



Bird Rock Community Council

Agenda for the October 1, 2024 Bird Rock Community Council Meeting

6:00-7:30 PM

Bird Rock Elementary School Auditorium

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

Zoom access link is [Join our Cloud HD Video Meeting](#)

1. Welcome, Board Member Introductions, Remarks

Joe Terry – President

Janet Gentile

Joe Parker – Vice President

Marco Gentile

Jennifer Van Galder – Secretary

Eric Kleinbub

Barbara Dunbar – Treasurer, MAD

Christine McVay

Representative and BR Newsletter Editor

Lake Price– Web Administer and Marketing

Kristin Barret - Marketing &

& Communications

Communications

Janette Williams – Liaison to BRE and BRF

Craig Bender – Merchants' Group

Representative

2. Brief Updates from the Representatives of Elected Officials

In person:

Andrés Geurts-Barreto,, Senior Field Representative, Office of Assemblymember Tasha Boerner

Please see Appendix A for written updates.

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

4. Upcoming BRCC Elections

- Qualified nominees for the BRCC Board will be accepted through Oct 15. Please send your nomination(s) to info@birdrockcc.org.
- Brief candidate statements are due by Oct 23 for inclusion with the ballot. Please send your candidate statement to info@birdrockcc.org.

- Mailed ballots go out on Nov 7, one day before emailed ballots are sent.
- Votes are due by 5 pm Friday Nov 15. Mailed ballot votes postmarked by Nov 12 will be counted if received by Nov 18.
- Votes will be certified and ballots will be destroyed at the Nov. 20 Board meeting.
- Election results will be announced at the Dec. 3 Annual BRCC Holiday Party/ meeting.
- The following three current Board members and any additional qualified candidates will be on the ballot: Joe Terry, Christine McVay and Janette Williams.
- Currently, there are 12 Board members and there can be up to 13 Board members; therefore, potentially, there are 4 open positions.

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,

a. Blvd Lighting Project

The lighting project for the Bird Rock commercial district will benefit residents, merchants and visitors by providing increased community aesthetics, greater public safety and an enhanced commercial identity for the Bird Rock commercial district.

Update on power donors:

Number of businesses contacted	38
Number willing to be a power donor	15
Number not willing to be a power donor	4
Number with property owner etc.	19

Please let me know if you want to be a power donor.

While walking the Blvd last Saturday (September 28) with an electrical engineer, we noticed the beautiful streetlights at both ends of each block and discovered that technically it would be relatively simple to use them as a source of power for tree lighting along the sidewalks. South Park did that and, if the City would allow us to do that, several problems would be eliminated and those streetlights would truly be beautiful in that sense.

The lighting project now includes sidewalk tree lighting, replacing the defective street light drivers in the medians and we may expand the project also to include replacing the median lights with warmer tone lights and lighting the trees and the lampposts in the medians.

After one more lighting demo, which will occur very soon after being announced in an email from info@birdrockcc.org, the BRCC Board will make decisions on those additions and type(s) of lighting.

We are preparing a request for cost proposals to have a contractor install the wiring from the block end street lights or businesses to the trees and from the lampposts to the median trees and as soon as we decide which type(s) of tree lighting to use. Very soon, we will request cost proposals for the lighting systems and installation.

With help from the Mayor's Office, the Office of Council President Pro Tem Joe LaCava and the Parks and Recreation Department, Open Space Division - Maintenance Assessment Districts, we will contact the City staff who can help us get City approval to do the following:

- i. Use power from the streetlights at both ends of each block to power the lights for the trees along the sidewalk, as was done in South Park.
- ii. Place small wires in the expansion joints of the sidewalk from storefronts to the trees. In some cases, that may require our contractor to widen the expansion joints. In all cases, our contractor will seal the expansion joints after placing the wires in them.
- iii. Provide lighting for the City's palm trees too.
- iv. Replace the bright white lights in the median with warmer tone lights and have the BR MAD pay for them.
- v. Place a Bird Rock monument at both the southern and northern entrances to the Bird Rock commercial district, where each monument will consist of a large natural coastal rock (4-6 feet wide) and a figure of one or more pelicans on each rock. Either "Bird Rock" or no words will be engraved on each rock and there will be a plaque on each rock in memory of Pat Bender.

