



SIA Annual Meeting Recap

Emily Chorba

This year we held our annual meeting at Cantine Wine Pub with a lovely Tapas Tuesday Treat. The food was delicious, and the venue was spaciouly safe yet intimate with seating for all. As in past years, we enjoyed the acoustic guitar music from Ken Constable which always sets a gala mood.

After introducing the board members, I summarized our 2021 membership meetings:

- Q1 Seacliff Village Park status zoom meeting with Jeff Gaffney and Friends of County Parks
- Q2 Ice Cream Social at Seacliff Village Park where we said goodbye to Patrick Mulhern
- Q3 Pizza Party at Coastlands Courtyard to welcome Kieran Kelley
- Q4 Tapas at Cantine to report the state and projects of the SIA

We are fiscally sound thanks to over 360 members, friends, dues, and donations!

Some of our association beautification projects include:

- 🌿 Maintenance of two cliff-to-beach trails: the Beach Gate Trail, established in 1925 and Moosehead Trail leading from Aptos Creek to East Seacliff Drive.
- 🌿 Mar Vista Garden by the rail crossing, currently overseen by SIA member, Elena Longworth, who is looking for help with light maintenance.
- 🌿 Seacliff Mini Park, established in 1976, on Seacliff Drive overlooking Seacliff State Beach. Board member Rebecca Downing coordinates and performs regular maintenance with litter pick up assistance from neighbors.
- 🌿 Annual Beautification Awards.

Potential projects we discussed at the annual meeting were:

- ☆ SIA community garage/yard sale in spring and fall ending in a potluck.
- ☆ Seacliff Village Park Phase 3 including building an amphitheater and community area. It requires funding and potentially a fundraiser to complete this much anticipated phase.
- ☆ A fundraiser for an Aptos Library Garden. See Kate Pavao's article on page 4.



Thank you all for supporting the association. We appreciate your desire to stay informed about what happens in our special Seacliff neighborhood!



Criminal Justice Council: 2021 Report Explores Police Policies and Procedures

Zach Friend
Second District Supervisor

The Criminal Justice Council of Santa Cruz County (CJC) recently released its first report - an in-depth analysis of local police agency policies and procedures particularly around use-of-force. This regional transparent analysis is possibly the first such comparative regional look into these policies in the nation.

The Criminal Justice Council (CJC) was created over thirty years ago as an effort to increase coordination and cooperation between criminal justice partners - government, non-profit, educational and others - to reduce youth involvement in gangs. Rather than simply using a suppression model the CJC focuses on prevention, intervention, and re-entry programs.

A wide variety of community public safety partners serve on the CJC. Participants include local police chiefs, the County Sheriff, the Chief Probation Officer, District Attorney, leadership of two local non-profits, two local judges, the public defender, the County Superintendent of Schools, the President of Cabrillo College, two County Supervisors, elected representatives from the local cities and other community organizations. I serve as Chair of the CJC, and other members of the Executive Board include the County Superintendent of Schools, the District Attorney, leadership from the Courts, a member of the Scotts Valley City Council and the Watsonville Police Chief.

This year, the CJC decided to focus our efforts on the following law enforcement policies and procedures: use-of-force, privacy, information release, independent oversight, and behavioral health response, including a review of alignment, gaps, and opportunities to improve. While it was not a comprehensive look at local agency policies, it was an in-depth look at specific elements - providing a transparent overview of the policies that work so officers respond safely and responsibly in key situations.

As noted in the report, while the purpose was to evaluate alignment of policies, the goal was not necessarily to establish a standardized set of policies across jurisdictions. Local agencies and the communities they serve may have reasons why they do or don't have specific policies or have policies that differ from other agencies within the county. This analysis studied those policies to provide a starting point for evaluation by local law enforcement, elected leaders and the communities they serve. The CJC created an Ad Hoc committee to work on the analysis and partnered with Applied Survey Research to produce the report. All local law enforcement agencies participated voluntarily, openly, and transparently with the Criminal Justice Council to provide the policies and answer any questions.

