

MARIN CONSERVATION LEAGUE
Parks and Open Space Committee Meeting
April 15 . 2010
Final Meeting Minutes
Accepted and Approved May 13, 2010

ATTENDEES: Derek Cavasian, Nona Dennis, Robert Eichstaedt, Paula Lucchesi, Roger Roberts, Jean Starkweather, Susan Stompe, Delos Putz.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: 1) The GGNRA will be having their Diaz Ridge Trail Dedication on May 8th. 2) The Tamalpais Conservation Club (TCC) Annual Dinner will also be on May 8th. 3) Copies of the Marin County Dept. of Agriculture letter to Nurseries in Marin discouraging the sale of listed Non-Native Invasive Plants were passed out along with copies of the U.C Cooperative Extension List of Pyrophytic VS, Fire Resistant Plants.

APPROVAL OF THE POSC MEETING MINUTES for March 11, 2010. - The Draft POSC Meeting Minutes for March 11, 2010 were accepted and approved as presented.

ACTION ITEMS: None.

DISCUSSION AND INFORMATION ITEMS:

- 1) Roger and Nona led an active discussion on the "680 Trail" Workshop held by the Marin County Open Space District (MCOSD) on April 13th. The MCOSD is proceeding with an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration on the revised alignment which is expected to be issued in June followed by a 30 day comment period. Committee members expressed concern over the short timetable and the ability to respond to the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration if it should be deemed inadequate. Challenging the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration within the 30 day Comment Period would be a difficult task inasmuch as such a challenge must present fair and substantial arguments that it fails to meet the legal requirements under CEQA. While the new "680 Trail" alignment is an improvement, there are still significant geotechnical, watershed, and maintenance issues involved due to the steep slope and wet areas of the proposed trail. (Note: The MCOSD will hold another "680 Trail" Information Hike on May 8th)
- 2) Roger reported that the Petition Drive for the California State Parks Independent Funding Initiative has been successful in gathering over 760,000 signatures state wide. The Petitions are now in the process of being delivered to all the County Registrars of Voters for verification. The total

number of valid signatures required to place this initiative on the ballot in November is approximately 433,000.

- 3) Via e-mail, Joyce Britt reported that there has been no change in the status of the Upper Cascade Drive "Cotter" property sale in Mill Valley. She is exploring the possibility of having a surveyor help with clarifying access problems associated with the road easement to the farthest lot from the Tenderfoot Trail. She believes that without dealing with that easement, acquiring either of the other two lots in order to gain access to the Open Space lands above may not be worthwhile.
- 4) Derek Cavasian reported on the progress he is making with the Restoration Project at Smith Ranch Pond in San Rafael. An estimate for partial dredging totaling \$48,000 has been received. Since this would not eliminate the Ludwigia infestation (The whole pond must be dredged to a minimum of a 5 foot depth to prevent the Ludwigia from re-establishing itself.), he recommends consideration of draining the pond entirely in the late summer and using earth moving equipment at less cost to accomplish the pond deepening portion of the pond restoration. This approach /method would also allow the pond deepening to be done much more quickly than the use of a mobile dredge. The sediment material removed from the pond would be placed on site as a berm for the pond on the south and west sides of the pond area.

He will be meeting with Paul Jensen in the City of San Rafael's Community Development/Planning Department to discuss this further. He also expects that various private construction and engineering firms locally can be brought into this effort on a pro bono donation basis to help with the project in due course.

The Committee recognized that it would also be important to bring in a wetland restoration consultant to help manage/supervise and guide the work to be performed. It was also recognized that it will be necessary to break the whole project up into phases that could be funded and completed separately over several years. Derek will look into how that might best be done and what would be the total estimated cost of the Smith Ranch Pond Restoration project.

The meeting adjourned at 5PM.