

Sunday, July 26, 2020

RE: Ongoing issues vis-a-vis Granicus archival and play of "Virtual" Zoom meetings.

Council and others:

The following is a copy of a current email thread regarding issues of transparency resulting from poor play/replay of "virtual" civic meetings uploaded to the Granicus archives, and the timely replay and often defective replay of civic meetings on the city's cable channels, Spectrum Ch-8 and Frontier/FiOS Ch-31, due to ongoing assorted Audio/Video (A/V) issues.

Howard Longacre (HB resident)

Subject:Re: Video play problems with A Safer Prospect Virtual Presentation and Q&A Session archived video on Granicus.

Date:Sun, 26 Jul 2020 16:30:34 -0700

From:HBresident <HBresident@twc.com>

To:Ann Yang <anny@hermosabeach.gov>, Leeanne Singleton <lsingleton@hermosabeach.gov>

CC:Eduardo Sarmiento <esarmiento@hermosabeach.gov>, HB City Manager Suja Lowenthal <suja@hermosabeach.gov>, Councilmember Hany Fangary <hfangary@hermosabeach.gov>, Councilmember Michael Detoy <mdetoy@hermosabeach.gov>, Councilmember Stacey Armato <sarmato@hermosabeach.gov>, Mayor Pro Tem Justin Massey <jmassey@hermosabeach.gov>, Mayor Mary Campbell <mcampbell@hermosabeach.gov>

Thanks for your reply Ann, however, while I fully understand that I personally can download and play the 1 hr 24 min "Safer Prospect Avenue Presentation and Q&A" video, and notwithstanding that I in fact DVD-recorded it when it occurred LIVE, please again understand that it is not me who needs to play the archived Granicus video. More importantly, it is others who need to be able to view and play this Granicus "Safer Prospect Q&A" video as they may desire. It's useless as archived if unplayable properly.

Thus please carefully review my following additional reply, comments, and views which are for the benefit of all concerned, as with respect to my prior email and your reply to same below.

Again, as an example, and as mentioned in my email below, if you play the following, 4-times longer, virtual Council meeting, that's also Granicus-archived, it works and plays fine. Is it not a far larger file? What is different with its storage, or otherwise, in the Granicus archives?

PART 1 - City Council Adjourned Regular Meeting (Regular Session) Jul 14, 2020, 5hr-43min (a 4-times longer meeting that plays well from the Granicus archives)

Also, why are i.e., Planning Commission meetings playing full screen so much better, both live and replay on cable, than are Council meetings?

I would highly suggest that the City Council **direct** that Suja, their personal Hermosa Beach city manager, who apparently does not care about such mundane stuff, seek out an audio/video digital recording, storage, replay, file formats, **specialist**, as clearly the ongoing problems in having timely replays, efficient Zoom meetings, etc, etc, instead of the often defective, "black screen" cable replays, of the recorded meetings, both via city infrastructure and via the Granicus and Granicus archives is unconscionable in this year 2020.

These are a function of the Suja's mode of operation and of non-A/V (audio/video) specialized staff not sufficiently understanding such stuff. Things worked far better 20 years ago, however this is now a video digital age and a city needs support from those who fully understand digital A/V formats, software methods, storage, playback etc.. Suja's non-digital-A/V trained staff apparently are having to spin their wheels, wasting substantial amounts of their time, trying to understand such esoteric A/V stuff.

Why i.e., does Suja have a costly "Environmental Programs Manager" and overhead, when basic functions of the city are not being carried out? Is it because of personal agendas of two or possibly three self-serving councilmembers and the City Manager herself, using the city of Hermosa Beach to perhaps pad their personal wallets and advance their personal resumes at the city's residents' and businesses' expense?

NOW, as a result, this A/V failed city function has become a de facto scam to further keep residents and businesses in the dark, and in not having a clue as to what is going on in Hermosa Beach, **ESPECIALLY** during this period of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Btw, at the moment of this writing, a June 9 council meeting is replaying on the city's cable channels. While that's good, i.e., that something is replaying, this is now almost August and many important meetings since June 9 have not timely been replayed even once.

The A/V (audio/video) upgrade work going on in the Council Chambers should have been accomplished while keeping the replays functioning far better. I believe that this council chambers A/V work, which took some 5 years to even commence, is now being used as an excuse by Suja to keep this disastrous City Council / City Manager operation from being viewed by the residents via timely replays of meetings.

