

DRAFT

MARIN CONSERVATION LEAGUE
Parks and Open Space Committee Meeting
May 13, 2010
Meeting Minutes

ATTENDEES: Nona Dennis, Delos Putz, Roger Roberts, Steve Schoonover, Susan Stompe

ANNOUNCEMENTS: 1) GGNRA announcement of its seven acre Mission Blue Butterfly habitat restoration project at Hawk Hill on the Marin Headlands. 2) The Bay Area Open Space Conference will be held on May 20th at the Presidio in San Francisco. 3) There will be an Open House at Olampali State Park in Novato on Sunday, May 16th, 10 AM to 4 PM. 4) On May 13th (6:30PM) The American Society of Landscape Architects (Northern California Chapter) is holding a seminar in San Francisco on Trail Planning for California Communities. Panel members include the co- authors and Primary contributors to the September 2009 publication by Solano Press Books of "Trail Planning for California Communities." (This reference book would be a useful addition to the MCL Library.)

APPROVAL OF THE POSC MEETING MINUTES FOR April 15, 2010: The Draft POSC Meeting Minutes for April 15, 2010 were accepted and approved as presented.

ACTION ITEMS:

- 1) The POSC reviewed and approved the proposed revision of Community Marin's Chapter regarding Parks and Open Space Policies and Principles with minor edits which will be returned to the Steering Committee for their concurrence. This will then be taken to the MCL Board with the recommendation of the POSC for its approval.
- 2) After reviewing the May 4th Letter from the Friends of Corte Madera Creek Watershed calling for a Focused EIR under CEQA for the proposed "680 Trail", the POSC decided to not take similar action at this time. The Committee felt that MCL should wait to see whether or not the County's Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration on the 4th "680 Trail" alignment alternative is adequate. The Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration are expected to be issued in June. In the meantime, MCL (Nona Dennis) will line up a Soils and Geotechnical expert consultant to walk the proposed trail alignment on June 5th and help MCL review the County's analysis on slope stability, etc.

DISCUSSION AND INFORMATION ITEMS:

- 1) Roger and Nona briefed the POSC on the MCOSD Public Meeting on May 12th

regarding the proposed MCOSD Vegetation Management Plan. Unfortunately, there were only 6-8 members of the public in attendance at this meeting. The MCOSD has divided and mapped its open space lands into 4 zones : (Legacy, Restoration, Enhancement , and Urban Interface & Highly Disturbed Zones) each of which will be managed differently using adaptive management methods over time. The MCOSD is studying 4 different alternative Management Concepts, 2 of which seem to be preferable from the standpoint of protecting habitat and biodiversity, but which are estimated to require increased funding support of between 10% to 50% over current levels. The MCOSD plans to present its Draft Vegetation Management Plan to the Open Space District Board (The BOS) this summer to be followed by a program EIR. The MCOSD staff stressed that the goal of the Vegetation Management Plan is to manage for Bio-Diversity yet fulfill fire management needs and help the District to prioritize projects

- 2) Roger reported that it was his understanding that there has been no change in the status of the Open Space Acquisition Opportunity on Upper Cascade Drive in Mill Valley. The property is still on the market for sale.
- 3) Roger also reported that Derek Cavasian is still pursuing options with the City of San Rafael for the restoration of the Smith Ranch Pond. Questions regarding scheduling and permitting of the necessary work still need to be resolved. He will generate an estimate of the total cost for doing the restoration work and how best to divide the project into phases that might be executed and funded independently. MCL needs to help locate a wetland restoration consultant to help oversee the project, hopefully on a pro bono or reduced cost basis.
- 3) Nona reported that she had been informed by Janet Klein from the staff of MMWD regarding their attempts to obtain grant (Proposition 84) funding for establishment of a MMWD Education – Visitor Interpretative Center near Lake Lagunitas and the Bon Tempe Reservoir . This proposed project is only in the concept phase at this time, and will be on the agenda as an information item of the MMWD Board Meeting , Wednesday May 19th . Roger agreed to attend the MMWD Board Meeting to find out more about this proposal, its scope and cost, etc.

The POSC meeting adjourned at 5PM.