

Marin Conservation League
North Marin Unit
Final Meeting Notes
May 8, 2013

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

Announcements included: a meeting at Dominican cosponsored by MCL on Plan Bay Area; Olompali Heritage Day on May 19 from 10 to 4.

The notes of the April 4 meeting were approved as distributed.

Projects and Issues around Novato:

Senior Housing at the McPhail site: The proposal for 117 units of senior housing is being processed by the city. The location is just south of the Hanna Ranch, which is south of Vintage Oaks. The site has an approved office use project. The discussion focused on all the reasons a senior facility is not an appropriate use. These included: isolation of the site from any services, including transit, the air quality is bad since it is at the intersection of Highways 37 and 101, not only the SMART train, but freight trains will be running very close by, the site is very difficult to access and may be a problem for emergency services. **It was M/S/C (Applen, P.U'Ren) that the North Marin Unit recommends that MCL encourage the City to not develop senior housing on the McPhail site.** (Pat E. abstained)

Downtown Parking: Joyce reported that there have been a lot of complaints about the lack of parking in downtown/Old Town. Joyce and Susan walked a couple blocks off Grant Avenue and saw there were many opportunities for additional parking. A conversation with Bob Brown, Community Development Director, revealed that the annual parking study has just been completed and showed that there is adequate parking at this time. He also said that the recent agreement with SMART will allow the city to develop the depot site for parking. He said that some of it will need to be set aside for city employee use. When asked if the public parking in the Millworks could be used by city personnel, he was not aware that there are public spaces in the Millworks and will check it out.

Millworks survey: Gail was not present to discuss her extrapolations of the survey. Another survey arrived so we are up to 13.

Novato Housing Element: The EIR is in process and should be available in June.

Novato General Plan: Bob Brown told Susan that the City Council will be considering a project manager for the GP at their next meeting. The Council has urged that the North Redwood Corridor be the first item addressed. He anticipates that there will be a charret in July and adoption of a plan in the fall.

Port Sonoma ferry: Susan advised the group that one of the principles of Berg Enterprises, J.T. Wick, told MCL President David Schnapf that the Carneros Ranch fill project was not going to be carried out. Jared Huffman confirmed at the MCL Annual Dinner that he does not support the ferry proposal at Port Sonoma. He has his staff determining how to transfer the funds trapped in the earmark for the project.

Plan Bay Area: Pat pointed out that the TAM meeting next week members will discuss their letter on the Plan Bay Area EIR.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00

The next meeting will probably be June 12.

Notes by SS