

**Marin Conservation League**  
**North Marin Unit**  
Meeting Notes  
May 7, 2015

The meeting was called to order at the Stompe home at 12:10. Present were: Rick Fraites, Joyce Applen, Josh Thomas, Bernie Meyers, Ralph Webb, Rosalie Webb and Susan Stompe.

**Announcements:** Business & Environment breakfast on May 15 at McInnis featuring State Senator Mike McGuire, Open House at Olompali is on May 17, Novato Watershed meeting May 14 at 7 p.m. at Humane Society, Marin Village meeting at the Buck Center

**Notes of the April meeting** were approved as distributed

**Novato General Plan:** Rick and Susan expressed concern that there has not been public involvement in the preparation of what will be the draft General Plan. The Planning Commission and City Council have had hearings on each draft element, but public notice or participation has been lacking. Bob Brown confirmed that the draft plan will be put together this summer and then the EIR will be prepared. There have been White Papers put together on specific issues. They are well done and informative. They are available on the city website.

**Recreation facility proposal for Hamilton** Rick attended the neighborhood meeting at which the applicants for the Hamilton Sports Complex presented their proposal and answered questions. He said over 200 people attended, and contrary to press coverage, it was fairly civil. He estimated 60% against and 40% supportive. Since the project will be going through about 2 years of processing we focused on issues that should be raised in the scoping for the EIR. Although Gail was not present, she sent some suggestions. Issues that should be analyzed include: Impacts of lights on wildlife and neighbors and how to reduce those impacts; impacts of noise on wildlife and neighbors; fly ball netting and birds; traffic; artificial turf; and air quality.

**Transit Center:** There was no one in attendance who had strong concerns about the transit center on Redwood Blvd. Pam reported on it at the previous meeting.

**Blackpoint Community Plan:** The next step for the plan will be a Planning Commission hearing in May.

**Novato Watershed** presentation at the Humane Society on May 14 will be the about the historic ecology of Novato Creek and the analysis of how to have it function better by providing some ponding capacity and weirs, which will also reduce flooding in the downtown area. Susan has discussed having our unit sponsor a daytime presentation, possibly televised on cable TV, with the watershed group. There was interest in the program. Joyce offered to help Susan.

**Development proposals pending in Novato:** The city publishes a list of projects which includes: senior housing on Black John Road; 6000 sq. ft. of commercial and housing on the parcel on Redwood Blvd. at Atherton Ranch; the apparent approval of another hotel and live/work units at the former McPhail site south of the Hanna Ranch since there is now a for sale sign on the freeway. The council approved 4 Priority Conservation Areas (PCA's) within Novato: O'Hair Park, Hill Recreation area and Arroyo Avichi Creek, Davidson Hill and one other.

**Lighted towers on Petaluma River:** Ralph and Rosalie reported that some towers that have been along the Petaluma River for many decades have had bright red lights installed that blink 24/7. Phone calls have not revealed why they have been put up and it is very disturbing for residents along the river.

The meeting adjourned at 1:37

The next meeting will be a public meeting in June at the NUSD office.