What additional input do you want to provide tonight to help us with the lighting project?

a. Bird Rock Signage/Monument Project

See item a.v above.

What additional input do you want to provide tonight to help us with the monument project?

b. Pedestrian Crossing Signal Project

There is no update on this project

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

The date for the next beach cleanup will depend on when there is a low tide about 9 am on a Saturday in the next few months. Please watch for emails from info@birdrockcc.org with info about the October beach cleanup and the subsequent beach adoption party.

If you have 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

The next happy hour is being planned. Please watch for an email from info@birdrockcc.org with info about the next happy hour.

6. Other Events

a. BirdStock

The BRCC is providing additional support for the BirdStock Committee, which is organizing BirdStock 2024. Mark your calendars.--The 2024 BirdStock Music Festival is back and happening Saturday, October 19 from 10 am to 7:30 pm on La Jolla Boulevard in Bird Rock! This year's event promises to be bigger and better than ever before, with lots of live music, activities, merchant participation and vendors creating a festive atmosphere for the entire community to enjoy.

As in previous years, the aim of BirdStock is to raise funds for Bird Rock Elementary School, support our local businesses, and bring our wonderful community together for a day of fun. However, we need YOUR help to do it! Please click on https://www.birdrockcc.org/birdstock_2024.php to participate as a sponsor/donor--no amount is too small and your support is greatly appreciated. Our sponsors make this event possible! If you wish to participate as a vendor, you will find information at the same link.

The BirdStock Committee has raised over \$26,000 in sponsorships (a record!), thanks to the generosity of merchants, other businesses, and members of the community. Right now, the focus is on getting merchant participation, vendors, and finalizing music. They are thankful for Barbara's efforts to get the insurance secured and for her patience with them. Soon, a new flyer will be posted on the BRCC website at BirdRockcc.org.

b. Halloween Window Painting (October Saturday Oct 5,- 9:30-12:30)

They will use a NEW child proof, easy to wash off paint. It is o\pen to all Bird Rock Residents children. Please send an email to craigbender@sbcglobal.net if you want your windows.

c. City of La Jolla Petition Drive

A member of the Association for the City of La Jolla will discuss its efforts.

Here are three questions I received recently from a Bird Rocker and my response.

1. Why is separating from San Diego a good idea?

The answer naturally depends on whom you ask, how you ask, when you ask etc. Here is mine. Following a positive fiscal analysis demonstrating that La Jolla can be self-sustaining, the Association for the City of La Jolla (ACLJ) launched a petition signature campaign on June 1 to request that the San Diego County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) further analyze the feasibility of La Jolla becoming its own city. To meet the requirement of submitting signatures from 25% of registered voters age 18+ in La Jolla, the ACLJ must gather 7,000+ signatures by Nov 15. They are almost halfway to the goal and are requesting our help. Those who sign the petition are simply asking LAFCO to conduct that analysis, they are not asking for approval for the City of La Jolla. If separation is financially viable and approved by San Diego voters, La Jolla residents, business and property owners (i.e., La Jollans) would have more control over issues that are important to them, including development standards, capital improvement projects, infrastructure maintenance, and budget priorities. The characters we would elect to run the City of La Jolla are more likely to consider concerns raised by La Jollans than are the characters elected to run the City of San Diego.

2. Is the BRCC in favor?

The BRCC and its Board have not taken a position on whether there should be a City of La Jolla. However, the Board supports the petition drive, which if successful, will result in LAFCO conducting an independent financial feasibility analysis. The results of that analysis will allow the BRCC and its Board to make a better informed decision as to whether they should be in favor of the City of La Jolla.

3. When was this discussed and endorsed?

This was discussed at two BRCC Board meetings and will be discussed at future BRCC Community meetings and Board meetings, including the Community meeting next Tuesday, October 1.

