

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

**Wednesday, June 22, 2022  
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE  
6:00pm**

**Members Present**

Belvedere: Councilmember Kemnitzer  
Corte Madera: Mayor Casissa;  
Fairfax: Mayor Hellman; Councilmembers Ackerman, Coler, Goddard  
Larkspur: Mayor Hillmer; Councilmember Haroff  
Mill Valley: Councilmembers Carmel, Perry, Sabaratnam  
Novato: Mayor Lucan; Vice Mayor Wernick, Councilmembers Athas, Eklund, Milberg  
Ross: Mayor Robbins; Vice Mayor Kuhl; Councilmember McMillan  
San Anselmo: Councilmember Colbert  
San Rafael: Mayor Colin;  
Sausalito: -  
Tiburon: Councilmembers Fredericks, Thier

**Ex Officio:** Corte Madera Town Manager Todd Cusimano; Ross Town Manager Christa Johnson;  
MCCMC Secretary Rebecca Vaughn

**Guests were:** District Attorney Lori Frugoli; Supervisor Katie Rice;

**Call to Order**

President Sashi Sabaratnam called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m., and welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Marin County Council of Mayors and Councilmembers via webinar, for June 22, 2022.

A roll call of the Marin towns/cities was taken. There was a quorum of the 11 Marin cities/towns present, with representatives from 10 cities/towns in attendance (Sausalito not present).

President Sabaratnam then called for Public Comment.

**3. Public Comment:**

1. Veronica Geretz, SURJ Marin – She spoke about Assembly Bill 1185. She stated that SURJ stands for Standing Up For Racial Justice, and that Black and brown community members throughout the county, have let them know loud and clear that AB 1185 has everything to do with racial justice. She summarized that the state legislature passed AB 1185 over a year ago, and it gave county supervisors full authority to create sheriff oversight commissions with full subpoena power. AB 1185 also authorizes an appointed committee to investigate, audit, and review internal law enforcement investigations, including community complaints and use of force incident. Review boards can reduce government spending, an important note on the legal defense of officer misconduct, and help create policies that prevent misconduct in the future.

SURJ Marin hosted a State of Racism in Marin event in Fairfax on June 18<sup>th</sup> and the keynote speaker at the event spoke about and called attendees to take action around AB 1185 in Marin. Several local elected officials were in attendance and they reflected how much they learned about the AB 1185 implementation process in Marin and suggested that SURJ provide an informational update tonight.

Currently, the Marin County Human Rights Commission has been tasked with drafting a proposal for how Marin County would implement AB 1185 and they plan to have that proposal ready to present to the Board of Supervisors in the coming month. She plans to return to MCCMC in September with an update around where this process stands, and how elected officials can get involved. Please reach out between now and then with any questions by emailing [info@surjmarin.org](mailto:info@surjmarin.org).

2. District Attorney Lori Frugoli – She stated that she thinks it is important to pay attention to that legislation the board of supervisors indicated this past week. She had the impression that they are supportive of it and there is a lack of understanding as to what the subpoena power is, so it is very important to pay attention to that.

She also thanked all of the cities who supported their gun buyback program, and Mayor Kate and Stephanie Hellman really led the charge for fundraising on behalf of the cities. Mayor Kate can fill in on the rest, but suffice it to say at minimum, it was an amazingly grateful and rewarding afternoon. They got more than 500 firearms and are going to have another event.

3. Mayor Kate Colin, San Rafael – She will put a report out so all the cities and towns can see the number of weapons that were turned in, how it broke down to assault weapons and ghost guns and everything that. She echoed DA Frugoli's words, and thanked everyone for their participation. It was really successful.

Hearing no additional public comment, President Sabaratnam asked everyone to review the written committee reports that were provided for the packet, and introduced the first business item, as there were no presentations scheduled.

#### **4. Presentations: None**

**5. Committee Reports:** All Committee reports were submitted in writing and are available in the [agenda packet on the MCCMC website](#). President Sabaratnam thanked those who submitted written reports and encouraged the membership to review the reports.

- 5.a. Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC)  
5a. Written report from Supervisor Damon Connolly
- 5.b. Association of Bay Area Governments  
5b. Written report from Pat Eklund, Novato
- 5.c. BCDC Report from North Bay representative on the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC)  
5c. Written report from Pat Eklund, Novato
- 5.d. Golden Gate Bridge, Highway & Transportation District  
5d. Written report from Holli Thier, Tiburon
- 5.e. MCCMC Legislative Committee  
5.e. Written reports from Chair Alice Fredericks, Tiburon
- 5.f. Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit District (SMART)  
5f. Written report provided by Dan Hillmer, Larkspur

- 5.g. Transportation Authority of Marin
- 5.g. Written report provided by Alice Fredericks, Tiburon

## **6. BUSINESS MEETING**

- 6.a. Action Item from MCCMC Legislative Committee Regarding AB1721, California Emergency Services Act: Request for MCCMC Body to Review Proposed Amendment and Issue Support Position  
Attachment 6a: Summary of AB1721 and Proposed Amendment

Legislative Committee Chair Alice Fredericks, Tiburon, summarized that this bill, AB1721 was brought to the Legislative Committee by John McCauley, Mill Valley, who retired from his council seat. AB 1721 establishes a \$400-million seismic retrofit program for multifamily, soft story buildings and it will be administered by the California Office of Emergency Services and the California Earthquake Authority. The funding program proposes priorities to community of high seismic risk and owners of units serving households of low and moderate income. Soft stories refers to housing units where the first story does not have the shear strength to support the housing above it in a seismic event. According to the proponent, John McCauley, of the amendment that is being requested here, this is typical of pre-1980 housing structures, at least in the City of Mill Valley, with retail or garages on the ground story and then housing above.

