

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

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

The Tavern at Lark Creek, 234 Magnolia Avenue, Larkspur

Members Present

Belvedere: No members attended

Corte Madera: Alexandra Cock, Carla Condon, John Dupar, Michael Lappert, Bob Ravasio

Fairfax: Susan Brandborg, David Weinsoff

Larkspur: Ron Arlas, Larry Chu, Dan Hillmer, Kathy Hartzell, Joan Lundstrom

Mill Valley: No members attended

Novato: Madeline Kellner

Ross: No members attended

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

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

Sausalito: Jonathan Leone, Linda Pfeifer, Herb Weiner

Tiburon: Miles Berger, Alice Fredericks, Jeff Slavitz

Also present were the following City and Town Managers: Michael Rock, Fairfax; Deputy City Manager Bob Sinnott, Larkspur; Cathy Capriola, Assistant City Manager, Novato; Ken Nordhoff, San Rafael; Adam Politzer, Sausalito; Peggy Curran, Tiburon

Call to Order: President Jeff Slavitz called the business meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and introduced the Larkspur Mayor, Dan Hillmer.

Welcome and Introduction of Guests: Mayor Hillmer welcomed everyone to the Tavern at Lark Creek and introduced the Larkspur Council Members and Staff. He also acknowledged his son and his jazz band who provided music during the social hour.

Other guests who were present: Henry Gardner, ABAG, Sue Peterson, Marin County Builder's Exchange; Chuck Dalldorf, League of CA Cities; Twin Cities Police Chief Phil Green and Corte Madera Town Clerk Chris Green, San Anselmo Police Chief Charles Maynard and Captain Nick Valeri.

Introduction of Incoming Officers: President Slavitz noted that Vice President Shawn Marshall could not be present; he then introduced Secretary-Treasurer Diane Crane Iacopi.

Recognition of Past President Susan Brandborg: President Slavitz acknowledged the outgoing president for her service and for making the transition a smooth one.

Slavitz presented Brandborg with a plaque on behalf of MCCMC, which read, "Politics is largely a matter of heart...in appreciation of your Leadership and Heart – MCCMC President 2008-2009." Ms Brandborg thanked the group and commented that as a politician in a small town it is especially true that one must put a lot of heart into their job.

President Slavitz also acknowledged past Secretary-Treasurer Judy Anderson of Fairfax for her service to the group in 2008-09.

Approval of Minutes: From the meeting held on June 24, 2009.

Moved and seconded to approve the minutes. Motion passed.

Approval of Budget 2009-10:

President Slavitz said that copies of the 2008-09 budget and proposed 2009-10 budget were in the packets and available at each table. He said the primary expenditures continued to be the

salaries of the MCCMC secretary and MCCMC JPA Oversight Committee secretary. He also noted a proposal in the current year's budget to purchase an updated sound system for MCCMC meetings, along with a recorder.

Slavitz asked for questions regarding the budget. There were none.

Moved and seconded to approve the budget. Motion passed.

Committee Reports

a. Golden Gate Bridge District – Al Boro presented the report. He said that Cal/Trans made a presentation to the Board in July of the proposed Doyle Drive renovation project. He said that Cal/Trans had received \$50 million in federal grant money and would receive another \$50 million for a “shovel ready” project; he said that this was the reason they had fast-tracked their presentation and asked for approval. Boro said the Board had written two letters requesting more information and were now meeting weekly with the San Francisco Transit Authority and Cal/Trans to discuss, among other things, the impacts on traffic in the area as a result of the proposed project. He said that some of the ramps would be closed for one to two years. However, he said that main south-bound ramp which was the primary route to the San Francisco airport from Marin County would remain open. Boro also said that the initial tree-cutting work had started and would be complete this weekend.

b. SMART – Peter Breen presented the report. He said that the Board had awarded contracts at its last meeting that would begin the process of surveying and design of the entire 72 miles of the rail system. He said that much of the right-of-way had already been cleared and that rail tracks were once again visible when seen passing through Healdsburg. Breen said that while the Board continued to worry about the budget, it looked forward to the 2014 start-up date for rail service.

