

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

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MAYORS SELECT COMMITTEE

Wednesday, April 22, 2020

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE ONLY

LINK TO VIDEO: <https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/w-JVbLbW23xIQJ3swUXDR5F8DqbYT6a81ScYqPIEmhzF3Cj2GN0TlpEvAxB5DFOU>

Mayors Present

Belvedere: Mayor Nancy Kemnitzer
Corte Madera: Mayor Eli Beckman
Fairfax: Mayor Renee Goddard
Larkspur: Mayor Catherine Way
Mill Valley: Mayor Sashi McEntee
Novato: Mayor Denise Athas
Ross: Mayor Julie McMillan
San Anselmo: Mayor Ford Greene
San Rafael: Mayor Gary Phillips
Sausalito: Mayor Susan Cleveland-Knowles
Tiburon: Mayor Alice Fredericks

MCCMC Executive Committee Present: President Elizabeth Brekhus, Ross; Vice President Eric Lucan, Novato; Immediate Past President Ray Withy, Sausalito, Secretary Rebecca Vaughn

1. Call to Order, Welcome and Purpose of Meeting

MCCMC President Elizabeth Brekhus called the Annual Meeting of the MCCMC Mayors Select Committee to order at 6:02pm.

2. Open Time for Public Comment:

Secretary Vaughn read Mike Blakeley, CEO, Marin Economic Forum's email into the record: Dear Members of the MCCMC - First I would like to give my appreciation to those cities and towns that have devoted their resources towards efforts and activities that have supported the businesses in their jurisdictions. The optics of public sector support for business is extremely important at this time.

Second, I would like to provide an update on the activities the Marin Economic Forum (MEF) has been conducting in response to COVID-19. Here are just a few:

Worked with the County to provide estimates of economic impact on the Marin economy from COVID-19
Assisted Health and Human Services (HHS) to populate the COVID-19 website with resources for businesses
Convened Marin's Chambers of Commerce and other business support organizations like the SBDC, MCVB and Agricultural Institute of Marin to discuss and identify businesses greatest needs. This group has a dedicated email address and information is regularly exchanged
Developed a database of funding resources (public and private) available to small businesses. This list has been provided to all Chambers as well as some cities
Hosted a "COVID-19 Economic Briefing" for Marin County (second in series will be May 16)

Going forward MEF has the following initiatives:

Conduct research on the likely sectors of the economy to be opened in order to prepare businesses for regulatory and hiring issues upon opening
Engage workforce development practitioners to prepare for most urgent hiring demands in the county
Participate in regional economic development webinars, etc as subject matter experts
Continue to support the Board of Supervisors and other county resources with data and information.

If any of these activities are of interest to your town or city please reach MEF directly.

In addition to our activities MEF has been focusing on the recovery of our economy. As we all know there are various ways being considered to do so and MEF has been closely monitoring the approaches of other cities and counties. In that regards, MEF would like to encourage the MCCMC to consider the following:

Other counties and regions have formed bodies around COVID-19 recovery to guide the reopening and recovery efforts. These bodies (task forces, working groups, response teams) have been composed of members of public and private sector and have clear goals. MEF encourages any elected officials or other groups focusing on the recovery effort to take a similar approach. MEF has encouraged the Board of Supervisors to create such a task force and to model it after other good examples nationally. MEF strongly encourages any discussion of reopening and recovery to have some component of dialogue between health sector officials and the business sector. Decisions made by public sector officials with information and feedback from the business community will have a higher likelihood of implementation and success. MEF stands ready to host or facilitate such a platform and has communicated this to members of the Board of Supervisors.

Thank you again for your efforts during this difficult time and please continue to see the Marin Economic Forum as a resource. Best regards, Mike Blakeley

3. Business Items

- 3a. The Mayors of each of the Cities/Towns in Marin will share any legislation that their respective Councils have passed, or will be considering, in response to Covid-19, and will share challenges faced by their jurisdictions, and any solutions or programs they believe may be helpful in addressing these challenges.

President Brekhus introduced the item and asked Mayors to address: 1) Is there legislation you have enacted or are proposing; and 2) Given COVID-19 challenges, are there programs implemented or contemplated.