The bill itself restricts funding availability to buildings of at least five and a maximum of 20 units. A third of the multifamily structures in Mill Valley are three to four units according to the retired council member. And he requested that the bill be supported and based on the characteristics of eligible family structures in Mill Valley, which is probably typical of other small jurisdictions, and that the bill be amended to make multifamily structures of at least three units, rather than five, eligible for the funding for the soft story retrofits. She then asked for any questions and a possible motion to support the Mill Valley position of support and amend.

President Sabaratnam asked Councilmember Fredericks to provide background on why the issue was brought before the full MCCMC body. Councilmember Fredericks responded that the Committee typically focuses on bills that deal with the funding of the government itself. These grants go directly to the owners of the building, the way the bill is set up now. So the cities and towns are not involved. The Committee also looks at funding for the cities and the anything that affects our ability to provide services. You could make an argument that this is health and safety and it's part of our purview.

President Sabaratnam noted that John McCauley just cycled off the council the previous night, and soft stories, and making sure that Mill Valley wouldn't lose some of their more naturally affordable housing stock.was a particularly important issue during his time on council.

Councilmember Pat Eklund noted that the League of California Cities does support this bill and it says that AB 1721 will help give cities the flexibility to prioritize and focus resilience and mitigation programs to ensure we maximize the safety and wellbeing of future disaster victims.

A motion to support and amend was made by Beach Kuhl, Ross. President Sabaratnam asked Councilmember Fredericks to confirm the next steps, and Councilmember Fredericks responded that MCCMC provides the authority to the Legislative Committee, and the Committee's staff sends it out the letter. She reminded to group not to forget the amendment to give it broader applicability.

There was a motion and second (Kuhl / Coler) to approve a "Support" position, and a proposed amendment, to AB 1721 The motion was approved by roll call vote of the cities/towns present, 9-0-1-1 (San Rafael abstained, Sausalito absent)

6.b. Report Out From City/County Services Subcommittee  
Attachment 6b: No attachment, verbal report only

President Sabaratnam provided a verbal summary of the work undertaken by the Committee, which was formed to better understand the services provided by the County and how they're funded. Through the work of the committee, the goal was to better identify the most strategic opportunities for collaboration that will return the greatest benefit to Marin's residents.

She explained that, after discussion with several city managers and county staff, it was determined that the broad nature of the assignment of the committee presented logistical challenges. It was also felt that members of MCCMC and MMA, the Marin Managers Association, should work on identifying topics affecting city/county relations and invite appropriate people to make presentations to one or both bodies. The experience of this committee has led to a discussion about the process by which MCCMC committees are formed.

MMA members suggest that a process that seeks the input of MMA about committees before they are formed would help MMA understand the interests of MCCMC, and give MMA an opportunity to provide feedback and identify resources prior to the formation of a committee. It is proposed that MCCMC form a new committee to review the bylaws specifically with respect to the formation of committees and the timing of financial requests. So the recommendations from the committee captured here are to consider taking a deeper look at the actual MCCMC subcommittee practice versus the bylaws. The bylaws require that subcommittees either accomplish a task or investigate in specific area, and then they should submit a final report and disband. Committees are not intended to generate policy recommendations on an ongoing basis because that is the purview of the Councils.

One recommendation is to do that deeper dive. The sub-recommendations are to request the Homeless subcommittee provide a written report outlining the scope of their work, programs initiated in any follow up data or metrics, and requests the county of Marin provide a written report outlining the scope of their work, programs initiated in any follow up data or metrics with regard to recent financial requests. And then MCCMC and MMA should work on identifying topics affecting city/county relations and invite appropriate people to make presentations to one or both bodies.

At the initial meeting, there was a robust discussion. There were some people who wanted to stick with the original question and area of inquiry. And there was a lot of interest in what the County/HHS is doing. But everybody felt that the grounds have sort of shifted a little bit on this topic and we needed to come back to the body if we were going to change what it is that the committee was going to be looking at.

Corte Madera Town Manager Todd Cusimano spoke about the Marin Managers Association's perspective on this Committee, and MCCMC committees in general, and focusing on whether there a way that our two groups (MCCMC and MMA) can better communicate? The subcommittees that were formed, were formed at the MCCMC level, but there's a whole bunch of other stakeholders that should be part of that conversation, give historical context, who's doing what.

