

**MARIN COUNTY COUNCIL OF MAYORS AND COUNCILMEMBERS  
MINUTES**

**Wednesday, January 26, 2011  
Hosted by the City of Mill Valley  
Mill Valley Community Center**

**Members Present**

Belvedere: Sandra Donnell

Corte Madera: Alexandra Cock, Bob Ravasio

Fairfax: Larry Bragman, David Weinsoff

Larkspur: Larry Chu, Dan Hillmer, Joan Lundstrom, Len Rifkind

Mill Valley: Andy Berman, Garry Lion, Shawn Marshall, Stephanie Moulton-Peters, Ken Wachtel

Novato: Carole Dillon-Knutson, Madeline Kellner

Ross: No members present

San Anselmo: Kay Coleman, Ford Greene, Jeff Kroot

San Rafael: Al Boro, Greg Brockbank, Damon Connolly, Barbara Heller, Marc Levine

Sausalito: Carolyn Ford, Michael Kelley, Jonathan Leone, Linda Pfeiffer, Herb Weiner

Tiburon: Jim Fraser, Alice Fredericks, Jeff Slavitz

Also present were the following City and Town Managers: George Rodericks, Belvedere; Dan Schwarz, Larkspur; Jim McCann, Mill Valley; Michael Frank, Novato; Debra Stutsman, San Anselmo; Jim Schutz, Interim City Manager, San Rafael.

**Call to Order:** President Marshall called the business meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**Public Comment:**

An announcement was made of an upcoming event entitled, "California Crack-Up" at Dominican University on Sunday from 3 – 5 p.m.

**Welcome and Introduction of Guests:** Mayor Wachtel welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the members of the Mill Valley City Council (all present) and City Staff: City Manager Jim McCann, City Attorney Greg Stepanicich, Director of Finance Eric Erickson, Director of Planning and Building Michael Moore, Police Chief Angel Bernal, Fire Chief Greg Moore, Director of Public Works Jill Barnes, City Librarian Anji Brenner, Director of Parks & Recreation Christine Sansom, and Deputy City Clerk Kimberly Wilson. Mayor Wachtel gave special thanks to Deputy City Clerk Kimberly Wilson for organizing the event.

Mayor Wachtel welcomed guests Supervisor Susan Adams (Board President), Supervisors Charles McGlashan and Steve Kinsey, Maureen Parton, aide to Supervisor McGlashan, League of Women Voters representative Patsy White, League of California Cities Regional Public Affairs Manager Nancy Hall Bennett, Speaker Mary Murtagh, Marin Continuum of Housing Services Executive Director Dave Coury, and guest of the city, Elizabeth Moody.

Mayor Wachtel turned the meeting back over to President Marshall, who moved on to the Business Meeting:

**Approval of Minutes:** From the meeting held on November 18, 2010

*Motion and second to approve the minutes. Motion passed by acclamation.*

**Action Item - Appointments to fill 2011 Committee Vacancies**

- SMART (Sonoma/Marin Area Rail Transit Commission) – (Nominee must be TAM commissioner or alternate, not from Novato or San Rafael; term is two years; incumbent Joan Lundstrom's term expires in January 2011)

*Moved) and seconded to nominate Joan Lundstrom to another term. Motion passed by acclamation.*

- Marin County Transit District Board of Directors – (Appointment of delegate and alternate to two-year terms; terms of incumbent delegate Madeline Kellner and alternate Stephanie Moulton-Peters expire in January 2011)

Nominations Received: Madeline Kellner; Stephanie Moulton-Peters  
Nominations from the Floor:

*Moved and seconded to nominate Madeline Kellner as delegate and Stephanie Moulton-Peters, alternate, to serve another term on the Board. Motion passed by acclamation.*

- Metropolitan Transportation Commission – (MCCMC can submit the names of up to three nominees to Board of Supervisors for one appointment; appointee serves a four-year term ; incumbent Steve Kinsey was nominated at November 2010 meeting)

*Moved (Boro) and seconded (Moulton-Peters) to nominate Steve Kinsey to the Board. Motion passed by acclamation.*

President Marshall announced the following vacancies:

**Announcement of current or pending Committee vacancies – (Appointments to be made at February 23, 2011 meeting)**

- League of California Cities, North Bay Division, Executive Committee – (Greg Brockbank and Jonathan Leone, incumbents) – Brockbank currently serves as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, thereby creating an opening for another Marin County representative on the committee; appointments are made annually for calendar year;
- Major Crimes Task Force – (Citizen representative Ed Schulz has served one year and seeks reappointment to a full, two-year term, beginning in odd-numbered year, 2011).

