



Award Winning

Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter

June 24, 2009

Official Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Malibu

Malibu Rotary Club President Holmes Osborne III

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Pictures by Dr John W. Elman

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Malibu Rotary Club Website: www.MalibuRotary.org

Rotary International Website: www.Rotary.org

Rotary District 5280 Website: www.rotary5280la.org

Rotary District 5280 "Rotarians Doing Business With Rotarians" Website: <http://yp5280.org/>

[RI President \(2009-2010\) John Kenny](#)

Rotary District 5280 Governor (2008-2009): Chuck Anderson

Ed Gillespie "Inside the Malibu Planning Commission"



Long anticipated speaker at the Malibu Rotary Club meeting of June 24th was a familiar face at Malibu Rotary, **Ed Gillespie**, who serves as the Chairman of the Malibu Planning Commission. For Ed and the other members of the commission this is a volunteer position for people Malibu residence who have a deep commitment for public service in the community. Ed's "day gig" is as a yacht broker, which has him travelling around the world. The Malibu Planning Commission often hears about what's going on in Malibu and what's going to go on Malibu before anybody else so we were excited to hear Ed's presentation.

We asked Ed if he had a transcript of his presentation so that this lazy Editor can just copy and paste. Ed did and this what he had to say:

"Planning is a proactive process that establishes goals and policies for

directing and managing future growth and development.

"The Planning Department addresses fundamental issues such as the location of growth, housing needs, and environmental protection.

"Additionally, planning helps account for future demand for services, including roads and fire protection.

“The Malibu Planning Commission is made up of five citizens of Malibu.

“They have been appointed by each of the five members of the Malibu City Council.

“Two of the present members of the Planning Commission are former Mayors of Malibu.

“The Planning Commission plays a central role in the planning process in three important ways.

First, it acts as an advisory board to the City Council on all planning and development issues.

Second, the commission assures that the General Plan is implemented by reviewing development applications on a case-by-case basis.

Third, the commission functions as the decision-making body for many proposals.

“However, any Planning Commission action can be appealed to the City Council, which can uphold the commission’s decision, overturn it, modify it, or send it back for further study.

“In the last year we have heard requests for 75 Coastal Development Permits, 69 Variances, 26 Demolition Permits and 12 Conditional Use Permits.

“We have had Legacy Park, Trancas Park, Flores Canyon Park and the La Paz Projects come before us.

“And we are scheduled to hear the Trancas Country Mart Project very soon.

“As a Planning Commissioner, you wield considerable power over how your community grows and develops.

With this power comes the expectation that you will hold yourself to the highest ethical standards.

At times there are ethical dilemmas, which involve those situations in which there are two conflicting sets of “right” values.

In these instances, drawing the ethical bottom line is often very difficult.

For example, as a Planning Commissioner, you will frequently be asked to make exceptions to the planning laws.

A developer may, for instance, ask for a General Plan amendment to enable a project to be approved.

The developer may point to numerous benefits that will flow to the community as the result of the amendment.

“In coming to a decision in such a situation, the first step is to consider what ethical values are at stake.

One might be fairness to those property owners who developed their properties in accordance with the policies expressed in the General Plan.

Another might be compassion for the developer seeking the amendment.

If it is not economically feasible to develop the property as envisioned by the General Plan, perhaps an amendment is in order.

The next step is to weigh the competing costs and benefits.

Although the developer has identified the benefits to the community associated with approving the amendment, what are the benefits of adhering to the General Plan?

How might the Planning Commission fairly evaluate those requests while still maintaining the overall integrity of the general plan?

Finally, consider which approach will best promote the public’s confidence in the planning process.

“Will the public’s confidence be undermined if the commission doesn’t enforce the plan?

Or, will denying the amendment look so rigid and unfair to the applicant that it will undermine the public’s faith in the Planning Commission as a decision-making body?

The answers to these questions will vary with each situation and likely will not always be clear-cut or obvious.

