

City Manager's Update

Wednesday, December 16, 2015

Hello all, and happy Wednesday!

Hard to believe that Christmas is almost here! I hope that you and your family are enjoying this terrific holiday season!

In an effort to provide an update of important news and notes from this last week, the following report has been prepared. As always, please feel free to let me know if you have a question about any of the items contained in this update – I can be reached via email at ochi@ci.monrovia.ca.us!

Please have a wonderful rest of the week!

Best regards,
Oliver

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak. Courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen.
– Sir Winston Churchill

4TH DIMENSION / COMMUNITY CENTER PROJECT UPDATE

Last week, staff continued our outreach efforts soliciting additional input and information regarding the viability of the proposed 4th Dimension / Community Center project. We had a meeting with the Community Services Commission on Tuesday, December 8, 2015, and the meeting was well attended. In addition, staff met with representatives from the Monrovia Unified School District on Friday, December 4, 2015.

Representatives from the Monrovia Unified School District provided good feedback regarding the project for the City's consideration. From the Community Services Commission meeting, staff was provided with terrific feedback regarding concerns associated with the overall project that mirrored responses received in previous meetings.

Based on the input that we have received over the past month from conducting more than a dozen outreach meetings, in general, the concept of the proposed 4th Dimension / Community Center project has been well received. However, concerns that have been raised regarding the project have centered on parking / traffic issues, integration of the new facilities into Old Town, and the size / scale of the proposed housing project at the City's current Community Center site.

We have continued to refine the proposed project throughout the past several weeks and are continuing our assessment to determine if we can develop mechanisms associated with the proposed project in a manner that would address the concerns that have been raised.

In addition, we have established a webpage where additional information regarding the proposed 4th Dimension / Community Center project has been posted, and where updated details will be made available moving forward. That website is located at the following address:

<http://www.cityofmonrovia.org/economicdevelopment/page/community-center-4th-dimension-project-0>

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Moving forward, we have one additional meeting scheduled to take place this week regarding the proposed project. That meeting will be with the Historic Preservation Commission:

- **Historic Preservation Commission (Wednesday, December 16, 2015, 6:30 p.m., City Hall)**

- At the Historic Preservation Commission meeting, we plan on discussing several items, including the exterior building designs for the proposed 4th Dimension facility and requesting an advisory review of the historic nature of the City's current Community Center facility, among others.

Of particular note, we are also working on identifying a date / time in early January 2016 to host a study session with the City Council regarding the overall project. That special study meeting date / time will be finalized early this next week. At that study session meeting, we will be able to more clearly articulate all of the different project elements associated with the 4th Dimension / Community Center initiative, including:

- A synopsis of the feedback we have received regarding the proposed project
- An overview of the proposed parking solutions for the project
- An assessment of the economic considerations associated with the deal
- The mechanisms and agreements through which the project will be considered
- An updated project timeline

This special study session will occur prior to our meeting on January 19, 2016, where we will formally consider whether or not to enter into an agreement with the Hale Corporation to advance the proposed project forward.

There are multiple moving parts regarding the overall 4th Dimension / Community Center project, and we will continue to provide updates as they come up.

MONROVIA RENEWAL – STAKEHOLDER KICK-OFF MEETING AND PROPOSED PAVEMENT PRESERVATION ORDINANCE

During the past few months, the City has been working intently to develop the overall Monrovia Renewal Infrastructure Improvement Program, which will over the next 3-5 years implement a comprehensive upgrade of the City's water system, sewer collection system, streets system, and sidewalks. When completed, Monrovia Renewal will result in the following enhancements:

- Repair / replace all necessary water transmission pipes and water production facilities
- Repair / replace all necessary sewer lines
- Repair / replace every street with a pavement condition index (PCI) rating of less than 70, and fix all curb / sidewalk deficiencies