The discussion that took place was "Hey, if we're going to form committees, what is the best way to go about it?" Not attacking one sub subcommittee or another, just adding some process. And the business meeting concept came to play where they would potentially cancel three or four MMA meetings, and ask the MCCMC group to do the same thing and have a meeting with all of us talking about big picture things like "What are the issues for this year? What do we want to work on?".

Town Manager Cusimano concluded his discussion stating that he wants this subcommittee to ultimately do some work of city/county services, but he strongly urges MCCMC to consider pausing for a second and focusing on bylaws, maybe some process recommendations before we do that because before we form this group, he thinks we need to bring the entire MMA in with the MCCMC and have an open, honest conversation with everyone. And then, that will set the stage for what we want to accomplish and we'll go attack this.

Following additional questions and answers, There was a motion and second (Kuhl / McMillan) to continue the discussion of the recommendations in the report and what to do about this subcommittee at the September meeting. The motion was approved by roll call vote of the cities/towns present, 9-0-1-1 (San Rafael abstained, Sausalito absent)

**\*\*Post-meeting follow-up:**

Following the meeting, President Sabaratnam provided the City/County Services Subcommittee report and supporting documents for distribution to the group. The report was sent out via email to the MCCMC membership on Friday, June 24, 2022 and the report can be viewed on the MCCMC website: <http://www.mccmc.org/wp-content/uploads/MCCMC-City-County-Services-Committee-Final-Report-June-21-2022-Final-compressed.pdf>

There was also a request to distribute the current MCCMC Bylaws as an informational and

educational item, for those who may be new to MCCMC. The current MCCMC Bylaws, and amended and approved on March 28, 2018 can be viewed on the MCCMC website: <http://www.mccmc.org/wp-content/uploads/MCCMC-By-Laws-Amended-2018.pdf>

- 6.c. Consideration and Possible Approval of the 2022-2023 Meeting Schedule and List of Host Cities  
Attachment 6c: 2022-2023 Draft meeting schedule and list of host cities

A proposed meeting schedule for 2022-23 was presented, which proposes a combination of in person and virtual meetings. In-person meetings are tentatively scheduled for September, October, April, May and June, and hosts are asked to hold the events outdoors where possible. Zoom meetings are scheduled for January, February and March, when it is more difficult to meet outdoors. Brian Colbert noted the focus on providing networking opportunities, and that San Anselmo is scheduled to host the September meeting, and Novato is scheduled to host the October meeting. Cities are encouraged to team up to co-host the meetings to keep costs down and volunteers are sought for hosting the April, May and June meetings.

There was support for the calendar/meeting schedule. Several council members request continued hybrid options for those who are unable to attend in person. It was also asked if it could be noted on invitations that the meeting will be outdoors so that people can make informed decisions on whether they would attend. There was a request that host cities choose venues that have good air circulation indoors and access to outdoor areas.

President Sabaratnam called for a vote to approve the meeting schedule for 2022-23. There was a motion and second (McMillan / Athas) to approve the MCCMC meeting schedule for 2022-23. The motion was approved by roll call vote of the cities/towns present, 9-0-1-1 (Tiburon abstained, Sausalito absent)

- 6.d. Review of Draft Agenda for the September 28, 2022 MCCMC Meeting  
Attachment 6d: Draft agenda for September 28, 2022 meeting

There were no comments on the draft agenda.

- 6.e. Consideration and Possible Action to Approve the Draft Minutes of the May 25, 2022 MCCMC Meeting Held Via Zoom Webinar  
Attachment 6e: Draft minutes for May 25, 2022 meeting

There was a motion and second (Kuhl / Fredericks) to approve the minutes of the May 25,

2022. The motion was approved by roll call vote of the cities/towns present, 10-0-1 (Sausalito absent)

6.f. Consideration and Possible Appointment of Executive Committee:

President and Vice President for 2022-23 Term

6.f.1: Nominations for MCCMC Vice President for 2022-23

6.f.2: Nominations for MCCMC President for 2022-23

Attachment 6f1: Letter of Interest from Melissa Blaustein, Sausalito

Attachment 6f2: Letter of Interest from Brian Colbert, San Anselmo

President Sabaratnam introduced the item and stated that nominations for President and Vice President were received at the May 25, 2022 meeting, with Brian Colbert and Melissa Blaustein nominated for President and Vice President, respectively, and their letters of interest were included in the agenda packet. She called for any additional nominations from the floor and hearing none, a vote was called.

There was a motion and second (Colbert / Hillmer) to appoint Melissa Blaustein, Sausalito, to serve as MCCMC Vice President for the 2022-23 Term. The motion was approved by roll call vote of the cities/towns present, 10-0-1 (Sausalito absent)

There was a motion and second (Colin / Athas) to appoint Brian Colbert, San Anselmo, to serve as MCCMC President for the 2022-23 Term. The motion was approved by roll call vote of the cities/towns present, 10-0-1 (Sausalito absent)

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:09pm to the next regular meeting scheduled for September 28, 2022 to be held in person and hosted by the Town of San Anselmo.