One of the key findings was the widespread policy alignment between law enforcement jurisdictions in Santa Cruz County. For example, on nearly every policy issue regarding use of force, technological deployment, and release of information to the public, local law enforcement agencies had current and modern policies. Some agencies look to update or add policies because of this review, and all are planning to work with their respective elected city councils or the Board of Supervisors to review the

findings for any required adjustments. While not all the jurisdictions have a dedicated unit of sworn officers to respond to behavioral/mental health calls, all the agencies are supportive of the creation of an independent agency that would aid in response to these calls. Additionally, we found all local agencies require de-escalation, ban chokeholds, neck restraints and similar methods, require less lethal force before deadly force when reasonable to do so, and have policies that require release of body worn footage.

The CJC meets quarterly, and these meetings are open to the public. In 2022 CJC will focus exclusively on behavioral health and the criminal justice system. For the foreseeable future, council meetings will be virtual. Information, including the 2021 report and policies informing the report, is on the council's website: www.santacruzjc.org.



If you have any questions about the CJC, or any other matters in our district, please don't hesitate to call me at 454-2200. I also provide regular updates on social media and at: www.facebook.com/supervisorfriend.

Grassroots in the Park

**Katharine P. Minott Santa Cruz County Parks & Recreation
Commissioner, 2nd Supervisor's District**

In early December 2021, Santa Cruz County Parks maintenance staff prepared 10,000 to 20,000 feet of the dry field grass in the Seacliff Village County Park at the corner of Searidge and McGregor Drives then rolled out Kentucky Blue grass over the new sod and irrigation sprinklers. Thanks to a generous \$4,000 gift from the non-profit County Park Friends, the neighborhood park has a soft, clean green spot where you can spread a blanket and read a book while nearby kids summersault and tumble. Hopefully, fencing will not be necessary to keep out dogs misinforming their owners about the appropriate use of the grass.

On a weekday early morning, stop by the park and meet Jesus Alonso. Jesus maintains this and several other mid-county parks and is happy to welcome Seacliff neighbors.

We don't always have the opportunity to notify Jesus or other county staff of park issues so download the app, "My Santa Cruz County" to either report any problems and explore the SC County's entire family of parks:

<https://sccappstore.co.santa-cruz.ca.us>



**Thank you Parks Department
Staff for the Sod installation!**



A Place for Healing: Live Like Coco Sponsors Garden for Grieving Families at Aptos Library

Kate Pavao, Executive Director of the Live Like Coco Foundation



Families who have lost a child often fear their child will be forgotten or remembered only as a tragedy. This is something that our family has struggled with since our daughter Coco Lazenby was killed in 2015 at age 12. We formed the Live Like Coco Foundation to remember her bright spirit and big heart by supporting projects she would have loved. We sponsored a redwood grove in Nisene Marks, funded scholarships in her name -- and purchased more than 30,000 brand new books for local kids through our Birthday Books From Coco program.

Now, we are working on a special project at the Aptos Public Library, as part of its rebuilding, to remember Coco and other beautiful children our community lost too soon. The Live Like Coco Foundation has agreed to sponsor the branch's Children's Reading Garden, envisioning a memorial that will be a space for healing, as well as a vibrant place for all kids and families to enjoy when they visit our local library.



Exterior Design of the future Aptos Library

As we begin to imagine this garden, we remember the memorial wall that once stood at the end of Seacliff State Beach and want to build a beautiful place where we are all connected, our community's stories treasured and shared. We are now inviting other local grieving families to join this project. Every grieving family who would like their child to be part of this memorial garden is invited to do so, regardless of a donation. We are fundraising \$70,000 for the garden's naming rights, which we will donate to the library in June 2024.

Community members can donate through our website at www.LiveLikeCoco.com or through Santa Cruz Gives, our local holiday crowdfunding campaign that runs until the New Year. You can learn more about our project and donate here: <https://santacruzgives.org/nonprofit/live-like-coco/> . Live Like Coco is a 501(c)(3) ; all donations are tax deductible. Names of donors who contribute \$1,000 or more will be included on an additional plaque within the Aptos library.

