

MARIN COUNTY COUNCIL OF MAYORS AND COUNCILMEMBERS
Draft Minutes

Wednesday, May 27, 2015

Hosted by the Town of Tiburon and Marin Community United

The Lodge at Tiburon

1651 Tiburon Boulevard, Tiburon 94920

Members Present

Belvedere: Claire McAuliffe, Bob McCaskill

Corte Madera: Sloan Bailey, Carla Condon, Bob Ravasio

Fairfax: no attendees

Larkspur: Larry Chu, Ann Morrison, Catherine Way

Mill Valley: Garry Lion, Jim McCann, Stephanie Moulton-Peters, Ken Wachtel

Novato: Denise Athas, Pat Eklund, Eric Lucan, Jeanne MacLeamy

Ross: Elizabeth Brekhus, Kathleen Hoertkorn, P. Beach Kuhl

San Anselmo: Kay Coleman, Doug Kelly, Tom McInerney, John D. Wright

San Rafael: Maribeth Bushey, Kate Colin, John Gamblin

Sausalito: Jill James Hoffman, Tom Theodores, Ray Withy

Tiburon: Frank Doyle, Jim Fraser, Alice Fredericks, Erin Tollini

Ex Officio: Corte Madera Town Manager David Bracken, Corte Madera Town Clerk Rebecca Vaughan, Mill Valley City Manager Jim McCann, Novato City Manager Michael Frank, Novato Assistant City Manager Cathy Capriola, San Anselmo Town Manager Debra Stutsman, San Rafael Assistant City Manager Jim Schutz, Sausalito Town Manager Adam Politzer, Tiburon Town Manager Peggy Curran, Tiburon Town Clerk Diane Crane Iacopi and Novato City Clerk/MCCMC Secretary Sheri Hartz.

Call to Order

President Stephanie Moulton-Peters called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Welcome and Introduction of Guests

Tiburon Mayor Frank Doyle and Superintendent of Marin County Schools Mary Jane Burke introduced guests and provided a program overview. The schools were represented by the following districts: Bolinas, Dixie, Kentfield, Larkspur/Corte Madera, Marin County Office of Education, Marin Community College, Mill Valley, Nicasio, Novato, Reed Union, Ross, Ross Valley, San Rafael Elementary and High School District, Sausalito/Marin City, Shoreline, Tamalpais Union, and the "rurals" – Laguna, Lincoln and Union. Also in attendance was Assistant Superintendent Ken Lippi.

Mayor Doyle welcomed Marin County Supervisors Katie Rice and Kate Sears, and Tiburon Town staff members Scott Anderson, Director of Community Development; Patrick Barnes, Director of Public Works/Town Engineer; Heidi Bigall, Director of Administrative Services; Suzanne Creekmore, Management Analyst and Michael Cronin, Chief of Police

Public Comments: None

Program: "Finding and Keeping Great Employees for our Cities, Schools and County: Meeting the Challenges of Housing, Transportation and Quality of Life Issues"

Superintendent Burke expressed appreciation for being included in the meeting and gave background on the yearly event. She said it was the 10 year anniversary of Marin Community

United and that they had pursued issues such as youth access to alcohol and shared services. She explained the process that would be undertaken during the presentation and said that the long term goal was to overcome challenges related to the recruitment and retention of quality staff for schools and local government. She introduced Marin County District 3 Supervisor Kate Sears, who provided framing comments related to the inequality, soaring rents and traffic nightmares that affected County residents. Supervisor Sears reported that 60% of those who work in Marin commute there because they cannot afford to live nearby, that the median home price was at \$1M and that the quality of life was slipping. She added that Marin would lose 30% of its workforce in the coming years due to housing costs. She said the problem affected government workers and educators and that fewer people were pursuing teaching degrees while at the same time, public school enrollment had grown faster in Marin than the statewide average.

Panel 1 - Transportation - Alternatives to Getting There

Alice Fredericks, Tiburon Town Council, Former Chair Transportation Authority of Marin: Current Regional Approaches, Future Projects

Councilmember Fredericks reported that daily travel to and from work is an obstacle to hiring and retaining Marin County workers such as teachers, public safety workers, county and city employees and other service workers. She stated that the average number of hours of daily traffic delay on Highway 101 through Marin has increased from about 1,700 hours in 2009 to 4,500 hours in 2014. She stated that the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District (GGBHTD) provided congestion relief on 101 with its bus and ferry services, but that those solutions created their own impacts with the demand for parking.

