

Marin Conservation League
North Marin Unit
Final Meeting Notes

July 18, 2012

The meeting was called to order at the Applen home. Present were: Joyce Applen, Pat U'Ren, Dorothy Thomas, Don Wilhelm, Gail Wilhelm, Frank U'Ren, Rick Fraites and Susan Stompe.

Announcements included: MCL Picnic on the Porch July 28 at noon, Betty Burke broke her leg and Bob is cooking and nursing; MCI is supporting the Parks ballot measure pending review of the final wording.

The notes of the June 14 meeting were approved as distributed.

Projects and Issues around Novato:

Novato Tree Ordinance: Bob Brown, Novato's acting Community Development Director, requested that we give him some feedback on the revisions he may be suggesting to the City Council to cut back on staff demands while the General Plan is being revised in house. He pointed out that San Rafael does not require permits for cutting trees and haven't had any problems. Susan reviewed the current Novato ordinance which states at the beginning the importance of trees in the community and in shaping neighborhoods. He suggests reducing the types of trees needing permits (for removal) to specific natives, uniform size and noticing less than the 600 feet currently required. After discussion, the recommendation was **M/S/C (Gail, Pat) to leave the permitting requirements as they currently stand, but reduce the area of notice to 300 feet.** Other recommendations included allowing permit applications online and keeping the permit easy to fill out.

Mill Works survey: Gail drafted a survey for people who live in the Millworks aka WholeFoods. The purpose of the survey is to find out how many employed people live there, why they moved there, where they work and how they get to work. Some suggestions were made. It was recommended not to approach the management. Joyce volunteered to talk to a friend who lives there about how she would suggest we approach the residents. Gail will make the recommended changes and will meet with Susan about the distribution.

General Plan: Gail and the subcommittee tracking the General Plan revision are planning to limit their focus to Land Use and density issues, housing, North Redwood Blvd, the Downtown Specific Plan and transportation. They requested copies of Community Marin chapters on land use, housing and density. Susan offered to send these to them.

Port Sonoma/Carneros Ranch: Sonoma County approved a contract with URS to do the EIR. No word of whether a scoping meeting will be held.

Senior Housing at Hamilton: A senior housing development is proposed at Hamilton off State Access Road. Another senior project is being discussed at the corner of Wood Hollow Rd. and Redwood Blvd.north of town, which is a problematic site since there is a small wetland and a high pressure gas line along Redwood Blvd.

Transportation issues: Don reported that TAM is now dealing with another issue which MTC has thrown out at the eleventh hour, TPP's or Transportation Priority Projects. This designation is another category, in addition to PDA's (Priority Development Areas) for development projects as part of the OneBayArea planning. Don also brought up the county's interest in streamlining CEQA, which needs to be followed closely.

NMWD: Rick said the water district has accepted MEA's light green for their Novato operations which will save them about \$2000/year. Their county and west Marin facilities are at dark green. The solar array near Stafford Lake is proceeding and will be a smaller footprint than originally anticipated.

MOST: Joyce reported that the Manzanita parcel is closing escrow.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

The next meeting will be on August 8 at the Wilhelm home.

Notes by SS