

**Skylar**

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carry their voice," he said. "I think we as a city have to do a better job engaging the community."

Among his goals, the mayor said he would continue exploring active recreation space for the city, adding that he'd "love" to see a skateboard park come to fruition, as well as addressing public safety and parking concerns on Pacific Coast Highway.

"I've had a couple of hurdles, obviously," Peak noted about his civic experience. "In the beginning it was a little bit of a learning curve to see how city politics works inside and out."

Droves of Peak supporters came to City Hall Monday night, which included a reception and cake.

"I think it's fantastic," said Kendall Guilbert, a friend. "There couldn't be a better man for the job."

Resident Andy Lyon, who's running for a city council seat, hopes to eventually work with Peak.

"I wish him all the best," Lyon said. "There's a true Malibu person up there for a change."

Mayor Pro Tem Sibert, who's served as the city's mayor in the past,



Julie Ellerton / TMT  
**Newly sworn-in Mayor Skylar Peak**

said this council's accomplished a lot and has been great to work with.

"I'm looking forward to working with him," Sibert said of Peak.

On Tuesday, Sibert held a groundbreaking dedication for the left hand turn only lane at Big Rock Drive and Pacific Coast Highway.

With a history of being a champion for clean water in Malibu, Sibert said the council needs to protect the

city from state and federal agencies from "getting into our budget."

"It's important to keep providing services to the citizens of Malibu, and distinguish between needs versus wants," he said. "The second mission of the Malibu City Council is a fiduciary responsibility. Keep the budget balanced and have a reserve."

Councilman Lou La Monte echoed Sibert's praise for Peak, and that the council is "on board" to tackle the issues facing Malibu, including the update to the Civic Center Specific Plan.

"I have a great deal of faith in him," La Monte said.

**Reflection and recognition for Joan House**

Outgoing Mayor House received commendations from County Supervisor Zev Yaroslowsky, State Sen. Fran Pavley, Assemblymember Richard Bloom and Mayor Peak.

House referred to the progress of her three stated goals when she took office for the nine-month term: continue searching for addi-

tional recreation facilities, such as the proposed swap of the Bluffs for Charmlee; taking legal and political steps to prevent the growth of rehabilitation centers "that threatened to turn our neighborhoods into hospital zones" and moving forward with locating every single safe and legal parking spot on the PCH as a baseline to improve overall safety on the major roadway.

"It has been an honor and privilege to serve the city as mayor," House said, noting the "unique skills" the three prior city councils brought to Malibu under her earlier terms as mayor. "But it is this council I would like to thank for showing each other respect, congeniality and commitment toward Malibu's future."

House also thanked her husband Ken, family and friends for their support.

At the reception, House said she will "keep fighting" for Malibu as she always has.

"I think he's ready," she said about Peak becoming the city's youngest mayor. "He's bright, articulate and learns quickly."

**Monte Nido**

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county to lead the Q&A.

The plan covers the unincorporated areas of the Santa Monica Mountains within the "Coastal Zone" and in Los Angeles County—an area of about 80 square miles.

Although initially approved by the county in 2007, officials spent another seven years making changes to get more buy-in from stakeholders like environmental organizations, government agencies and homeowners.

Since the plan's release, the equestrian community has voiced its concern over the possibility of not being able to keep horses in residential yards, and Friday's line of questioning dealt heavily with the specifics of horse ownership.

Representing the county at the meeting was Ben Saltsman, LCP co-author and planning deputy for Supervisor Zev Yaroslowsky, Richard Bruckner, chief planner for the county, and Andi Culbertson, county consultant and lobbyist to the CCC.

They stressed that equestrians would be much better off with the proposed LCP since the county has worked closely with the powerful coastal body to assure that local horse-owners maintain their rights.

"We wrote it deliberately with the people in mind who are facing threats from the CCC in order that you can keep your horses and maintain the rural quality of life," Saltsman said. "The CCC has not historically been so friendly to horses as this plan."

The CCC has made "huge concessions" on horses in exchange for various conservation programs from the county," Saltsman said.

"This will be the only area in the county where horses are permitted in backyards," he added.

