

MARIN CONSERVATION LEAGUE
Parks and Open Space Committee
September 14, 2017, 3:00 – 5:00

MINUTES

ATTENDEES: Nona Dennis, Chair, Greg Zitney, Linda Novy, Larry Minikes, Kate Powers, Roger Roberts, Tom Boss, Susan Stompe, Rick Frites, Robert Eichstaedt, Larry Scheibel, Eva Buxton, Arlin Weinberger, Joyce Britt, Al Baumann, Rich Petersen, Michael Ardito, Priscilla Bull, Ann Thomas, Steve Peterlee and Jon Campo (MCP), Mike Swezy (MMWD), Sharon Farrell (One Tam), and Mia Monroe, GGNRA.

Meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS and CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: 1) MCL Bus-Env.Breakfast, “Wildlife Corridors,” Sept. 15, McInnis Park Clubhouse; 2)Coastal Cleanup Day, Sept. 21; 3) MMWD Watershed Committee, Sept 21; 4) County P&OS Commission meeting, Sept. 21; 5) One Tam “Tam’s Wild Side” symposium, Oct. 26, 10:00 – 3:30 p.m., and TamTalk, 4:30 – 6:00, Marin Art and Garden Center; 6) Volunteer Work weekend to repair Shoreline Trail, China Camp SP, Sept 22-23

MINUTES of August 10, 2017, were approved.

INFORMATION UPDATES:

1. Marin Parks and Open Space:

Steve Peterlee, MCP Principal Landscape Architect, presented a status report on new and ongoing County Park projects. He began by recounting the brief history starting in the early 1970s, when Marin had four main parks: McInnis, Paradise (acquired in 1958), McNear's Beach (acquired in 1970), Creekside, and Stafford Lake. After Prop 13 there was little money to work with. Piers were added to McNear and Paradise Parks, but funding for parks and open space dried up completely by the 1990s – with the exception of basic maintenance, the only additions to the park system were a skate park and two boat launches.

All that changed with passage of Measure A in 2012, which has provided funds for a host of projects. Some are system wide, such as amenities like site furnishings (benches, trash facilities) and infrastructure repair; new signage in process (including new monument signs at four regional parks (McInnis, McNear, Paradise, and Stafford Lake). Many specific park projects also have been enabled by Measure A funds: additions of pier railing at Paradise Park and pier repairs both Paradise and McNear's Beach park and repaved entry at McNear's; switchback trail installed at Paradise Park for accessibility; infrastructure replacement (e.g., culvert at Creekside (Hal Brown Jr.); repaving of Mill Valley-Sausalito MUP and improvements to Corte Madera Creek MUP; enhancements at McInnis Park – paving tennis courts, staff facilities, construction drawings in process to implement Master Plan; improvements to Novato Bike Path to Stafford Lake, funding of

Safford Lake Bike Park Phase I and II; Other Master plans are underway or completed at McNear's Beach (an eventual \$35 M investment). Projects have been funded at several local parks, e.g., art walls for kids' art work in Santa Venetia and Hal Brown Jr. Parks. Projects are upcoming for Bothin Marsh, which will be tied into planning for sea level rise, and at McInnis Marsh, where restoration to tidal marsh is planned.

Steve said that it is a rewarding time to be working for County Parks!

Road and Trail Management Plan. Nona reported briefly that MCL, Marin Audubon, and CNPS's law suit against the County in regard to the Hunt Camp Trail project was filed and litigants are waiting for a date to discuss possible settlement terms with the County. Jon Campo reported that staff is studying proposed shifts in designation, including realigning and narrowing some redundant fire roads, on Mt. Burdell and Rush Creek OSPs. Alignments will be designed to avoid legacy zone areas. One proposed social trail redesignation was removed from the trail map of Rush Creek (near Bahia Trail) to avoid fragmenting blue oak woodland. The Environmental Roundtable convened by Jon Campo on August 24 was a productive meeting – an opportunity to identify environmental issues before they become sources of controversy.

2. MMWD

Mike Swezy updated the committee on ongoing work on the watershed: Slide repair is out to bid; work in Lagunitas Creek downstream of Platform Bridge involves installing large woody debris and areas of refuge to improve salmonid, especially juvenile, habitat; the district is working with other agencies to monitor Lagunitas Creek for evidence of Japanese knotweed, a highly invasive plant that is appearing in Marin waterways; the district is beginning a second phase of forest understory grooming on Bolinas Ridge. The Azalea Hill Restoration Project Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration was released for 30-day public comment on September 8; comments due October 9. It will go to the MMWD Board on Oct. 17.

3. Tamalpais Lands Collaborative:

Sharon Farrell gave a brief overview of the 2017-2018 One Tam work plan, including possible new projects to help with funding: Azalea Hill project, Dipsea Bridge in Muir Woods, Potrero Meadow restoration, expand Early Detection/Rapid Response program into Sam Taylor SP (108 miles –about 1/3 of mileage on the mountain – have been completed). Roger Roberts, a member of MMWD's CAC on One Tam projects, reported that the CAC is interested in One Tam's next 5-year strategy and how results will be measured, e.g., the outcomes of science projects. CAC is also interested in having studies of hydrology of the mountain go into depth in 2018 – to better understand hydrologic functions and establish metrics to monitor change over time.

An exhibit of Baywood Artists will be held Oct. 6 – 8 at Marin Art and Garden Center to benefit One Tam. A reception will be held on Oc. 6. As reported earlier, OneTam will hold a Science Symposium with a focus on wildlife, on October 26, 10:00 – 3:30 at the

Marin Art and Garden Center, followed by a “Tam Talk” session with the One Tam Executive Committee from 4:30 – 6:00.

4. State Parks

Arlin Weinberger reported that the Roots and Branches “Sound Summit” was held on Sept. 9. We have not heard what profits will be donated to Mt. Tam SP. Previous profits have amounted to \$25,000 and \$40,000, and have funded specific projects. We do not know who is monitoring expenditures, in that SP staff is shorthanded. Arlin is trying to reach Ryan Goering for further information. Friends of Mt. Tam will host a walk-about on Verna Dunshee Trail and Gravity Car Barn (East Peak) on Oct. 28.

5. National Parks:GGNRA

Mia Monroe reported on several current actions by NPS in general, and at GGNRA and Muir Woods. The Director’s Order 100, produced by out-going NPS Director Jon Jarvis to create a vision for the future that promoted science-based decision-making adaptive management, and encouraged more diverse visitorship, has been rescinded, with no replacement document. The biggest local news is that a concessionaire will be announced imminently to manage the Muir Woods parking reservation system. NPS expects the system to be activated mid Jan-early Feb. 2018. Bicycles will not need reservations, nor will walk-ins. Only cars need parking reservations. NPS will monitor visitations, impacts, and management tools as the system gets under way.

Mia also updated several projects: The PWA sediment study of several years ago has been reviewed and a final report details 100 actions for reducing sediment into the watershed and makes recommendations on all. Western pond turtles, an endangered species, have been released in Big Lagoon, Muir Beach. NPS is upgrading trail signs, placing information kiosks in several locations. They are working regularly on various projects with several staff from the Marin Sector, State Parks, office in joint teams, including sign management and invasive weed abatement.

6. Trail Partners

Trail Partners will host a “Slow and Say Hello” outpost with MMWD on September 30 in front of the Log Cabin, Phoenix Lake, which will be open to visitors that day. The next outpost will be hosted at Tennessee Valley trailhead on October 28. Small “Say and Say Hello” signs will be posted on main sign boards being developed for Open space Preserve trailheads.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:00

Minutes by Nona Dennis