

Marin Conservation League

North Marin Unit Final Meeting Notes October 23, 2014

The meeting was called to order at the Webb home. Present were: Ralph Webb, Rosalie Webb, Rick Fraites, Gail Wilhelm, Don Wilhelm, Joyce Applen, Pam Drew, Susan Stompe and guest, Delyn Ries

Announcements: Black Point Community meeting tonight on the update of the Community Plan; Community Based Transportation meeting tonight 5:30 – 8; MCL walk into Conservation history at Horse Hill on November 9 at 9:30.

Notes of the September meeting were approved as distributed

Gross Field: The runway project report by the Aviation Commission will be given to the Board of Supervisors on November 4. The hearing on the merits will be in February.

Novato General Plan: White Paper on Bel Marin Keys Industrial Park was reviewed by Gail. She pointed out that the Park is built out and the discussion was focused on ongoing uses. Live/work space was dismissed as not being feasible since there will probably not be any new construction. Auto repair is a major use and there is discussion about whether it should be by use permit or a permitted use. After discussion the consensus was to continue to require use permits, which enables the city to review specific uses. The paper does not discuss businesses providing outside spaces for employees, but the consensus was to recommend that the city provide some benches next to Pacheco Pond as a destination for walkers or people who want to eat their lunch outside. **North Redwood Boulevard** options were reviewed by the city council. Three favored the Grand Boulevard design, two favored the City Green design.

Stafford Lake Park: The county is updating the park plan. A meeting was held in Novato on October 15 for people to make suggestions. There is also supposed to be a website. Some things that are being considered are: structured crossing over the creek on the west end, improving circulation for autos and pedestrian/bicycles, a trail around the lake, moving the corporation yard and provide more active recreation options.

Indian Valley College: There was a meeting at the college a couple weeks earlier to consider ways to stimulate attendance. No one at our meeting had attended the IVC meeting. Susan ran into Brady Bevis, a college Trustee, who had a number of thoughts about working with local industries, to train potential employees.

Novato Square Shopping Center: Pam Drew reported that the owner, and his cousins, are proposing renovating the shopping center and adding some housing for a mixed use facility. She said he had agreed that 30 – 60 units would be an acceptable number for the neighborhood, but the article in the IJ recently stated he is considering 50 – 100 units of rental housing. He plans to retain the existing businesses, but improve the appearance and function of the center.

Sears Point Wetland Restoration: Ralph told about the restoration taking place by the Sonoma Land Trust south of Highway 37. The 1,000 acre parcel is being sculpted with channels, small islands with moats to provide habitat. He had a large map which was circulated.

Downtown Bus Stop: Pam reported that the revisions being proposed to upgrade the downtown bus stop will have collateral impacts on Novato. She feels the design is not one used hardly anywhere else and requires buses to cross paths entering the platform area. It will increase the capacity to have up to 3 buses in each direction. Although the design stays within the current footprint, it will cost \$3 – 5 million to construct and she feels Novato will be obligated to accept much higher densities because of the increased headways.

Transportation issues: Don reported that there was a big turnout of Los Robles people on Quiet Zones.

Redwood Landfill: Delyn reported that she received notice that the Landfill will not be activating the new compost facility until April. It had been scheduled to open in November.

The meeting adjourned at 2:10

The next meeting will be at noon on Thursday, November 13 or 20 at Applen's.