

MARIN CONSERVATION LEAGUE

Parks and Open Space Committee

June 9, 2016

MINUTES

ATTENDEES: Nona Dennis, Chair, Greg Zitney, Tom Boss, Larry Minikes, Judy Teichman, Roger Roberts, Max Korten (Marin County Parks), Eva Buxton, Susan Stompe, Arlin Weinberger, Robert Eichstaedt, Bill Long, Al Baumann, Ralph Mihan, Bill Long, Pat Nelson, Larry Kennings, Kate Powers, Mia Monroe (GGNRA), Rose Blackburn (State Parks), and Sharon Farell (OneTam).

Meeting was called to order by Nona at 3:00 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: 1) Senior Walk, Old St. Hilarys Open Space Preserve, June 10; 2) Muir Woods – County MOU, June 14; 3) MMWD Watershed Committee mtg., June 16; 4) Opening of NOAA Cordell Banks National Marin Sanctuary, June 8; 4) Marin Resource Conservation District and MMWD will lead an English Ivy removal work party, June 18; AGENDA will be reorganized to allow Mia Monroe to speak early in the meeting

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: May 12 minutes approved.

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Marin Parks and Open Space
 - a. A presentation of prototype signs for Marin County parks and open space preserves was scheduled for this meeting. They will be presented, instead, at the July 14 meeting by communications staff. In the meantime, Max Korten, Acting Director and General Manager of Marin County Parks, was present and he briefly described the prototypes of new signs that have been mounted in Region 1, at Escalon entry to Camino Alto OSP, and at Crown Road entry to Baltimore Canyon OSP. Signs for parks and for preserves will differ in content, under a common design and color scheme. Sign in parks will be bilingual (English and Spanish). Staff is attempting to use familiar internationally known icons and to balance durability and vandal proof materials with expense. Kiosk signs will reserve space to post notices. Staff finds that visitors are taking photos of posted maps, so paper maps can be minimized. This committee will gather any comments on the prototypes at the July 14 meeting and transmit to Parks staff.
 - b. Max made other announcements. The 2015 Visitor Use Survey Report was presented to the Parks & Open Space Commission at their May 19 meeting and is available on the Parks web site. Focus groups were held for senior residents and Latinos. Among current visitors, most report a good experience. Future follow-up surveys will focus on different user groups. Max announced that several summer trail projects are planned: the Fairway Trails Improvements in Camino Alto OSP; improvements to connect Octopus intersection with the Camino Alto Fire Road (also in Camino Alto OSP); bridges and sediment control on a section of Roy's Redwoods Loop Trail; decommissioning of Kneecap Trail in Giacomini OSP. The Region 3 designation public workshop is tentatively scheduled for August 6; Matt Sagues' position has been filled by Jon Campo. Staff is

hoping to conduct smaller meetings to examine maps in advance of the larger public workshop.

Questions were raised: How will trail closures be enforced? Ans: Closed trails will be patrolled in part by camera.

2. National Parks in Marin

- a. Mia Monroe reported that a meeting of the Board of Supervisors on June 14 will serve as an update on actions that the County and NPS have taken to implement terms of the Muir Woods parking and traffic MOU. A public meeting on June 27 at Tam High will present proposed improvements to parking in existing and nearby lots close to the Muir Woods entry ("Sustainable Access Projects."). It will also provide an opportunity for questions concerning the MOU. The 90-day comment period for the Dog Management Final Rule closed, and staff is reviewing some 4,000 comments received. Roger Roberts asked what is NPS doing to restore Redwood Creek within the Monument. Mia replied that NPS has been working for several years to restore a more natural floodplain and to allow woody debris to accumulate as habitat in the creek.
- b. Several upcoming events will celebrate the NPS Centennial (August 25-28, National Park Service Birthday Weekend). Between July 20 and 24, a hike will take place from Stinson Beach across the Golden Gate Bridge to the Presidio. Events will be posted on the GGNRA Centennial Web site. (Note: I searched but didn't find these events posted.)
- c. MCL will announce a series of four workshop meetings in September and October concerning ranching in West and on Point Reyes National Seashore in particular. The purpose is to prepare for commenting on the Draft Ranch Comprehensive Management Plan and Environmental Assessment, expected out before the end of the year.

3. MMWD/One Tam update:

- a. The MMWD Watershed Committee will meet on June 16. Sharon Farrell gave a brief report on progress toward the 2-day "State of Mt. Tam" public symposium scheduled for October 28-29. Three products will include a brief "Peak Health" handout that captures key points on the status of natural resources on Mt. Tam; a 100-page "White Paper" (due out July 15) that contains a detailed inventory and condition of resources; and an interactive Web page on the health of Mt. Tam natural resources. More details will be presented at the August 11 meeting of this committee.
- b. Discussion took place concerning a Prospectus being circulated describing the Log Cabin Restoration project near Phoenix Lake, currently undergoing 30 percent design work. Nona stated that the Prospectus appears to present the Log Cabin as a OneTam project. While it is true that OneTam (Parks Conservancy staff) will raise funds and possibly manage the project, the MMWD historic origins of the Log Cabin should be featured in the Prospectus; One Tam does not "own" that history.

4. State Parks Marin

- a. Rose Blackburn, Supervising Ranger at Samuel P. Taylor SP, gave a brief update on the reconstruction of Bill's Trail. Construction must be limited to the season outside northern spotted owl breeding season. Work can occur only between August 1 and the end of January. The trail, which is undergoing a change in use to accommodate bikers,

- hikers, and equestrians (multiuse), will be closed to all users probably through at least 2017. Staff are monitoring drainages for sediment (the project is within critical habitat of the endangered coho salmon) and will report to the Regional Water Board. Some volunteers have been working to remove the non-native “forget-me-not” that has invaded the existing trail. The Graveside Fire Road is open. No new work is contemplated on that road, as originally discussed in the EIR. Easy Grade Trail Change-in-Use (Mt. Tam SP) is in the design process. It has not received CEQA clearance. Rare plant surveys will not be done until spring/summer 2017.
- b. Rose reported that, pursuant to recommendations of the Parks Forward Commission, local Parks staff are trying to pin down all costs needed to run parks such as Olompali State Historic Park and Tomales Bay SP. This involves accounting for 100s of tasks and the number of ranger staff needed to carry them out. This information will go (eventually) to the Governor to ensure that the Legislature receives an accurate State Parks budget proposal for Fiscal 2017-18. MCL should discuss this with Marc Levine, Chair of the Assembly Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15

Minutes by Nona Dennis