

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

**Wednesday, April 24, 2013
Hosted by the City of Larkspur
American Legion Hall - 500 Magnolia Avenue
Larkspur, CA 94939**

Members Present

Belvedere: James Campbell, Claire McAuliffe
Corte Madera: Carla Condon, Diane Furst, Michael Lappert, Bob Ravasio
Fairfax: Renee Goddard, John Reed, David Weinsoff
Larkspur: Larry Chu, Dan Hilmer, Anne Morrison, Len Rifkind
Mill Valley: Garry Lion
Novato: Denise Athas, Pat Eklund, Eric Lucan, Jeanne MacLeamy, Madeline Kellner
Ross: P. Beach Kuhl, Rupert Russell
San Anselmo: Kay Coleman, Jeff Kroot, Ford Greene, Tom McInerney
San Rafael: Gary Phillips, Damon Connolly, Kate Colin, Barbara Heller, Andrew McCullough
Sausalito: Tom Theodores, Herb Weiner
Tiburon: Alice Fredericks

City Managers: Fairfax Town Manager Garrett Toy; Larkspur City Manager Dan Schwarz; Mill Valley City Manager Jim McCann; Novato City Manager Michael Frank; Acting San Anselmo Town Manager Dave Donery (Community Services Director); San Rafael City Manager Nancy Mackle; Sausalito City Manager Adam Politzer.

Call to Order

President Weiner called the meeting to order at 7p.m.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Welcome and Introduction of Guests

Mayor Hillmer welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the members of the Larkspur City Council (all present except for Brad Marsh) and City Staff: City Manager Dan Schwarz, Public Works Director Mary Grace Houlihan, Public Works Superintendent Mike Myers, Recreation Director Dick Whitley, Finance Manager Amy Koenig, City Clerk Cynthia Huisman, and Central Marin Police Authority Chief Todd Cusimano. He thanked Huisman and Houlihan for their work on the dinner and Vice Mayor Morrison for her work on creative seating arrangement. He also welcomed the evening's speaker (in addition to Chief Cusimano) Marin County Interim Deputy Fire Chief Mark Brown and guest, Dan Mullen.

Fairfax Mayor Weinsoff introduced the newest member of the Fairfax City Council, Renee Goddard. After inviting Renee to say a few words, President Weiner welcomed her to the group.

Action Item: Request for Change in Meeting Calendar. City Manager Jim McCann said that the City of Mill Valley had been working on securing their speaker since January. He said that Congressman Huffman would not be available until August. He asked the members to consider revising the meeting calendar to cancel the May 22 meeting in favor of an August 28, 2013 meeting in Mill Valley.

The proposed MCCMC calendar change was approved by acclamation.

Approval of Minutes – March 27, 2013 meeting.

There was a motion and second (Coleman/Reed) to approve the minutes. Motion passed by acclamation.

Nominations for Executive Committee 2013-14 Term (President and Vice President) –

Nominations from the floor, normally accepted at May meeting, were moved up due to the proposed cancellation of the meeting. (Election takes place at the June meeting.)

Councilmember Chu said he had sent a letter to President Weiner nominating Vice President Rifkind for President of the 2013-14 term. There was a second to his nomination. Motion passed.

Garry Lion nominated Stephanie-Moulton Peters (who had provided a letter of interest) for Vice President; his motion was seconded by Barbara Heller. Motion passed.

Committee Reports

Golden Gate Bridge, Highway Transportation District (GGBHTD). Alice Fredericks said the Board had approved a five-year transit fare program calling for an increase in local fares. However, she also said that the Board recognized the priority of keeping Marin Transit and Golden Gate buses working like an integrated seamless system, so they voted to postpone the fare increase at this time in order to keep [local] riders onboard.

Fredericks also reported on trends in Bridge traffic and transit ridership – bus ridership down slightly (1.4 % in last 12 months) but ferry ridership up (6.6% increase for the same period); said this showed need for more parking and/or a more sustainable shuttle system.

Fredericks also noted that the GGBHTD financial system in which bridge tolls are used to underwrite bus and ferry service, creates incongruent goals, that is, the more auto use is discouraged, the harder it is for the district to identify revenues to support public transit. Fredericks said the Board will be examining this discrepancy in the future.

Legislative Committee. Chair Fredericks said that while the committee had not met since the last report, she wanted to place some bills that affect cities on the membership's radar:

AB 746 - Smoking in Multi-Unit dwellings: failed to make it out of committee April 3. She said there were two sticking points--preemption and enforcement.

AB 574 - Cap and Trade revenues to cities to implement SCS strategies - Greenhouse Gas reducing transportation strategies. She said this would include several constitutional amendments to lower the voting threshold for local transportation projects, school parcel taxes, libraries and economic development; also, that some of these would allow replacing streams of revenues for city services that were formerly provided by redevelopment agencies.

Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM). Chair Fredericks said that Plan Bay Area had been released on March 22; also that the draft EIR, released on April 2, was over 1,000 pages long. She said that preliminary comments and concerns were discussed at the TAM Executive Committee meeting on April 8; she also said that after the MTC/ABAG presentation to elected officials at the Board of Supervisors meeting, the TAM Board would consider its responses to the EIR.

League of California Cities. North Bay Division President Madeline Kellner invited everyone to the upcoming meeting on July 31, with a panel of speakers on economic development.

ABAG. Pat Eklund said that the EIR for Plan Bay Area had been released last week and she thanked Jeanne MacLeamy and Diane Furst for attending the meeting. She recommended that each city agendize a discussion of the Plan Bay Area in order to submit comments by the end of the comment period, on May 16. She also said she would like to get input from Marin elected officials in her capacity as MCCMC appointed representative to the ABAG Executive Committee. She said that a vote on the Plan Bay Area alternatives would take place in July; she noted that many people wanted the "no project alternative". She invited anyone who was interested to attend a meeting of the Marin County Board of Supervisors on Thursday, as well as a 7p.m. briefing by TAM on April 29 at the Embassy Suites.

Mayor Hillmer added that the Plan Bay Area is the implementation of SB 375 whose purpose is to reduce greenhouse gasses and remove barriers to transportation funding. He urged the members to keep this goal in mind and find a way to keep available transportation funding in the County of Marin.

Major Crimes Task Force. Pat Eklund reported that the JPA had adopted a budget for the coming year that included a lower fee for member cities. She said this was a result of Sheriff Doyle applying for and receiving grant funding for staffing which resulted in the minimal reduction.

Speaker Topic: Public Emergency Communications and Disaster Preparedness

Mark Brown, Interim Deputy Fire Chief for Marin County talked a little about SIMS and praised the seamless cooperation between all levels of responders. He said that Marin County was a model, and agencies such as MERA, provided the ability for all agencies to talk to each other. Similarly, he said that all the EOCs worked together. He said this was important in responding to threats across jurisdictions, like wildfires, a scenario he described in terrible detail in the power point presentation later in the evening.

Chief Cusimano talked about the importance of MERA and how communication systems had on more than one occasion had saved his life during his career as a police officer. He said the same applied to firefighters. He brought the members up to date on the kinds of new routers and modems are needed in safety vehicles and the importance of redundancies if a cell tower goes down, for instance, that data would still continue to flow. He said that one system was needed regionally but there was a price tag associated with its upgrade and implementation.

Mayor Hillmer commented that the City of Larkspur had taken a big step towards this in negotiations with COMCAST [franchise agreement] to connect all the public buildings in Larkspur; he said this kind of action would help to create a "ring of fiber" in the County.

Len Rifkind set up the presentation about wildfire which he said he had previously seen in role as Disaster Advisory Council representative.

Deputy Chief Brown showed through computer modeling how wildfire could quickly and devastatingly cross jurisdictions under the right weather conditions. For instance, he showed how a fire that started in Larkspur open space could quickly spread over the ridge to Mill Valley.

Len said that this kind of disaster showed more than ever the need for training and awareness of what to do in a disaster. He urged political leaders to step up to ensure that their communities were trained in GET READY and CERT programs which give people a sense of confidence in facing and preparing for the unknown. Toward this end, he said that Corte Madera and Larkspur had formed a Twin Cities Disaster Preparedness Council. He recommended that each city appoint an elected official in their city to take responsibility for and further this goal.

Rifkind also said that every single public employee should be trained and retrained and that resources were available at County OES for this purpose.

Finally, he said he would like to see a person step up and organize Get Ready and CERT programs throughout the county.

Adjournment

President Weiner thanked Len and the other speakers for their important message and adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m. to June 26 in Novato.

Submitted,
Diane Crane Iacopi
MCCMC Secretary

City Selection Committee (aka Mayor's Select Committee)

At 8:50 p.m., a meeting of the City Selection Committee was called to elect a chair and vice chair.

Present at the meeting were Mayors Furst, Rupert, Reed, Hillmer, Weiner, Coleman, Berman, Eklund and Phillips.

Clerk Crane Iacopi said the committee normally met in April of each year to elect a chair and vice chair. She noted that the mayor of San Rafael had traditionally served as chair because he or she was elected mayor which had provided continuity.

There was a motion/second [Hillmer/Weiner] to elect Gary Phillips as Chair.

There was another motion/second [Reed/Furst] to elect Dan Hillmer as Vice Chair.

Mayor Phillips said he would like to see the group address the issue of homelessness in the coming year, an issue he said affected all cities. Mayor Hillmer said he would like to focus on transportation issues.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.