She discussed other regional projects and initiatives meant to abate congestion, such as TAM's Marin Sonoma Narrows gap closure and a 580/101 connector that will provide a third eastbound commute lane on the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge by 2017. She discussed the success of Marin Transit's local bus system and other travel alternatives that could help, such as school-provided transit and linked trips. Regarding MTC projects, she stated that ramp metering was an important current initiative, as it provided improved traffic flow, and that a new state program was looking at implementing toll lanes during commute times. She concluded by reporting that gas tax revenue diminishing and that we were losing federal funding as new transportation money was tied to the production of affordable housing. She announced an upcoming Regional Transportation Plan Workshop and said that there was an online survey available to those who could not attend.

Robert Betts, Marin Transit District: Countywide Projects Underway in Marin

Mr. Betts provided a quick overview from the viewpoint of a local transit provider. He said that, in looking at 3.5 million passenger trips last year, the purpose of 45% of them were travel to work. He added that, in the nine county bay area, Marin was third highest user of transit and that a major current project was the 2016-2025 Short-Range Transit Plan. He stated that the themes looking forward were a 10% increase in local service, an increase in service frequencies to every 15 minutes, and also the creation of express routes and connection to SMART. He said that another theme for MT's local service was diversification, and how transit could better serve the local needs. He pointed out that, in the past, it had all been about the big bus model but that now, they were offering senior shuttles and other models, such as the volunteer driver program, subsidized taxi rides and shopper shuttles. Regarding transit to schools, he said that the problem was the peak nature of the need and that they were testing new options, such as the Yellow Bus Challenge. He concluded by discussing a new College of Marin program whereby

all students with an ID could use transit for free and that this would allow supplemental drivers to work during mid-day when they were not needed for K-12, creating full time shifts.

Jim Fraser, Tiburon Town Council: Local Community Collaboration: The Yellow Bus Challenge Councilmember Fraser gave a PowerPoint presentation outlining Tiburon's school bus project, stating that the goal was to alleviate traffic gridlock on Tiburon Blvd. during peak times. He said that there was an opportunity to reduce traffic during the morning and afternoon school commutes by making bus transport better. He explained that the Committee's first attempt had failed, so they had reorganized, gathered a larger team, had better marketing and communication, and met every week for seven months. He stated that the Committee plotted where every student lived and designed the bus routes accordingly and that both cost and student time spent on the bus were big issues. He reported that, to make it work, Tiburon and Belvedere had to underwrite the program and the schools needed to change the bell times to allow more use of the buses, which they did.

Panel 2 - Workforce Housing: Approaches to Creative Solutions

Leelee Thomas, Principal Planner, County of Marin: 2015 Marin Rental Housing Survey Ms. Thomas provided context for housing problem, stating that most of the undeveloped land in Marin was preserved for open space and agriculture, had strong environmental protections, and the slowest projected growth of all nine bay area counties. She described the jobs/housing imbalance for public sector employees and presented examples of average wages earned, stating that the type of housing that could be afforded by most was well below the median price in Marin County. She said there were many unmet needs with 60% commuting from surrounding counties. She concluded by stating that a rental housing survey had been conducted, which was intended to gather information about Marin's rental market of multi-family, second dwelling units, room rentals, and the possibility of restricting condo conversion.

Linda Jackson, Former City Planner, School Board Trustee: Efforts Underway in Marin Ms. Jackson described situations where teachers and others had left Marin County to find more affordable housing, stating that teachers cannot afford to live where they teach and that, during winter storms, schools had closed because teachers couldn't get to school. She said there was no housing available in Marin for first year teachers and that the affordable housing was across the bridge, creating a bridge traffic impact. She talked about short term housing solutions such as junior second units and said that the preservation of rental housing was vital. Regarding more long term solutions, she stated that the towns and cities had now designated housing element sites, suggested putting housing on commercial properties – both mixed use and infill, and added that adequate senior housing would free up homes for young families.

The program was followed by a brief question and answer period.

Business Meeting

Approval of Minutes – April 22, 2015 meeting

There was a motion/second to approve the minutes. Motion passed by acclamation.

Nominations for Executive Committee – President and Vice President for 2015-16 Term

There was a motion/second (Coleman/MacLeamy) to nominate Denise Athas, Novato, for MCCMC President. Motion passed by acclamation.

There was a motion/second (MacLeamy/Ravasio) to nominate Sloan Bailey, Corte Madera, for MCCMC Vice President. Motion passed by acclamation.

MCCMC Committee Reports: Oral reports continued to the June 24th meeting. Written reports on ABAG and the Subcommittee on Homeless were included in the agenda packet.

At 8:57 p.m., President Moulton-Peters adjourned the meeting to the June 24, 2015 meeting in the City of Belvedere.

Submitted,

Sheri Hartz
MCCMC Secretary

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