

RIO DEL MAR Improvement Association (www.rdmia.org) Winter 2018



RDMIA Semi-Annual Spring Meeting: Wednesday, 6:30 pm April 18

Be sure to join us at the next membership meeting on Wednesday, April 18 at 6:30PM at the Rio Sands Motel.

Guest speakers will be Zach Friend, County Supervisor, who will be sharing his thoughts on current issues affecting us here at Rio Del Mar and any other speakers that you might suggest that would share information impacting our community.

If you are coming please let us know so that we can have enough **pizza** and soft drinks for everyone.

**REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP
NOW for 2018. Fee will be \$30 effective 01-01-2018**
(Use form on mailer side)



Community Updates

From County Supervisor Zach Friend

As I begin the New Year as your County Supervisor, I like to report back in this column on some of the things we've accomplished because of your partnership and communication of priorities.

Seabreeze Tavern Lots:

RDMIA has prioritized the cleanup of the Esplanade for quite some time and part of that interest has focused on the lots next to the Seabreeze Tavern.

As many of you know, the lots have been problematic for quite some time. Our office has received a number of complaints about them, code compliance has done enforcement and the previous owner had a number of violations associated with the lots. Additionally, the previous owner was extremely delinquent on the payment of property taxes on the lots and eventually they went up for auction. I believe the lots have a lot of potential as a public space and public use. I requested that the County purchase the lots when they came up for auction for some future public use. The process was long - it included actions by the Board of Supervisors and challenges from the previous property owner such as legal challenges but recently the County officially took ownership of the lots. The County recently cleaned out the lots as an important first step toward improving the area.

At this point, we do not have a defined long-term use for the lots. I will be working with our Parks Department on a long-term plan for what the lots can become. In the short term we will consider other (temporary) options for the space that might be able to fund a future public use. The lots can't have a new permanent structure created due to flood issues. I truly appreciate the continued feedback from the community and the offers from many in Rio Del Mar and elsewhere to help with the cleanup over the last 5 years. I know there is a lot of interest in the lots, and over the last few years I've heard a lot of suggestions of what could be done with them, but at this point we are just in the beginning stages of a process. I thought the most important things were to bring it into public ownership and then clean it up - that allows us to start work on a long term plan that ensures a public benefit to the lots (as required with our new public ownership of them).

Housing: The Board focused extensively this year on making the construction of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) easier. ADUs (sometimes called "granny units") are one of the quickest ways to improve the housing stock - especially the affordable housing stock. We adopted the reduction of fees, streamlined administrative practices and regulations and created programs to assist with design, financing, and obtaining a building permit. The Board prohibited these ADUs from becoming vacation rentals to ensure the units become long-term rentals or an on-site living location for seniors aging in place, for example. Additionally, new housing will be coming online soon in the Aptos Village, including deed-restricted affordable housing, with a significant interest list of local residents.

Local Roads: This year saw historic levels of rain and over \$130 million in damage to local roads and County facilities (such as parks). We have successfully begun repairs (and completed some repairs) on major damage to Valencia, Soquel, Cabrillo College Drive and other locations in the district. While we anticipate it can take up to five years for all of the repairs to be completed, the majority of projects in our district have been prioritized to be completed in the first three years (and many in 2018).

Additionally, this year we established a 5 year work program for local roads as a result of the passage of Measure D. The work program, which begins in a few months, includes work in La Selva Beach, Seacliff, Rio Del Mar, Corralitos and other areas in greater Aptos.

Economic Vitality and Reserves: The Aptos Village Project continued work, Rancho Del Mar broke ground and improvements began in Seacliff as part of the utility undergrounding and streetscape (village) improvement project. The Sunesys fiber broadband line was completed (which covers much the urban and some of the rural portions of our district) which we believe will help improve broadband access, speed and costs in many parts of our district in the next few years.

Additionally, the Board has worked to streamline other processes in the Planning Department by increasing electronic plans submittal and reducing times for certain permits. During our budget hearings we again voted to increase our reserves, which has led to improved bond ratings and lower borrowing costs.

Moving Forward: The above is just a partial list of what we've done this year and I know there is a lot more to do on all of these issues in 2018. We made significant progress on cannabis policy, created a new Thrive by Three program to help local kids in their first three years of life, hired a new County Administrative Officer, started a strategic planning process and more. This past year we estimate that we addressed over 750 direct requests for service to our office on transportation and road issues, neighborhood public safety concerns, storm damage, environmental issues, health and human services, technology services and more – all from your emails, visits during office hours and calls to us.

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We'd love to continue to hear from you to prioritize what we do. Call us at 454-2200 and have a great New Year!

We Are Still Looking for new Board Members or Someone Who could Head Up a Committee-----That Could be You

Here's your chance to really become part of the Rio del Mar community and help improve it at the same time. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month at the Aptos/La Selva Fire station on Soquel near Mar Vista Elementary at 6:30 pm. There we discuss what and how we can make Rio del Mar a better place.

We are looking for a few new board members, particularly if you have computer skills, or if that is too much of a commitment, then how about heading up a committee. We need a landscape coordinator and a membership coordinator. Think about it.

Come to our board meeting or send us an e-mail to:

President@rdmia.com

Got an issue? Our board meetings are always open to all in the community.

RDMIA does not share our membership list with anyone.

The current Rio Del Mar Improvement Association Officers are:

President: Dan Rothenbush

Vice President: Jerry Cannella

Treasurer: Will Sutter

Secretary: Carey Pico

Arco Station

A special thanks to Vivi Barrett, Caroline and Patrick Kelley who did the Christmas setup at the Arco Station, the sign looked great for the Holidays.