Belvedere Mayor Nancy Kemnitzer reported:

- They enacted the Emergency Ordinance by special meeting after the shelter-in-place order was issued which will allow them to seek reimbursements. It will be used for efforts and expenses incurred concerning upgrading their IT system to have Zoom and higher broadband.
- They enacted an amendment to their construction time limit ordinance that allows the City Manager and Planning and Building Departments to grant one or more extension if it is determined necessary if caused by the COVID-19 Order and to allow the City Manager and/or Planning and Building to reduce penalties. The burden will be on the applicant to show causation. This is automatically repealed after the Order to shelter-in-place to prohibit construction.
- They closed down 40 construction sites of their total 11,000 houses in town. They felt this was similar to the order put in place after the fires which worked well and without complaints.
- Regarding challenges, construction was their biggest challenge with issues relating to someone demolishing their house on a slope which had to continue, PG&E undergrounding going on, shutdown of gardeners and work with the Tiburon Fire Department to have an exemption form people can fill out for vegetation management. They hope to have their Chipper Days starting in May.
- They have worked hard to upgrade their Block Captain Program which is robust where 90% of the town is covered. They have ensured all renters have been included and have identified and partnered neighbors with vulnerable seniors who are isolated.
- The big challenges include the fact they have some COVID-19 in Belvedere but are unsure because of the testing and privacy concerns. They are looking forward to better testing.
- They have had anxiety around the PPP program for small businesses.
- They have learned there is a petition circulating for immediate re-opening and they hope to be able to deal with that if and when it gets to be a stronger effort.

Corte Madera Mayor Eli Beckman reported:

- The Town Council has passed its Proclamation of Local Emergency. The Council meets once a month which is frustrating, but he recognized the hard work of staff working remotely which makes business operations difficult.
- Staff reached out to all seniors and at-risk residents through the Inter-Generational Center to ensure their needs are addressed.

- Corte Madera and Larkspur jointly sent out a mailer through the Parks and Recreation Department to ensure all residents know services continue and Corte Madera has an emergency hotline for at risk residents, 415-991-4040.
- He sees the next frontier as business relief, given the Town is very sales tax dependent and both large centers are closed which is a great impact. He has worked with the Chamber and Town Manager regarding this and it will require action and coordination to rehabilitate businesses.
- He knows some agencies are setting up a business relief fund which could be replicated in other cities and towns.
- They are continuing their wildfire fuels reduction program which is essential.

Fairfax Mayor Renee Goddard reported:

- Beyond their Declaration of Emergency, the Town has not made any new policies. She is seeing policies when they talk about working with potential funding coming to businesses and what they do in terms of renter tenant protections and financial assistance from the County.
- They will talk about forming policies around opening up some of the rules about how the public rights-of-way are used, street fronts and restaurants and social distancing policies.
- In terms of challenges, there was confusion after the Orders were issued about the use of parkland, open space and MMWD land and whether bikers could use open space or not, closures and what they meant, and this triggered social media.
- They have been faced with a lack of facilities for their homeless population, places for people to wash their hands because buildings are closed, and they are paying \$3,000 a month to have one ADA accessible porta potty but still not hand-sanitizing stations.
- Regarding accomplishments, they printed and distributed 3,500 yellow gate hangers telling people they were here to help, giving an email and phone number. They now have 135 volunteers but only 35 people asking for help. They have also printed large signs and posted them at grocery stores.
- They just launched "Fairfax Open for Business" and it is partnering with another initiative called "Fairfax Forward".
- Fairfax residents are being very obedient of the rules and being respectful of one another.

Larkspur Mayor Catherine Way reported:

- Larkspur and Corte Madera share a lot in common and he commended Mayor Beckman on how they can use their park and recreation staff with the Inter-Generational Center to maximize the output of contact to the community.
- They mailed gate hangers to every residence because they were concerned about entering people's properties. There have been about 9 phone calls weekly, so they might need a new strategy to work on.
- They re-activated their Ad-Hoc Finance Task Force of the Mayor, Vice Mayor and City Manager to talk about their finances. They are estimating a shortfall in the 2020/2021 year of \$3 million as a conservative estimate. The task force also has an adjunct member, Larry Chu and they have met once to discuss overall finance strategies.
- They refinanced their pension obligation with a bond last year and met with that team about what options there are for refinancing the bond.
- The Council has agreed to have special meetings as needed to discuss financial and other matters in a timely manner. They have a special meeting scheduled tomorrow to discuss putting together adoption of an early retirement incentive plan. Mr. Chu has been a Councilmember for 15 years and very savvy at understanding finances, and she recommended cities with past Councilmembers with finance skill set to be brought back and participate.
- The City has had most of its property tax collected.
- They are continuing their major infrastructure project of the Bon Aire Bridge because this project must get finished. The City Managers have the ability to allow projects to move forward which are timely and necessary.
- For those in the Ross Valley, Supervisor Katie Rice is having her first Zoom-in tomorrow at 5PM to talk about District 2 issues and her conversation with Brian Colbert, David and Kiera Swine. She encouraged Supervisors to hold district Zoom-in's.

