

LOCAL NEWS

Coastal activist Sara Wan to receive prestigious 2023 Jake Kuredjian Citizenship Award for Environmental Advocacy

Parks and Recreation Commission reviews the Community Services Department monthly report

By **SAMANTHA BRAVO**
Of The Malibu Times

To start off the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting on Thursday, Feb. 23, commissioners reviewed the Community Services Department monthly report, received an update on the earth-friendly management policy, and voted to honor the late coastal activist Sara Wan with the 2023 Jake Kuredjian Citizenship Award.

The Jake Kuredjian Citizenship Award is presented annually to recognize those outstanding individuals or groups who give their time and resources to enhance the quality of recreation programs within the Malibu community. Past recipients of this award have demonstrated a commitment and involvement in addressing some aspect of recreation in Malibu, and in doing so demonstrated the highest level of citizenship, making a lasting contribution

to the community.

Wan served on the board of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC) from 1996 to 2011 and acted as the chair of the commission twice. She was a member of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission and co-founded the Western Alliance for Nature, a land conservancy.

She combatted large developmental projects on the beaches of Malibu as well as fought for the rights to keep public access to beaches. She was an expert in habitat and wetland issues, marine mammal issues, water quality and coastal land use and planning.

The Sara Wan trailhead at Corral Canyon (next to Malibu Seafood) was also dedicated to Wan by the SMMC in 2009. Wan was a Malibu resident since 1986 and was a proponent for the incorporation of Malibu as a city.

Wan passed away last year on Sept. 3, at the age of 83.

"Sara was a really remarkable person, she left this place better than it was when she arrived and she fought tirelessly till her

last day on earth," Commissioner Suzanne Guldemann said. "She's just a really an exceptional human being and we were really lucky to have had her in this community."

Guldemann said her husband Larry would be very much touched to have her honored and commemorated this way.

The commission voted to honor Wan with the 2023 Jake Kuredjian Citizenship Award.

For public comment, Malibu resident and retired professional soccer player Rodney Wallace is involved with the AYSO team in Malibu and asked the commission how they can open a sports facility in Malibu.

"I won [an] MLS [championship in] Portland and went to the World Cup in Costa Rica, so I know what community means and I know what it means to win as a group, and I think that we have a special chance here to also win within sports, within the community and recreation and I think the kids need a place to get together, find structure and play," Wallace said. "I'm just really grateful to be a part of this, but if we're able to

find space for our kids and get others to be able to participate in physical activity, it would definitely bring more people out and together."

Commissioner Alicia Peak asked what they can do to find a location to create a facility.

"What is it that we have available and is there possible places where we can get more," Peak said.

Acting Community Service Director Kristen Riesgo told their commissioners to reach out to their council members.

"Let them know this is important to you, we ultimately need council's direction to move forward on any new facilities," Riesgo said. "It's kind of in council's hand to tell us how to move forward, if they want to move forward, and that's how we'll get these items moving."

Recreation Supervisor Chris Orosz presented the earth-friendly management policy, the department's accomplishments and quarterly report.

For accomplishments, the department was able to install two new owl boxes at Charmlee Wilderness Park and reviewed

2023 goals. The department also installed 138 native plants at Legacy Park in February.

Recreation Manager Kate Gallo presented the department's updates and said the Spring Recreation Guide has been distributed to Malibu residents as well as the city newsletter.

Gallo said this is the second guide to feature photos from Malibu High School students.

For in-progress, ongoing and future agenda items, Riesgo provided an update on the permanent skatepark and said they hope to bring the plans to the planning commission by the summer.

"We're working the best we can with what we have and working with our consultant who's been open to helping us in any way possible to expedite it," Riesgo said.

Riesgo said they hope to get the emergency call boxes within the coming weeks as well as turf improvements at Malibu Bluffs Park.

The next Parks and Rec meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 21.

LA COUNTY LAWSUIT CONTINUED FROM A1

ties on private property in the unincorporated areas of the county and associated provisions to provide a land use review and permit approval process that meets the requirements imposed by the FCC and other applicable law. It will establish standards to regulate the placement, design, and aesthetics of wireless facilities to minimize visual and physical impacts to surrounding properties; create streamlined permitting procedures for the installation, operation, and modification of wireless facilities while protecting the public health, safety, and welfare of county residents; require conditional use permits for macro-wireless facilities that do not meet development standards or require a waiver for special circumstances; and help facilitate the provision of equitable, high-quality wireless communications service infrastructure to serve the current and future needs of the county's residents, visitors, businesses, and local governments.

Martinez said citizens have the right to voice their concerns about their health, safety, and their future.

"Their future is fundamental to American democracy," Martinez said. "The LA Board of Supervisors has clearly put the interests of giant telecoms ahead of the interests of the people they're supposed to represent. There's no other reason to take away the right of people in our community to be heard."

"People will be exposed to cumulative radiation; instead of just being close to one of them, you're going to be close to three, four, five of them or even a hundred," Martinez said.

During the LA County Board and Supervisors meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 10, members of the public argued that the amendments will increase health, safety, and fire risk.

Martinez attended that in-person meeting and said the cellphone service provider Verizon did not inform the community about the cellphone installation in her community in East LA.

"We believe many of those signatures are questionable, since many of those comments were petitions and they submitted public comments that they did not sign that petition," Martinez said. "Also Verizon is not community-oriented, they removed our group of children, parents, and grandparents from our community garden to place a cellphone tower and they did not have a CPU and brought

armed guards and police officers to remove our community from our community garden."

