

## MARIN CONSERVATION LEAGUE

### Parks and Open Space Committee Meeting September 13, 2012

#### MINUTES

ATTENDEES: Nona Dennis, Chair; Greg Zitney, Ernie Stanton, Susan Stompe, Delos Putz, Larry Minikes, John Natt, Arlene Halligan, Eva Buxton, Ann Thomas, Judy Teichman.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: 1) Coastal Clean-up, September 15, 9:30 a.m. – three sites in Novato, Sausalito, and Mahon Creek, San Rafael; 2) MCL 12<sup>th</sup> Walk into (Conservation) History, Mt. Tamalpais, September 22, 9:30 – 1:30; 3) Parks Commission meeting, Sept 20, cancelled; 4) MCL Business-Environment Breakfast – Marin Carbon Project, Dr. Whendee Silver, Principal Investigator, September 28, 7:30 – 9:00 a.m., Embassy Suites; 5) Marin County Parks' dedication of Manzanita Fire Road acquisition, October 5, at 10:00, San Geronimo; 6) TCC fund-raising event, October 6, "Tam-a-thon"; 7) MCL Office Move month of October to 175 N. Redwood Drive, Suite 135; 8) Marin County Parks Road and Trail Management Plan public meeting, October 29, 6:00 – 8:00 (confirm time) p.m., Wellness Center, San Rafael.

MINUTES for August 9, 2012 – Approved

ACTION ITEMS: None

#### INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- 1) State Parks: China Camp State Park: Ernie Stanton updated the Committee that since FOCC began operating the park, weekends are full and revenues are coming in, at \$35./night. Reservations have been available on-line since July. Current accommodations are 30 sites, at 8 per site. They will add a group site for 30 to 40 in spring, and three more sites, plus hike & bike sites (numbers need to be confirmed?). Automated pay stations are on hold pending available technology to comply with ADA requirements (Braille and sond). All funds stay with the park. Friends of China Camp will celebrate the opening on October 14, beginning at 11:00 a.m., with a BBQ at the Village, music , etc.
- 2) State Parks: Olompali: Susan reported the The Olompali People cannot go with a full operating agreement due to liability expense. In order to keep the park open seven days a week and ensure that fees stay with the Park, however, they are applying for an operating agreement for the parking lot only. Fees will remain with the park. More volunteers are being trained to guide and carry out other tasks, and a number of people have applied to be Camp Hosts
- 3) State Parks: Two bills have passed the legislature and will be signed by the governor: Assembly Bill 1478 (Blumenfield) will return the "found" \$20.5 million to keep parks open, address critical maintenance issues, and provide matching funds to individuals and entities that made donations to State Parks. It also establishes criteria for membership on the State Parks commission, including specific experience and skills in business, nonprofit management, conservation, cultural and historic resource management, park professional management and others.

Assembly Bill 1589 (Huffman) is an attempt to help solve the budget challenges facing the department, explore alternative revenue streams, and limit the number of state park closures. It requires the department to develop an action plan, including revenue generating opportunities.

- 4) Mt. Tamalpais State Park: Larry Minikes gave more details about the TCC centennial event at the Mountain Theater – “Mt. Tam Jam” – scheduled for June 22, 2013, 11:00 – 6:30. Larry explained that because this is specifically for the purpose of raising funds for the park (to fund an additional ranger) it will not set a precedent for any other similar events. TCC is sponsoring a “Tamathon” on October 6 to raise funds. At \$100 per entry, walkers, bikers, and equestrians are invited to participate.
  
- 5) MMWD Draft Vegetation Management Plan has been released for public review and an EIR will be prepared. A general information meeting on the Plan was held September 11, and an EIR Scoping meeting will be conducted in mid-October. Two alternative approaches based on IPM methods for abating invasive plant species are presented in the plan. One approach would use organic herbicides, and the other would use chemical herbicides – both in conjunction with mechanical and other eradication methods. Opposition mounted against the latter alternative is threatening to put an initiative on the ballot that would ban the use of any chemical herbicide in the watershed. MCL’s recommendation is that the EIR go ahead and examine both approaches, and that no decision be made until The Draft EIR can be reviewed by the public and the Final EIR completed in 2013. It was suggested that MCL set up a tour of some of the most threatened areas in the watershed for interested persons. Any questions or issues for the scope of the Draft EIR should be sent to MCL, attention: Parks & Open space Committee.
  
- 6) Parks, Open Space and Agricultural Preservation – Ballot Measure A. The campaign for Measure A is in motion, and volunteers are needed to solicit more funds for campaign materials, distribute leaflets, put up signs, circulate bumper stickers, get endorsements, etc. Campaign materials can be picked up at the MCL office.
  
- 7) San Rafael Airport Soccer Complex Update. The City Council hearing on the Final EIR certification and merits of this project was delayed in order to resolve a possible conflict of interest on the part of the Mayor. That has been resolved, but the hearing has not been scheduled. MCL continues to oppose the project.

Next meeting: Thursday, October 11 , 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. MCL new office location: 175 N. Redwood Drive, San Rafael.

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