**Committee Reports:**

- ABAG (Carole Dillon-Knutson)

Carole Dillon Knutson reported that as a member of the ABAG Legislative Committee, she was engaged with other members of the committee and MTC in a discussion of the RHNA numbers. She also reported on the ABAG 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary event, as well as a Legislative Committee function to be held on February 16.

- Disaster Advisory Committee (Len Rifkind)

Len Rifkind distributed a copy of his report on the December 9, 2010 meeting. Rifkind said that he had been appointed chair by Supervisor Adams of a subcommittee for Public Disaster Education and Preparedness. The subcommittee will report and provide recommendations to the larger group and will seek to work with each jurisdiction to promote resident and business preparedness for disasters. It will also seek to help close the communication gap between agencies in times of disaster. Rifkind also said that work will begin on the seismic retrofitting of Marin General Hospital with a goal of completing the work by 2018.

- Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District (Al Boro)

Al Boro said that the Board had voted to eliminate toll-takers as a cost-saving measure. He said that an electronic toll system would be installed at a cost of \$8 million but would save the District \$19 million over the same period. He said that other cost-saving measures were a reduction of ferry runs in the winter as well as a reduced summer schedule between April 1 and September 30. Boro also reported that the General Manager position had been filled from within the organization.

- Marin County Committee on Homelessness Policy (Greg Brockbank)

Greg Brockbank said that he had been appointed, along with Councilmember Rifkind, to represent the cities on the Homeless Policy Steering Committee, by Supervisors Adam and Kinsey. He said a group was being formed to work on a revitalization plan to end homelessness in 10 years. He said that Diane Lin, Director of Ritter House, would be an excellent speaker if any city was looking for one in future.

- Transportation Authority of Marin (Alice Fredericks)

Alice Fredericks reported that the Lincoln Hill tunnel was now open to bicycle and pedestrian traffic, and that there had been a celebration of its opening. She said that the Central Marin Ferry MUP would close the gap between the Cal Park tunnel and the East/West multi-use path adjacent to Sir Francis Drake Boulevard. Fredericks also said the TAM board had received good news that Measure A funding was 5.7% higher than last year.

- Legislative Committee (Alice Fredericks)

Alice Fredericks said the committee had received a report from Hugh Brower about the current issues in the State Capitol concerning possible elimination of redevelopment agencies in the Governor's proposed budget. She also distributed copies of a Huffman proposed bill (AB 37) that would require more disclosure and reporting from the utilities regarding smart meters.

- League of California Cities (Nancy Hall Bennett)

Nancy Bennett also discussed the possible elimination of redevelopment agencies and said that it would not help balance the state budget because it was only a short-term "fix" which would have long-term consequences if the agencies are eliminated. She said that the League had prepared a letter to the Governor opposing his proposal and asked the cities to sign the letter.

President Marshall said that after hearing the presentation by Hugh Bower, she had concluded that abolishment of RDA was not, in fact, a way to "share the pain" in balancing the state budget. She said that Mr. Bower's report had provided her with a more complete picture of what cities stood to lose if redevelopment funding is abolished and that education would not stand to gain, either.

- SMART (Joan Lundstrom)

Joan Lundstrom reported on the items heard and actions taken at the December 15, 2010 and January 19, 2011 meetings: a) Peer review of SMART Sales Tax Forecast by Dr. Eyler of Sonoma State who said it may be slightly more aggressive than it should be; b) MTC Review also questioned the projected 4% sales tax estimate, which has in fact been around 2.9% in the near term resulting in a potential of up to \$62 million less bonding capacity; MTC also stated that RMS bridge toll monies would not be allocated to SMART if the initial rail segment stopped at the Civic Center and did not continue to downtown San Rafael; c) bid was awarded to Sumitomo Corporation in the amount of \$56.8 million to provide nine, two-car trains; d) bond issuance was deferred, primarily because of MTC and Eyler reports, pending further work by SMART and MTC.

