

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

**Wednesday, May 26, 2010**  
Ristorante Servino  
9 Main Street, Tiburon CA 94920  
Hosted by the Town of Tiburon

**Members Present**

Belvedere: Jerry Butler, Thomas Cromwell, John Telischak  
Corte Madera: Carla Condon, Alexandra Cock, Diane Furst, Bob Ravasio  
Fairfax: Pam Hartwell-Herrero, David Weinsoff  
Larkspur: Larry Chu, Dan Hillmer, Joan Lundstrom, Len Rifkind  
Mill Valley: Garry Lion, Shawn Marshall, Ken Wachtel  
Novato: Carole Dillon-Knutson, Madeline Kellner, Jeanne Macleamy  
Ross: Chris Martin  
San Anselmo: Kay Coleman, Tom McInerney, Jeff Kroot  
San Rafael: Al Boro, Greg Brockbank, Damon Connolly, Barbara Heller, Marc Levine  
Sausalito: Mike Kelly, Linda Pfeifer  
Tiburon: Jim Fraser, Alice Fredericks, Emmett O'Donnell, Jeff Slavitz

Also present were the following City and Town Managers: George Rodericks, Belvedere, Michael Rock, Fairfax, Dan Schwarz, Larkspur, Wayne Bush, Interim City Manager, Mill Valley; Michael Frank, Novato, 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.

**Welcome and Introduction of Guests:** In Mayor Collin's absence, Vice Mayor Slavitz welcomed the membership and introduced the following guests: Chuck Dalldorf, League of California Cities, Margaret Jones and Patsy White, League of Women Voters, Henry Gardner, Executive Director, ABAG, and guest speaker, Dick Spotswood.

Vice Mayor Slavitz also welcomed members of the Town of Tiburon Staff: Heidi Bigall, Director of Administrative Services, Town Clerk Diane Crane Iacopi, Chief of Police Michael Cronin, and Police Captain Dave Hutton.

**Approval of Minutes:** From the meeting held on April 28, 2010

*Moved and seconded to approve the minutes. Motion passed.*

**Committee Reports**

- a. SMART – Joan Lundstrom said at its May meeting, the SMART Board had approved the hiring of four additional positions to staff the Santa Rosa office. She said that Peter Breen had been appointed to the citizen's oversight committee at that meeting, as well. Lundstrom said the Board discussed strategy to address the \$55 million budget shortfall in FY 2010-11 and would decide in the Fall whether or not to issue bonds in November. She said that once capital costs had been updated over the summer, the Board would look at options to install either the full rail line, or a possible phasing of rail line, bike path, and stations, along the length of the route.
- b. League of California Cities – Chuck Dalldorf reported on the latest State budget deficit of \$19.1 billion and said that another similar budget season would soon be underway. With

regard to legislation, Dalldorf said that AB 155 (municipal bankruptcy) was in suspense and that the League would focus on defeating the bill through the Governor's office; he said there was a TOT "hot bill" (bill to watch) that would divert a portion of local TOT revenues to on-line travel companies.

- c. MCCMC Legislative Committee – Alice Fredericks said the committee had voted to oppose the TOT bill referenced above "in any form" and was poised to send out letters the same day as a bill number was assigned.
- d. TAM - Alice Fredericks reported on discussions of a possible ballot that would optimize funding for local projects under SB 83; she said that the TAM board had done polling about imposing a \$10 fee on the VLF in Marin County that would raise \$2.9 million annually (the maximum allowed under SB 83). She said that the ballots measure would require a majority to pass and that the money would be used to fund projects in Marin County only and could not be taken by the State. Fredericks said that TAM's advisors said this measure would not compete with the state-wide ballot (VLF fee) measure to fund State Parks. She said the Board would decide whether to move forward at its June 24 meeting.
- e. ABAG – Carole Dillon-Knutson said that ABAG had celebrated the completion of 300 miles of the Bay Trail that included nine counties and 47 cities, and that more miles were in the making. She also reported on SR 5061, a federal grant obtained by local representative Jackie Speier to fund the Bay Estuary Project to clean up streams that run into the Bay. Dillon-Knutson said that cities should think about how to apply for funding from this program for local projects. Dillon-Knutson and Executive Director Henry Gardner also reported on two grants that would primarily benefit residential property owners to help make energy retrofits. Gardner said that ABAG would send more information to the cities to allow them to make this information available to residents.

