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**From:** Kiff, Dave  
**Sent:** Friday, August 10, 2018 9:09 AM  
**Subject:** Insider's Guide for the City Council meeting of Tuesday, August 14, 2018

A happy Friday to you. I'll confess that I always want to write, "A good Friday to you," but then that sounds weird except one Friday a year. So whatever, it's Friday, and Fridays are largely good. Here is the "Insider's Guide" for the Newport Beach City Council meeting of **Tuesday, August 14, 2018**. Staff has had three weeks between council meetings, so we're tanned, rested, and ready.

In this email, I do not summarize all of the items on the agenda – only the ones that seem of large importance to most folks in town. Please read the entire [agenda](#) if you wish.

The meeting starts at 3:30 p.m. with a routine business item known as the Public Facilities Corp (PFC), which is where the City Council sits as the Board of Directors of the PFC, and basically reviews and approves the financial statements for the PFC for the year. The PFC itself is the body that formally would have approved various debt issuances, such as the 2010 Civic Center COPs. Obviously, no debt is planned at this meeting, but the financial statements must be reviewed annually.

### Study Session

Then at about 3:45 p.m., we get back to business with some Study Session items. The ones that will generate the most discussion are the **Newport Heights traffic study** and our "ask" for **Council direction on Bird Scooters** and other shared-use mobility devices ("Lime" Bikes would be another thing like this). Shared-use devices are bookable by app, and are often one-way trips – like borrowing a bike or scooter and from Point A to Point B, leaving it at Point B to shop or dine or whatever, and then finding another one to take you from Point B back to Point A. It's likely that the device you pick up at Point B is not the one you left there, as someone else may have already taken it to Point C. Anyway, the mild concern that we have is that these can be left in a manner that blocks sidewalks or street corners, and can also be ridden unsafely. Oftentimes the company offering the rentals typically won't have a permit to operate on the public right of way. At Study Session, we'll ask the Council what it would like to do into the future regarding this new trend.

Let me get back to the **Newport Heights school-related traffic study** now. It's worth a read [here](#). The recommendations include additional crossing guards, improved crosswalks, changes to the configuration of the Newport Heights Elementary access and egress plan, and more. Part of the "more" is using Clay Street as an enhanced way to bike to and from school (including Ensign and NH El). This would involve new on-street parking limits on Clay on school days during certain hours (it would vary by direction). If you live in Newport Heights, please read the study whether you have kids or not. At the evening Session, we will ask Council to formalize any direction they might have for us as to implementing the study's recommendations. Interested folks should definitely consider attending or watching the afternoon session though.

### Evening Session

During the evening session, a number of interesting things are up, including (potentially) both of the items discussed at Study Session. Remember that we don't usually seek formal direction in the afternoon, so that's why formal direction on the same two items is asked for at night. Other items are:

- Some more big (and small) projects are all done. You know the **Park Avenue Bridge** is done (many moons ago), but so is the new **Newport Elementary field** (yay) and some improvements to **Peninsula Point Park**. Our good staff in Public Works has worked hard to get these and all projects completed, and you can imagine how tough it can be to squeeze them out between summer crowds, Christmas, Spring Break, school seasons, and more. This agenda includes the formal Notices of Completion on these projects. Well done, Public Works.

- The effort to **dredge the remainder of the Grand Canal** (about 2/3 of the distance still needs to be dredged) ran into a hiccup, as the pricing was too high and well above our estimates. We will ask Council to reject all bids for this important project, and we'll re-look at some of the constraints we put on it. Residents' patience is appreciated there as we try again here.
- Thanks to our long-time partnership with NMUSD, we will expand our **PD presence at the middle and high schools**, as we add one new police position to help improve school safety. The City Council approved this position in the budget adopted for July 1, 2018. So we'll go from one to two officers whose assignment includes the public middle and high schools.
- In 2013, the City Council agreed to help the **Crystal Cove Alliance** with a small amount of revenue that could be pledged to help this non-profit group restore cottages at Crystal Cove State Park. Seventeen cottages remain to be historically restored, and the cost is pretty huge (\$35M, including infrastructure). The agreement ended this year, and the now-Conservancy has asked that we considering upping the dollar amount to \$50K per year (from \$20K per year) for another five years. This \$250K pledge would assist the Conservancy in securing construction loans for the restoration. Overall, the more cottages that are restored, the more hotel bed tax is generated from the Project to the City. And we all get more really fun places to stay near the coast.
- Our good **Friends of the Newport Beach Public Library** have come through yet again in \$1 and \$2 increments to provide \$175,000 in support for library materials and programming. Thanks, Friends.
- Under Current Business, the aforementioned **Newport Heights Traffic Study** and **Shared-Use Mobility Devices** comes back near the end of the meeting for any formal direction by the Council.
- Lastly, the Council has an item on there for the **appointment of a new City Manager**. As I write this, I understand that this agenda item is likely to happen, implying that discussions with the top candidate have been successful. Phew. My term here ends on August 31, 2018, so it looks like the baton will be passed successfully from me to this person without my bobbling it.

#### Some Notes:

- We're coming up on our second-to-last **Concert on the Green** for the summer, as sponsored by the City Arts Commission. It's Sunday, August 12 starting at 6:00 p.m., and will be the well-loved local folks known as the Tijuana Dogs. Do I have to warn some of you not to imbibe and make a scene atop the parking structure? I'm sure I don't.
- I am pleased to announce the appointment of Deputy Public Works Director **Mark Vukojevic** as the new **Director of our Utilities Department**. Many of you know Mark via the complex projects he handles for Public Works, and now you will know him as the guy overseeing our water and wastewater systems, storm drains, and oil fields. Mark competed in an open recruitment with outside candidates, and did very well obviously. I am glad to have Mark in this new role and hope you almost never have to hear from him (because when a utility works well, you don't have to think about it much ☺). I am very thankful to the good work of Interim Director Steffen Catron, who ably has run the Department since George Murdoch retired in December.
- Speaking of The R-Word, there is some event honoring some guy who's leaving at the end of the month (in <15 workdays!!!). The *Guide* was asked to promote the event, and it does so reluctantly. It's **Thursday afternoon, August 30, 2018** from 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on the Civic Green, and is very informal (games, popcorn, silliness). Very informal. Did I say very? I meant very. Please come by and say hello, goodbye, "don't let the screen door hitcha on the way out," "hey, you never responded to that email," "please tell us one last time the difference between the Pension Normal Cost and the Unfunded Liability," whatever. ☺
- One more thought here about the **Insider's Guide**. I will write one more time as the announcement of a new City Manager is made, so I won't say goodbye yet. But I did tell the staff here that I think it might be perfectly appropriate for the new City Manager to create something (or nothing) different from this email. As a brief historical note, I started the *Guide* probably 8 years ago when news coverage of local government (and the City) was a bit dicey. It was often well-intentioned, but key things were missed that I felt residents needed to know about. So we built an email list of nearly all of the city's HOA contacts, the local press, and anyone else who wanted on the list – it wasn't exclusive, but it was to provide an insider's look at City Hall. My wish at the time was to make sure that our residents knew what was on the Council agenda, how it might affect their neighborhood, and to try to eliminate surprises. I could see retiring this *Guide* along with me. Coverage of local government by local sources is better now (I am very thankful for that), and maybe the need is different. Regardless, I think this is something that

the new person should decide (it can be a bit time intensive to write, especially when one is verbose. Which I am not. Not at all).

Thanks again for reading this and for your good feedback on many City issues.

Sincerely,

Dave Kiff  
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