Vice Mayor Berger of Tiburon asked whether “light” rail cars similar to the ones used in San Diego had been chosen over the heavier vehicles. Breen said that the heavier vehicles had been selected for the project.

c. JPA Oversight Committee – Larry Chu presented the report. He said that the cab drivers continued to lobby the County for a limitation on the number of licenses issued. He said that the board of the Marin General Services Authority had considered the issue but saw no reason to change the current regulations. Chu said that this might result in the cab drivers lobbying at the local level; he recommended that these requests be referred to city managers or to him as Chair of the JPA Oversight Committee.

d. TAM (Transportation Authority of Marin) – Alice Fredericks presented the report. She said that TAM had just received a Marin Community Foundation grant which would be used by the Safe Route to Schools program to reduce car travel, and to involve teens in workshops on how to reduce green house gas emissions. She said that the grant would also be used to purchase software that could track the use of van pools by ridership and to create access to van pools. She also said that a recent study showed that a third of Marin’s students walk to school and that crossing guards were an important part of making parents feel safe about allowing their children to walk to school.

e. League of California Cities – North Bay League representative Chuck Dalldorf presented the report. He said that the State Senate had not yet acted to call a special session to address the issues related to Proposition 1A and HUTA. He said that at the recent League annual conference, the membership had unanimously approved placing a measure on the November 2010 ballot that would close the statutory “holes” that allow raids on Prop 1A funds, Prop 42 transportation funding, and education funding. He said

that the measure might qualify within the next 60 days; thereafter, Dalldorf said, lobbying on behalf of the measure would start in earnest. Prior to that time, he asked for the membership to provide him with contact e-mails of 100 people.

Other Reports:

None.

Ideas for Meeting Format and Locations in 2009-10:

President Slavitz presented the report. He said that he met with the mayors and city managers to obtain feedback and ideas on the pros and cons of MCCMC meetings. On the pro side, Slavitz said that he heard that the meetings were useful for networking, and the reports and speakers were informative. On the negative side, he said that some felt the meetings were too lengthy. Another point of view expressed, according to Slavitz, was that the reports were too brief and there was a desire for more information, including written materials. Slavitz said a common complaint was the difficulty in obtaining speakers, and that small cities had difficulty finding appropriate venues to host their meetings.

To address these issues, Slavitz said the past President Larry Chu, who also was the MCCMC webmaster, had prepared a speaker survey which he asked the members to fill out and return. He also said that the idea of a centralized meeting location had been discussed, and that anyone wishing to obtain more information on Jason's Restaurant in Greenbrae could contact Secretary-Treasurer Crane Iacopi.

To address the issue of meeting length, President Slavitz proposed having the speakers start earlier in the evening, and to split the committee reports between meetings.

Past President Joan Lundstrom reiterated the importance of MCCMC as a venue to discuss issues of common interest. She said that an improved meeting format and the other ideas might help build attendance. She thanked Slavitz for his leadership in this matter.

Public Comment:

None.

Program: Robert Wong, Warden, San Quentin State Prison – Issues and Opportunities

Mayor Hillmer introduced Warden Wong who gave an overview of the history of the prison, and addressed current issues and concerns. Wong described his background and experience as a prison guard working his way up the ranks, as well as his experience as a warden in this and another facility. He said that the current economic situation posed issues not only to cities but to the Corrections Department, as well. He offered ideas of possible partnerships through joint ventures with private businesses, such as "Labcom" in Petaluma, and public agencies, such as highway clean-up and field maintenance. He said that more opportunities for job training were important in order to prepare prisoners for their release back into society.

Warden Wong took questions from the audience that ranged from questions regarding the prison facilities and infrastructure to questions of education and training and "compassionate release." Warden Wong invited anyone who was interested to come take a tour of the facility. Secretary-Treasurer Crane Iacopi will collect the names.

Adjourn: 8:45 pm to the next meeting hosted by the City of Mill Valley on Wednesday, October 28, 2009.

Submitted,
Diane Crane Iacopi, Secretary-Treasurer