Novato Mayor Denise Athas reported:

- They met regarding the emergency situation and have had closed sessions every Monday with the City Manager related to COVID-19 issues where there are questions only from Council and discussion,

which has been a way to be able to download information about what they are doing in the City and how things are progressing.

- They have a great communications team putting information up on their website involving local programs and getting people to know what essential businesses and restaurants are open.
- In terms of legislation, on Tuesday they will have another Council meeting and they will discuss their small business micro-grant program. They were fortunate to receive \$200,000 from a business that is pledging to start that and they are now hoping to have a goal of \$500,000 to help about 80 to 100 small businesses.
- The Chamber has been great with holding webinars in relationship to businesses trying to get funding. She receives many calls from businesses indicating they have still not received funding and are frustrated with their banks.
- Regarding challenges, during the first two weeks she had many calls and angry emails from people who wanted to assure residents that they would have toilet paper stocked in stores. She did not receive as many calls and emails the second two weeks, but people asked her to open up the golf courses. This week has been very busy fielding calls and irate people, especially pre-schools who are very concerned that they need lead time to be able to notify parents and teachers of what is happening.
- They are also discussing early retirement incentives in May.

Mill Valley Mayor Sashi McEntee reported:

- They held a special meeting to do a budget adjustment for the fiscal year because they estimated a \$1.2 million hole by the end of the fiscal year, as well as approved the Emergency Declaration right away.
- They have been working with the Chamber on the small business fund and their website lists all businesses that are open.
- Through the Marin Economic Forum they received a grant from PG&E to do the Business Emergency Readiness Program again which was already set up and confirmed with essential businesses.
- They ceased construction downtown on the Depot but they were notified that another city was working on its facilities.
- They prepared a long-range financial plan a few months ago **(45:23-cuts out here)** and are looking at internal efficiencies, opportunities for shared services and collaboration with other cities, and forecasted the financial situation to labor groups for no raises and freezing unfilled positions.
- They started doing NRG's modeled after the Central Marin Energy Program and this continues.
- They are continuing all fire prevention work and also planning for when the shelter-in-place order lifted where there might be a PSPS in the fall so they are planning for that.
- Regarding testing in Santa Clara County, a sampling of 3,300 people was tested at a cost of \$200,000 for the presence of antibodies. They found antibodies were 50% to 85% more prevalent than they expected. She would like the Mayors to encourage the County to do this study.

Ross Mayor Julie McMillan reported:

- Their Council approved the Emergency Order and she will be signing an Order extending the time limits for construction. There will be an automatic extension from March 17, 2020 until the No Construction Order is terminated or until construction is allowed, plus an additional 30 days. The Order will also grant their Building Official the discretion to allow additional time based on unique circumstances, and people can appeal decisions to the Town Council. This was one of the biggest issues in the second Order to shut down all construction, and she spoke about two projects with hardships.
- They have a list of residents' emails and the Town has asked people to volunteer to help elderly residents as well as asking elderly residents to indicate whether they need help with getting their mail and other tasks. They had 30 volunteers and 12 elderly people request services, and they are hoping to revitalize their Block Captain Program which is being managed by their Police Chief and a volunteer community member.
- They are trying to publicize their three restaurants that are available for take-out.
- They are concerned the Spring program that Ross Recreation runs is closed down and they anticipate summer programs will also be closed down which will be a major revenue hit to the Town.
- The Council is meeting once monthly on Zoom. They held an emergency meeting to approve the initial order and they are not meeting again until the middle of May. Their meetings have been light in terms of substance.