But, it is our task as Planning Commissioners to ask the difficult questions and to thoroughly evaluate the answers to try to consistently make ethical decisions that will further the public’s interests.

“As a Planning Commissioner, the public will evaluate your service not only based on the wisdom of your decisions, but also on your commitment to involving the public in decision-making.

There are many reasons to involve the public in planning and land use decision-making.

Perhaps most importantly, participation builds a sense of community.

Individuals feel more connected when they are involved in the process of developing solutions to community problems.

Moreover, individuals who are not involved in developing solutions are more likely to resist the solutions once developed.

“The public has a right to address the Planning Commission at any open meeting on any subject before it.

My role as a Commissioner is to both hear and evaluate these concerns.
The public has a right to access documents.

Copies of the agenda materials and other documents distributed to the Planning Commission must also be available to the public.

Any materials distributed by the Planning Department, its consultants, or Commissioners must be available for public inspection at the meeting.

The public has the right to see any documents that are created as part of the planning process.

“The public, also, has the right to scrutinize the financial statements that Commissioners are required to file with the Fair Political Practices Commission.

California’s ethics laws fall into three general categories: (1) Those involving possible financial gain by a Commissioner. (2) Those involving the use of the position of Commissioner for personal advantage and perks, and (3) Those involving situations in which your ability to conduct a fair and impartial process might be questioned.

“Each of these relates back to the overarching goal of assuring the public that governmental decisions are made based on what best serves the public interests.

“Now, a brief synopsis of my personal duties as Chairman of the Planning Commission.

I must focus on the big picture before me and avoid being distracted by personalities, groups, or issues that do not have anything to do with the merits of the present agenda item.

I have to establish rules and procedures to keep the meeting on track.

I must keep these legal requirements in mind:

Is the proposal consistent with the General Plan?

Does it meet all applicable zoning requirements?

Are the environmental impacts reduced or eliminated by the conditions of approval, or are there overriding considerations?

And, is the approval of this item supported by findings of fact based on substantial evidence in the record?

and when in doubt ask the legal counsel for advise.

Prior to the hearing, I will have read the agenda packet and supplemental reports.

I must invite each commissioner to share the responsibility for the free flow of ideas and discussion among everyone present at the meeting, including applicants, staff, members of the public, and the Commissions themselves.

I have to recognize when testimony must be closed for deliberations.

And, I must be objective, listen, and ask questions that assists the flow of ideas and continues to keep the proceedings on track.

With that brief overview I would like to welcome you Inside the Planning Commission.”

Ed also handed out paper entitled MALIBU PLANNING PROCESS FOR A COASTAL DEVELOPMENT PERMIT (CDP), which showed a very complicated schematic of what it takes to get a CDP. A copy of that paper is attached to this newsletter as Malibu Planning CDP.pdf.

In a Q & A that followed Ed’s remarks he talked about some memorable cases that had come before him. One involved Peter Morton (for Morton’s Steak House family). It seems people had complained that after his large house built on PCH (in the Carbon Beach area) it obstructed the view of the ocean from PCH because the house was built out to the lot line. Rather than tear down the already built house attorneys representing Mr. Morton agreed that Morton would buy a house on PCH next to the Big Rock bus stop, and then demolish the house so that the public could have an equivalent view of the ocean from PCH. All parties agreed. So look for that demolition any time now.

Ed said one of the more contentious issues before the Planning Commission has involved the Trancas Park project. Many compromises have been made and although there will be a Trancas Park, it has been scaled down quite a bit from its original plans, which involved grading a knoll above the park.

Ed’s presentation was engrossing. Unfortunately few were there to see it because 2 members were at the RI Convention in England and others were out of town. Meetings of the Planning Commission can be seen on Malibu Cable Channel 3 and on the Malibu City Website <http://www.ci.malibu.ca.us/>.

