

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

Wednesday, February 24, 2010
Drake Community Room (Jason's Restaurant)
300 Drakes Landing, Larkspur, CA
Hosted by the Town of San Anselmo

Members Present

Belvedere: No members attended
Corte Madera: Carla Condon, Alexandra Cock, Bob Ravasio
Fairfax: Pam Hartwell-Herrero, John Reed, Lew Tremaine, David Weinsoff
Larkspur: Larry Chu, Joan Lundstrom, Len Rifkind
Mill Valley: Garry Lion, Shawn Marshall, Stephanie Moulton-Peters
Novato: Denise Athas, Carole Dillon-Knutson, Pat Eklund, Madeline Kellner, Jeanne MacLeamy
Ross: No members attended
San Anselmo: Kay Coleman, Ford Greene, Tom McInerney, Jeff Kroot, Barbara Thornton
San Rafael: Al Boro, Greg Brockbank, Damon Connolly, Barbara Heller, Marc Levine
Sausalito: Linda Pfeiffer, Herb Weiner
Tiburon: Alice Fredericks, Jim Fraser, Emmett O'Donnell, Jeff Slavitz

Also present were the following City and Town Managers: David Bracken, Corte Madera; Gary Broad, Ross; Wayne Bush, Interim City Manager, Mill Valley; Michael Rock, Fairfax; Pat Thompson, Interim City Manager, Larkspur; Debra Stutsman, San Anselmo; Ken Nordhoff, San Rafael; Adam Politzer, Sausalito; Peggy Curran, Tiburon, as well as MCCMC Secretary/Treasurer Diane Crane Iacopi of Tiburon.

Call to Order: President Jeff Slavitz called the business meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and introduced San Anselmo Mayor, Barbara Thornton.

Welcome and Introduction of Guests: Mayor Thornton welcomed the membership and introduced guests Patsy White of the League of Women Voters, Joe Garbarino of Marin Sanitary Service, District 3 Supervisor Charles McGlashan, Aide to Supervisor McGlashan, Maureen Parton, and ABAG Executive Director Henry Gardner. The Mayor welcomed guest speakers Stuart Moody and Andy Peri (*Green Sangha*), Judy Shills, Max Perrey, Amelia Howard (*Teens Turning Green*), and Harley and Desiree Delano (Marin grocers).

Mayor Thornton also welcomed members of the San Anselmo Staff: Town Manager Debbie Stutsman, Town Attorney Rob Epstein, Chief of Police Charles Maynard, Police Captain Ted White, Public Works Director Steve Myrter, Community Development Director Dave Donery, Planning Consultant Diane Henderson, and Administrative Services Technician Joanne Kessel.

Approval of Minutes: From the meeting held on January 27, 2009

Moved and seconded to approve the minutes. Motion passed.

Committee Reports

- a. Marin Economic Commission – Garry Lion said that the newly formed Marin Economic Forum would be up and running in the next month or so and that he would keep the group apprised of its actions.

- b. TAM (Transportation Authority of Marin) – Alice Fredericks gave an update on the state budget deficit and the effect that certain proposed tax repeals would have on transportation. She said that some people thought funding from gas tax revenues were protected by Proposition 42; others, she said, felt that the revenues were subject to the “rolling borrowing” by the state. Fredericks said the TAM board would consider support of the League’s ballot initiative at its next meeting. She also said that TAM was conducting a survey to determine interest in funding of local transportation projects through a local ballot measure. She said that she would report back on the results of the survey.
- c. MCCMC Legislative Committee – Alice Fredericks said the committee had voted to oppose Proposition 16 at its February 22 meeting. She said the committee based its opposition on the premise of local control and autonomy, separate from any opposition or support of the Marin Energy Authority. She said the committee had voted to support the League of California ballot initiative at the same meeting, and had approved an extension of the League’s Lobbyist contract.
- d. League of California Cities – Alice Fredericks gave the report for North Bay Representative Chuck Dalldorf. She said that “bills to watch” in the coming year were those concerning municipal bankruptcy, State water policy, and the California Jobs Initiative which would suspend AB 32. She said that all the League Policy Committees had voted to oppose Proposition 16.
- e. SMART – Joan Lundstrom said that she had attended her first SMART board meeting on February 24. She reported that 10 station-planning workshops had been held in communities from Cloverdale to Larkspur to solicit feedback. She said that a “local identity” was being discussed for each station and that there were more workshops planned for April. Lundstrom said that the design of the rail car’s interior and exterior was nearing completion and that the next step was an RFP. With regard to funding, Lundstrom said that last year was the first year the quarter-cent sales tax had been collected; however, she also reported that sales tax revenues were down last year by 10% in Marin and Sonoma counties. She said that this made bonding unfavorable and that the project now faced a \$155 million shortfall. Lundstrom said that SMART might look at the “New Starts” program to try to take advantage of federal stimulus funding. However, she said that receipt of such funding was dependent on an endorsement by MTC, which she said had told SMART that there were already two projects ahead of the rail project.