Libraries represent so many of the things the Live Like Coco Foundation celebrates, such as reading and community. Our Aptos branch in particular holds many memories for our family, who remembers Coco playing chess and computers there, as well as participating in the library's summer reading program. We look forward to being able to visit the memorial garden when it is built to connect with these memories and celebrate the community who knows that love never dies. Contact us at: info@livelikecoco.com .

Seacliff State Beach Coastal Prairie Bluff Restoration

Cheri Nillson

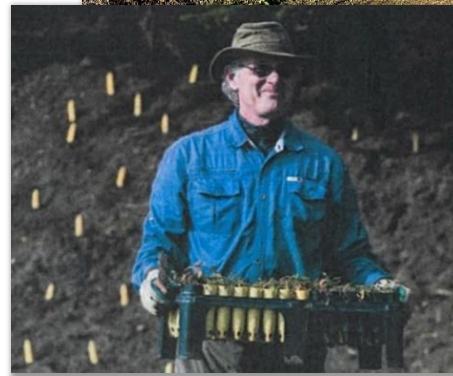
Last Fall I began clearing weeds on the bluff along the inside of the State Park fence next to Seacliff Drive. By creating this path inside the open bluff area, people now walk, run, bike, walk dogs and enjoy the view.

As I began to clear brush along the cliff, I wanted to reclaim it with native plant species that would still allow us to see the beautiful bay. I met with Bill Henry of Greenswell Ecology, which has worked at sites on the Santa Cruz West Side and Natural Bridges area, Pleasure Point and in nearby Rio Del Mar. They now have 200 native cuttings set aside for us to select and plant this winter from those approved by California State Parks. Some of these species are like those installed at the entrance to Seacliff State Beach.

For this restoration project I am now seeking:

- volunteers to assist Greenswell with planting
- donations for the cost for the cuttings
- grants to assist with restoration funding

Seacliff Bluffs Restoration Footprint



Before the bluff project, I worked in the flower garden along Seacliff Drive with neighbors and the couple who initially created the garden, Mary and Steve Gibbs. They recently relocated inland and neighbors, along with SIA funds, installed a commemorative rock dedicated to them and their hours and hours of weeding, pruning, mulching, cleaning, and planting here. The Gibb's love it.

I built a new garden area nearby at Broadway and Seacliff Drive and could use volunteer help with weed control or trimming. My contact is: cheri@sereno.com or call: 831-239-5289.

My goal is to continue to create beauty in Seacliff and give back to nature for our family and grandchildren for years to come.

Road Repair in Seacliff - a DIY Approach

Emily Chorba

Many neighbors wonder why roads in Seacliff are not regularly repaired. Because our neighborhood is located in unincorporated Santa Cruz County, our roads are maintained by the Santa Cruz County Department of Public Works, which provides essential services such as roads, water, sanitation, drainage, and facility construction for the entire county. The 2020/2021 County Capital Improvement Program describes the daunting number of critical projects including thirteen in our second district alone! Local street repairs and repaving, unfortunately, is less of a priority.



If your neighbors cannot wait for Public Works to allocate your street repair to a Capital Improvement Project, form a County Service Area (CSA) for this work. A CSA collects funds and pays for services not provided by local government agencies. Santa Cruz County manages thirty-six road CSAs for those communities seeking increased maintenance of their local roads. CSA residents fund their services through an annual Benefit Assessment. Learn more about forming CSAs and other local information on our Neighborhood Help webpage: <http://seacliffimprovement.org/neighborhood-help/>. Want your road repaired regularly? Create a County Service Area!