Rainy Season Comes With Problems

If you are having any flooding problems please let the District 2 folks know, so that possible corrective action can be taken.

Colt Esenwein: Colt.Esenwein@santacruzcounty.us

We are aware of the Flats area and that is being addressed.

Other areas may require a special assessment.

Repaving of some streets in the Rio Del Mar area is being planned over the next few years, the following map identifies some of the areas. If you are in proximity to some of these areas please let the Steve Wiesner, Assistant Director of the Santa Cruz County Public Works District know if crosswalk signs, stop signs, etc. are needed so that your concerns may be addressed. The passage of Measure D will provide the funds needed to bring our roads back up to standards.





Trail and/or Rail: We want your opinion at our next meeting

The RDMIA would like to understand the will of Rio del Mar residents regarding what to do with the rail corridor. Initially, the current policy is to preserve future rail transit options by leaving the tracks in place. Known as “rail-with-trail”, the plan prioritizes future rail service by constructing an 8 to 12-foot wide walking/biking trail parallel to the tracks. Costs for this trail are estimated at \$130 million. The proposed “rail-with-trail” requires new bridges to be built parallel to the existing infrastructure and substantial retaining wall given the narrow confines of the corridor. Additionally, the current plan calls for fencing to be installed separating the trail from the railroad tracks.

Two citizens groups, Trail Now and Greenway, stepped in and proposed an alternate plan. Commonly referenced as “trail-only”, this plan prioritizes active transportation with a wider trail separating bicyclist and pedestrian. The trail would be built down the center of the corridor. The railroad tracks would either be covered and/or removed to make way for the trail. Costs for the wider trail are reduced as it uses existing bridges and infrastructure, and requires minimal retaining wall to be built. Additionally, future transit options are not eliminated as the right-of-way would be preserved through a legal process called railbanking.

The two trail scenarios essentially come down to 1) building a narrow multi-use path while maintaining the train tracks, with the possibility of commuter train service in the next 15 - 20 years assuming taxpayers pass the additional taxes by 2/3s vote to fund it; or 2) use the corridor today as active transportation with separated walking and biking paths until, or if, it makes sense to build and operate some form of transit service. In either case, it’s likely all tracks and ties would need to be replaced for modern passenger rail.

<u>Trail-Only Resources</u>	<u>Rail-With-Trail Resources</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trail Now: trailnow.org SCC Greenway: sccgreenway.org 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Friends of the Rail & Trail: santacruztrail.org SCC RTC: sccrtc.org

We ask you to go to these websites representing the two different positions and learn about the trail options. We will discuss the issue with our members at our next meeting to determine whether the RDMIA should take a position on it.



RDMIA and Save Our Shores Cleanup

RDMIA and Save Our Shores will participate in the Coastal Cleanup at Hidden Beach on January 27, 2018. Come on out and join us, it will be Fun.

Rainouts do occur so check the weather before coming out.

We thank all 225 member households and friends for your continued support.
Beginning Balance as of

January 1, 2017	\$ 4,400.47
Income:	
Membership Dues	\$ 7,302.22
Expenses:	
Landscaping	\$ 3,214.57
Post Office	\$ 90.00
Newsletter	\$ 852.23
Café Rio- Farewell Checks	\$ 300.00
Linux Hosting-Website	\$ 95.88
Bookkeeping	\$ 125.00
July 4 th Picnic	\$ 172.11
Director's Insurance	\$ 736.00
Total Expenses:	\$ 5,585.89
Ending Balance on: November 30, 2017	\$ 6,116.80

Are You Organized for an Emergency?

The past couple of months we have seen a series of natural disasters around our state. Flooding and fires have destroyed homes and business. We live with the constant threat of an earthquake.

What have you done to prepare for an emergency? What is the best way to create an emergency plan and supply stockpile?

With all the disasters that Mother Nature is showing us lately, there is no better time than the present to put together an emergency preparedness plan that will aid you and your loved ones should a disaster hit close to home.

It is imperative to have a plan, as well as contain all critical supplies in an easily accessible place (garage, closet, outside shed, car, office) for immediate “grab and go”. (Consider storing sleeping bags near your emergency kit.)

There are exceptional resources online (CDC.gov, Ready.gov, RedCross.com, FEMA.gov) that provide guides to create a comprehensive plan including communication, evacuation, food, supplies, shelter. The Red Cross states “Prepare a kit, make a plan, be informed.”

Before a disaster hits, create a solid plan, fill your supply bin and kits, and talk with your family and friends about “what if’s” so that if faced, you are prepared and can remain calm.

Also consider being a CERT member, (Community Emergency Response Team) it could save life’s. Find out more at:

www.santacruzcountycert.org

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RIO DEL MAR

IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Visit us at www.rdmia.org

Facebook: Rio del Mar Improvement
Association

Remember:

Wed. April 18, 6:30 pm!

Meeting at Rio Sands

(See front page for details)

Share your newsletter with a neighbor and invite them to join!

Membership Application/Renewal-Newsletter Annual Dues: \$30

Membership increase effective 01-01-2018, PayPal \$32

(January- December) **2018**

Name(s): _____

Rio del Mar Address: _____

Mailing Address (if different): _____ State: ____ Zip: ____

Telephone Number: (____) _____

E-mail: _____

Please include your check and mail to:

Rio del Mar Improvement Association, P.O. Box 274, Rio del Mar, CA 95001