San Anselmo Mayor Ford Greene reported:

- They called a special meeting on March 19th to declare a local emergency and also adopted a policy with respect to requiring signs in stores directing people on appropriate physical distancing requirements.
- They adopted legislation requiring signs at parks and open spaces because there are many people driving to parks and using open space rather than complying with the local requirements to exercise from home.
- They have adopted legislation, deputizing members of staff to provide warnings to people who are not in compliance with various aspects of the local ordinance. This is to provide notice and as necessary, police can follow-up.
- They shut down construction with a couple of limited exceptions: 1) if the project was almost completed; and 2) whether or not completion of a project was necessary to effectuate sheltering in place requirements. Those that got the passes cheated and began to expand their scope and ultimately they were shut down. Similarly, they shut down landscaping.
- They worked hard to beef up their website so there is one-stop shopping, easy to navigate and access.
- They left their public toilets open. Before COVID-19 hit they began age-friendly resources which involved mapping out those elderly folks in need and they were ahead in this regard and have expanded the program towards identifying what types of assistance they need.
- They have deferred the payment of their business license renewal fees until the end of June.
- They pushed for infection disclosure by jurisdiction from the County. It is valuable to know this and San Anselmo and Fairfax have been holding steady with 14 cases for a week.
- Their Chamber has been active. They have SanAnselmoEats.com, SanAnselmoShops.com and SanAnselmoStrong.com. Each links to businesses and provides information available to people to get takeout and/or shop. There were problems with take-out and 6 foot distancing, so they authorized the placing of special signs there.
- They are meeting regularly by Zoom. They held their first Zoom meeting last week which was 2.5 hours.
- He echoed Mayor McEntee, stating it is really important to have as much testing as possible. The spread is much bigger than anyone knows, and they got ahead of the State with respect to sheltering in place and other rules, and he would like to see the County and local jurisdictions supporting broad-based testing.

San Rafael Mayor Gary Phillips reported:

- They passed their Emergency Order.
- In the first part of April he began a message from the Mayor each Friday. The first one included, Damon Connolly, Jim Schutz and himself as to where the County was in regards to County services, an overview of hospitals and their preparations and challenges, and what City services are being offered. More recently, there was interest in the various federal plans that were made available to businesses, and he asked Russ Columbo from the Bank of Marin to discuss various types of loans. Danielle Leary, their Economic Development Director talked about the interface between the City and assisting some of their businesses as well as Diane Henderson, President of the Chamber of Commerce.
- Danielle Leary has done a lot to interface with very small businesses that are trying to figure out how to apply for funds which has been very effective.
- They have a Finance Committee and about one-third of their revenues are derived from sales tax. They have held two finance meetings and one Closed Session will be held next Monday and while they have a substantial reserve, they will need to plan for a substantial loss.
- He has had a number of discussions with Senator McGuire, and Supervisor Dennis Rodoni is holding a session Monday afternoon about how the County might address some of the economic concerns. They think there is effort for a more countywide concerted effort and discussions will continue.
- They put together with the Chamber of Commerce and the County a small business relief fund. They have a 501c.3 and procedures laid out and a committee to make selection of applicants and how much they might receive. They have received about 300 applicants and they began fundraising. The application period was closed Monday and they will have a second round within a week or two and he described small businesses and funding.
- They have met with the City Manager and staff in the EOC and work is on-going and he was happy to share and provide what they are doing to help.

Sausalito Mayor Susan Cleveland-Knowles reported:

- They adopted an Emergency Ordinance and are meeting regularly. She recognized all City Clerks and IT staff for getting them up and running so quickly to meet as well as the City Manager for getting staff coordinated to work remotely from home.

- Their Planning Commission is now able to meet, as well as their General Plan Committee and their Small Business Advisory and Hospitality Committee.
- They re-tooled their website to put all COVID-related resources, County-related resource and State resources in one place which was helpful and they have ramped up communications.
- The main focus of their work is in two categories: Vulnerable residents and local businesses. In terms of vulnerable residents, they have the highest senior population in the County and are very lucky they had a very active Age-Friendly group, Sausalito Village and Call a Ride for Sausalito Seniors. Those organizations already had a newsletter and were providing trips to the grocery store, to the drug store and other tasks for many seniors, and they have maxed out their volunteers. They have sent emails every day to 500 or 600 seniors on their list so they are constantly in touch.
- She recognized Kate Collin in San Rafael who have been working on the Homeless Committee with the Mobile Shower Program that comes twice weekly to Sausalito. This has continued to provide dignity and connection to services. They were working with the County and were also able to add food give-a-way at that location twice weekly and in a neighboring Marin City they have a very active food give-a-way programs which serve many residents and school kids.
- They will do a door knocker next week more focused on social/emotional resources, given this crisis is stretching out so long, and she can share this with cities. They run it through County Health and it has suicide prevention, substance abuse, along with other food services and more practical resources.
- They have been ramping up City services and some library and parks and recreation programs with on-line services.
- On the small business front, Sausalito is heavily dependent on sales tax and TOT and Immediate Past President Ray Withy and she have been focusing on economic impacts to Sausalito. She has tasked two City Councilmembers to serve as liaisons to the business community and they have worked a lot with Senator McGuire, some County, State, and Federal partners to try and establish resources for the small businesses and a recovery plan. She thanked San Rafael for taking the leadership on this.
- She also recognized some Sausalito businesses that are up and running. There are some active manufacturers in the Marin ship who turned their radar/sonar businesses into making face shields. Another company is making hand sanitizers and they have a dressmaker in town that is making fashionable face masks.
- She supported ideas for increased collaboration and cooperation. Immediate Past President Withy has been working with some cities and the League of California Cities on State advocacy. She likes the idea of anything to do to ramp up testing and working together on funding, and would be happy to coordinate with this.
- They are all looking for ways to address their budgets and have begun meeting on this with very difficult decisions coming up this year and she would welcome the sharing of opportunities.

