

MARIN COUNTY COUNCIL OF MAYORS AND COUNCILMEMBERS
Draft Minutes

Wednesday, June 24, 2015
Hosted by the City of Belvedere
The San Francisco Yacht Club
98 Beach Road, Belvedere

Members Present

Belvedere: Claire McAuliffe, Bob McCaskill, Marty Winter
Corte Madera: Sloan Bailey, Carla Condon, Bob Ravasio
Fairfax: Barbara Coler, Peter Lacques, John Reed, David Weinsoff
Larkspur: Larry Chu, Kevin Haroff
Mill Valley: Jessica Jackson, Garry Lion, John McCauley, Stephanie Moulton-Peters
Novato: Denise Athas, Pat Eklund, Madeline Kellner, Eric Lucan, Jeanne MacLeamy
Ross: Elizabeth Brekhus, Elizabeth Robbins
San Anselmo: No attendees
San Rafael: Kate Colin, John Gamblin, Andrew McCullough
Sausalito: Jill James Hoffman, Linda Pfeifer, Tom Theodores, Herb Weiner, Ray Withy
Tiburon: Frank Doyle, Jim Fraser, Alice Fredericks, Emmett O'Donnell

Ex Officio: Larkspur City Manager Dan Schwarz, Mill Valley City Manager Jim McCann, Novato City Manager Michael Frank, San Rafael Management Analyst Rebecca Woodbury, Sausalito Town Manager Adam Politzer, Tiburon Town Manager Peggy Curran, Belvedere City Clerk Alison Foulis 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

Belvedere Mayor McCaskill introduced guests and Belvedere staff including Police Chief Tricia Seyler, Finance Director Becky Eastman and Administrative Clerk Alison Foulis. Present from California State Senate District 2 were Senator Mike McGuire and District Representative Carole Mills. Also present were Marin County Supervisors Damon Connolly and Kate Sears, Aide Leslie Alden, Golden Gate Bridge District Public Information Manager Priya David Clemens; Margaret Jones, League of Women Voters; Novato guests Patsy White and Reni Rothschild, and from Marin Clean Highways, Jill Whitebook and Vicky Dehnert.

Public Comment

Ms. Whitebook and Ms. Dehnert, Marin Clean Highways, reported on their efforts to clean up frontage roads in Mill Valley, stated they had turned their attention to the highway and said that they had a presentation on the increasing problem of highway debris. They stated that most was from uncovered trucks on their way to landfill and that debris was an eyesore for residents, tourists, as well as being a safety issue and a problem for the environment. They added that Caltrans no longer funded the Adopt a Highway program and did not have staff to do the debris pick-up themselves. They concluded by stating that other counties have adopted tarp ordinances, and that they would like to see such a program in Marin. They asked that all cities be supportive of a unified program.

Program: Mike McGuire, California State Senator: “California Legislative Updates”

Senator McGuire expressed his thanks for being invited and for the work that city government does. He gave an update on what was happening in Sacramento, stating that the budget was moving forward. He went on to discuss current issues, hot bills and four lessons he has learned since being elected:

1. There is a form for everything in the Senate, and you have to fax instead of emailing.
2. If you work hard, tell the truth and develop relationships, you can get the job done. Tell all sides the same thing.
3. Moves in Sacramento take a long time and a lot of patience, no matter what the issue is.
4. Home is always first – don’t forget your roots. The top priority is working hard for those you work for.

Regarding the budget, Senator McGuire stated that, for the first time since 2006, there was a surplus. He said that the budget had peaks and valleys, and we needed to figure how to smooth it. He reported that California was 50th in the nation in spending per pupil and that we must start to focus on poverty. He stated that the next two priorities were dealing with the drought and paying down debt, which he anticipated would be accomplished by the end of 2016.

He said that our best investment would be strong public schools and that he was fighting for career tech education. He added that our efforts should be focused on schools that were in the greatest need.

On the subject of transportation, Senator McGuire stated that \$40M to get the SMART train up to Windsor had been requested and that \$20M was needed to get it down to Larkspur. He said that Assembly Member Levine was working on Richmond-San Rafael Bridge issues, including an expedited third lane. He added that there would also be a focus on the Marin-Sonoma narrows, noting that it was the second worst backup in the state. He said new funding would open up five more miles of three lanes on the Sonoma side, and that he was committed to working on the metering lights in southern Marin.

He continued by reporting on upcoming legislation and hot bills, highlighting SB 788 which would ban offshore oil drilling off the California coast. Regarding state parks, he stated that there were more in our district than all of the rest of California but that the Governor was not interested in funding them and, going forward, that would need to be addressed. He discussed marijuana and its prevalence in the district, stating that if put to a vote, 56% of voters would support recreational use although the Governor would not. He noted that it was a lucrative but dirty industry which took lower paid workers from other jobs. He reported that marijuana growth was a multi-billion dollar industry with no regulations, causing the damming of watersheds, runoff of fertilizer into the water system, clear cutting of forests and illegal river diversion. He concluded by stating that legislation should be brought forward to put regulations in place.