What role do you think the BRCC should have with respect to the efforts of the Association for the City of La Jolla?

You can help their efforts in the following ways:

- Sign the petition at one of the following local businesses.

Bird Rock

Beaumont's,

Diamonds on the Rock,

Pedego La Jolla

LJ Mailbox Rentals

Windansea/Barber Tract

American Pizza MFG

Bessell Surfboards

La Jolla Community Center

The Village

Harry's Coffee Shop

Pacific Sotheby's

Prana Yoga

Vinny's Barber Shop

La Jolla Shores

The Corner Mercantile & Eatery

- Offer your business to be an additional signing site.
- Collect signatures from family, neighbors and friends by going door-to-door or hosting a signing party. Download the Signature Packet at www.cityoflajolla.org.
- Volunteer to help the ACLJ at one of the following public events by sending an email to info@cityoflajolla.org and put "volunteer" in the subject line.
 - Walter Munk Day (Oct 5),
 - Menahune Surf Contest (Oct 5), and
 - BirdStock (Oct 19).
- Get the facts by scanning the QR code below.



- Follow on social media @cityoflajolla
- Imagine the City of La Jolla and help us create a better future for our community!
- To learn more or get involved by attending Community Visioning workshops at the La Jolla Riford Library on:
 - Saturday, October 26 from 12-2 PM and
 - Tuesday, November 12, from 5-7 PM.

This is an opportunity for residents to put forth their own ideas and priorities for a future City of La Jolla.

- If you have questions or completed signature pages to return, contact Sharon Wampler, ACLJ Board member, at sharon_wampler@yahoo.com or 858-414-1346 (mobile)

7. Updates from Bird Rock Working Groups

a. Neighborhood Watch

In the last few weeks, there have been additional break-ins in the Bird Rock commercial district. If there is sufficient interest by the Bird Rock Merchants Group, Craig and I will arrange a meeting of interested merchants with the SDPD and Michelle Fulks, the lead for the Bird Rock Neighborhood Watch Program.

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 (Don Schmidt, Mary Lynn Hyde)

Coming soon.

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

Coming soon.

8. Lessons Learned re Proposed Development Projects in Bird Rock

Last year, the La Jolla Community Planning Association (LJCPA) failed to follow its bylaws, which require it to make its recommendations based on whether a planned development complies with the La Jolla Planned District Ordinance (LJPDO) and other parts of the San Diego Municipal Code (SDMC). Due in part to that failure, the San Diego Planning Commission approved the Adelante Townhomes project at 5575 La Jolla Blvd. Their decision is final unless the City Council

or a Court decides otherwise. We should learn at least the following lessons from this experience.

First, we cannot count on the LJCPA to support the Greater Bird Rock community and protect the Bird Rock commercial district by requiring compliance with the LJPDO.

Second, the San Diego Planning Commission seldom does not support the recommendations of City staff; therefore, it is important to fully address any concerns about a proposed development with City staff before they make their recommendations.

Third, we should not be heavily influenced by people who speak in favor of a project at a BRCC meeting because they have a direct financial interest in a project, the approval of the project or a connection to the developer.

Fourth, without an overwhelming public outcry, the LJCPA will approve a project that is attractive, well designed, and/or promoted by folks they like or want to do business with, even if it does not comply with the LJPDO and other parts of the SDMC.

Fifth, if we think it is important to protect the Bird Rock commercial district and the benefits it provides to the Greater Bird Rock Community, the BRCC needs to be better prepared for the next project with a large potential to adversely affect the Bird Rock commercial district and the Greater Bird Rock Community.

Sixth, we should be particularly skeptical of developers who claim they know better than the community does concerning what is best for the community.

Seventh, the BRCC should be willing to oppose a proposed development that it believes would be substantially detrimental to the Bird Rock commercial district and Greater Bird Rock Community.

Eighth, it is important to have enough people at the Planning Commission meetings that some of them can donate their limited speaking time to others who need more time than permitted by the Planning Commission or who are cut off before their allowed time is used.

