

**City of Pacifica**  
**Fireworks Task Force Committee**  
**Minutes from meeting of Monday, March 4, 2013**

Meeting started at approximately 6:00 PM.

Present for the meeting: Cindy Abbott, Lynn Adams, Tom Dennison, Chris Fogel, William Gray, Lauren Jaques, Mike O'Neill, Sue Pemberton, Patty Sambrailo, Jim Tasa and Tim Dunkin (facilitator).

The meeting began with committee member introductions and an introduction of the facilitator, Tim Dunkin. Mr. Dunkin then outlined and reviewed the options as outlined in City of Pacifica Resolution Number 1170. It was shared that the resolution sunset date was July 31, 2013. It was clarified that the beaches in question include Linda Mar beach and Rockaway beach.

Mr. Dunkin asked the committee members what their respective concerns were regarding the use of safe and sane fireworks in Pacifica.

Lauren Jaques was concerned with maintaining a revenue stream for the non-profit groups.

Sue Pemberton was concerned about the pollution caused by the fireworks and how the beach litter impacted the ocean and wildlife.

Chris Fogel had a concern with illegal fireworks in the community, as well as, the damage and litter caused at the beaches.

William Gray was concerned with maintaining the revenue stream for the non-profit groups. He feels there is misinformation being put out the community regarding the sales and efforts of the non-profit groups regarding safe and sane fireworks. Mr. Gray indicated that the sale of the safe and sane fireworks in Pacifica also brings in additional revenue for the City through visitors purchasing other items from Pacifica businesses while they are in town for the fireworks. Mr. Gray stated the non-profit groups do clean the beaches the following morning of 4<sup>th</sup> of July, however, he did state they could look at doing a more efficient job and possible not sell some types of fireworks that seem to cause more debris and are more hazardous to the environment.

Lynn Adams was concerned with beach clean-up, ocean litter and overall environmental issues as a result of the use of safe and sane fireworks in the community.

Tom Dennison was concerned with the revenue stream for the non-profit groups, as well as, beach clean-up.

Cindy Abbott was concerned with beach clean-up, overall litter and the hazards the firework toxins contribute to the environment. Ms. Abbott indicated there was no education regarding litter clean-up in the promotion of the sale of safe and sane fireworks. She felt an emphasis should be placed on educating the community in regards to the litter issues and the problems the littering presents to the environment.

There was conversation regarding the legality of fireworks being allowed on a State beach. While Linda Mar Beach is a state beach the City of Pacifica does have an operating agreement with the State Department of Parks and Recreation as to the usage of the beach. Rockaway Beach is not considered a state beach. It was agreed that it needs to be clarified as to whether safe and sane fireworks are legally allowable on Linda Mar Beach.

Bill Gray spoke about some historical costs associated with the non-profit groups and the booth permit fees. Booth fees many years ago were \$50 per booth and at some point escalated to \$758 per booth. This increase was contributed to funding City resources/personnel that were required to police and manage the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. In recent years, an additional 8% surcharge has been added to each purchase to cover the cost of City staffing/costs for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. These costs impact the profits for the non-profit groups and cause the consumer to question what the costs are for.

There was additional conversation regarding the clean-up efforts the day following the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Mr. Gray stated that non-profit groups typically show up for approximately one-hour to clean the beaches. The groups usually have 4-10 people. He stated that TNT puts out additional trash receptacles on the beach and a large dumpster in the beach parking lot. Mr. Gray feels the groups may be able to do a better job with the clean-up, but they do make an effort. It was also noted that the City of Pacifica, Department of Public Works has six employees on the beach the morning of July 5<sup>th</sup> to pick up litter.

Dennis Revell from Revell Communications, who represents TNT (Safe and Sane Fireworks Distributor), who was in attendance in the audience, stated that the 8% surcharge, in part, covers the cost of public works personnel for clean-up. He stated that TNT also pays Recology of the Coast to have a dumpster receptacle at the beach parking lot. In addition to this, TNT spends approximately \$10,000 on advertising in various ways for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July campaign.

The committee then spent time developing a work plan for the group with the purpose being to provide recommendations to the City Council relative to issues surrounding the sale and use of legal fireworks in the City for both 2013 and subsequent years.

The key objectives to be considered in the development of recommendations were identified as, 1) review of legal and other critical documents, including relevant State regulations, the City Operating Agreement for Linda Mar Beach, current City ordinances relative to fireworks and previous fireworks' task force recommendations, 2) analysis of Fireworks revenue generation, particularly focused on Linda Mar Beach, and possible alternatives, 3) options for enhanced event management, especially if Linda Mar Beach is an option, of pre, during and post activities,

4) consideration of litter control options for both beaches and streets, 5) consideration of alternative, non-beach fireworks sites, 6) consideration of educational alternatives as to the general impact, potential toxins and environmental impact of fireworks and, 7) development of a general communications plan relative to any and all recommendations.

Future Meetings – All meetings are currently scheduled to be at the Pacifica Police Department, 2075 Coast Highway, Pacifica, California.

Monday, March 18, 2013, 6:00-8:00 PM

Monday, April 8, 2013, 6:00-8:00 PM

Monday, April 22, 2013, 6:00-8:00 PM

The committee will decide if they feel they need to meet on Monday, April 15, 2013 after the March 18<sup>th</sup> or April 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. If they decide to meet on April 15, 2013, it will be at the Pacifica Police Department from 6:00-8:00 PM.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00 PM.