

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

**Wednesday, May 23, 2012
Hosted by the Town of Ross
The Marin Art & Garden Center
30 Sir Francis Drake Boulevard
Ross, CA 94957**

Members Present

Belvedere: No members present

Corte Madera: Alexandra Cock, Carla Condon, Diane Furst, Bob Ravasio

Fairfax: Larry Bragman, Pam Hartwell-Herrero, Ryan O'Neil

Larkspur: Ann Morrison, Brad Marsh, Len Rifkind

Mill Valley: Shawn Marshall

Novato: Pat Eklund, Eric Lucan, Madeline Kellner

Ross: Scot Hunter, Chris Martin, Rupert Russell, Carla Small, Rick Strauss,

San Anselmo: Kay Coleman, Ford Greene, Jeff Kroot, Tom McInerney

San Rafael: Damon Connolly, Barbara Heller, Andrew McCullough, Gary Phillips

Sausalito: Herb Weiner

Tiburon: Jim Fraser, Alice Fredericks

City Managers and City Staff: Belvedere Police Chief Tricia Seyler, Corte Madera City Manager Dave Bracken; Fairfax Town Clerk Judy Anderson; Larkspur City Manager Dan Schwarz; Mill Valley City Manager Jim McCann; Novato City Manager Michael Frank; Ross Interim Town Manager Pat Thompson, Engineer and Building Official Bob Hemate, Police Chief Erik Masterson, Planner Elise Semonian, Attorney Greg Stepanicich, and City Clerk Linda Lopez; San Anselmo Police Chief Chuck Maynard; San Rafael Police Chief Diana Bishop; Sausalito City Manager Adam Politzer; Tiburon Town Manager Peggy Curran and Tiburon Town Clerk (MCCMC Secretary) Diane Crane Iacopi.

Guests: Marin Commission on Aging representative Sue Beitel; and the evening's speakers Don Wick, Pierre Ahuncain, and Mike Ridgeway of the Marin County Sheriff's Office.

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

Welcome and Introduction of Guests: Ross Mayor Carla Small welcomed the members, city staff, and guests to the Marin Art & Garden Center. She introduced the members of the Ross City Council, and staff, and especially thanked City Clerk Linda Lopez for organizing the event.

Public Comment: Sue Beitel, current Chair of the Marin Commission on Aging, said that a number of members were retiring or not seeking reappointment to the Board. She urged anyone who was interested to step forward to fill these positions. She thanked the City of Novato for agendizing the matter at their June meeting.

Approval of Minutes: From the meeting held on April 25, 2012

Motion and seconded (Fredericks/Lucan) to approve the minutes. Motion passed by acclamation.

Appointments to Local and Regional Committees:

- **Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO)** – Two term expirations for representative and alternate to Commission (positions currently held by Barbara Heller and Herb Weiner) – Two-year terms ending May, 2012

*Motion and seconded (Eklund/McCullough) to reappoint Heller and Weiner.
Motion passed by acclamation.*

Announcement of pending vacancies on Local and Regional Committees:

- **Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) Executive Board** – Two term expirations in June 2012 for MCCMC Representative and Alternate (positions currently held by Pat Eklund and Dan Hillmer)

President Kellner announced the pending vacancies. She asked for letters of interest to be submitted prior to the June meeting.

Nominations for Executive Committee:

- President Kellner announced the upcoming vacancies for President and Vice President in the 2012-13 year. She asked for nominations from the floor and a vote at the June meeting.

*Motion seconded (Marshall/Fredericks) to nominate Herb Weiner for President.
Motion passed by acclamation.*

President Kellner asked for a motion to close the nominations for President. The motion was made, seconded and passed by acclamation.

There were no nominations from the floor for Vice President. President Kellner said that letters of interest could be submitted prior to the next meeting.

Committee reports:

- **Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transportation District (GGBHTD)** - Alice Fredericks said the Board would consider and most likely approve several projects of benefit to Marin County: 1) execution of an agreement with Caltrans coordinating responsibility for environmental evaluation, design and construction of the movable barrier with the Caltrans right-of-way along Highway 101; 2) a pass-through of Proposition 1B funds to TAM for the Lifeline Transportation projects in Marin; and 3) funding for several Marin projects, including Novato bus stop improvements, Neighborhood Transit Service, and San Rafael City School Shuttle.

Fredericks invited everyone to come celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Golden Gate Bridge in Tiburon. She said the Town was sponsoring a community picnic along Shoreline Park, beginning at 5:30 p.m. that would feature food trucks and a venue to watch the fireworks from the Bridge at 9:30 p.m.