Under the plan, residents will still be allowed a maximum of eight horses per acre; however, specific sites will need to have their vegetation, terrain and water sources analyzed on a case-by-case basis

to determine how many horses can be on that property.

Many of the night's questions were technical, with residents asking about barn lighting, how to appeal something to the CCC if the county does not approve it, calculation of water standby charges from the Las Virgenes Water District for unused acreage, how the CCC will interpret contradictions within the LCP, drainage issues and permit fees.

"This LCP allows more gardens, etc., than the California Coastal Commission does today. And if you don't have all of your buildings permitted, you'll have a better chance of getting permits approved with the LCP..." The new LCP will also allow 12 times more space for horses," Saltsman said.

Most of the equestrian community was on board with the county by the end of the session, with only a few still voicing opposition.

When asked why the county never took the LCP to the CCC for approval back in 2007,

Saltsman said that after the Board of Supervisors approved it, "Zev got a call from Peter Douglas [then-head of the CCC], who said, 'Your plan is dead in the water.' So we took time out and sat down with them again over the past two years... They've come a long way, and we appreciate that."

"It's better to have local control and real rules here," Bruckner added. "We've pushed the envelope, this LCP is different than any other LCP plan that's ever been done."

A number of residents wanted to know what they could do to support the LCP when it goes before the CCC for approval on Thursday, Apr. 10 in Santa Barbara.

"You should come [to Santa Barbara, sign up for public comment] and say you like horses and you like riding, because other groups will be there to oppose it based on water quality, habitat, etc.," Culbertson said. "And if you don't like the suggested modifications, tell the CCC."

**Louks**

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Kay Cosmetics, has lived with her husband and four daughters in Point Dume for eight years.

**Your husband, Jeff Louks, works in commercial real estate. Does that conflict at all with what your campaign platform has been to protect against commercialization?**

He's a commercial real estate broker and he is in full support of protecting our rural character and safeguarding our environment, and as a broker, I think he sees the advantage of protecting our rural character and our environment...I'm running on the Malibu vision and mission statement, and I think it's our common ground. It's what brings together the real estate agents, the businesses, the residents.

**What issues have you had problems with that have been voted on by the city council?**

One of the catalysts for me was seeing our city council not sup-

port the formula retail ordinance... it seemed that everyone I talked to in the neighborhood, because I talked to a lot of people about it, that they supported it, yet they wouldn't speak out because they were either connected with developers or real estate agents.

**When you're at the Country Mart or at the Malibu Village, do you see a reflection of the Malibu you love or do you see something else?**

It's becoming like a Rodeo Drive and a shopping destination.

**And you believe the Rob Reiner ballot initiative could change that or reverse it? What do you think it could do?**

Foster businesses that serve our community rather than businesses oriented toward regional shoppers. And as residents, why wouldn't we stand up for that? And my gut tells me that that's what the regional shoppers really come here for is to get a sense of Malibu and to get a

sense of our rustic rural character.

**At the debates and candidate forums, you have responded to some questions by admitting that you didn't know or weren't sure about the issue. Do you feel that if you're elected you would be playing catch up on a lot of things?**

I've gotten a lot better. I have a strong values system and voters I think will vote for me because they share the value system of wanting to protect Malibu and keep Malibu, Malibu...I'm a quick study. I don't know if you noticed that, but it doesn't take me long to get up to speed. When we were building our house, I took the code home, I read it over the next two nights, I built it in three months [and] we got it approved from the city.

**Let's talk about the high school. Are you satisfied with the progress that has or hasn't been made as far as figuring out what might be wrong at that campus?**

No, they have not addressed it...I think it happened because we're a part of a larger school district, which is the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District. They're 84 percent, we're 16 percent of the vote. We're just an extra in their movie.

**Do you think the district ignored the problem when it came up?**

I think it was brushed aside. It's hard to say exactly, but I think the problem is that we're not our own school district.

**Are you comfortable sending your eighth-grade daughter in the high school next year?**

No...We are weighing our options. And we're also looking at private schools...I'm very sensitive to the toxicity issue, and it's not only the existing infrastructure and the soil that wasn't remediated. It's also the rodenticide that they've been putting out every month.

For a complete interview transcript, visit [malibutimes.com](http://malibutimes.com).

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