

MARIN CONSERVATION LEAGUE
PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE MEETING
MARCH 10, 2011
MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDEES: Betsy Bikle, Joyce Britt, Priscilla Bull, Nona Dennis, Robert Eichstaedt, Delos Putz, Larry Minikes, Roger Roberts, Jean Starkweather, Susan Stompe

ANNOUNCEMENTS: 1) MCOSD Road & Trail management Plan & Environmental Impact Report Community Workshop, Saturday, March 26, 2011, (9AM – 3 PM) at the Marin County Health & Wellness Center, Connections Center, 3240 Kerner Blvd., San Rafael, 2) The GGNRA Dog Management Plan and DEIS Public Comment Period is now running and will expire on April 14, 2011. 3) Because of the need to use the MCL Office as a staging area for MCL's Annual Dinner on April 15th, THE REGULAR APRIL POSC MEETING DATE IS BEING CHANGED FROM APRIL 14th TO APRIL 21st.

APPROVAL OF THE POSC MEETING MINUTES for February 10, 2011: The Draft Minutes of the POSC Meeting on February 10, 2011 were accepted and approved as presented..

ACTION ITEMS: None

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- 1) Linda Dahl, Director of Marin County's Parks and Open Space District came to the POSC Meeting and provided information on the MCOSD Roads and Trails Management Plan (RTMP) Process, an update on the Stafford Lake Bike Parks Plans, and the pending reorganization of the County's Parks & Open Space Commission.
 - a) The RTMP process will take much of 2011. There will be 4 community workshops, the first of which is on March 26th as noted above and will Include a summary of the history of the MCOSD and the sources of its Mission and Goals, a presentation on Existing Conditions including the development of the Vegetation Management Plan and areas of special habitat concerns plus the footprint of existing roads and trails, and an introductory discussion and review of Future Desired Conditions. This is intended to set the stage for better understanding of the User Capacity of the county's opens space preserves. The second community workshop is being scheduled in June. MCOSD is hopeful of having a good turnout for these workshops with a continuity of community representatives in attendance.

- b) The Stafford Lake Bike Park planning is proceeding on schedule with the next workshop to be held in Novato at the Senior Center on March 19th. This will be a Design workshop exercise to seek public input on the actual layout and design features of the park. The MCOSD is encouraged by the level of community interest in this project and the participation of youth and biking groups in this project planning.
 - c) The proposed reorganization of the Marin County Parks and Open Space Commission will be on the Agenda of the Board of Supervisors meeting on March 29th. The number of commissioners and the composition of the Commission will be discussed. The MCOSD feels that there needs to be Broader representation from the community , e.g. including Education, Minority, and Philanthropic groups. She would like to have a working Commission that can assist with mobilizing funding and volunteer support to fulfill the MCOSD mission and long term sustainability.
- 2) Ann Barath, Anne Glasscock, and Jim Mc Dermott from Marin Stables in Fairfax made a presentation on its operations which occupy 2 & ½ acres next to a tributary stream in the Corte Madera Creek watershed.. Marin Stables is a non-profit organization that provides a public boarding stable for up to 40 horses. It operates under a 30 year lease from the MMWD which was established in 2008. Marin Stables is under water quality regulatory oversight by MMWD, provides creek water samples to MMWD for analysis, and states that they have been in compliance for water quality despite their proximity to the creek. They use special pine based bedding material obtained from Canada which is collected daily. They are in the process of developing a Master Plan for their operation this year which will include environmental impact analysis . Owners of horses kept at Marin Stables use their Arena plus takes rides on the roads and designated trails of MMWD in the vicinity. They also provide outreach to groups in the community including school children, seniors and the disabled.
- 3) The GGNRA Dog Management Plan and EIS was discussed generally. MCL intends to comment on this plan by the April 14th deadline. Delos, Roger .and Nona will draft the letter recognizing that GGNRA is designated as an Urban National Park. and, therefore, must provide for recreation opportunities to a wide variety of users while also protecting special habitat areas within GGNRA Park boundaries.
- 4) The review hike of the proposed realignment of the Azalea Trail on MMWD lands is now scheduled for 1 o'clock Friday afternoon , March 25th. All interested persons are urged to come along.
- 5) The POSC Committee also discussed the March 3d MCL Comment Letter to MCOSD regarding the RTMP and EIR process. It was suggested that a follow-up letter be sent to MCOSD to clarify the original designation of use of all the acquired parcels in order to help further inform the RTMP process.

The POSC Meeting adjourned at 5:20 PM.