Announcement of Committee Vacancies:

President Slavitz said that the term of CAL-ID Remote Access Network representative Barbara Thornton would expire in March and he called for nominations. He said that an appointment would be made at the March meeting.

Other Reports: Pat Eklund said that the League’s ballot initiative signature drive was well underway. She invited the members to join her in signature-gathering at Costco every Sunday through March, at 10 a.m.

Public Comment: None

Program: *“Rethinking Waste, Rethinking our Lives”*

Mayor Thornton said there was a very special program had been put together with a presentation by a community panel. She said that a report issued by the Marin County Hazardous Waste JPA reinforced the need for reduction of plastic bag use in the landfill in order to meet state-mandated targets. She reintroduced the following speakers:

Stuart Moody and Andy Peri, *Green Sangha*; Judy Shills and students Max Perrey and Amelia Howard, *Teens Turning Green*, Harley Delano, Marin grocer, and Charles McGlashan, Marin County Board of Supervisors.

In their power point presentation, Stuart Moody and Andy Peri informed the group of the amount of plastic waste that is now being used and discarded worldwide. They described the negative impacts of this waste on sea life and how its mass is overtaking the amount of plankton in the ocean food chain. They highlighted the local markets (Good Earth, Whole Foods) that have made an effort to reduce their plastic bag use and are encouraging customers to bring their own shopping bags. They talked of the importance of changing individual behavior in order to affect greater change.

Marin grocer Harley Delano followed this presentation with a history of plastic bag use by food markets. He described a time before plastic bags came into use and said that his markets were also making a concerted effort to both reward people who brought their own bags, as well as reduce the amount of plastic bags offered to customers. Mr. Delano said that he had seen first-hand the deleterious effects of plastic waste on our waterways.

Judi Shills, former member of the California Coastal Commission and founder of "Teens Turning Green," also said that is important to start changing our behavior in relationship to plastic bag use, and other throwaway bag use, as well. She talked of a movement called "BYO Bag Days" in Marin on the third Saturday of each month to encourage people to bring their bags and not use either plastic or paper bags when they went shopping.

Marin Country Day School student Amelia Howard said that 138 million single use bags were thrown away by Marin residents annually. She said that *Teens Turning Green* was focused on the reduction of plastic bag use; she said that San Francisco, Washington DC, and Los Angeles had all passed recent plastic bag bans and asked the group to consider doing the same in Marin County.

Tam High student Max Perrey echoed these remarks and also talked about the BYO Bag Days. He said that he and his friends had produced an early version of a reusable shopping bag as a successful fund-raising project and suggested that this trend could be very successful going forward.

Supervisor Charles McGlashan discussed proposed "bag ban" strategies. He said that if a "green" fee was added to both plastic and paper bags, not just on plastic bags, such legislation would be exempt from CEQA requirements. He said a mechanism was already in place, through the County's system of Weights and Measures, to implement such a fee at local check stands.

Secondly, McGlashan said that local initiatives, if placed on the ballot by petition, would not have to undergo a full EIR. However, he noted that election costs would still be incurred to pass these initiatives. He said that the cities could also adopt ordinances to ban bag use. He emphasized the importance of all the cities (and County) acting in concert to avoid gaps, an important request by local grocers to avoid having customers drive to the next city or town to avoid a ban or fee. McGlashan said that while there was an initial target date of Earth Day 2010 to implement legislation, he now thought the timeline might be extended to into 2011.

Following a brief question and answer period, President Slavitz thanked the speakers and Mayor Thornton for covering a timely topic. He said he hoped that interest in this topic would snowball and would lead to action by all the Marin cities and County.

Adjourn: 8:45 pm to the next meeting hosted by the City of San Rafael.

Submitted,
Diane Crane Iacopi, Secretary-Treasurer