At the January 19, 2011 meeting, Lundstrom reported that an ad hoc committee (comprised of SMART, TAM, and Sonoma County Transit Authority board members) was formed to review SMART financial projections and to work closely with MTC. She said that the resignation of Lillian Hames was announced and David Heath, Director of Finance, was appointed to serve as Interim General Manager.

- Marin Economic Commission (Garry Lion)

Garry Lion said that the Business Task Force of the Marin Economic Forum had been working on a project to standardize forms between cities to help streamline the process of opening a business and make the process more streamlined and understandable, especially to small business owners. He said that a pilot project would be starting up in San Rafael, with Novato, Mill Valley and Sausalito in the second phase, followed by Corte Madera, Belvedere and Tiburon.

### **Other Reports**

- Update on SB 375 (Supervisor Kinsey)

Supervisor Kinsey gave a powerpoint presentation on the Sustainable Communities Strategies of SB 375. He said that the goal of SB 375 was to link land use and transportation and that the next Regional Transportation Plan would be “dramatic and radically challenging”. He said that it called for a 15% reduction in transportation within the region. He said that MTC would give priority funding to communities who met their housing and transportation goals. He said the deadlines were fast approaching and that a regional working group had been formed to address these issues. One issue that should be contemplated by the cities of Marin, according to Kinsey, was whether to decide whether Marin should be considered a “subregion” rather than a metropolitan area, its current designation.

**Program:** “Affordable Housing – Opportunities and Strategies”

**Speaker:** Mary Murtagh, President & CEO, EAH

Mayor Wachtel introduced the speaker and gave some of her background. Ms. Murtagh said that EAH was founded with an all volunteer staff in 1968 and was now active in 45 cities and 17 counties in California and Hawaii. She said that affordable housing made sense in the context of sustainability because it provided workforce housing closer to jobs which in turn reduced the number of car trips and long commutes. To illustrate the problem of affordable workforce housing in Marin, she said that 6 out of 10 jobs in Novato, for example, were held by non-residents. On the other hand, Murtagh said that 95% of the 141 employed occupants in the Larkspur and San Rafael EAH housing worked in Marin County; similarly, she said that 97% of the applicants for San Clemente Place in Corte Madera worked in Marin.

Ms. Murtagh said that in addition to being consistent with a “Smart Growth” philosophy, EAH had undertaken energy efficiency programs, such as the installation of solar panels, in some of its housing developments to further minimize environmental impacts. She said that Drakes Way in Larkspur was the first LEED certified multi-family housing in Marin.

Murtagh said that it had been demonstrated that if you live within a half mile of public transportation, the odds go up that you will use public transportation. Affordable housing built near public transportation “takes cars off the road,” according to the Director. She also noted that shopping centers create “heat islands”, so why not building mixed use housing that includes residential and commercial.

Ms. Murtagh said that the challenges that lie ahead are with diminishing funding sources, with State supplements being cut and possible cuts to redevelopment funds. She recommended

mixed use housing project and further suggested that cities work with MTC and undertake “creative zoning” in order to keep building affordable housing.

Ms. Murtagh took questions from the audience concerning RHNA numbers and the challenges faced by cities which lack sites for affordable housing. She again suggested working with MTC to surmount these challenges.

President Marshall thanked Ms. Murtagh for her perseverance, dedication and vision.

**Adjourn:** 8:40 pm to a meeting of the City Selection Committee\* and to the next regular meeting hosted by the City of Novato, on February 23, 2011.

Submitted,

Diane Crane Iacopi, Secretary-Treasurer

\*City Selection Committee (7 mayors present—Alexandra Cock, Larry Chu, Ken Wachtel, Madeline Kellner, Al Boro, Herb Weiner, Jeff Slavitz) ratified the recommendation of the membership to present the name of Supervisor Kinsey to the Board of Supervisors for another term on MTC representing the Marin cities.