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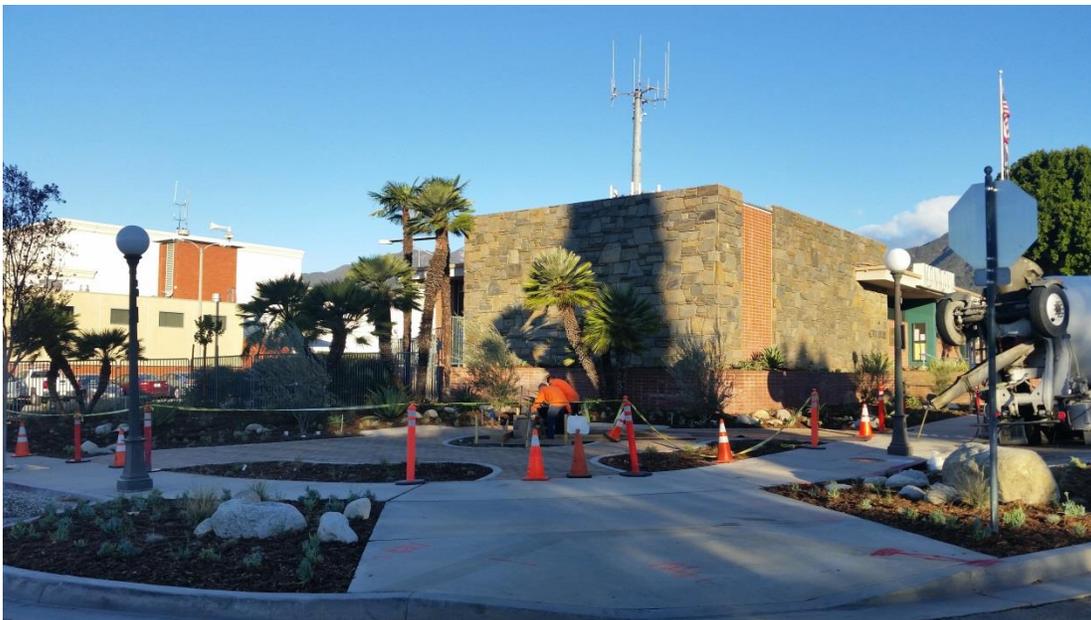
Inevitably, when undertaking an initiative of this magnitude, the construction of these improvements may result in impacts to public services, public utilities, schools, businesses, and the community at large. As such, the City has scheduled a utility and key stakeholder coordination meeting to take place this week at the Monrovia Public Library Community Room. This meeting will serve as a forum to discuss the impacts of this project, present any areas of concern, and develop a plan to implement this project for the benefit of Monrovians with minimal impact to our residents and the community services they rely on.

At the meeting, critical information related to this project will be discussed, including discussions about a proposed draft Pavement Preservation Ordinance that will be recommended for implementation as part of the Monrovia Renewal project. The Pavement Preservation Ordinance will seek to establish a moratorium on the cutting of any new street for a period of up to five (5) years. This ordinance, which is consistent with the policies in place in many surrounding communities, is anticipated to be considered by the City Council in Spring of 2016. With the pending Pavement Preservation Ordinance in mind, it is imperative that any utility company projects requiring street access (utility service cuts, underground utility upgrades, services to new construction, etc.) be planned and executed in front of the Monrovia Renewal project.

As we continue to develop the overall Monrovia Renewal project, we will be certain to send out regular updates regarding our progress.

CITY HALL LANDSCAPE UPDATE

Work on City Hall landscape continues to move forward. Last week, irrigation modifications were completed to include a drip system as well as bubblers to allow for deep watering of the new trees. In addition, a significant portion of the landscape has been installed, which of particular note, are all drought tolerant, with a majority of which are native to this area.



This week the Kinetic Art piece, funded by the Art in Public Places Committee, will be placed and four new benches will be bolted to the new concrete pads. In addition, the two memorial benches that were located in front of City Hall in honor of

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former Council Member Mary K. Wilcox and former City Manager Don Hopper will also be reinstated utilizing a new bench design that integrates into the new landscaped area. Furthermore, the project will also include up-lighting of the art as well as up-lighting of the beautiful stone façade on City Hall.

We are excited to be nearing the completion of the project, which is currently on track to be finished within the next two weeks!

EL NIÑO PREPAREDNESS EVENTS SET TO BE HOSTED BY THE CITY ON DECEMBER 19, JANUARY 5, AND JANUARY 21

We have all heard about the pending El Niño season that is just around the corner. In an effort to help Monrovians prepare for the pending storm events, the City has coordinated a series of community preparedness workshops to help residents get ready for what promises to be a wet rainy season! The City's Fire Department and Public Services Department will be working to facilitate the events, which are scheduled to take place on the following dates / times:

- Saturday, December 19, 2015 – 10:00 a.m. in the Library Community Room
- Tuesday, January 5, 2016 – 6:00 p.m. in the Library Community Room
- Thursday, January 21, 2016 – 6:00 p.m. in the Library Community Room