He finished up his presentation by discussing some hot bills including SB 608, which would have allowed the homeless the right to use public space without restrictions, reporting that it was no longer moving forward.

He stated that SB 593, Vacation Rentals, could have a big impact on communities as this bill would make online vacation rental businesses follow local laws, collect bed tax and remit them. He encouraged cities to support the bill. On the Redevelopment trailer bills, he said that the state had been unsuccessful in getting the money as courts were overruling decisions and that this bill would ban all appeals. He stated that cities needed to mobilize against it moving forward.

Senator McGuire concluded by responding to a few questions and again thanked everyone for inviting him to speak.

Business Meeting

Approval of Minutes – May 27, 2015 meeting

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

Appointments to Executive Committee – President and Vice President for 2015-16 Term

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

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

Approval of 2015-16 Meeting Calendar

There was a motion/second (McCullough/Lion) to approve the 2015-16 Meeting Calendar as submitted. Motion passed by acclamation.

Committee Reports

Mayor's Select Committee: President Moulton-Peters stated that a meeting was held and updates provided from the ad hoc committees, which were all continuing with their charges to study issues to bring members up to date, bring recommendations, and then adjourn or go into a monitoring stage. She said that a white paper on homelessness was upcoming and that there had been a discussion of a dues increase, which would come to the membership for a vote in September. She concluded by reporting that an update of the MCCMC website, to be undertaken next year, had been discussed.

TAM Report: Councilmember Fredericks reported that the TAM Strategic Vision Plan public outreach and process would run concurrently with the RTP effort as the process and goals for both efforts were similar. She stated that TAM's first Public Workshop for input on the Regional Transportation Plan, drew over 80 people, many who were representing disadvantaged communities. She added that there was some conflicting input and that more consensus was necessary on the need for more public transit.

MCCMC Legislative Committee Report Councilmember Fredericks reported that AB 744 (Chau) proposed a density bonus to allow reduction of parking requirements below the currently zoned minimum in certain niche projects such as affordable or senior housing. She stated, however, that the bill did not account for actual needs such as caretaker and visitor parking needs, spillover impacts on adjacent streets and communities, and impracticalities associated with inadequacy of public transit service. She recommended opposition.

GGBHTD: Priya Clemens, GGBHTD, reported on projects, challenges and issues faced by the District. She said that, since installation of the moveable median barrier, there had only been two major collisions, which would have been worse with no barrier. She stated that two of the transit ferries were in San Diego being overhauled and that Caltrans' closure of Doyle Drive was coming up. She reported that the ferry terminal in Sausalito needed repair, as it was not ADA compliant and that the District had proposed a design to Sausalito that the city did not approve, so meetings were ongoing. She said that they were adding mid-day bus service as business increased and that the Marin Airporter was moving from Larkspur Landing to Anderson Drive near the bus facility to add parking capacity. She concluded by announcing that the Golden Gate Bridge round house was being converted into a new grab and go café, which took it back to its original 1938 use, and would serve traditional American fare.

Marin Transit: Councilmember Kellner reported that there was not much Measure A money for transit, and that, to grow it, Marin Transit needed to cut costs or come up with new ways to provide transit. She said that they had done both – by establishing new contracts for paratransit and also giving a grant to Sausalito for the CARS program which had volunteer drivers take seniors to bus routes, and appointments, which she felt might be a model for rest of the county.

SMART: President Moulton-Peters reported that SMART was continuing construction, and that, when the train travels from San Rafael to Larkspur, it would cross right through the Bettini transit center. She added that SMART, local transit and the City of San Rafael were working together to find a solution, but that riders may be affected.

ABAG (written report attached): Mayor Pro Tem Eklund discussed a draft amendment to the Sustainable Communities Strategy, which recommended a third lane on the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge. She said there was more detail in written report and announced that this was the time to look at goals and performance standards in Plan Bay Area and asked everyone to send input to her or their ABAG delegate by mid-July.

Climate Change/Sea Level Rise: President Moulton-Peters reported that the County was raising money to do a vulnerability assessment and that the Committee would transition from meeting on a monthly basis into more of an executive committee, comprised of Supervisors Kinsey and Sears, Jim McCann and three committee members to facilitate quicker decision making.

Minimum Wage Working Group: (written report attached) Councilmember Lucan referred everyone to the written report and added that the group's work was coming to a conclusion and would present a white paper at the September meeting.

At 9:00 p.m., President Moulton-Peters adjourned the meeting to the September 16, 2015 meeting in the Town of Corte Madera.

Submitted,

Sheri Hartz
MCCMC Secretary