Other News from Last Malibu Rotary Club meeting (and message from Bill in Birmingham)

Although both Malibu Rotary Club President **Holmes Osborne** and **Bill Wishard** were in Birmingham, England attending the RI Convention Bill will still be able to give an oral report at the meeting. He had phoned John Elman, who recorded a voice mail that Bill had left, and which he was able to play back using the speaker phone function of his Blackberry. Some of the highlights that Bill reported at the convention were the speeches given by famous world figures that attended. At a special appearance at the opening plenary session, **United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon** called Rotary the heart and soul of the worldwide polio eradication effort and pledged the UN's continued cooperation and support. During the keynote address at the Rotary World Peace Symposium, **Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu** said Rotary has earned the world's respect. "When they started out saying they wanted to eradicate polio, a lot of people said you ought to have your head read," he said. Actress and UNICEF goodwill ambassador **Mia Farrow** delivered a keynote address during the third plenary session. During the fourth plenary session, primatologist and humanitarian **Dr. Jane Goodall** stressed the goals that her organization shares with Rotary and called for increased collaboration. Bill also had a chance to meet and have his picture taken with new **Rotary International President John Kenny**, the first Scotsman to head the international humanitarian service organization in its 104-year history, encouraged the more than 16,000 Rotarians from over 150 countries at the convention to join in the last push to [eradicate polio](#). Kenny, a member of the Rotary Club of Grangemouth, has emphasized the important role that individual Rotarians and Rotary clubs play in the future of the organization, a message captured in the 2009-10 RI theme, *The Future of Rotary Is in Your Hands* (see new theme banner at top of this newsletter). We will hear more about this and our own local club issue when Holmes and Bill return at our next meeting July 1.



- **Music Award Winner Finally Gets Her Check on July 1**

Malibu Rotary Club's entrant into the Rotary District Music Competition Kaitlyn Connors won second prize at the district event. Her \$500 prize money was ready for her at the Rotary District Conference at South Coast Plaza on May 2nd, but nobody from Malibu Rotary Club attended that event. Ultimately the check ended up in Bill Wishard's hands, and then left for the RI Convention in England. We are hopeful that we can finally deliver

that check to Kaitlyn at our next meeting July 1 at the Fireside Room at Pepperdine.

- **Malibu Rotary Club Meeting Place and the Options at Pepperdine University**

Chris Bowman outlined the possibilities regarding the meeting place for the Malibu Rotary at Pepperdine University at the Malibu Rotary Club meeting of June 10. The university is planning to charge an additional fee to the Malibu Rotary Club in addition to the food services we currently pay for overtime charges that the University says it incurs by setting up tables and chairs in the Fireside Room in preparation for our weekly meeting. The extra charge could be \$68.00, which with the size of our club, could double the cost of meals. Chris had e-mailed the members the available options, and there was a lot of e-mail discussion about each of the possibilities. Chris' initial e-mail detailed the problem and possible solution:

It seems we have a couple options for how to proceed regarding the Fireside room and our weekly meeting:

1. Pay nothing: Assuming Pepp approves it, we would use the Fireside room 'As-is' and when the room is not set up in a fashion that will allow us to eat breakfast while listening to our program, meaning no tables are set up, then we would eat breakfast in the main cafeteria area and then migrate back to the Fireside room for the program.
2. Pay something: Keep our current situation by paying an unknown amount to Pepp. This amount will be based on the amount of overtime that would be required for the Fireside room to be set up in advance of our Wednesday meeting. See additional analysis below.
3. Hybrid: For the summer months when the campus is slower we keep the set up as we currently have it, 'hoping' that we would not have many occurrences when we would have to pay the overtime charge. Then, in August when the year gets busier, we would switch to an 'As-is' condition, as outlined in point #1.

Obviously there are pros and cons to each item just listed. If we were to keep the room as we have it now and requested a setup regardless of overtime the worst-case scenario financially would be for the club to have to pay the \$68 each week of the year. This equates to \$3,536 annually. Divide this by 12 months, \$295 per month. Then, divide this by the number of paying members, say 10, equals \$30 per month per member in additional dues. On a weekly basis, this comes out to \$7.50 per week per member.

