



Mayor's Message January 2022

Happy, happy NEW YEAR! After a crazy year in '21, and getting back to a celebration of family and friends once again, we are all looking forward to settling into a Horseshoe Bay year of calm. Resolutions, diets, and projects at home....**let's get back to the 'new normal' of living.**

City News

January activity at the City is already full of scheduled topic reviews:

- A full **STATE of the CITY report** will be generated this month. It will include details about all finances, staffing, new and remodeled home permits, commercial activity, and project completion. It will also share totals of actual fire responses, police calls, utility responses, animal control incidents and public information requests so you will have full current awareness of the enormous amount of daily work and support from your City teams. A link will be placed on the city website for access – CIVIC READY will notify.
- **FINALLY....**we will bring together all the players (Spectrum, Vyve, Resort, County, City) to finalize the implementation of the long planned/debated **internet plan. Details in Feb.**
- A collaborative meeting is set (Burnet County Judge/Commissioner, Cottonwood Shores Mayor, City of HSB) to map out a **proactive exit strategy for traffic** that could result from the planned Wirtz Dam bridge (which will dead-end near the Subway on Hwy 2147). Our goal to ensure a continuous road is developed to avoid traffic turning right and moving through HSBay to get to Hwy 71 as a high priority.
- A full day **workshop of the Council** to review updates of the Long Range Plan goals, and address the projects/needs for the coming year will also outline the work of newly seated committees (thank you volunteer leaders!) – Board of Adjustments, Planning and Zoning, Parks, Historical Preservation, Transportation, and much needed City Center/Admin. Facility to allow for expansion and renovation of current City Hall (formerly decades old MUD building) to hold Public Works, Development Services, Utilities, and Code Enforcement needs. Council liaisons for each committee will be reaching out to set up first meetings of the year to provide full support.
- A **January 18th City Council meeting** full of recognitions, policy and budget review.
- The quarterly meeting with the **Property Owner Assoc Presidents** to ensure we are communicating and collaborating to meet unique neighborhood needs. Contact your POA rep if there is something you want addressed at this meeting.
- The **first 'table top' of the year begins with our Emergency Operations "practice"** to check that we are fully prepared (materials and action plans) for any winter events. There is a listing of home safety reminders for your personal action on the website https://www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov/DocumentCenter/View/3535/ready_checklist
- Keep a look out for timely short updates in the Beacon in the "City Corner" articles.

Community Focus

While we had a wonderful December with Tree Lighting/Holiday Event (over 500 residents joined the fun), multiple 50th Anniversary Resort celebrations, Christmas for others care through varied groups, and the delight of the Grand Opening of the Nature Park on Golden Nugget, ending the year hosting the Business Alliance coffee – we also had some challenges.

- A developer interested in changing the profile and priorities of safety, property rights, and planned development in HSBay took action to breach the green belt (and fencing) that surrounds HSBay. His intention to develop a road that would access from Hwy 71 for his own development/profit had already been issued a stop work order and a clarification that he did not have the right to cross privately owned property or use a driveway on his lot (NOT zoned as a public road). The sadness is that this was just days before Christmas when city staff were hoping to use some of their delayed vacation days to be with family and focus on the reason for the season – but they did their jobs, installing barriers, issuing citations, working with attorneys, and reaching out to neighbors who had been told (through a flyer calling HSBay “elitist”) that they could legally access his new road. We wanted to be sure these neighbors did not end up trespassing unaware, and to remind them that we are protecting property rights for others just as they would expect us to do for them. Great collaboration with the HSBay POA and Resort/declarant helped put a cease order in place through Christmas.

This made the generosity of the **community Christmas Gifts** to support our city staff/1st responders even more impactful...showing we value their work on our behalf. THANKS!

- Be patient (though still feel free to report concerns) with building projects. **Builders are struggling** with delayed arrival of materials and limited staff, so some projects are sitting idle still. No allowances on time frames have been provided, but the city is looking for ways to assist their challenges. No matter what, worksites should be clean and not interfere with your quality of daily living. You can help by offering neighborly interactions with workers – and welcoming new home owners on site during construction. Once completed – be sure to stop by and introduce yourself, offer contact information, encourage newbies to pick up the City “new resident” packet full of information and local business ‘treats’, and to register for inclusion in phone book. We each have a role in bringing to action our belief that HSBay is a great place to live.
- A recent **report by the realtors** showed that while sales continue fully (with limited inventory) we can anticipate a leveling off in the coming year. No anticipation of prices going down (this is the new home value standard), but pace may settle in this year. As material costs and availability for new homes settle as well, we should see inventory increase. See details of report on city website in December Council Packet download.

What a difference a year makes. Like many of you, last year I was knocked back with a month long CoVid attack (before vaccines), and emerged to cataclysmic SnoVid, power outages. I take comfort in recalling the way our community rallied together and literally ‘weathered the storm’. We all look forward to a totally new experience this year as we gather (safely - realizing the virus still challenges) – to begin the blessing of living in our beautiful hometown HSBay. Happy New Year to all!! **2022 should be a “2” “2” wonderful year ahead!**