

DRAFT

MARIN CONSERVATION LEAGUE

Parks and Open Space Committee Meeting
July 8, 2010
Meeting Minutes

ATTENDEES: Betsy Bikle, Nona Dennis, Robert Eichstaedt, Mary Hanley, Delos Putz, Roger Roberts, , and Jean Starkweather

ANNOUNCEMENTS: 1) MCL's Picnic on the Porch – July 24th (3-6PM). 2) MCL CEQA Essentials, a Free Public Workshop on July 28th (7-9PM).

APPROVAL OF THE POSC MEETING MINUTES for June 10, 2010: The draft POSC Meeting Minutes of June 10, 2010 were accepted and approved as presented.

ACTION ITEMS: None

DISCUSSION AND INFORMATION ITEMS:

- 1) Roger and Nona provided an update on the status of the Marin Baylands Campaign to acquire the Mira Monte Marsh site on the Petaluma River. An information circular on this planned acquisition was handed out to all those in attendance. Committee members were encouraged to pass this information along to others in their respective communities and networks.
- 2) The status of the proposed "680 Trail" Project Plans by the Marin County Open Space District (MCOSD) was discussed briefly. The Initial Study and Negative Declaration environmental assessment is not yet completed for Public review and comment. Nonetheless, it is expected to be made public sometime within the next few weeks. Reportedly, the MCOSD is proceeding carefully and deliberately with this new multi-use trail project.
- 3) In Derek Cavasian's absence, Rogers reported on the status of the Smith Ranch Pond Restoration Project. He handed out a City of San Rafael Memorandum of the meeting of June 28th regarding the plans for this Restoration effort. Some progress is being made on developing a plan to proceed. The first step will be to have an updated biological assessment of the site which is to be done by Jeff Alvarez, a Wildlife Biologist, in preparation for a introductory multi-agency meeting with the Regional Water Quality Control Board et al in August. (Copies of this June 28th Meeting Memorandum are available for interested parties on request.)
- 4) Roger reported that he had spoken with Bob Brown, Director of the Community Development Dept. of the City of San Rafael, concerning the

Status of the Smith Ranch Airport Soccer Complex Project. Bob Brown stated that the project proponent has provided the funds necessary to complete the FEIR which is expected to be released for public review and comment sometime in August or early September.

- 5) The American Trails Council e-mail Action Alert regarding the Recreation Trails Program (RTP) re-authorization legislation was handed out and Discussed. Apparently, this is part of national transportation legislation that is pending. None of the Committee members present was familiar with the RTP scope and objectives. Consequently, Robert Eichstaedt agreed to research this Congressional legislation and report back to the Committee.
- 6) Roger shared a report from Joyce Britt and John Leonard regarding the Upper Cascade Drive Open Space Access Acquisition Opportunity in Mill Valley. The cabin and middle lots have been sold in May for \$585,000. The remaining 1.5 + acre lot is still on the market for \$300,000. There is a road easement which will provide access to the two lots that have been sold without the necessity of bridging Cascade Creek. This easement is also used as part of the Tenderfoot Trail access to the Open Space areas above. In view of this purchase, John Leonard has asked that MCL help track any development proposals for these parcels to ensure that public access to the Open Space is preserved and Cascade Creek is protected.
- 7) Betsy Bikle raised the question of preservation of access to Kite Hill and the Northridge through the proposed development of 20 units on 1.2 acres at the corner of Camino Alto and Blithedale Ave. Some of the neighbors in Mill Valley would like to see the site preserved as much as possible in order to provide an access point to Kite Hill and the Northridge Open Space Areas. It was pointed out that this project is more properly the responsibility of the Land Use Committee which has already decided not to follow it inasmuch as the project is not considered to be a site of countywide significance. However, if a neighborhood campaign to preserve access through the purchase of an access easement ensues, MCL may be approached for its assistance through the Lands In Between Program.
- 8) Nona reported on an inquiry she had received from a consultant to MMWD regarding the establishment of a Friends of MMWD non-profit organization. Members of the POSC provided comments and questions for her to raise with the consultant concerning the need and purpose of such a new environmental organization that may dilute the efforts of and funding for existing environmental entities in Marin.

The POSC Meeting adjourned at 5:15 PM.