

Marin Conservation League
North Marin Unit
Meeting Notes
April 11, 2012

The meeting was called to order at the Piltch home. Present were: Joyce Applen, Pat Eklund, Edith Piltch, Pat U'Ren, Don Wilhelm, Gail Wilhelm, Frank U'Ren and Susan Stompe.

Announcements included: MCL Annual Dinner on April 20 with speaker, Caryl Hart, chair, California State Parks Commission. Clean and Green Day, April 21, for which Edith and Joyce volunteered where needed.

The notes of the March meeting were approved as amended.

Projects and Issues around Novato:

Pat E. informed the group that the city will be hiring an Economic Development manager. She also said that the Planning Commission was going to be reviewing the city offices building on April 16. Most of the discussion was about the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS). The Mayors and Councilmembers meeting on March 28 had ABAG planner Ken Kirkey as speaker. He was to address 20 questions submitted in advance by Marin Councilmembers. Not all questions were answered. He gave a lot of credit to a report by Steven Levy as the basis for the job projections used by ABAG. Pat E. said that report is available online. She also said that the Novato Council has scheduled a meeting on April 16 about the SCS. A report was done (by Dr. Eidler) on Novato Economic projections. Concern was expressed that ABAG and MTC were going to be adopting a plan without public input and using numbers that don't stand up to scrutiny. The joint meeting of ABAG and MTC is scheduled for May 17, but will probably not be at the Metro Center. The preferred alternative will be selected from which a program EIR will be prepared.

In discussing how to get a non-reusable shopping bag ordinance for Novato, Pat E. disclosed a new process has been adopted by the City Council. Instead of having tier one and two issues, the city council will review suggestions at quarterly meetings to be held the first meeting of the quarter. She agreed that a model ordinance would be very helpful.

It was agreed that the most important part of the new General Plan revision process was to have adequate public hearings, since the Steering Committee has been eliminated. Since there is a new staff person and some new Planning Commissioners, they should be sure to review the survey that was done for the first start of the revision.

Don said that TAM has been focused on the SCS and is drafting a letter pointing out a number of concerns. There have been some questions about the alignment of the bike path along SMART. Many are not aware that it will be along the highway between Novato and Petaluma, not the SMART right-of-way.

Joyce said that MOST is working with the Pacheco Valle community. An appraisal of the property is needed.

The owner of the Mission Lodge has come up with some possible elevations for new buildings on the property which would include senior housing and some retail.

Pat E. offered to review the SCS methodology at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

The next meeting will be May 10 at Wilhelms..

Notes by SS