

MARIN COUNTY COUNCIL OF MAYORS AND COUNCILMEMBERS

MINUTES

Wednesday, March 25, 2009

San Francisco Yacht Club

98 Beach Road

Belvedere, CA

Members Present:

Belvedere: Tom Cromwell, Sandra Donnell, Barbara Morrison, John Telischak

Corte Madera: Alexandra Cock

Fairfax: Susan Brandborg, David Weinsoff

Larkspur: Ron Arlas, Larry Chu, Joan Lundstrom

Mill Valley: Andrew Berman, Garry Lion, Shawn E. Marshall

Novato: Carole Dillon-Knutson, Madeline Kellner, Jeanne Macleamy

Ross: No members attended

San Anselmo: Peter Breen, Ted Freeman, Ford Greene, Judy House, Barbara Thornton

San Rafael: Al Boro, Greg Brockbank, Damon Connolly, Barbara Heller, Cyr Miller

Sausalito: Amy Belser, Mike Kelly, Jonathan Leone, Linda Pfeifer

Tiburon: Miles Berger, Alice Fredericks, Tom Gram, Jeff Slavitz

Also present were the following City and Town Managers: George Rodericks, Belvedere; Michael Rock, Fairfax; Jean Bonander, Larkspur; Anne Montgomery, Mill Valley; Patricia Thompson, Novato; Debra Stutsman, San Anselmo; Ken Nordhoff, San Rafael; Adam Politzer, Sausalito; and Peggy Curran, Tiburon.

Call to Order: President Susan Brandborg called the business meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. and introduced the Mayor of Belvedere, Tom Cromwell.

Welcome and Introduction of Guests: Mayor Cromwell welcomed everyone to the dinner, especially the Marin Community United, the members of the Board of Supervisors and all the representatives from the cities and schools. Mayor Cromwell introduced the Belvedere Council and the following City staff: Leslie Carpentiers, Deputy City Clerk; Cathleen Andreucci, Director, Bel-Tib Joint Recreation Dept.; Lee Braun, Building Official; Scott Derdenger, Public Works Manager; Becky Eastman, Finance Officer; Mark Campbell, Chief of Police; Bruce Sams, Citizen of the Year and former Council Member; Robert Epstein, City Attorney; Felicia Wheaton, Associate Planner; and Rich Pearce, Fire Chief.

Other guests who were introduced: Cynthiarose Connolly, Aide to Marin County Supervisor Hal Brown; Paul Helliker, General Manager, MMWD; Amy O’Gorman, League of California Cities; Jared Huffman, California Assembly; Phil Kranenburg, President, College of Marin Board; Patsy White, Marin Economic Commission; Margaret Jones, League of Women Voters; Jenny Calloway, District Manager, Sixth Assembly District; Peter Banning, Marin LAFCO; Brad Breithaupt, Marin I.J.; Henry Gardner, Executive Director, ABAG.

Mayor Cromwell introduced Marin County Superintendent of Schools, Mary Jane Burke, who introduced some of the school representatives present and urged the continued partnerships between the schools and the cities.

Approval of Minutes: From the meeting held on February 25, 2009.
Moved and seconded to approve the minutes. Motion passed.

Committee Reports

- a. Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) – Alice Fredericks presented the report. She stated that the Climate Change Workshop organized by TAM had been rescheduled for May with the date to be announced; that there was currently a four- million-dollar shortfall

for the gap closure project, Segment 4, at Puerto Suelo Hill with a promise from MTC to fund half of the shortfall; that the project was delayed because of the longer than anticipated pilings that were needed; the discovery of the defective drainage of an existing creek, the discovery of hazardous materials as well as a migratory bird nest that was occupied; and that all of these factors pushed the project into the rainy season. She reported that 14 Million Dollars was expected for Marin from the Federal Government stimulus package; assured the audience that TAM staff and city staffs worked hard to ensure the best chance of funding and would continue to monitor the use of the funds through completion of projects; reported that there were State cuts in transit State-wide with a loss of \$400,000 this year to the Marin Transit District, with over a million dollars to be lost over the next four years; noted that Marin sales tax funded transit and ten million dollars went to Marin Transit the previous year from Prop 1-A sales tax; that it was key in the reduction of traffic congestion and funding local bus service and to reach carbon emission reduction goals; directed the audience to Marin Transit's current report on their Web site that stated that there wouldn't be any reductions in fares but that underperforming routes would be scrutinized; and that she hoped that it would result in reconfiguration of routes rather than elimination.

- b. Legislative Committee – No report
- c. Golden Gate Bridge Highway & Transportation District – Al Boro presented the report. He stated that all the fare boxes on the buses had been changed to computerized versions on April 16th, and used tickets similar to those used by BART; that ferries to the Giants games would start in April at a cost of \$8 each way; that one of the ferries purchased from the State of Washington would go into service soon to allow the Del Norte to be repowered; that the suicide prevention barrier final report was due in April and that the District was committed to building the barrier as soon as funding was secured; that the new median barrier was full funded and would hopefully be in operation by 2011; and reported that he had gone to Washington, DC, to get money for the retrofit of the bridge.
- d. Marin Economic Commission – Garry Lion, Vice Chair, presented the report and stated that they were issuing a Request for Proposals for an economic contractor and hoped to have someone hired in a couple of months to design the program to create a Marin Economic Forum to help invigorate the economic vitality of the communities.
- e. JPA Oversight Committee – Larry Chu presented the report and stated that the Committee had regrouped over the last few months and had decided to meet less often, three times a year, to deal with quorum problems, and to be more efficient with the use of smaller subcommittees of three to oversee specific JPA's.
- f. League of California Cities (North Bay Division) – Shawn Marshall announced that the Legislative Action Days in Sacramento were April 15 and 16; that the second quarter Northern Division meeting would be held in Rohnert Park on April 30th on water issues; and that the Executive Committee would be meeting the following day to interview the three finalists to replace Amy O'Gorman as the League's Regional Manager for the North Bay. Amy O'Gorman was introduced and reported that there had been a lot of questions about the special election to be held on May 19th and she offered to attend Council meetings representing the League to give an overview of the propositions; stated that the League was supporting all six measures with the idea that the lack of a State budget would leave the cities vulnerable; announced that the Revenue and Taxation Policy Committee of the League would be taking up discussions of all the propositions; that her annual legislative matrix describing "20 hot bills" would be out shortly; and stated that she would still be available to the cities in her new capacity as Director of Regional Public Affairs for the State.

