

Marin Conservation League
North Marin Unit
FINAL Meeting Notes
January 18, 2016

The meeting was called to order at the Wilhelm home at 12:10. Present were Joyce Applen, Pam Drew, Don Wilhelm, Dorothy Thomas, Gail Wilhelm and Susan Stompe.

Announcements: MCL Business and Environment breakfast on January 29 will be about Water Storage statewide and Marin.

Notes of the November meeting were approved as distributed.

Downtown Bus Facility: Pam reviewed the issues people have with the proposed facility which has been approved by the City Council, Design Review, and the TAM board. There is a feeling that the public has been denied access to the review and only one design has been considered. Susan attended a Design Review meeting two or three years ago that had 3 or 4 alternatives. The design that was selected has not been used anywhere else in the country which makes it experimental. It was not presented as an experimental design. The Technical Committee had problems with the design, but there are no minutes of the meeting at which it was discussed. There was a survey of bus riders, but not on the design, only about the access to the site. The environmental assessment stated that no redwood trees would be removed, but there will probably be 4 or more impacted by the construction, unless the design is altered. Pam said that TAM is looking at that change. The question was raised about why the bus facility is being upgraded only months before the SMART service starts. It was agreed that the issues around the bus facility are not really environmental since the site is already impacted.

Downtown SMART Station: The City Council is evaluating whether the city should put over \$5 million on a downtown station since SMART will not guarantee that the train will stop there. To keep to the schedule Novato can have just two stops. If a train stops downtown, one of the other two stations will have to be passed. Since the other two stations are near employment centers, they would likely have more ridership. No cost benefit analysis has been done. The \$5 million would drain all city resources when other projects such as the community house, the downtown theater and Hamilton theater, and many other projects are in need.

New proposal: Design Review addressed a senior housing project at Hamilton referred to as senior cottages. Susan looked at the site layout and it didn't appear very senior friendly. All the cottages are two story, the parking is not adjacent to the units. Garages are strung out along the railroad right-of-way. Pam said D.R. made a number of suggestions and asked the developer to come back with a better design.

Stafford Lake Park general plan needs someone to track it. The county has had a couple meetings to seek recommendations on some options they are considering. This not the bike park, but the whole rest of the park.

The Square Shopping Center owner should be submitting a plan that includes housing soon.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00

The next meeting will be at the Thomas home on March 24