

Marin Conservation League
North Marin Unit
Meeting Notes
September 18, 2013

The meeting was called to order at the Wilhelm home. Present were: Carole Dillen-Knutson, Pat U'Ren, Frank U'Ren, Don Wilhelm, Gail Wilhelm, Joyce Applen, Eleanor Sluis, Dorothy Thomas and Susan Stompe.

Announcements included: Business & Environment Breakfast on Sept. 20; Coastal Cleanup on Saturday, Sept. 21 at Scottsdale Gazebo – Don & Gail offered to help sign people in, as did Ellie Sluis – North Redwood Blvd. workshops on Sept. 14 and 28.

The notes of the July 10 meeting were approved as distributed.

Projects and Issues around Novato:

North Redwood Blvd: Just about everyone attended. At the end of the meeting there were summaries of the 9 breakout groups. Consensus seemed to be 1) No big box, 2) some mixed use with housing, 3) enhance Rush Creek as a landscape amenity, 4) possible a boutique hotel. 5) outdoor gathering place, 6) incorporate vegetation and trees, 7) a Farmers' Market site was discussed as a permanent fixture that could be used for other activities 8) a suggestion to hide the parking was discussed as an objective. Susan had suggested daylighting the creek that comes from the Atherton Ranch project across the street. Her group had embraced the idea, but Gail said other group had not discussed it. There will be some design suggestions proposed at the next meeting on September 28.

Sports Facility at Hamilton: The City does not have a proposal submitted, altho the Mendohlsen group has secured a long term exclusive right from the Federal government for Landfill 26. The city had the Mendohsen plan on their website for a while, but it has been removed. A plan for the site that was developed by a citizen group in the 90's is on the city website. This plan had multiple sports uses and parking for 700 cars. The questions came up about how long an exclusive right lasts, whether it can be transferred, or does it expire at some point. Susan will research that for information.

Downtown Bus Transfer Facility: Susan circulated a couple design options being considered. The information had just come out that day. There was no key with the designs so it was difficult to read the impacts of each design. Ellie was quite emphatic that the location should be moved. Others felt there was rationale to leave it at the current location. There will be some public meetings and Council approval before a design is accepted. The consensus was to protect the trees.

NCRA – Bernie is retiring from his position on the NCRA Board and has been looking for someone willing to take on the challenge. No one has entertained an interest, unfortunately.

SMART: Don reported that SMART work along the RR line need to be closely monitored to be sure environmental impacts are mitigated.

MOST: Joyce reported that Pacheco Valle site is now under agreement and financing is being worked out.

Black Point Community Plan: Revisions of the BPCP meetings have begun. Some of the issues under consideration include visitor serving uses in the "village" area only, maintaining a rural character, residential development only on hillside areas with minimum 2 acre lot size.

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

The next meeting will be October 17 at the Stompe home.

Notes by SS