#### **Other Reports**

- Transportation Authority of Marin—consideration of ballot initiative to fund transportation programs and projects (Executive Director Dianne Steinhauser)

Alice Fredericks provided the information during her report on TAM.

#### **Appointments to Fill Committee Vacancies**

President Slavitz said that his term on the LAFCO Board was ending and that he was interested in being considered for reappointment. He also called for nominations from the floor. There were none.

*Moved and seconded to reappoint Jeff Slavitz to LAFCO. Motion passed.*

#### **Announcement of pending Committee Vacancies – ABAG**

President Slavitz announced the June term expirations of MCCMC-appointed board members Carole Dillon-Knutson, delegate, and Shawn Marshall, alternate, and said that appointments would be made to fill these positions at the June meeting.

#### **Call for Nominations on the Executive Committee**

- MCCMC President for the 2010-11 term; position currently held by Jeff Slavitz, Tiburon Council member
- MCCMC Vice President for the 2010-11 term; position currently held by Shawn Marshall, Mill Valley Council member

President Slavitz called for nominations from the floor. There was a motion made and seconded to nominate Shawn Marshall to the position of President. There was a second motion made and seconded to nominate Madeline Kellner as Vice President.

President Slavitz said that any other nominations would be considered and appointments made at the June meeting.

**2010-11 Meeting Calendar:** Review and Approval

*Moved and seconded to accept 2010-11 meeting calendar. Motion passed.*

**Information Items:**

The following items were noted:

- Letter from ABAG regarding Board vacancies
- Letter from Fairfax Council concerning PG&E Smart Meters

**Public Comment:** David Weinsoff urged support of Community Action Marin which faces a budget deficit that endangers its preschool, day care, and other programs.

Alice Fredericks said that the June 23 meeting of MCCMC in Belvedere would be the annual meeting of "Community United."

Joan Lundstrom introduced and welcomed Larkspur's new city manager, Dan Schwarz, to the group.

**Program:** "California State Government: Time for a New Revolution"

**Speaker:** Dick Spotswood.

Vice Mayor Slavitz introduced the speaker, Dick Spotswood.

Mr. Spotswood started his address by stating "once a Councilman, always a Councilman," and said that in hindsight, he thought that decisions made by local public agencies had helped to create a public pension system that was "out of control". Spotswood said that, on the other hand, the "deal" was that people entering the public sector to work had done so with the understanding that they would take less pay but receive better benefits and a defined benefit pension system in return.

Spotswood talked about the state budget deficit, driven in part by the pension funding deficit. He predicted a future scenario in which wages and benefits would not increase, nor would taxes, and the outcome would be that service quantity and quality would inevitably decrease. The speaker said this decrease in service would be acute in suburban areas and that while there was not a large "Tea Party" in Marin County, there was a growing sense of anger in the upper middle class.

Spotswood said the solution was that some regional governmental agencies would have to "go away" or that services would have to be consolidated. He gave as an example of a regional agency, the Bay Area Air Quality Management Agency, a special district that employs over 300 people. He said that some special districts functions could be better provided by local jurisdictions. He said that the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission, which had successfully managed the winding down and closure of military bases that were no longer needed across the county, might be used as a model to accomplish this.

In conclusion, the speaker said that local jurisdictions could still continue to provide services to its constituents as the "state comes apart."

Mr. Spotswood took questions from the audience. Greg Brockbank asked whether he thought that the redistricting state ballot measure might help; Spotswood said that it couldn't hurt and was a step in the right direction. There were also comments about Propositions 16 and 17 on the June ballot and how the initiative process had been "gamed."

In response to a question about pension reform, Spotswood said that he thought there would be a move away from defined benefit pensions because they were unsustainable, especially because of the continued low returns of CALPERS investments.

President Slavitz thanked the speaker for an informative but "bleak" presentation and one that would require local elected officials to "put on their armor" to take on the challenges ahead.

**Adjourn:** 8:40 pm to the next meeting hosted by the City of Belvedere.

Submitted,

Diane Crane Iacopi, Secretary-Treasurer