

Marin Conservation League

North Marin Unit Final Meeting Notes April 2, 2015

The meeting was called to order at the Applen home at 12:10. Present were: Rick Fraités, Esther Karkal, Joyce Applen, Pam Drew, Frank U'Ren, Pat U'ren and Susan Stompe, and guest Brady Bevis..

Announcements: MCL Annual Dinner is April 24 at New Beginnings, Clean & Green Day is April 25
Notes of the March meeting were approved as distributed
February

Novato General Plan: Rick reported that he attended the City Council meeting on the Environment Element of the General Plan. MCL had written comments which he reviewed. There were no questions and no action taken to address our concerns. Rick said he was about the only person in the audience and the only one who spoke. There is a new White Paper out on Climate Change. None of us had read it.

Indian Valley Colleges: Brady Bevis reviewed the things that have been going on at Indian Valley Campus (IVC) of There are now about 1500 students at the Indian Valley Campus, and now by taking either day classes or evening classes students can transfer to four year colleges, or get their AA degree, in just 2 years by attending our local Novato campus. There was a 2014 update of a facility assessment that was done by Gilbane. It evaluated the condition of the buildings and estimated the costs of repair. A new roof is being put on each building in the Miwok and Pomo clusters. The Ohlone cluster is budgeted to be taken down. Approximately ¼ of the College of Marin maintenance and operating budget is for IVC. To be more equitable for IVC more than \$3.5 million more of the bond funding is being applied this year to IVC for roofing, decking, painting (inside and out), carpeting and window repairs.

A solar farm is being considered to be put up near the playing fields to provide energy for the college.

The Trustees are also exploring putting some student housing where the Ohlone cluster is, for international students, some of whom would be in training programs to work at the Buck Center, which could also help the college improve their wet labs necessary for BioTech students. Brady offered to answer any questions we might have. She encouraged people to attend the Trustee meetings when they are in Novato at IVC.

Recreation facility proposal for Hamilton: Hamilton Sports facility applicants have a new plan submitted to the city. Esther provided a lot of information including maps from meetings she had attended. The project now consists of 5 baseball fields, 2 soccer fields, a community park, a wetlands interpretive pavilion and parking for 590 cars. One of the ball fields is an “exhibition” field with lights and bleachers for 1,000 people. The city web site says the project will take about 2 years to process, including a full EIR. A new access road would be constructed next to the existing Skate Park on Hamilton Parkway. Concerns include the impact of lights on the new Hamilton wetlands and neighboring homes, noise and impacts to wetlands from construction. It is known the city embraces more sports fields, and the potential revenues it may generate.

Transit Center: Pam added to the agenda a discussion of the bus shelter proposed on Redwood Blvd. She feels very strongly that the design has major flaws and it will cost the Transit District some \$5 million. The new design allows for a bus by-pass lane in each direction, however the space isn't long enough for the buses to get back onto Redwood Blvd. without a very tight turn. They are planning to give bus drivers the ability to override the traffic signal to stop traffic to allow bus access. She feels this will cause major traffic problems. She urged people to attend the Council meeting on April 7 to demand a traffic study be done. She said the consultant could not name one other community which had this kind of a set up. Member Mark Birnbaum who uses that bus stop almost every day told Susan he thinks the new design is better and safer than the current facility.

Blackpoint Community Plan: The next step for the plan will be a Planning Commission hearing in May.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00

The next meeting will be on May 7 at noon at the Stompes.