Tiburon Mayor Alice Fredericks reported:

- She reported on how Tiburon greets one another, which is called the Tiburon Air Five by holding your hand up to your shoulder and extend your fingers, which keeps social distance and communicates connection.
- Many of the things stated by cities has also been done by Tiburon a little differently. They adopted a resolution ratifying the Town Manager's declaration of an emergency which kicked in an existing ordinance.
- Under that ordinance, they amplified their outreach, the COVID emergency, like you banners on the web page, increased emailing of Tiburon Talk with links to reliable information.
- The most impactful thing they did was convened a workshop on COVID-19 in which they provided information to residences and businesses.
- Their EOC Coordinator covered many resources for the community, including seniors and the Executive Director of the Chamber covered the potential business resources, and they requested they form a task force which was done with the businesses. The Chamber takes the lead and two Councilmembers will participate and look at immediate impacts and recovery.
- One short-term impact that will affect businesses is retention of their furloughed employees because they are the most experienced.
- The Chamber also opened a GoFundMe.com for businesses.
- The reason the library was able to continue with their construction is because they are a JPA and as a government entity, they declared that as essential public infrastructure.
- Their biggest complaint from constituents was about gardening restrictions. Also, people can apply for a permit for vegetation management for fire safety.

- They will take the same budget hits as other cities and challenges are things that are costly the Town was trying to figure out for the long-term. The most important one is vegetation safety management in their open space which is very expensive. Other things like their contributions to their pension trust to cover the unfunded liability is something they will have to decide at budget meetings which begin in May.
- She supported the idea of coordinating advocacy. She believes Nancy Hall-Bennett is on this call and there will be a meeting of MCCMC Legislative Committee at its regularly scheduled fourth Monday meeting at which time they hope to hold a conversation about how they can effectively coordinate their advocacy for the needs that have been generated by this health care crisis.
- She commented on some of the advocacy protesting. Before they do that, they need to be clear on the limits and to match their goals to that. Antibody testing simply means someone has been exposed and there is not data to show whether someone is immune and there are other limits obtained from testing. She thinks before asking for money for this, they need to state what their goals are in testing.
- They have some challenges with people keeping their social distancing on their outdoor exercises because the trails get crowded.
- They are looking for responsible ways to support businesses besides just writing checks.

3b. Discussion and Possible Direction to Form an Ad Hoc Committee on the Effects of and Response to Covid-19

San Rafael Vice Mayor Kate Colin recognized the wonderful efforts of what all cities and towns are doing in Marin County and they all recognize the County has a slightly different role because they are funded differently, but it does not mean the responsibility for cities and towns is any different.

The proposed Ad-Hoc Committee is entitled Economic Recovery Ad-Hoc Committee and she would Co-Chair it with San Anselmo Vice Mayor Brian Colbert. She knows President Brekhus had included a nice recap of an email she had sent understanding that as smart as all of the Mayors and City Managers are, the more they can come together to look at out of the box solutions and collaborate, it dovetails with efforts shared over the last item. She cited commonalities along with differences, and this Committee could sort through the tools to be used.

There could be up to two people from every town or city and thus far, she has spoken with Larkspur and Mill Valley, Ross and San Rafael and there are a couple of areas that keep rising to the top which would be first orders of business such as small business recovery and communication, including transparency of the work they are doing and clarifications as restrictions ease, shared services, revenue generation, and Mike Blakely's desire to have a Board of Supervisors' forum and conversation. Having the MCCMC Ad-Hoc Committee would allow them to plug-into whatever the Council is doing and would ensure their voice continues to be represented and heard.

