

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

Wednesday, February 24, 2016
Hosted by the City of Novato
City of Novato Administrative Offices and Historic City Hall
Novato, CA 94945

Members Present

Belvedere: Marty Winter
Corte Madera: Sloan Bailey
Fairfax: David Weinsoff, Barbara Coler, John Reed
Larkspur: Catherine Way, Kevin Haroff, Dan Hillmer
Mill Valley: Sashi McEntee
Novato: Denise Athas, Pam Drew, Pat Eklund, Eric Lucan
Ross: Elizabeth Brekhus, Beach Kuhl, Carla Small
San Anselmo: Matt Brown, Kay Coleman, Ford Greene
San Rafael: Gary Phillips, Maribeth Bushey, Kate Colin, John Gamblin, Andrew McCullough
Sausalito: Tom Theodores, Herb Weiner
Tiburon: Alice Fredericks

Ex Officio: Belvedere City Manager Mary Neilan, Mill Valley City Manager Jim McCann, Novato Interim City Manager Cathy Capriola, Ross Town Manager Joe Chinn, San Anselmo Town Manager Debra Stutsman, San Rafael City Manager Jim Schutz, Tiburon Town Manager Greg Chanis and Novato City Clerk/MCCMC Secretary Sheri Hartz.

Call to Order

President Denise Athas called the meeting to order at 6:55 p.m.

Welcome and Introduction of Guests

Novato Mayor Pat Eklund welcomed the members and guests, including Supervisor Judy Arnold, District Aide Tanya Albert and special guests Dr. David Wain Coon and Paul Cohen from College of Marin. She also introduced the Novato Council and staff members Russ Thompson, Director of Public Works, Pam Shinault, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services, and Bob Brown, Director of Community Development, Chris Stewart, Economic Development Manager, Captain Matt McCaffrey, Acting Police Chief and Peggy Flynn, Public Communications Coordinator. She concluded by thanking Pacheco Ranch and Trek wineries for providing the wine and Black Cat Bone for playing music during the social hour.

Public Comment – None

Presentation: College of Marin (COM)

David Wain Coon, Ed.D, Superintendent/President of College of Marin, spoke briefly on COM's upcoming 90th Anniversary and its plans to ensure that students would have access to 21st century teaching and learning space that supports the tenets of the College's educational master plan, through the passage of a bond measure that was being contemplated for the June 2016 ballot.

Committee Reports

TAM Report: Councilmember Fredericks reported that at the upcoming TAM meeting, the Commissioners would be providing policy direction to staff on how to prioritize the programming of dwindling state and federal contributions to local and regional transportation projects.

She stated that the Federal transportation bill had passed, so policies and programming for Marin County's share of OBAG2 funds that come to us through MTC was underway and that TAM staff had been successful in keeping the floor of funding available to Marin consistent with the share allotted under ABAG1. She added that the adjustment was an acknowledgement of our transportation programs and projects that reduce greenhouse gases and said that, had the prevailing formulas for allocation been followed, the estimated allocation would have been \$400K less, but that MTC warned that this adjustment would not be honored in the future.

GGBTD: Councilmember Fredericks reported on the Suicide Deterrent Barrier, stating the project had hit a glitch when the District found that it could not meet the "Made in America" requirement for the special steel needed because there was not sufficient manufacturing capacity. She reported that an alternative material had since been identified and that bids would soon open.

She reported that a new bus Route 30 would replace Route 10 which operated from San Francisco along Bridgeway. She stated that the proposed changes would provide a bus to the city every 30 minutes.

Regarding Route 8, she said a six-month ridership demonstration period for the Route 8 stops on Tiburon Blvd east of Strawberry would be going before the Board, as was urged by Marin representatives. She stated that, if ridership on average met the 20 riders per run criteria, elimination of the route would be reconsidered.

MCCMC Legislative Committee: Councilmember Fredericks reported that the last day to file bills had been February 19th. She said that it was too early to take positions since the bills would be amended, and that there were thousands of bills for lobbyists to sift through.

Regarding SB 593 - Short Term Rentals, she reported that it was inactive but not dead. She encouraged cities who want to allow or prohibit the activity to support the McGuire bill that had an emphasis on provisions to allow enforcement of all local jurisdiction ordinances.

She stated that the Committee had voted to support SB 593 if it were clarified to allow information on rental activity to be used to enforce local ordinances. She added that the concern was not just loud parties and destruction of property, but also the long term impacts of losing residents committed to community.

Councilmember Fredericks next reported on bills which were new on the watch list:

- SB 885: would make construction contracts that required indemnification by the design consultant void unless the negligence claimed was that of the design party. Presumably would result in savings to the cities from reduction of architect and designer fees because insurance and risk would be built into the cost of services.
- SB 1000: required an environmental justice element to General Plans that identified disproportionate impacts of land use on disadvantaged communities with respect to pollution exposure, access to food and physical activities, and other negative effects. She said it would be watched with concern to determine whether the cost of adding more elements to the General Plan were outweighed by the potential benefits to environmental justice.
- SB 987: provided for taxation of regulated marijuana activity.

- AB1665: Alameda and Contra Costa initiated this bill to raise the tax ceiling in their respective counties; TAM supported a similar move in Marin to meet the increased demand for programs (such as school buses), the increasing costs of some programs (such as senior mobility and crossing guards) and the steep decline in other sources of funding including gas sales tax revenues.

Marin Transit: Councilmember Bushey reported that Marin Transit had begun providing free rides to students with ID from San Rafael to the College of Marin campuses.

ABAG: Mayor Eklund provided a written report in the packet, and reported on the recent ABAG/MTC workshop that had been held with stakeholder groups. She said that consensus was still being sought on what the problem to be solved was, and what the objectives and principles were. Regarding Plan Bay Area 2040, she gave an update on the three land use and transportation scenarios, outlined upcoming public outreach, explained the Equity Framework which would guide planning efforts around the needs of disadvantaged populations, and discussed the housing production report which she said would be useful in selecting housing strategies. She concluded by announcing the topics on the upcoming ABAG General Assembly meeting.

Program: Vivien Straus, Straus Home Ranch: *My Life with Cows: a Marin County Farm Girl's Views on the Importance of Agriculture to our Community and Local Economy*

Ms. Straus gave a presentation about her family's dairy business and what it was like to grow up in farming. She outlined the impact of agriculture in Marin, stating it accounted for 50% of the acreage in the County and employed approximately 600 full and part-time workers. She discussed efforts underway to protect agricultural lands, the burgeoning artisan cheese industry, and future challenges that will be faced.

Business Meeting

Approval of Minutes – January 27, 2016 meeting

There was a motion/second (Weinsoff/Kuhl) to approve the minutes. Motion passed by acclamation.

Adjournment

At 8:25 p.m., President Athas adjourned the meeting until March 30, 2016 in Ross.

Submitted,

Sheri Hartz
MCCMC Secretary