Finally, those of us who have spoken in favor of protecting the Bird Rock commercial district by having the development fully meet the LJPDO requirements for ground floor commercial space were promoted to "Fear Mongers."

9. Next BRCC Community Meeting

After voting in the local, state and national elections, please join us in person on Tuesday, November 5 at 6 pm in the Bird Rock Elementary School Auditorium. There will be limited Zoom access. Zoom details will be available at <https://www.birdrockcc.org>.

We have returned to monthly BRCC Community Meetings.

10. Next Annual Bird Rock MAD Meeting

The Annual Bird Rock MAD Meeting will be Tuesday, November 5, 2024, immediately after the BRCC Community Meeting.

11. Adjournment

Appendix A

Written Updates from the Representatives of Elected Officials

September Legislative Update

1. Andrés Geurts-Barreto, andres.geurts@asm.ca.gov, District Office Phone: (858) 481-7704

October Legislative Update

Assemblymember Tasha Boerner – AD 77

October 2024

Our Current Legislation:

Bills onto the Governor

If not vetoed or signed by the governor by Sept. 30th then the Bill becomes law.

- AB 2234: E-Bike Safety Training Program
 - The bill would establish an opt-in pilot program in the County of San Diego to prohibit persons under the age of 12 from riding e-bikes of any class.

Signed Into Law

- AB 2756: Six Weeks of Preventative Postpartum Pelvic Floor & Core Conditioning Group Exercises
 - The bill would establish a 3-year pilot in the County of San Diego for pelvic floor and core conditioning group therapy within the 6 to 12 week postpartum window to help people rebuild the pelvic floor after pregnancy.
- AB 2715: Cybersecurity as a closed session exception under the Brown Act.
 - The bill would add threats to cybersecurity as a closed session exception under the Brown Act.
- AB 2666: Public Utilities: Rate of Return
 - The bill would require the CPUC, following each general rate case (GRC) test year, to review which costs, if any, each electrical or gas corporation was able to reduce to achieve profits and to adjust the authorized revenue requirement

in subsequent years or the next GRC, as appropriate, based on the actual past costs the corporation recorded.

Upcoming Events:

- Environmental Hero Awards, Del Mar City Hall, October 5th
- Assemblymember Boerner will present awards to our honorees who have made a positive impact on our environment in District 77.

Office Contact:

Andrés Geurts

andres.geurts@asm.ca.gov

District Office Phone: (858) 481-7704

505 Lomas Santa Fe Drive, Ste 110, Solana Beach, CA 92075

Website: <https://a77.asmdc.org>

**2. Fatima Maciel, Community Representative, Office of Mayor Todd Gloria,
FaMaciel@sandiego.gov, C: 619-218-7083**

San Diego Remains One of the Safest Big Cities:

- The latest data from the Major Cities Chiefs Association reveals that violent crime in our city continues to trend downward.
- Homicides have decreased by an impressive 47%, rapes are down by 17%, robberies have dropped by 6%, and aggravated assaults have declined by 1%.
- One of the key contributors to this positive trend has been the implementation of innovative programs like the Smart Streetlight system.
- Since its rollout earlier this year, the system has aided in over 160 events, leading to 117 arrests, the recovery of six guns, and an estimated \$1.67 million recovered in stolen goods.

City of San Diego Issues Formal Request to Property Owners and Managers for Potential Shelter Space:

- With the goal of increasing long-term capacity in the City's shelter system and replacing beds in temporary shelters set to close in the coming years, the City of San Diego today issued a formal solicitation calling on property owners and managers to offer up potential locations that could be used as future shelter sites through a Request for Information (RFI).

- The move comes as the City works to create more short-, medium- and long-term options for those experiencing homelessness through the updated Comprehensive Shelter Strategy.
- The RFI issued appeals to property owners and managers to submit sites available for purchase or lease that – after further evaluation – could become a homelessness shelter.
- There is no ideal size for such a facility, and the City currently employs a mix of smaller non-congregate buildings ranging to larger non-congregate sites such as hotels, to larger congregate-style shelter facilities.
- In a similar effort, last month the San Diego Housing Commission issued a Request for Qualification (RFQ) to identify potential landlord collaborations, including a separate RFQ to identify potential future service providers and shelter operators.