Topics

- El Nino Overview
- City of Monrovia Preparations
- Resident/Business Preparations
- Communications

City of Monrovia El Nino Community Meetings

Date: Saturday, December 19, 2015
Time: 10:00 A.M.
Location: Library Community Room

Date: Tuesday, January 5, 2016
Time: 6:00 P.M.
Location: Library Community Room

Date: Thursday, January 21, 2016 *(In conjunction with Senator Carol Liu's Office)*
Time: 6:00 P.M.
Location: Library Community Room

The City of Monrovia will be hosting three community meetings to help residents and businesses prepare for El Nino. The community meetings will also teach residents more about what the City is doing to prepare for inclement weather and those actions that will be taken to assist residents and business owners.

For additional information, please visit www.cityofmonrovia.org



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The flyer above publicizing the events has been attached above for your review / reference. Furthermore, the City has established an El Niño Preparedness webpage, which can be accessed at:

<http://www.cityofmonrovia.org/fire/page/el-nino-preparedness>

We hope to see you at one of the El Niño Preparedness workshops that have been coordinated!

BOB BARTLETT MEMORIAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

We wanted to let everyone know that the Bob Bartlett Memorial Committee met again on Monday, December 14, 2015. At the meeting, we reviewed the next steps in commissioning a mural / tiled mosaic to memorialize Bob Bartlett in the Station Square area, provided an update on a general budget for the initiative, discussed the installation of a placard / entry-way sign on Royal Oaks as part of a Citywide MAP-initiated art program, and toured Station Square to discuss potential locations for the artwork. We will continue to update you with more once a decision has been made.

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION REQUESTS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING THE PROPOSED RENAMING OF GRAND AVENUE PARK

Just a quick FYI to let everyone know... at their meeting last week, the Community Services Commission directed that staff send out an informational letter and advisory ballot to all residents living within a certain distance of Grand Avenue Park to inform the neighborhood about the proposal to rename the facility Kiwanis Park on Grand Avenue. Staff is following-up with that request, and we hope to have the matter available for the Community Services Commission to re-review at their meeting in January 2016.

HISTORIC MUSEUM ROOF REPAIRS UNDERWAY

Work on the Historic Museum roof began on Monday, December 7, 2015, and the work is progressing on schedule. Unfortunately, wood rot from what appears to be termites has been discovered in two separate locations, and the contractor has been given the green light to make the needed repairs. Concurrently, staff has ordered a termite inspection be conducted at the facility, and while we are hopeful that the termites are no longer active, we have put together a contingency plan in the event that the termite issue needs to be addressed. We will continue to monitor this overall improvement work and will be sure to keep everyone informed as to the status of this repair work moving forward.

MONROVIA TRANSIT RFP UPDATE

The City's current transportation provider contract with Keolis expires in the Spring of 2016. Given that factor, the City issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for transportation dial-a-ride services earlier this year. As a specific inquiry, the RFP issued requested responding firms to include provisions for continuing the existing dial-a-ride services offered, as well as develop a proposal for a new fixed-route transportation option connecting Station Square with Old Town, and possibly other locations in Monrovia.

Last week, the City received four responses to our RFP from professional transportation companies to operate Monrovia Transit. Staff has started our review of the proposals and we are scheduled to begin interviewing each of the firms this

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week. Our overall goal as part of this assessment is to ensure that we have a transportation provider selected and in operation by the start of March 2016 to coordinate with the opening of passenger service on the Metro Gold Line.

CITY OF MONROVIA PARTNERING WITH LA METRO ON UPCOMING STATION SQUARE EVENTS

During the past few weeks, staff has been interfacing with representatives from LA Metro regarding several upcoming events at Station Square. Based on those discussions, the City and LA Metro will be partnering on a marketing campaign regarding three upcoming events:

- **January 23, 2016 – Station Square Park Dedication** – As you may be aware, the City plans on dedicating Station Square Park on January 23, 2016. In addition to all the festivities planned by the City, LA Metro will provide a booth and distribute information on the Gold Line Extension Grand Opening (scheduled for March 5, 2016) that will include rider safety tips, how to use a Metro Tap Card, and offer applications for rider discounts, as well as marketing materials highlighting Old Town Monrovia.
- **March 5, 2016 – Gold Line Extension Grand Opening** – Metro is planning an exciting event for the Grand Opening of the Gold Line Extension. Beginning at 8:30 a.m., two trains (one starting at Sierra Madre heading east, and one starting at Azusa heading west) will begin moving towards the Duarte Station. The trains will stop at each station along the way, picking up riders and dignitaries, and are scheduled to arrive together at the Duarte Station at approximately 10:00 a.m. for the official ribbon cutting. Event festivities will conclude at 4:00 p.m. There will be free ridership offered throughout the day, and commemorative Metro TAP cards given to attendees. Monrovia is partnering with LA Metro by offering an event at Station Square which includes booths, activities and giveaways. Transportation will be provided continuously from Station Square into Old Town Monrovia from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Furthermore, LA Metro will be meeting with MOTAB at their January 12, 2016, meeting to introduce a “Destination Discount” activity on the event day, where participating merchants will offer special discounts in celebration of the Gold Line Extension Grand Opening event.
- **June 26, 2016 – 626 Golden Streets Event** – LA Metro will be partnering on the largest “Open Streets” event in the San Gabriel Valley, which is designed to promote walking, biking, public health, awareness of alternative modes of transportation, community connections, economic development, zero-emissions transportation... and of course, tons of fun! LA Metro will be contributing to this event by providing an informational booth.
- **Marketing Campaign** – LA Metro will be placing informational advertisements in the spring and summer issues of the Monrovia Today regarding upcoming events, rider safety, and other transit educational information. LA Metro will also be developing rail posters (displayed inside the train) and other marketing materials highlighting Monrovia’s points of interest including Old Town, Monrovia Public Library, Canyon Park, and Annual Community Events. LA Metro staff will also present their “Riders on the Move” transit and tour program designed for the senior population at upcoming senior club meetings.

STATE OF THE CITY SET FOR FEBRUARY 8, 2016

Just a quick note to let everyone know... the annual State of the City event is scheduled to take place on Monday, February 8, 2016. Additional information and event details will be distributed in the coming weeks, but for the time being, make sure to mark your calendars!

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CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER UPGRADE PROJECT SCHEDULE

During the past few weeks, staff has been interfacing with representatives from Platt Designs regarding the overall City Council Chambers audio, visual, and sound system upgrade project. Based on our most recent discussions with the contractor, we are on track to make all system improvements by the January 13, 2016 project deadline, which means that the City Council Chambers should be fully operational by our January 19, 2016 meeting. We will continue monitoring this project closely in the coming weeks and will be sure to share additional information regarding the initiative as those details become available.

HOLIDAY HOME DECORATING CONTEST – JUDGING BEGAN YESTERDAY!

Judging for the City's very popular annual Holiday Home Decorating Contest began yesterday. Monday, December 14, 2015, and award winners will be recognized during the City Council meeting of Tuesday, December 15, 2015 at City Hall in the Council Chambers.

There are 12 categories that will be judged, including:

- Best Still Display
- Best Outdoor Display
- Best Decorated Outdoor Tree
- Best Window Display
- Holiday Spirit Award
- Most Effective Use of Lighting a house
- Santa's Workshop Award
- Children's Choice Award
- Best Neighborhood Effort
- Snowman Award
- Judges Award
- Tim McKeehan "Best of Season" Award

For additional information, please contact the Department of Public Services at (626) 256-8246. We can't wait to see the decorations this year!

REVIEW OF OLD TOWN FILMING GUIDELINES INITIATED BY MOTAB

Based on direction received by staff from the Monrovia Old Town Advisory Board (MOTAB), the City will be working on a review and update of guidelines for filming in Old Town, which will subsequently be presented to the City Council for consideration. The current guidelines were created several years ago and an update will help create a better filming experience in Old Town for both merchants and film companies.

The items for review will include:

- Effective communication regarding upcoming filming in Old Town
- Determination of impact fees
- Review of the notification process
- Procedures for monitoring on-site filming
- Restricted filming dates

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In addition, *1 Take Permitting and Location* will no longer be serving as the City's Old Town Merchant Film Liaison. The company's contract had expired and representatives from the firm indicated that they were no longer interested in serving in the capacity. Pam Fitzpatrick has volunteered to step into the role as the liaison at no charge, and MOTAB agreed to this model for a one-year period, with the understanding that the item will be brought back to MOTAB for review in 12 months.

