

MARIN CONSERVATION LEAGUE

**Parks and Open Space Committee Meeting
June 14, 2012**

FINAL MINUTES

ATTENDEES: Nona Dennis, Chair; Greg Zitney, Ernie Stanton, Susan Stompe, Jill Templeton, Delos Putz, Eva Buxton, Arlene Halligan, Roger Roberts, Doug Wilson, and Ron Miska, Marin County Parks.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: 1) Fund Raiser for Friends of China Camp, June 20, San Francisco Maritime Museum, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.; 2) MCL 12th Walk into (Conservation) History, Mt. Tamalpais – Mt. Tam State Park and MMWD Watershed, Saturday September 22.

MINUTES for May 9, 2012 – Approved

ACTION ITEMS: None

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- 1) State Parks in Marin: China Camp Ernie Stanton reported that the FOCC has submitted their proposal to State Parks for a three-year operating agreement for China Camp SP, pursuant to AB 42. The proposal is being reviewed by General Services and should be approved sometime in July. In the meantime, an Early Entry Agreement will allow Marin State Parks Association (FOCC) to retain all fees collected at China Camp as of July 1. Discussions are continuing on the amount for parking (probably will continue at \$5.00) and trail usage fees for both bikers and hikers. Annual passes will also be available. Details are being worked out. The “Kinsail Plan” to collect fees from cars entering from either end of San Pedro Road is “off the table.” Pay stations are being purchased from “Ventek” to be placed next to ranger collection pay kiosks. A training program in natural history has been initiated to train volunteer docents. Funds are still being sought for park operation.
- 2) State Parks in Marin: Olompali: The Olompali proposal for a one-year operating agreement is also being processed at the state level. Olompali will need to develop a broader program than it has at present to enable a partial open schedule. They are considering sharing a maintenance person with China Camp SP.
- 3) State Parks – Status of Bills’ Trail Final EIR and Draft Program EIR for Statewide Trail Change-in-Use: The Final EIR for Bills’ Trail is expected to be released by the end of June. The Draft Program EIR for the Statewide trail-change-in-use program is having a “screen check” by end of June, and should be released for public review late July.
- 4) Open Space and Agricultural Ballot Measure and Expenditure Plan. The discussion focused on developing a recommendation to send to the MCL Board for an expenditure plan for expected proceeds from a 1/8 or 1/4 cent sales tax measure, if successful. The committee agreed on the rough allocation of revenues from a tax

measure as previously outlined: 20% to the MALT agricultural easement program; 10% to local community parks; and 70% to Parks Department to be used for stewardship, maintenance, parks, and acquisition. The Committee also agreed generally that the County should go for the higher tax (1/4 cent) rather than the lower, if the survey results indicate sufficient voter support.

Regarding the expenditure plan: After some discussion, the committee used the Parks Department Questionnaire (attached) to come up with ballpark percentages for allocation of proceeds from the tax measure.

- Questions 1., 2. and 6. Maintain existing resources and facilities – combined under the general category of protection of OSP natural resources, and maintenance of existing infrastructure and facilities, including decommissioning and restoration of inappropriate trails. Everyone agreed that this category should be given highest priority, or 50 to 60 percent allocation.

- Questions 3., 5. and 7. Capital improvements in active recreation – combined under the general category of new capital improvements (including trails) and facilities in parks, and acquisition of lands for active recreation. Everyone agreed that this category should be given lowest priority in times of limited resources, or 0 percent allocation).

- Question 6. – Natural lands acquisition – acquisition of additional natural lands for natural resource protection. Some stated that other funding sources always seem to be found when lands become available, but the majority felt that the County needs to be prepared for acquisition opportunities by having sufficient funds to leverage grants and other funding sources and to retain sufficient flexibility to be able to react quickly to acquire lands where possible. 20 percent allocation. (Note that the second half of the question is ambiguous – i.e., “. . . acquire land for . . . access in preserves; this needs to be clarified as to type of access. Is the Morrison property addition to Giacomini OSP an example of this?).

- Question 8. Ranger staff – support sufficient staff to provide strong interpretive education and volunteer programs, and on-trail maintenance, user-support, and enforcement – Everyone agrees that the Department preserves and other lands benefit from positive interactions between ranger staff and the public (visitors), therefore suggests 20 to 25 percent allocation for personnel).

- Question 9. Contingencies – A category was added to the list to allow for contingencies. Depending on the combination of other categories, this would warrant a 5 percent allocation, if other categories were reduced.

Recommendations will go to the MCL Board for discussion, and then to the Parks Department by June 20. The Parks Commission will discuss inputs from various sources on June 28 at their 1:30 meeting and come up with a draft expenditure plan to go to the BOS.

- 5) Americas Cup 34 Draft Environmental Assessment (GGNRA, Presidio Trust, U.S. Coast Guard, and Corps of Engineers). The EA is available for public comments. GGNRA will hold an open house on Thursday, June 21 from 6:30 to 9:00 at the Golden Gate Club, 135 Fisher Loop on the Main Post of the Presidio.
- 6) Anniversaries of Parks and Open Space in Marin in 2012. Ongoing. Tomales Bay State Park will celebrate 60 years in November; watch web sites for further information on this and other anniversary events.

7) San Rafael Airport Soccer Complex Update. The San Rafael Planning Commission heard public testimony on the merits of the project on May 29, and continued the meeting to receive Commission comments on June 6, at which time the Commission voted to recommend approval of the plan to the City Council. MCL has opposed this project for more than 6 years, as too large and intense for the sensitivity of the site.

Next meeting: Thursday, July 12, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00
Minutes by Nona Dennis