

Marin Conservation League

North Marin Unit

Draft Meeting Notes

June 16, 2010

The meeting was called to order at the home of Edith Piltch. Attending were Edith Piltch, Bernie Meyers, Joyce Appen, Rick Fraites, Don Wilhelm, Gail Wilhelm, Eleanor Sluis, Nona Dennis and Susan Stompe. Guest Radz Zalewski.

Announcements: The General Plan Steering Committee will meet June 23 at Old City Hall at 6:30, there will be a CEQA workshop at MCL on July 28. The annual Picnic on the Porch will be July 24 at the MCL office from 3 – 6.

Minutes: The notes of the May 20 meeting were approved as distributed.

Vision of a Novato Garden Project at Hamilton: Radz Zalewski, a resident at Hamilton shared the work he has done toward creating a park at Hamilton at the base of Ammo Hill. He envisions a place that has gardens, both beautiful and meditative; improved hiking trails, removal of the blast wall and reuse of the bunker doors for murals, some playing fields and, possibly, a building. He lost his mother to cancer a few years ago and wants to create this community space in her memory. He told of the people he has contacted, support he has gotten, possible funding sources to create the park. He distributed his budget for phase I and asked if MCL could support his project for the Pepsi Refresh Grant. Nona said that we could not endorse his project at this early stage, but individuals could certainly provide support on the Pepsi website. Many questions were asked. He has set up a foundation and has a 501-C3. Recommendations were made to him on ways to proceed and he was urged to continue to pursue the project.

North Redwood Blvd.: Gail reviewed the previous meeting of the General Plan Steering Committee and the nature of the final recommendations for North Redwood. The Plan was simplified by having just two land uses: Mixed Use/Retail and Mixed Use/Urban Village. Only the MU/UV has mandated housing. Both designations have mandated retail. The next GP meeting will be on the conformation of the Blvd. The Planning Commission will review it in July.

Solar Array at Olive and Atherton: Susan reviewed the proposal and circulated the maps and drawings. The solar array would cover about 15 acres of the 19.98 acre site. 12,080 solar panels would be mounted on piers, which would not require excavation or impact the hydrology of the site. The panels would be mostly over existing marsh next to Simmons Slough. The marsh is viable habitat that is heavily used by nesting ducks in the spring. It was **M/S/C (Gail, Rick)(2 abstentions) to recommend that MCL oppose the project as a new business on the site since the damage to the wetlands is not justified.** Nona pointed out that the many roofs of public structures would be more appropriate, non-habitat damaging locations for solar arrays. Others objected to the “green washing” of the project.

North Coast Rail Authority: Bernie said the hearing on the EOIR will be Sept. 8 in Ukiah.

Transportation: Don said there is a poll on the TAM (Transportation Authority of Marin) website and urged everyone to take it.

Water District: Rick reported that NMWD is negotiating with CalTrans to increase the pipe bringing water from the Russian River from 36" to 48" since they have to move the pipe for the Narrows project. NMWD would pay the difference in cost of the pipe. The larger pipe would eliminate the need to pump the water.

The next meeting will be July 15 at Stompe's house.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Notes by S. Stompe