Again, whatever was accomplished to cause the above mentioned, 4-times longer, virtual council meeting recording to play properly from the Granicus archives, needs to be accomplished for all the other "virtual" meeting recordings, including the "**Safer Prospect Virtual Presentation and Q&A Session**".

Additionally, an outrageous action by the City Council was the moving to an earlier time, the start of regular meetings from 7-PM to 6-PM, for their own personal benefit. Years ago the meetings were started at 7:30PM. Then at 7:10PM, and then even earlier to 7:00PM. When they were started earlier at 7-PM all prior councils understood that it was for the residents and businesses

need, not for their own personal need, that meetings start no earlier than 7-PM. The present council, especially those of its three member majority of Stacey Armato, Justin Massey, and Mary Campbell, have shown repeatedly just how self-obsessed, and self-serving they are. All three need to look no further than at the current disastrous U.S. President Trump to see many of the self-serving issues that they too so-selfishly and cavalierly exhibit.

What unfortunately is really, really unconscionable is how virtually nothing of substance has been accomplished by this particular Hermosa Beach city council to benefit the residents and businesses both pre- and during-Covid-19, i.e. paving streets in an ongoing comprehensive manner, or even fixing defective sidewalks. Virtually nothing. Not even the hiring of a "deputy city clerk" has been accomplished, but instead during this position being unfilled for getting close to two years now, a completely unneeded "environmental programs manager" was hired. That position could be eliminated today from Suja's bloated City Manager personal staff.

Also LeeAnne, could you please address on Monday the following which was included in my email which was addressed primarily to you.

"I am still trying to locate the video/audio and minutes of the townhall that Councilmember Howard Fishman conducted in the council chambers regarding Prospect Avenue safety when he was on Council some 8 years ago. I recall that it was televised and it had a significant amount of oral and written input, which needs to be factored into the current Prospect discussion. Have you obtained that information and recording from that Prospect Avenue townhall conducted at Council's direction by former Councilmember Howard Fishman?"

On 7/26/2020 11:49 AM, Ann Yang wrote:

Hi Howard,

The new video is a large file. It will take time for the video to load. You could try downloading the video to your computer and watching it that way.

Thank you,
Ann

From: HBresident <HBresident@twc.com>

Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2020 2:37 AM

To: LeeAnne Singleton <lsingleton@hermosabeach.gov>

Cc: Eduardo Sarmiento <esarmiento@hermosabeach.gov>; Ann Yang <anny@hermosabeach.gov>

Subject: Video play problems with A Safer Prospect Virtual Presentation and Q&A Session archived video on Granicus.

Sunday early, 7/26/20

Hi LeeAnne,

When I tried to play the "A Safer Prospect Virtual Presentation and Q&A Session" video on the Granicus the other day it seemed to work OK.

http://hermosabeach.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=6

However today it starts playing after about 20 seconds and then if you pick a different point in the video time-slider it just hangs trying to reposition to the selected point, I waited a while and it seemed to not catch up, it just kept twirling the indicator icon in the center of the player window.

This was happening to the virtual council meetings originally but they now seem to immediately jump to the point you select in the time-slider.

And I tried a other archived virtual meetings and they all worked fine on the Granicus, however again the **"A Safer Prospect Virtual Presentation and Q&A Session"** video is not working, after I made multiple attempts.

There may be some setting or process that needs to be set up for such uploaded "virtual" videos, but again, the other day when it was first placed in the Granicus archives it was working ok when you would step through the video via clicking in the time-slider of the player window. Perhaps Eddie or Ann know what causes this issue. I don't know who uploaded it, however I and others do appreciate that it has been archived there.

You might try it from a home computer and compare to a virtual council meeting and see how it works for both starting up and then selecting another point in the video.

Btw, I'm still trying to locate the video/audio and minutes of the townhall that Councilmember Howard Fishman conducted in the council chambers regarding Prospect Avenue when he was on Council some 8 years ago. I recall that it was televised and it had a significant amount of oral and written input which needs to be factored into the current discussion. Have you obtained the information and recording from that Prospect Avenue townhall?

Thanks,

Howard L.