expensive and take a long time to plan and implement. Don Schmidt noted increased traffic enforcement activity by the SFPD in PB and said we need the same in Bird Rock. Other suggestions included flashing yield signs. Joe Terry will contact the SDPD and the La Jolla Traffic and Transportation Committee.

## **7. 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](mailto:info@birdrockcc.org).

### **b. Ad hoc Bird Rock Coastal Committee (Don Schmidt, Mary Lynn Hyde)**

There is no report because the committee did not meet this month.

### **c. Bird Rock Merchants District (Craig Bender and Ron Fineman)**

- BR Perks App launched/ will launch this week with 20 merchants on the app so far. More are coming soon. Please join BRCC to get the Free App.
- Both BR Lighting in the trees and BR Signage are progressing, lighting up some trees soon to see what they look like.

## **8. Next BRCC Community Meeting**

Please join us in person on Tuesday, May 7 at the Bird Rock Elementary School Auditorium. There will be limited Zoom access. Zoom details will be available at <https://www.birdrockcc.org>. The quarterly Bird Rock MAD Meeting will convene immediately after the Community Meeting.

## **9. Adjournment**

## Appendix A

### Written Updates from the Representatives of Elected Officials

#### 1. Codi Vierra, Field Representative for Congressman Scott Peters, Codi.Vierra@mail.house.gov

##### Updates from Washington, D.C.

- At the end of February, Congressman Peters announced [new bipartisan legislation, the Ensuring Military Access to Higher Education Benefits Act of 2024](#), which will give military service members automatic access to student loan forgiveness earned through the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program. PSLF is a federal program that allows eligible borrowers who work full-time for nonprofit organizations or federal, state, local, or tribal governments to receive loan forgiveness after making 120 qualifying monthly payments. Under current rules, servicemembers and veterans need to go through a complicated and burdensome process of having their current or former superior officers certify their time in service to have it counted toward the PSLF program. This is especially difficult for veterans, who may not be in touch with their former officers or whose former officers may have also left the service, leaving them with little to no access to the benefits they earned. Rep. Peters' bill would require the U.S. Department of Defense and U.S. Department of Education to share data on military members' service and loans to automatically enroll them in the PSLF program.
  - **“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 servicemembers receive their benefits without any delay or burdensome paperwork.”**
- In early March, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a Fiscal Year 2024 funding package that advances and invests in major national and local priorities that Congressman Peters fought to include. House Democrats were successful in removing harmful House Republican policies from the funding bills that attempted to make abortion illegal everywhere, slash efforts to fight climate change, and threaten our national security. Instead, these final bipartisan 2024 funding bills will help keep our communities safe, fight inflation, and boost our economy. Taken together, the funding for California's 50th District and for critical government programs will continue to grow our economy and support our communities.
  - This year, the funding package included more than [\\$13.8 million for community projects](#) in California's 50<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. **“Delivering funding directly to these projects will make our communities safer and healthier,”** said Rep. Peters.
- At the end of March, Congressman Peters [celebrated the inclusion of \\$156 million](#), at his request, for the International Boundary and Water Commission's (IBWC) construction budget in the Fiscal Year 2024 (FY 24) Appropriations bill. The IBWC is the federal agency tasked with operating and maintaining the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant, which has fallen into disrepair and is at the center of the cross-border sewage crisis on the American side of the border. This funding level equals a \$103 million increase, nearly triple, over the previous fiscal year and will put the IBWC on track to meet its goal to repair and expand the plant.

- **“After years of steadfast advocacy from residents, servicemembers, and elected officials at every level, we’ve managed to get a real commitment from Washington to address this crisis,”** said Rep. Scott Peters. **“While this is not a ‘mission accomplished’ moment or the end of my work to ensure these hazardous pollutants no longer endanger San Diegans, this is enough money to keep us on track to break ground this year and proceed toward doubling the plant’s capacity. We will need to secure the remaining funds to realize sewage-free beaches and pollutant-free air, but this victory adds to our momentum. I want to thank and commend Representative Vargas and the San Diego congressional delegation, Senators Padilla and Butler, Governor Newsom, and all of our local partners including Mayors Gloria, Bailey, and Aguirre for their work to end this environmental and public health crisis.”**
- At the end of March, Congressman Peters and Senator John Hickenlooper (D-CO) introduced the Streamlining Powerlines Essential to Electric Demand ([SPEED](#)) and Reliability Act, a bill to significantly expedite the siting and permitting of interregional transmission lines by reducing duplicative reviews. Speeding up these reviews will allow us to build the electrical lines that carry clean energy from where it is produced to where it is needed, which will help us reach our climate goals and lower costs for consumers. Under the current process, both the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) are required to do environmental reviews for the same proposed transmission line, significantly delaying project approvals. The Speed and Reliability Act instead requires a single environmental review by FERC and allows state and federal reviews to happen simultaneously, reducing review timelines by several years.
  - **“If we want to avoid a climate catastrophe, we cannot wait a decade plus for individual transmission lines to be approved,”** said Rep. Peters. **“Our commonsense proposal builds on our past work to dramatically speed up how we build transmission lines to ensure that we can deliver energy to the areas that need it the most. This will lower costs for consumers, improve reliability, and help secure America’s energy independence.”**

### Updates from San Diego

#### • Congressional Art Competition

The Congressional Art Competition is an annual competition open to high school students. Local leaders from San Diego’s vibrant arts community will serve on the judging panel to select this year’s winner from the 50<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. The winning artwork will be proudly displayed in our nation’s Capitol for one year. The San Diego History Center will also host a reception with all the submitted artwork in May and will create an exhibit of the students’ work to be displayed throughout the summer. The deadline to submit artwork is **April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 3:30pm PT at our District Office**, located at 4350 Executive Dr, Suite 105, San Diego, CA 92121 (Torrey Pines Bank building, parking validated for lot behind the building). More details can be found at <https://scottpeters.house.gov/art-competition>.

2. **Cole Reed**, District Representative, Office of Senate President pro Tempore Emeritus Toni G. Atkins, [Cole.Reed@sen.ca.gov](mailto:Cole.Reed@sen.ca.gov),

### Legislative Update:

- Senator Atkins has introduced two bills focused on health policy, which will be heard in the Senate Health Committee this month.



- **SB 1213:** would raise the threshold for the Every Woman Counts (EWC) program and the Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Program (BCCTP) from 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) to 300% FPL, allowing more people to access life-saving cancer screenings and treatment.
- **SB 1428:** would prevent gaps in health insurance coverage by allowing individuals with qualifying life events to sign up for a new health insurance plan 60 days before or 60 days after that event.

**California Dream For All Program Update:**

- The California Housing Finance Agency (CalHFA) announced that it will be administering an additional round of applications for the California Dream For All (DFA) Shared Appreciation Loan Program, an initiative that Senator Atkins created in 2022.
- The program provides first-time homebuyers with a loan of up to 20% of the home purchase price to be used as a down payment and/or closing costs assistance, up to \$150,000. The state will be repaid the loan plus a share of the home's appreciation when the home is sold again, and the repayment would go into a revolving fund to allow other future homebuyers to take advantage of the program.
- A total of \$220 million has been allocated for the current round of loans. CalHFA will be using a randomized selection process to issue DFA vouchers, which will be valid for 90 days. The registration portal will be available from April 3-29, 2024.
- For eligibility criteria and application details go to: <https://calhfa.ca.gov/dream>

**For any questions, feel free to contact me at:** [Cole.Reed@sen.ca.gov](mailto:Cole.Reed@sen.ca.gov)

**Sign up for the Senator's newsletter:** <https://sd39.senate.ca.gov/contact/newsletter>