



City Manager's Update

February, 2018

Last month I provided a Top Ten list of the major achievements from 2017 and discussed how those achievements worked to implement the Strategic Plan. Here is a refresher of the Strategic Plan Goals:

Strategic Plan Goals:

1. *Make Clearlake a Visibly Cleaner City;*
2. *Make Clearlake a Statistically Safer City;*
3. *Improve the Quality of Life with Improved Public Facilities;*
4. *Improve the Image of Clearlake;*
5. *Ensure Fiscal Sustainability of the City;*
6. *Update Policies and Procedures to Current Government Standards;*
7. *City Policies Will Support Economic Development.*

This month I will preview a list of the Top Ten projects the City will be working on in 2018 (although there are many more than ten projects in progress) and how they will support the implementation of the Strategic Plan:

#10 – Community Center/City Hall Energy Upgrades/Solar Panels

This project has already begun. The City had an analysis done regarding upgrading the lighting, heating, and cooling systems at City Hall and the Community Center and determined that available low-cost financing would allow the City to upgrade the old systems and include solar power and still have a positive cash flow after financing costs due to energy savings. The contractor has begun the project and it is expected to be complete prior to summer. *Improve the Quality of Life with Improved Public Facilities; Ensure Fiscal Sustainability of the City.*

#9 – Public Works Corps Yard Relocation

The former Pearce airfield area where the current Public Works Corps yard is currently located is projected to be redeveloped for retail in the coming years. The City was able to purchase property in the Ogulin Canyon area and has been devising plans to build a new corps yard at the new location. Environmental review has just been completed and preliminary designs are underway. We anticipate this project being completed in 2018. Funding for this project is through our Series A bonds. *Improve the Quality of Life with Improved Public Facilities.*

#8 – Silks Building Remediation

The property at 14825 Lakeshore Dr., otherwise known as the former Silk's Bar and Grill building or Mario's Restaurant, has been an eyesore and a code enforcement problem for many years and the property

owner(s) have failed to address the issues. Finally, at the request of the City, the court has appointed a Receiver to take control of the property and make decisions regarding the best way to proceed with remediation of the red tag and clean-up of the property. The Receiver has asked the court for permission to demolish the building. Funding for this is through the Receiver and restitution will potentially be through the resale of the property. *Make Clearlake a Visibly Cleaner City; Improve the Image of Clearlake.*

#7 – New Animal Control Facility

The City is currently in escrow to purchase a property for a new animal control facility. We are working with the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) on a loan application to purchase and improve the building next door to City Hall for this purpose. As part of the improvements, the City would repave the parking lot in front of City Hall and the Animal Control Facility and make some safety improvements to City Hall as well. Project timing will depend upon funding from USDA, but preliminary design is in process and we hope to begin construction this year. *Make Clearlake a Statistically Safer City; Improve the Quality of Life with Improved Public Facilities; Improve the Image of Clearlake.*

#6 – Civic Center Frontage Improvements

In addition to improving the City Hall parking lot and the Animal Control Facility (the Civic Center), the City is planning to put in curb, gutter, and sidewalk along Olympic Drive from Pine Street to Lakeshore, as well as curb, gutter and sidewalk on Lakeshore from Olympic Drive to Burns Valley Creek. We are currently working with PG&E with the hope of including utility undergrounding as a part of that project. We have a preliminary design and will commence construction design this year. We have applied for Active Transportation Program grant funding and will likely be applying for PG&E Rule 20A funds if they can meet the project timeline. Additional funding for this project is through Series A bonds. *Make Clearlake a Statistically Safer City; Improve the Quality of Life with Improved Public Facilities; Improve the Image of Clearlake.*

#5 –Highlands Park Renovation

We have completed a Master Plan for the renovation of Highlands Park. The park will be positioned as an Active Adult park with areas for horse shoe pits and bocce ball courts. Highlands Park includes the recently renovated Visitor Information Center. The City is currently in the selection process for a design professional to turn the master plan into construction designs. Limited funding for the first phase of this project has been allocated through Series A bonds. *Improve the Quality of Life with Improved Public Facilities; Improve the Image of Clearlake.*

#4 – Highlands Park Frontage Improvements

A complementary, but separate project is the Highlands Park Frontage Improvement project. This project stems from the Lakeshore Drive Downtown Corridor Plan and it will set back the street boundary of the park by approximately twenty feet to allow angled street parking in front of the park. The project will also include extra wide sidewalks and a bus turnout and bus stop. Funding for this project has been allocated through Series A bonds, as well as by Lake Transit Authority which is providing \$50,000 toward the bus turnout. *Make Clearlake a Statistically Safer City; Improve the Quality of Life with Improved Public Facilities.*

#3 – Austin Park Renovation

Renovation plans are also in the works for Austin Park after having completed a Master Planning process. This park will be positioned as the central events facility for the City and will include a raised stage for concerts and events; a dog park; a renovated tennis court; new walkways; reconfigured parking; and much more. The City has applied for a trail grant that would extend an interpretive walking trail along the waterfront with information about Clearlake's history and native wildlife. The City has also applied for a grant for the construction of the main park features. A Request for Proposals is currently out for interested design professionals to create the construction documents. The City has allocated Series A bond funds for an initial phase, but if grant funding comes through we can potentially avoid multiple phases. *Improve the Quality of Life with Improved Public Facilities; Improve the Image of Clearlake.*

#2 – Dam Road Extension to the Avenues

This is a tremendously important project for the City. During the Clayton Fire and the mandatory evacuation of the Avenues, it was difficult to expedite evacuation due to a limited number of escape roads from the Avenues. Creating a linkage from Dam Road Extension to 18th/Phillips will create an additional/alternate method of egress from that area. In addition, it will help to alleviate traffic congestion that occurs during certain times at the high school on Dam Road Extension. The City has applied for SB 1 grant funds and is nearly complete with construction design. Funding will be determined based on the grant results. Assuming funding is approved, the project could begin this summer. *Make Clearlake a Statistically Safer City; Improve the Quality of Life with Improved Public Facilities.*

#1 – Measure V Implementation

Measure V, the 1% transactions and use tax, was approved in 2016 but did not go into effect until April 2017 and the City did not begin to receive funding until July. We had begun staffing up and grading when the Sulphur Fire hit and all personnel were needed in the fire area for erosion control, road preservation, drain cleaning, etc., which deterred them from grading for a time. Crews were back at it for much of December and will continue as weather permits. We will soon have a public meeting with the City Council and the Measure V Oversight Committee to discuss what has been accomplished thus far and what will be achieved in the coming year. Citizens of Clearlake can look forward to a lot of grading going on during the spring, summer, and fall of this year, as well as several road improvement projects that will be discussed at the public meeting on Measure V. *Make Clearlake a Statistically Safer City; Improve the Quality of Life with Improved Public Facilities; Improve the Image of Clearlake.*

I hope that you can share the vision that the Council and I have for the improvement of Clearlake. Much of the planning has been completed and the next several years are going to be truly transformational for "our fair city"!!

Regards,

Greg Folsom

City Manager
City of Clearlake