



## CITY NOTES

June 11, 2015

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**CITY DIALOGUE MEETING WELL-ATTENDED>>** On a quarterly basis, the City holds an informal round-table meeting with interested residents and business people to provide updates, answer questions, and receive suggestions. Last Thursday's City Dialogue Meeting was attended by about 30 people, including most of the City's management team. The discussion was far-ranging and touched on the work of each City department. One suggestion that came out of the meeting that was immediately followed up on immediately was to re-install picnic tables on the west lawn at Bainbridge Park. The tables were removed last year in order to rehabilitate the lawn. A comprehensive Bainbridge Park improvement plan will be prepared and implemented next year. In the meantime, the City has ordered picnic tables from Parlin Forks and will install them as soon as they are available.

**COASTAL TRAIL UPDATE>>** Progress is being made on installation of park improvements in the southern portion of Noyo Headlands Park and the park is still on track to open in September. The City and Georgia-Pacific are working on an agreement that will allow for vehicles to access the southern portion of Noyo Headlands Park via an extension of Cypress Street. Cypress Street would be extended along an existing site access road from the Main Street intersection to the new parking lot at the southern end of the old runway. The paved multi-use trail will continue along the original alignment that hugs the bluffs above Noyo Bay and meets Main Street at Noyo Point Road.

**FIREWORKS>>** This year, the Independence Day celebration on the coast will be tremendous, with three major events all scheduled for Saturday, July 4<sup>th</sup>. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade in Mendocino starts at noon. The World's Largest Salmon BBQ in Noyo Harbor offers great food and music for a great cause (proceeds going to the Salmon Restoration Association). A glorious Fireworks Display will light up the skies over Noyo Bay after dusk. The fireworks can be viewed from Pomo Bluffs Park and from Noyo Beach. The City will be implementing new measures to improve public safety at this year's event. Please come and enjoy the fireworks in a family-friendly atmosphere. Please leave all fireworks and alcoholic beverages at home.

**NOYO CENTER FOR MARINE SCIENCE>>** The Noyo Center is gearing up for its summer programs including two sessions of the hugely successful "Coastin' It Camp," a 3-day, 2-night science, art and hiking program geared towards kids in the 10-15 age range. The first session will be held June 24-26, and the second session will be held August 4-6. For more information or to register, visit the Noyo Center website (<http://noyocenter.org>) and contact Sarah Grimes at [sarah@notocenter.org](mailto:sarah@notocenter.org).

**OLD COAST HOTEL LITIGATION>>** Earlier this year, a group calling itself "Concerned Citizens of Fort Bragg" (CCFB) filed a lawsuit against the City of Fort Bragg seeking to overturn the City Council's decision to pass-through State Community Development Block Grant funds to the Mendocino Coast Hospitality Center (MCHC) for purchase of the Old Coast Hotel property. MCHC plans to use the property for a "wellness center," offices for mental health services, administrative offices, and transitional housing. Last week, the City and CCFB had a hearing at the Ukiah courthouse regarding CCFB's request for a preliminary injunction to stop the project from moving forward until the court

has a full hearing on the merits of CCFB's complaint. The judge indicated that he would issue a ruling on the injunction by June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**RECALL>>** From a procedural standpoint, the movement to recall Mayor Dave Turner got off to a slow start. The initial "Notice of Intent" that was served upon Mayor Turner contained erroneous information and therefore was deficient and invalid. The petitioners will need to collect signatures, serve Mayor Turner with a corrected notice, publish the notice, give Mayor Turner time to file an answer with the Elections Official, and then file the petition with the Election Official. Once the Election Official notifies the proponents that the petition format meets all Election Code requirements, the proponents then have 60 days in which to collect 792 valid signatures in order to qualify the recall for the ballot.

**BALLOT INITIATIVE>>** The City has received a Notice of Intent to circulate a petition for a ballot initiative that would change the zoning in the Central Business District such that "social service organizations" would not be permitted unless established prior to January 1, 2015. As required by law, the City Attorney has prepared a ballot title (Prohibiting Social Service Organizations in the Central Business District) and a summary of the initiative measure. There are a number of other steps that must be completed by proponents before collecting signatures to place the initiative measure on the ballot.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS>>** Check out the "Upcoming Agenda Items" pages on the City's website or sign up for meeting notifications using the "Notify Me" feature on the website <https://city.fortbragg.com>. The following public meetings are coming up:

- Thursday, June 18 @ 3 PM, City Hall Conference Room – Public Works & Facility Committee Meeting.
- Monday, June 22 @ 6 PM, Fort Bragg Town Hall – City Council Meeting.
- Tuesday, June 23 @ 1:30 PM, City Hall Conference Room – Special Finance & Administration Committee Meeting.
- Tuesday, June 23 @ 3 PM, City Hall Conference Room – Community Development Committee Meeting.
- Wednesday, June 24 @ 6 PM, Fort Bragg Town Hall – Planning Commission Meeting.

*City Notes is published on the second and fourth Thursday of each month. If you have questions or suggestions regarding the column, feel free to contact City Manager Linda Ruffing at (707) 961-2823, ext. 118 or [L.Ruffing@fortbragg.com](mailto:L.Ruffing@fortbragg.com).*