WINTER YOUTH SPORTS – BASKETBALL & CHEERLEADING

Registration for the 2016 winter basketball and cheer program began on Tuesday, November 17, 2015. The Youth Sports Program is designed to teach 4th and 5th grade students fundamental skills, teamwork, sportsmanship, and character building. The program is open those attending Bradoaks, Mayflower, Monroe, Plymouth, and Wild Rose elementary schools, as well participants of the Boys and Girls Club. The program involves practice days being held on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. Games are played on Wednesday at the Mary Wilcox Youth Center, with the competition set to start on Wednesday, January 6, 2016.

If you are still interested, availability to register is still open for the following schools:

- Wild Rose Basketball & Cheer
- Bradoaks Cheer
- Plymouth Basketball & Cheer
- Monroe Basketball & Cheer
- Mayflower Cheer

Those interested in participating can register for the program online at www.cityofmonrovia.org. For more information on the Youth Sports Program, please contact the Public Services Department at (626) 256-8246.

HOLIDAY PARADE & TREE LIGHTING

The Holiday Parade & Tree Lighting event held on Thursday, December 3, 2015, was certainly a fun and successful event! This year's parade had 104 entries, and approximately 7,000 spectators came out to be part of the holiday festivities. There was also a large crowd estimated at 275 people that gathered to watch the Tree Lighting ceremony. Members of the Monrovia City Council, Assembly Member Chris Holden, performers from Center Stage, and students from Canyon Early Learning Center all helped light the tree in Library Park and on the Library building!

In addition, award winners for the 2015 Holiday Parade that will be recognized at the December 15, 2015 City Council meeting include:

- Best Band – Monrovia High School
- Best Float – Volunteer Center of San Gabriel Valley
- Best Cheer Squad – Monrovia High School Cheerleaders
- Best Themed Entry – Plymouth Elementary School
- Best Dance Troop – Ballet Folklorico Azteca de Homework House
- Judges Award – Wushu Unlimited
- Spirit of Santa Award – Monroe Elementary School

Many thanks also to all the parade participants, volunteers, and all members of the community who came out to support the event!

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METRO GOLD LINE – SAFETY TIPS

Representatives from LA Metro recently shared with the City that trains will begin full schedule test runs along the Foothill Extension of the Metro Gold Line on or about December 18, 2015. Trains and grade crossings will be active and functioning at this time, with full passenger service expected to commence on March 5, 2016.

Given that trains will be running on the Gold Line, LA Metro wanted to share the following rail safety tips with the community:

- Use designated crossing areas and wait for the walk/crossing signal.
- If the gates are down, do not attempt to go around them, it's against the law and unsafe.
- If a train is coming, be sure to stay behind the yellow warning stripes.
- Always stop, look, and listen for trains before crossing the tracks, and be sure to look both ways.
- Never race a train to a crossing.
- Never climb railroad vehicles or walk on the tracks.
- Before starting across the tracks, be sure there's room for your vehicle to get completely across.

Practice good safety and obey the laws pertaining to grade crossings. As LA Metro representatives continue to say... be sure that you Look, Listen, and Live!

SANTA BREAKFAST EVENTS CONTINUE UNTIL DECEMBER 23!

The ever popular Santa Breakfast events continue this Saturday, December 19 and next week, Wednesday, December 23, 2015! The current schedule of the upcoming Santa Breakfast events includes:

- Saturday, December 19, 2015
 - The Monrovia at 9:00 a.m.
 - Rudy's at 10:00 a.m.
- Wednesday, December 23, 2015
 - Rudy's at 11:30 a.m. for a Santa Lunch

WASHINGTON, D.C. UPDATE FROM TURCH AND ASSOCIATES

The latest update from our federal lobbying firm of Turch and Associates has been uploaded to our website at the link below for your review and focuses on the five-day continuing resolution passed by Congress, information regarding the Internet Tax Freedom Act, and the Education Bill recently signed by President Obama.

<http://www.cityofmonrovia.org/citymanagersoffice/page/washington-dc-legislative-updates>

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POLICE DEPARTMENT SEMI-WEEKLY NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH REPORT

The most recent Police Department semi-weekly neighborhood watch report for the period December 7 – 9, 2015 has been uploaded to our website at the link below for your review and reference. During the past seven-day period, the Monrovia Police Department handled 389 service events, resulting in 72 total investigations.

<http://www.cityofmonrovia.org/police/page/semi-weekly-report>

That's it for this update, thanks so much for taking the time to read this report and I do hope you have a wonderful rest of the week!

Best regards,
Oliver

OLIVER CHI
City Manager

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