270 North Avenue Hotel Project Community Meeting

Rebecca Downing

Prakash Patel and staff from Lotus Management, Inc. hosted a public meeting, as part of their permit application, to present their hotel development and to listen to community members concerns and questions about the project. Prakash described the plan that includes parking for each of the 19 hotel rooms and the manager on the first floor with rooms located on the second and third floor. The design also includes a rooftop deck. After describing local planned improvements as part of the permit approval process including paving, with sidewalks, both North Avenue adjacent to the hotel and Broadway to Center Street, the meeting opened up for attendees to share their thoughts.

After a heated discussion about local zoning issues, opinions about the developer, and other concerns outside the scope of the project, County Supervisor Zach Friend reminded meeting attendees that the hotel property is located in the Seacliff Village Plan area and was created by the Seacliff community who requested local lodging as part of the plan. The site is also located in the coastal zone which prioritizes visitor serving uses. Project related concerns and comments that followed included potential increased noise, traffic flow and volume, design recommendations, and the clientele. Prakash stated the price of the rooms will be higher than other local establishments, describing the small, boutique nature of the facility. He also stated his team is working with the county to address neighbors' concerns during the permitting process before the plan proceeds to the county planning commission who conducts the initial approval before a final vote by the board of supervisors.

For more information about the 270 North Avenue hotel project visit:

<http://www.sccoplanning.com/PlanningHome/Environmental/CEQAINitialStudiesEIRs/CEQADocumentsOpenforPublicReview.aspx>

Seacliff Improvement Association 2021 Treasurer's Report

	YTD
Ending Balance from Dec 2020	\$22,970.81
INCOME:	
Membership Dues	\$11,074.72
General Donations	\$5,673.03
Cantine Meeting	\$1,500.00
TOTAL INCOME:	\$18,247.75
 EXPENSES:	
Annual Meeting Expenses	\$2,502.16
Gardening	\$997.44
Insurance	\$284.00
Membership Meetings Expenses	\$495.37
Membership Supplies and Annual Renewal Mailing	
Newsletter	\$2,791.24
Post Box Annual Rental	\$146.00
Website Hosting, Security and Admin	\$737.76
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$8,615.46
ENDING CASH BALANCE:	\$32,603.10
Beachgate Trail Total as of Jan 1, 2021:	
\$5585.62	\$5,585.62

Learn more about the association:

<http://www.seacliffimprovement.org/>

You can catch up on our recent news by visiting our newsletter archive:

<http://seacliffimprovement.org/membership/newsletter-archive/>

If you have a suggestion or a Seacliff question, write to us:

info@seacliffimprovement.org

Our board of directors meets on the second Tuesday of the month. We currently have an open board seat just waiting for member participation. Contact us if you are interested or wish to attend our meeting. All are welcome!

Welcome New Members!

Nan Bucknell
Norma Navarro &
Elizabeth & Todd Hawkins
Diane Scofield
Robert and Michele Skinner
Anthony and Sumer Tatangelo
Pam Crooke & Michelle Winner







**We thank all 362
member households and friends
for your continued support.**

SIA Volunteer Opportunities

It takes a village to accomplish our many neighborhood projects and goals. Seacliff is a special place to us all so we hope you will help us with our association activities that improve our village.

We need help with:

-  Beautification and Gardening
-  Trail Maintenance
-  Planning Events
-  Membership
-  Board Service

Volunteering is a great way to meet your neighbors, make new friends and learn more about Seacliff while making a difference in our community. If you wish to know more about these volunteer opportunities or are ready to join our improvement efforts, contact us at: info@seacliffimprovement.org

Thank you!

Seacliff Improvement Association
PO Box 533
Aptos, CA 95001-0533

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

Membership Application/Renewal-Newsletter

Annual Dues are \$20.00 (January– December)



Name(s): _____

Seacliff Street Address: _____

Mailing Address if different: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone Number: (_____) _____

E-mail Address (for newsletters and bulletins):

Email: _____ Email 2: _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____ Annual Dues \$ _____ Additional Donation Total: \$ _____

Please include your check and mail to: Seacliff Improvement Association, P.O. Box 533, Aptos, CA 95001