- **Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM)** – Alice Fredericks said the Commission had voted to fund a program called Emergency Ride Home (ERH) that would allow a free ride home for commuters using alternate transportation. She said that businesses could enroll in the program for free, and an employee utilizing the service would get permission from a previously designated contract. She said the employer or employee would submit receipts online and the employer or employee would front the cash for the emergency ride. She said the program was funded by TFCA and would have to be implemented soon or the money would be lost.
- **MCCMC Legislative Committee** – Alice Fredericks said that the committee took action on (voted to oppose) the following bills: 1) AB 1692 - bankruptcy bill that would attempt to change the language of AB 506 adopted last year and reinsert some of the more

controversial language; 2) AB 1706 – bill to revise bus weight standards that were adopted in the 1970s to conform to actual bus weights on the road today; opposed by local Public Works Directors who fear the this would open the door to heavier truck traffic and increased damage to roads by heavier busses; said committee voted to oppose until amended to address these concerns; 3) AB 2312 – Marijuana dispensaries and related activities; said committee felt legislation was premature and wanted clarification of local and state authority to regulate pending the CA Supreme Court decision; 4) SB 1149 – creation of a Bay Area Regional Commission to coordinate regional planning and address problems of conflicting approaches to the implementation of AB 375; said originally conceived as an elected commission to oversee current regional agencies involved in regional planning; bill was amended May 10 to eliminate reference to elected members of a new commission but with no guidelines for membership of the new commission other than the authority of the Executive Director to appoint to fill vacancies; issue remains as to whether this consolidation amounts to another layer of bureaucracy and has been opposed by Napa, Solano and Sonoma Counties, as well as the City and County Association of Governments of San Mateo.

- **ABAG** – Pat Eklund reported on a May 17 joint meeting of the ABAG and MTC Boards; said that the letters received by individual jurisdictions had led to changes in the regional housing numbers but that the 40% “floor” of the housing needs allocation would hurt nine out of 10 cities in Marin. She said the final housing methodology would be adopted on July 19 and urged continued participation and input into the process. Eklund said she continued to work hard to represent the interests of Marin cities on the ABAG Board.

Presentation: Major Crimes Task Force – Today’s Fight for Tomorrow’s Future
Speakers: Lt. Don Wick and Sgt. Pierre Ahuncain, Marin County Sheriff’s Office

Lt. Wick, a 28-year veteran of the Marin County Sheriff’s office and current commander of the task force, gave the presentation. He also introduced Vice Commander Pierre Ahuncain. Lt. Wick described the make-up of the task force and said it was a multi-disciplinary team. He said its focus was primarily narcotics but that they also did probation enforcement and auto theft. He said that the task force was important because it opened a door to Federal resources and funding (through DEA) that would not otherwise be available to a county jurisdiction. He said the task force was particularly good at covert surveillance. He said the task force members testified as expert witnesses in court cases and were a resource for outside public safety agencies seeking intelligence. He said the task force had the ability to follow up cases outside of California which local public safety agencies did not. Lt. Wick said that the JPA’s Asset Forfeiture Fund was what hurt criminals the most and also had the benefit of keeping the contributions down for the members of the JPA.

Lt. Wick talked about the impact of drugs on a community. He said that drug use led to many other kinds of crimes, such as burglaries, thefts, including identity theft, gangs and gang violence. He said the impacts of drug use were felt by the families of drug users and the community as a whole. He said that taking one drug dealer off the street had the benefit of clearing up a string of other crimes in a community. He showed some video footage of interviews with two young drug users who talked about the accessibility of drugs in Marin and at the local schools.

Sheriff Mike Ridgeway said the Sheriff’s office supported the Major Crimes Task Force and could not do what this task force does. He concurred with Lt. Wick’s comments about the damage that drug use had on communities and said that drug use. He said the Sheriff’s office was committed to the ongoing efforts of the task force and had already committed \$80,000 out of its budget to continue to help keep the fees flat to the cities and county.

During Q&A, Len Rifkind asked whether another approach to this problem might be to decriminalize possession and use of marijuana. Lt. Wick said that the task force was not dealing

with medical marijuana or compassionate use, but rather, was fighting the people who were “in it for money”. He said that he was initially in favor of legalization but had since seen marijuana grow into a huge business which now involved the major cartels.

President Kellner thanked the members of the Task Force for their presentation and Mayor Small and the Town of Ross for hosting the meeting. She invited everyone to attend the June 27 meeting at Jason’s Restaurant in Greenbrae, hosted by the Town of San Anselmo.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Submitted,

Diane Crane Iacopi
MCCMC Secretary