The request is to approve the Economic Recovery Ad-Hoc Committee and then proceed with appointing one or two Councilmembers to participate.

President Brekhus stated they had talked about whether this is one committee or whether it splinters into multiple committees, how to involve members who are not on the committee to be engaged with this, and it sounds like the committee needs to be formed and then allow them to work through those issues.

Ms. Colin agreed and said all voices are needed and heard and the question is what the best way is to accommodate that. Mayors can self-appoint or put others on the committee and everyone will be apprised of work and discussion.

Mayor Fredericks suggested one of the Committee's first jobs should be to define the mission, the goal and the tools, and Ms. Colin concurred.

Immediate Past President Ray Withy said as he first heard this concept he thought the focus was on small business recovery, but as described tonight it is much broader. It is dealing with all aspects of the COVID response and the aftermath and recovery of it.

Ms. Colin stated to her the driver is economic recovery part of it, and she agreed the work would inform the advocacy part.

Mayor Way suggested holding a separate meeting to discuss their non-profits and their impact in communities, how they can support them because they have lost vast amounts of monies and are very vital stop gaps and essential in many ways for communities. She was unsure where non-profits would get their funding because many of their donors are gone, their galas and golf tournaments are canceled, and communities rely on them for essential care.

President Brekhus said she thinks this is a great idea and it will be important to ensure the dialogue goes between MCCMC members and that they feel included as well, given they are not meeting this month. She believes there is a way for each Councilmember to list this as a report and then that information gets directed to the Ad-Hoc Committee, and she thinks this is Ms. Colin' plan.

Mayor Greene asked and confirmed that the scope of what they are addressing right now it pertains to economic recovery and economic development. He added that because COVID-19 is such a huge game-changer, he thinks it would be valuable to, in the near future, organize in a way to try to come up with a unified approach on how first to identify all issues and how to address issues. If this virus stays around and there is a second wave, troubles will continue.

President Brekhus opened the public comment period, and there were no speakers.

President Brekhus suggested a motion to approve the Committee, and she explained that they will need to discuss how MCCMC continues to meet and whether by Mayor Select Committee or the entire body which is logistically difficult.

Mayor Fredericks suggested that if they are concerned with everyone buying into it and not creating it from the top down or Mayor down, what they might do is pass a resolution supporting formation of this committee.

Ms. Colin said if this is a way to move forward, she supported a resolution. She trusts all cities and towns will be involved in this and whatever protocol makes sense. To her it is cleaner to say the Ad-Hoc Committee be formed and this is the motion, but again, she wants to be sensitive to the protocol.

Mayor Athas said she knows this is an immediate need as the business community needs help now. They are struggling to get funds and seeing money go to the bigger companies and not small businesses. One of her biggest frustrations is when they set up committees and they spend months and months trying to figure out the mission, but these are not normal times. She supported an Ad-Hoc Committee that can start right away and not spend time grappling over what the committee will look like and how they will address it and creating how to do the work. She would rather sit and meet and get the work done because these businesses will not be here in six months if they take that amount of time developing a white paper. They need immediate help and she wanted to be sure they were not setting up another committee that will not act immediately.

Mayor Fredericks agreed and said she would think one meeting could establish mission, goals, and tools. Ms. Colin could probably prepare that tonight but she thinks it should be clear with what the committee is doing because there is also a role to include the long-term recovery. Her suggestion for the resolution was only to address someone's concern about making sure everyone is all in on this, and if the resolution does not accomplish that, she suggested moving to the motion Ms. Colin suggested. The purpose of the mission, goals and tools was more communication to MCCMC to indicate they are doing something.

Ms. Colin said they are ready to go with approval of the committee and they will wait until members are identified.

Mayor Goddard voiced support for a motion.

Mayor Kemnitzer said she would like the resolution put forward tonight to tell each of them how they are going to go about forming it, the timeline, whether each jurisdiction will identify two members of the committee or next steps because otherwise it is an idea but not formed yes.

Mayor Way suggested that they go forward because they all agree an ad-hoc committee is needed so they approve the formation of the ad-hoc committee and then they take it to their Councils and hold discussion on how they appoint and who is one it. If they delay forming it by bringing back a resolution, this is not the best use of time in this emergency.

