

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

Wednesday, April 28, 2010
The Spinnaker
Spinnaker Drive, Sausalito, CA
Hosted by the City of Sausalito

Members Present

Belvedere: Sandra Donnell

Corte Madera: No members present

Fairfax: 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 present

San Anselmo: Kay Coleman, Tom McInerney, Jeff Kroot, Barbara Thornton

San Rafael: Al Boro, Greg Brockbank, Damon Connolly, Marc Levine

Sausalito: Carolyn Ford, Mike Kelly, Jonathan Leone, Linda Pfeifer, Herb Weiner

Tiburon: Jim Fraser, Emmett O'Donnell, Jeff Slavitz

Also present were the following City and Town Managers: George Rodericks, Belvedere, Michael Rock, Fairfax, Pat Thompson, Interim City Manager, Larkspur, Wayne Bush, Interim City Manager, Mill Valley; Debra Stutsman, San Anselmo; Ken Nordhoff, San Rafael; Adam Politzer, Sausalito, 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 Sausalito Mayor, Jonathan Leone.

Welcome and Introduction of Guests: Mayor Leone welcomed the membership and introduced the following guests and speakers: Amy Belser, former Sausalito Mayor and Councilmember, Peter Banning, LAFCO, Patsy White, League of Women Voters, Leslie Alden, Supervisor McGlashan's office, Margaret Jones, UCSF, Mary O'Meara, Marin Link; and speakers, Allan Bortel, Elizabeth Emerson and Bob Curry, Larry Meredith, Maureen Cassingham and Farhad Mansourian.

Mayor Leone also welcomed members of the Sausalito City Staff: Debbie Pagliaro, City Clerk, Susan Nichols, Human Resources Director, Scott Paulin, Chief of Police, John Rohrbacher, Police Captain, and Charles Francis, Administrative Services Director/Treasurer.

Approval of Minutes: From the meeting held on March 24, 2010

Moved and seconded to approve the minutes. Motion passed.

Committee Reports

- a. SMART – Joan Lundstrom said the SMART Board had voted unanimously to issue an RFP for design and procurement of the 78-seat rail cars which could run in pairs or in threes. She said RFP called for a crash safety feature, as well as 15% bike storage. Lundstrom said that while it would cost an \$80-90 million for the cars, the agency had already been contacted by an interested bidder, Houston Metro, which was a positive sign. Lundstrom said the award of contract was estimated to take place in December. She also reported that the design firm ZGF was working on the design of the 14 stations over the 70-mile line.

- b. Major Crimes Task Force – Pat Eklund said she was pleased to announce that the Board had voted to use asset forfeiture funds to reduce the cost of participation in the JPA to member agencies. She said that all cities would receive a 25% reduction for the next two years. She urged other JPA's to do something similar to help cities during these difficult economic times.
- c. JPAOC – Pat Eklund said that the committee's next meeting would take place on May 20.
- d. League of California Cities – Shawn Marshall reported that 1.1 million signatures had been gathered for the state ballot measure. On a separate matter, Pat Eklund reported that the League's policy committees had voted to recommend suspension of AB 32 and SB 375, however, she said the Board had maintained its position of neutrality and had requested further state funding for sustainability planning.

Announcement of pending committee vacancies:

President Slavitz said that his term on LAFCO would expire in May and that he had had re-applied for another term. Slavitz said that others were welcome to apply, and that appointment would be considered at the next meeting.

Other Reports:

1) Marin Emergency Radio Authority Update (Director Maureen Cassingham)

Ms. Cassingham said that the agency was bringing a budget forward that was less than the last fiscal year's budget and that it had remained consistent over the last three years. She said that the refunding of the 1999 revenue bonds had resulted in \$1.6 million in savings which would go to capital projects, and that that agency had done well to shepherd its resources in creating reserve funds for maintenance projects.

The Director introduced MERA's Operations Manager, Farhad Mansourian, who gave an overview of the type of radio equipment used by law enforcement and fire personnel over the last decade or more. He said that the current MERA radios had exhausted their capacity in eight years. Mansourian said that the agency was continuing to do training and was trying to improve capacity and coverage. He said that they had been successful in receiving \$3.6 million in grant funding.

In response to a question about coverage, Mr. Mansourian said that Novato had resolved its coverage issues without a new antenna; he said he was hopeful that the other problem coverage areas would be able to install antennas that were hidden from view.

2) Marin County Health and Human Services Update on Tobacco Related Disease Control Program (Bob Curry and Elizabeth Emerson)

Bob Curry and Elizabeth Emerson provided packets of material for each city that contained information about proposed smoking bans in multi-family dwellings, and updated model smoking ordinances. Ms. Emerson said that property owners were favorable to this new legislation and that the City of Novato had passed such an ordinance without incident.

Pat Eklund added that it was a public health issue and urged other cities to adopt similar ordinances.

Ms. Emerson said that when efforts to pass smoking ordinances first got started in the 90's, the tobacco companies said they would be both unenforceable and would cause the collapse of local economies. She noted that Marin County now had the highest compliance rate in the State.

3) Pension Reform: Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Brief (Larry Chu)

Mr. Chu provided a hand-out and the response to the report from CALPERS. He said that he had been in investments since 1979 and found the report to be very informative, without being political. He urged the membership to read the report which addressed the tough issues of rising pension costs and risks associated with participation in the current system.

President Slavitz said the report would also be posted on the MCCMC website.

Public Comment: Greg Brockbank urged support of Proposition 15, publicly-financed elections, which he said had worked well in Maine and Arizona for over 10 years. He said that a fund-raising event would take place on Sunday from 2-4 pm in the San Rafael City Council Chambers.

Allan Bortel, Chair of the Marin Commission on Aging, gave a brief report on the programs and initiatives of the commission. He said that over 29% of the population in Marin was age 60 and over. He handed out a white paper that had been adopted by the Board of Supervisors with the commission's recommendation for affordable housing and "aging in place."

Program: *"How the Health Care Bill benefits local government and what it means to Marin County and our small cities and towns"*

Speaker: Larry Meredith, PhD, Director of Marin County Department of Health and Human Services

Mayor Leone introduced Dr. Meredith, who he said had been head of the Department of Health and Human Services since 2001.

Dr. Meredith gave a power point presentation entitled: "Planning a healthier, safer and sustainable Marin." He said that improving public health "lifts all boats." He said that 80% of health care went toward chronic disability conditions. He provided statistics showing the correlation between where a person lives and health and morbidity. He said that in Marin County, a third of the households are "at risk" but because of statistical formulas that tie health benefits to federal poverty levels, only 8% of the households were eligible for federal assistance. Dr. Meredith said that he held dual citizenship in Canada and the US; he said that health care in Canada cost 50% less than in the US but that even with lower costs, the Canadian system had improved outcomes.

Dr. Meredith said that the newly adopted US health care legislation would create access to health care earlier and get more people into the health care system. He said that the improved health of "kids" would increase the economic viability of the next generation. Dr. Meredith said there would be challenges to implementing health care reform but that he remained optimistic. He said that "healthy people equal healthy communities".

Dr. Meredith responded to questions regarding single payer health care (he stated no opinion), and whether there would be increased home health care coverage under the new legislation (he said that there would be).

President Slavitz thanked Dr. Meredith for an enlightening presentation.

Adjourn: 8:47 pm to the next meeting hosted by the Town of Tiburon.

Submitted,

Diane Crane Iacopi, Secretary-Treasurer