Susan Foster, co-founder of the California Fires and Firefighters and member of Fiber First LA, said the staff's recent changes to Titles 16 and 22 do not address the concerns raised by the board or the residents.

"You will have another telecom initiation Malibu Canyon fire on your hands or another fire from SCE's own telecoms facilities, as well as the Woolsey Fire in 2018," Foster said. "They should be built right in the first place."

Foster said the proposed changes look inviting but are deceptive.

"California has not yet adopted [these] federal standards," Foster said. "Fiber First LA stands ready to assist the county with the fire safety protocol we designed specifically for Malibu, which is contained within our red lines to Title 16 and 22, I implore you to vote no until these ordinances are worthy."

Speakers have also expressed concern that living, working, or going to school near a cellphone tower might increase the risk of cancer or other health problems.

The widespread use of cellphones in recent decades has led to a large increase in the number of cellphone towers, also known as base stations, being placed in communities. These towers have electronic equipment and antennas that receive and transmit cellphone signals using radiofrequency (RF) waves.

According to the American Cancer Society, there's no evidence that exposure to RF waves from cellphone towers causes any noticeable health effects. However, ACS states it does not mean that the RF waves from cellphone towers have been proven to be absolutely safe. Most expert organizations agree that more research is needed to help clarify this, especially for any possible long-term effects.

Executive Director for Malibu For Safe Tech and Executive Board Member for Fiber First LA Lonnie Gordon said W. Scott McCollough has worked with the planning department and City Council, and has been working with Fiber First LA, as one of the attorneys for the plaintiffs, to draft a similarly strict ordinance for LA County.

"The (LA Co) ordinance is purposefully designed to create a back-room, tower permit rubber-stamp process that excludes the public and even nearby residents that will be directly affected and aggrieved," McCollough said. "The ordinance does

and individual permit decisions will entirely ignore the environmental and other effects on people. It will exacerbate, not solve, the digital divide."

"Malibu currently has the safest fire and electrical standards in the country built into the telecom application process for new installations, unfortunately the Board of Supervisors did not take our advice and voted in a terrible ordinance," Gordon said.

"We want the people of Los Angeles County, the state, and the nation to have safe protocol for telecom installations. Telecom companies only care about profits, not people or the environment," Gordon said. "Wireless installations are not safe or reliable and are aesthetically ugly, and they will not solve the so-called, 'digital divide.'"

First District Supervisor Hilda L. Solis addressed the public's concerns before voting on the item.

"We have also built into the process requiring that applicants notify residents within 500 feet of any proposed small cell facility, that wasn't done before," Solis said. "People have that information ahead

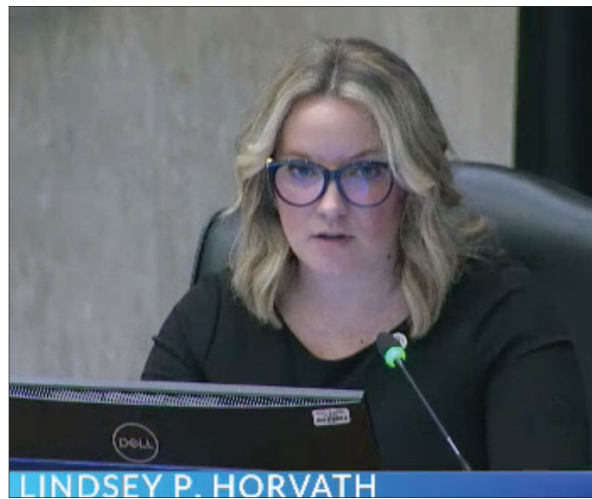
of time. It may not be everything the advocates wanted, but I think it's a step in the right direction and like anything, we also evolve."

Third District Supervisor Lindsey Horvath also responded to the public speakers regarding fire safety concerns in Malibu.

"There were comments regarding fire safety measures that take place in Malibu and those directives are going to be a part of the checklist process as well," Horvath said. "So while some of the language that we heard today will not be written in the ordinance part of this directive, it will be included in the checklist along with a letter that will be issued as part of the noticing."

The motion passed 5-0 on Jan. 10.

The coalition Fiber First LA includes Mothers of East LA, the Boyle Heights Community Partners, Children's Health Defense (CHD), the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians, and other groups. More information visit, www.FiberFirstLA.org.



LINDSEY P. HORVATH
LA County Third District Supervisor Lindsey Horvath responded to the public speakers regarding fire safety concerns in Malibu. Screenshots from LA County Board of Supervisors



East LA community organizer and a founding member of Fiber First LA Brenda Martinez speaks at the LA County Board of Supervisors meeting on Jan. 10 opposing the Title 16 and 22 wireless antenna ordinances.



East LA community organizer and a founding member of Fiber First LA Brenda Martinez speaks during a press conference on Wednesday, March 8, at the Resurrection Catholic Church in East LA. Contributed photo

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Dr. Jukes focuses on the need to restructure our educational institutions to become relevant to current and future needs and to prepare learners for the future, not society's past. His most recent books include *Literacy is Still Not Enough*; *Learner Voice*; *Learner Choice*; *Leadershift 2020*; *A Brief History of the Future of Education*; and *Reinventing Learning for the Always On Generation*.

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