Mayor Phillips said it seems they might be approving something that he is not very clear on what it will accomplish since each of their cities/towns are doing many things, some of which are different. San Rafael's approach will be different than another city's so he was not sure what the goals and objectives of the committee are. He would like to have some Council discussion about this first because he was not sure in the direction it will result in and he thinks the Council should have some say in any ad-hoc committee. He would generally favor something like this, but he was not sure of its objective.

Additionally, they are planning to do something with the County and in referring to non-profits the County is a big player in those. So, he questioned whether it should be at the County level.

Mayor Athas said these are good points and she has talked with Ms. Colin about it as well as Mike Blakely and she thinks there is power with cities and towns coming together, but she agreed to identify ways for the County to support solutions or a way forward. Again, she has had a lot of experience with this group around homelessness and sea level rise, and it is hard getting everybody to the table all at the same time and place. There is an organic process but she thought everybody is in a crisis mode and thinks what they can do to keep moving forward, understanding that nothing will be set in stone, but to move it forward and have trust and faith in each other that they will get this to where they want it to be and it will be something that is meaningful.

President Brekhus said she spoke with Ms. Colin extensively about the idea and one idea is that if there is a way in our emergency orders to take over right-of-way for restaurants and make one-way streets for certain areas or start talking or thinking about rooftop decks. Maybe they identify some immediate responses they can do and identify how to share services if people did adopt certain things or wanted to talk about them. Possibly this committee is a way to get some good ideas that not everyone will adopt or not, but they can disseminate them. It is a place where they can have some real discussion and collect ideas which could potentially be beneficial.

MOTION: Mayor Cleveland-Knowles made a motion to form an Economic Recovery Ad-Hoc Committee to focus efforts on small business support and that it would then evolve with multiple buckets to address other COVID-19 concerns to move forward. Mayor Athas seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by roll call vote.

4. Current Issues of Mutual Concern - Round Table Discussion:

President Brekhus stated they need to determine whether they are convening MCCMC in the next month or two or will they try and make a Bylaws amendment so items can be voted on by the Mayors. The Executive Committee discussed the concern that having 40-50 people to do roll call, issues with an established quorum, it would be difficult.

Immediate Past President Ray Withy agreed that the issue is that the Mayors Select Committee has a specific role pursuant to the Bylaws and usually decisions made by the Mayors Select Committee gets moved up to the full membership at the monthly meeting to get ratified. The question is how this can be done because if not, MCCMC is frozen.

What they need is some flexibility whereby they can move the agenda forward and possibly find a way to get through some of the process they normally go through. He was unsure how many people will be comfortable with that, but he welcomed ideas of how to get through the logjam that standard processes create.

President Brekhus stated their next business item would be to extend the ABAG term past June 2020 so they need to have a meeting and the question is whether they raise a Bylaws amendment for emergency purposes at that meeting to allow the Mayors group to vote on business items.

Mayor Way said she thinks it is important they stay connected and possibly have limited agendas, but she has two new Councilmembers who would like to be able to hear what is happening. She suggested that if they hold the regular MCCMC monthly meeting, they have one coming up in May and June and she questioned if there was a way to do an emergency Bylaw change whereby Councilmembers can provide input prior to the meeting about a particular item but the Mayors Select Committee is the only one that actually votes at that meeting. This will allow input and people can be in the meeting but they would not need the 100 person roll call vote. She did not want them to get into silos where they do not interact with each other.

President Brekhus said her biggest concern is the Brown Act. The cities can discuss MCCMC at their Council meetings and provide reports. The question is whether the Mayor at that meeting can get other

Councilmembers to provide input on another meeting at which the whole public communication is not being flushed out, and she was not sure they could per the Brown Act. She is happy to peer check that view, but she is concerned that they cannot come to this meeting but then vote on it after having separate communications elsewhere.

Mayor Athas asked how the Governor's emergency declaration that affected the Brown Act might affect their concerns about the Brown Act with respect to these meetings.

President Brekhus stated she spoke with her Town Attorney for Ross and what she understands is that on COVID only, they can report on conversations. There may be some flexibility with the COVID Ad-Hoc Committee. She cannot send everyone Pat Eklund's report on ABAG because it is not on COVID relations, so again, she thinks they will need to meet in May and June to extend Pat Eklund's term and possibly have a broader discussion of this.