- g. LAFCO – Barbara Heller and Jeff Slavitz, the two MCCMC representatives, presented an annual report. Barbara Heller called attention to brochures about LAFCO that had been distributed; introduced Peter Banning, the Executive Director; stated that their annual report was timed as part of the budget process for May. Jeff Slavitz explained that the brochures distributed provided an overview of the agency and its responsibilities; noted that it was a State-mandated agency that looked at boundaries for towns and special districts to create orderly boundaries; and that they also provided a forum for issues of concern to cities and districts. Barbara Heller noted that the agency funding was 1/3 from cities, 1/3 from the county and 1/3 from special districts; stated that the budget reflected a 12.7% decrease from the previous year and described the reductions made; that the total budget for the coming year was \$340,000; that they would be moving to a smaller office to share with MTA and reduce the contributions from the cities, county and special districts by 10%; that the budget would be considered for adoption at the May meeting.
- h. ABAG – Carol Dillon-Knutson, the ABAG representative, introduced Henry Gardner, Executive Director of ABAG; reported on “Projections 2009” that contained data about jobs, housing and households in the Bay Area as well as the affordable housing numbers; encouraged the members to make their voices heard in response to ABAG’s efforts to be inclusive; stated that she served as the Legislative Vice Chair for ABAG and that she shared information about pending legislation with the MCCMC Legislative Committee; urged the members to learn about SB375 “Greenhouse Gases Projection Targets;” reported that ABAG was conducting a workshop on the legislation on April 23rd in San Francisco at the Palace Hotel; and that ABAG was looking at the “Berkeley First” model for solar installations financed through homeowner tax bills and considering facilitating a similar program for small cities.

Public Comment:

No speakers came forward.

Appointment: Alternate Representative to the League of California Cities North Bay Division Executive Board (2-year term)

President Brandborg stated that no letters of interest for the position had been received and asked that the item be continued to the next meeting.

Program: “Supporting Budget Reform: Changing the 2/3 vote requirement of the Constitution – will it get us what we want?”

President Brandborg re-introduced Marin County Superintendent of Schools, Mary Jane Burke. Superintendent Burke talked about the first meeting of Marin County United in 2005 when the main topic had been Proposition 76 that would have changed the way schools and local governments would have been funded. She described some of the topics that had been addressed by the group since then to allow schools and government to work together more effectively. She stated that the topic for the evening was about the real possibility of change with meaningful budget reform and noted that Proposition 13 would not have passed in 1978 if it had required a 2/3 vote and that the serious challenges faced in a system that was broken in a State that was dysfunctional made cooperation between schools and government more important than ever.

Superintendent Burke re-introduced Alice Fredericks and commended her for her early commitment to and hard work for Community United.

Alice Fredericks introduced Leslie Alden from Supervisor McGlashan’s office and acknowledged the efforts of Leslie Carpentier of Belvedere; Judy Anderson of Fairfax; and Diane Crane Iacopi,

in organizing the meeting. Mayor Fredericks then introduced panelists Assemblyman Jared Huffman and Fred Keeley.

Assemblyman Huffman described his assignment to lead a bi-partisan working group on State water issues that had been given sixty days to come up with a solution to the water crisis and the environment in the Delta that caused him to be late to the meeting; acknowledged that there was a lot of bad financial news for the schools and local government and with the economy in general, but stated that he was encouraged by the level of collaboration, partnership and commitment in Marin County that was very positive; explained that he had been an early supporter of Obama because of the way Obama rejected the politics of division and sought to elevate politics to a higher level; that we all had a responsibility to one another; and that he experienced that sense of cooperation and responsibility at an "Excellence in Education" event the previous week and at the celebration of the first solar school in Novato. He stated that he was the parent of two children in public school; that there was a need to protect some services but no single policy to fix things; but that the one reform that would help to fix things was changing the 2/3 majority required to pass the State budget. He described the history of the 2/3 majority requirement and recommended a constitutional amendment to change it to a 55% for the passage of the State budget and for the passage of local measures.

Assemblyman Huffman introduced Fred Keeley, former Speaker Pro Tem of the Assembly, the elected Treasurer of Santa Cruz County, and a Board member of "California Forward" non-partisan effort that was funded by four large corporations. He described his organization and the \$25 million dollars they had been given to make changes in California in the next four years. He stated that they had put forward Prop 11 for redistricting and were successful. He enumerated their four tasks to be accomplished in four years: to modify term limits; reform the California budget process; to make initiative process improvements; and to promote campaign reform. He urged those present to vote "yes" on May 19th because it was the best deal possible; that a two-year budget process was supported by California Forward; stated that the California budget was a year-round activity that kept other big issues from being resolved stated; that a series of reforms were needed; and discussed possible scenarios; and stated that they were going to advance reforms in Sacramento and would use the ballot if they were unsuccessful with lobbying efforts alone to meet their goals.

Adjourn: 9:05 p.m. to the next meeting hosted by Belvedere on Wednesday, April 22, 2009.

Submitted,

Judy Anderson, Secretary-Treasurer