City's Safe Sidewalks Program to Hit Milestone After First Year

- Almost one year since its launch, the City of San Diego's Safe Sidewalks Program is marking a significant milestone with nearly 100 projects approved, saving thousands of dollars for property owners and expediting the process to repair damaged sidewalks.
- The Safe Sidewalks Program waives costly permit fees and allows for self-certification to speed up repairs, saving private property owners more than \$2,100 per project.
- Under state law, property owners are responsible for maintenance of sidewalks fronting their private property. Sidewalk damage can create safety hazards and legal liability.
- This program also allows property owners to save more time and money through a self-certification process where they can submit certification and photos of the completed sidewalk repair to the Transportation Department attesting that a licensed contractor performed the work in conformance with City construction standards.
- Additionally, as part of the Safe Sidewalks program, the City allocates \$300,000 per year to cover the costs of sidewalk repair projects for property owners in underserved areas, defined in Council Policy 800- 14 as Structurally Excluded Communities.
- Less than a year since launching the Safe Sidewalk Program, the Transportation Department's in-house sidewalk repair and replacement team has completed repairs at 30 sidewalk locations in these designated communities, part of a total of more than 240 new repairs and installations citywide.

City of San Diego Unveils Draft Citywide Cultural Plan for Public Review

- The City is seeking public input on its draft cultural plan, Creative City. This plan will set a strategic framework for advancing arts, culture and creativity in San Diego's diverse

communities over the next 10 years and position the City and trans-border region as an equitable place of inspiration and prosperity.

- The draft plan sets forth a vision and actionable strategies to sustain and grow San Diego's vibrant creative ecosystems, where arts and culture advance dialogue, development and diversity -- defining San Diego as a global creative capital.
- The City is continuing its engagement process with new events and a feedback form — ensuring all San Diegans can participate in the cultural planning process. San Diegans are encouraged to review the draft plan at sandiego.gov/creative-city/get-involved and provide feedback by Oct. 12, 2024.

City of San Diego Releases Report Regarding Status of Ocean Beach Pier:

- The City of San Diego has determined the safest and most cost-effective option for the Ocean Beach Pier is to keep the structure closed to public access while the City moves forward with a long-term solution to replace the 58-year-old pier
- The Ocean Beach Pier has been closed since it was damaged by high surf in October 2023. Additional, and more significant, damage occurred in December 2023 when a support bracket – or “pile” – broke off and fell into the ocean.
- Engineering teams have determined that any work to rehabilitate the pier is not feasible, especially given the likelihood of additional damage occurring during future winter storms. Additional repairs or rehabilitation would be required to reopen the pier, which would include extensive construction, heavy machinery and the need to build a new structure to support the equipment and construction personnel.
- The City continues to make progress on the Ocean Beach Pier Renewal project. There have been four community workshops since April 2023 to gather input from the community about what they would like to see in a new pier. City consultants are currently making minor updates to the design concept based on the most recent feedback received from the community regarding specific pier amenities like lighting and shade options. This updated design concept is expected to be released this fall.

Assembly Bill 3227 Heads to the Governor's Desk:

- San Diego is taking significant steps to enhance its storm resilience with the advancement of Assembly Bill 3227, known as the "Streamlining Storm Water Channel Maintenance Act."
- In partnership with Assemblymember David Alvarez and sponsored by the City of San Diego, this bill, which passed the State Legislature last week, is designed to cut through red tape, allowing San Diego and other California cities to more effectively maintain storm channels.

- Stormwater channel maintenance had been difficult to conduct due to state and federal regulatory and administrative requirements. More severe winter storms have increased the urgency to reduce this regulatory burden so that channels can be cleared and reinforced ahead of significant weather events.
- This bill in conjunction with Assemblymember Alvarez's AB 2501, which authorizes local governments to fund technical assistance and permitting for stormwater projects, would mean San Diego is better positioned to manage the challenges of a changing climate and the more severe weather we expect from it.