Mayor Athas said there might be a possibility where they could talk to a movie theater representative where they can socially distance from one another and hold the meeting. They could do this a different way to meet in a group in a place where they can easily socially distance if that is still the case. This is ripping apart a lot of what they do normally, and to disband something that she thinks is very important, she does not think it will sit well with their other Councilmembers that they will "run the show". She also has two new Councilmembers as well that were just getting a flavor of what MCCMC does. A theater or another venue could be a place where they could also hold presentations which might include Dr. Willis or someone else. She would like to just be more creative about a meeting they can all go to.

Mayor Greene said he is in agreement with President Brekhus in terms of how they are going to act in the future; that they will not be able to change the structure of their activity in the absence of a Bylaw amendment, and they cannot enact any Bylaw amendment without a big meeting. So, mapping that out for a limited time duration makes sense to him because of practical limitations. He thinks people are understanding of the limitations and are able to be flexible provided they come up with a good enough approach and plan. He thinks the plan and approach has to be a big socially distanced meeting that Mayor Athas suggested where among subject discussed is a temporary Bylaws amendment that is sufficient in scope to allow this body to continue to act on a limited scope in terms of membership input.

Mayor Phillips said he likes Mayor Athas' idea. He was not sure of the next subject matter of the next couple of meetings might be, but they are arranging their meetings so things that are absolutely essential are agendaized, but he was not sure what agenda items were critical coming forward the next couple of months. But, if they were in a theater and 6 feet apart, this way people could participate so he was reluctant to exclude Councilmembers. He questioned what would be on the agenda over the next few months.

Mayor Athas cited issues as the need to stay connected and the need to conduct business. Possibly Mayor Athas or someone else can get some legal guidance on the conducting business part but they can stay connected through this committee.

President Brekhus said she also wanted to explore with their Town Manager having their tiny Town Council meeting in the Ross School Gym where they would all be sitting 6 feet apart. Not many people attend, and the Town Manager said absolutely not because it is a violation of the Order. The next Order will still require sheltering in place if people are 65 years or older. So, she did not think they should be inviting people to congregate physically. She thinks they should congregate via Zoom and control the meeting and get input from everyone. Otherwise, it will not look good.

Immediate Past President Withy noted that unless the Governor changes his order, they cannot meet in person.

Mayor Athas said her understanding is that if they are having a meeting, the Novato Unified School District Board is meeting so she thought Supervisors were also meeting and some live.

Immediate Past President Withy said they can but the current Executive Order states they cannot meet with greater than 10 people. But, they can or a Zoom meeting. They can add 100 people on this call, and the question is whether they can change the way they vote.

Mayor Athas stated this seems to be the sticking point.

President Brekhus recommended having a meeting in May. There is only one item of business which is to delegate the voting authority to the Mayors, that they continue to meet on Zoom for all social and information sharing where everyone can comment. But, after that one roll call with everybody, they will only have to do roll call of 10 or 11 people.

Mayor Fredericks asked what future agenda items would look like.

President Brekhus said she was going to propose that under their emergency powers adopt the Bylaws that allows the Mayors to vote on business action items. For example, if they have to appoint a term this is important. She pointed out there is nothing preventing members of Council for cities to be on this Zoom call for the Mayors Select Committee. It would just be having the vote be with the Mayors only. She can try to flush out more of the legal implications of doing this because they probably need to consult Bylaws and get deeper into this.

Also, she did not think they needed to meet until June to extend one term which is the June appointment and then they have a longer period of time before another extension would be needed, and she asked Secretary Vaughn.

Secretary Rebecca Vaughn said this is mostly correct, but typically at the May meeting they introduce nominees for Vice President and President and then vote on those at the June meeting. She believes they also vote on the meeting schedule for the next year for the June meeting.

President Brekhus said at some point, they might want to have an MCCMC meeting and have someone from the Department of Health speak so they are staying connected. She just wanted to bring this up because they should have a meeting at least in May or June or both and possibly a Bylaws proposal on this issue, and then Mayors should get clarification from their City Attorney so they feel comfortable about the advice about how they are going to report to the Council or bring ideas back.

She suggested letting the Executive Committee do more homework on this and then everyone will be updated as to when they can convene another meeting.

Lastly, Mayors recognized Nancy Hall-Bennett's work and voiced appreciation of the daily email updates with very good hyperlinks to valuable information.

5. Adjournment

President Brekhus adjourned the meeting of the Mayors Select Committee at 8:13 p.m.