Presently we pay \$100 per quarter, or \$33 per month in dues (NOT including meals). This worst-case scenario would represent a 91% increase in our dues. If we were to take a more realistic view and say that we would be charged two out of every 3 weeks (66% of the time) then we could possibly incur \$2,300 more per year, or \$20/month, \$5/week per member.

If anyone has any feelings one way or the other, please voice them.

Thanks,

Chris Bauman

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In an update after most club members chimed in with their thoughts on the matter Chris wrote on June 9th:

Some good ideas are being generated, it's good to hear.

I do have an update from my meeting yesterday with the area responsible for the issue we are now facing.

In short, they will continue to set up the tables as usual through the summer. If, during the summer, a situation arises where they are unable to set up the room for us due to the room being occupied the day/evening prior, I will receive a phone call alerting us of the situation. We can then elect to either take the room 'as-is' or pay the additional set up fee of \$68.

We also spoke of the possibility of them checking a key out to me to have access to the tables in the instance we accept the room 'as-is' and there are no tables available. We would then set up our own tables; which is not to assume that we would not possibly face the situation of having 100 chairs set up in the room from the prior event.

After the summer, In August, we can revisit the longer term solution and decide the best route.

Hope this helps,

Chris Bauman



Editors Note: Most of you know how strongly I feel about the Project TRIUMPH program conceived by Ilan Magdali of the Newbury Park Rotary Club. The program brought 10 teenage Arab and 10 teenage Jewish students from Israel to a leadership camp in Simi Valley where they all learned to work together, develop leaders skills before returning to Israel to use what they learned back home. Most of us feel helpless in trying to find a solution to the constant war in

the Mid East, but at least this program is trying to do something, In the last issue of The Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter I had written about e-mail communications I had had with Frances Fuji of the Project TRIUMPH organizing committee. She had written

emerge from this fallow year with an even stronger, more well-rounded and promising program than ever before.”



In a subsequent e-mail she had written about what some of the student alumni of the Project TRIUMPH program (many of whom we had met when they were here) were

“In light of the current economic climate and more challenging environment for securing grant monies, instead of hosting students this year, we are taking the opportunity to strengthen infrastructure in Israel and to establish collaborative relationships with aligned organizations.

Upon our request, Shaul, from the Rotary Club of Haifa, provided us with a budget and proposal to hire a part-time facilitator to be responsible for year-round support of both new Project TRIUMPH students and alumni. We are sending money to contribute to the facilitator’s salary, and she has already begun meeting with the kids there.

We are excited about prospects for 2010 and beyond (the plan is to resume bringing kids over in 2010, assuming that we can raise enough funds in 2009) and believe we will

currently doing after participating in the Project TRIUMPH program:

“Our greater vision is to inspire leaders of tomorrow by imparting wisdom and broadening the perspective of high school students. Our first year students, who were here in 2006, are now in the army or beginning to build careers. We have stayed in contact with some of them through Facebook. Very soon, their generation will be making pivotal choices that will impact not only their region, but the world.

We're proud of all the young people we've worked with, and we thank you for your belief in them.

La Estanzuela, Honduras Water Project

The Malibu Rotary Club is one of the clubs joining with the Century City Rotary Club to bring clean water to the Village of La Estanzuela in Honduras. There wasn't enough time to complete funding of this project during the past Rotary year. We are hoping to complete the project this year with a Rotary Foundation Matching Grant

Calendar

Jul 1 2009

Holmes Osborne Club Assembly
"Malibu Rotary Club Assembly"

After returning from RI Convention in Birmingham England new Malibu Rotary Club President Holmes Osborne will lead Malibu Rotary Club Assembly and discuss the topics of the 2009-2010 year concerning our club.

We await Margo to post the rest of the month on our website.

The Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter is sent weekly to members of the Malibu Rotary Club and friends of the Malibu Rotar Club, those interested in the work of Malibu Rotary. This e-mail is sent to you at no charge. If you wish to opt out of our mailing list send an e-mail to maliburotary@hotmail.com with the subject: Take Me Off Your Mailing List