

Marin Conservation League

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

AGENDA for April 9, 2015, 3:00 – 5:00 PM

Muir Woods meeting room, 1st Floor, 175 N. Redwood Drive (first left off Smith Ranch Road)

ANNOUNCEMENTS and CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: 1)MCL Annual Dinner, Friday, April 24, 5:30 – 9:00; 2) Bay Area Open Space Council Annual conference, May 14; 3) Trails and Greenways Conference, Yosemite, April 23-25; 4) Earth Day events – various; 5) Other?

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: March 12, 2014

INFORMATION UPDATES:

- 1) Marin Parks and Open Space
 - a. RTMP – Recap of March 22 meeting – OSPs in Region 1 under discussion
 - b. Morrison Trail Decommissioning – MCL “position” on decommissioning??
 - c. Critical Habitat Spotted Owl on Open Space Preserves
 - d. Vegetation and Biodiversity Mgmt Plan and EIR -- status
- 2) Tamalpais Lands Collaborative – update
- 3) MCL Trail Policy, as approved by Bd. (copies will be available at meeting)
- 4) Trail Partners’ campaign for Safe Trails Marin – status and direction
- 5) GGNRA
 - a. Redwood Creek Trail Realignment – (GGNRA and State Parks) Recap of scoping meeting (for combined EA/IS) and trail walk; Letter for scope of EA/IS
- 6) State Parks update:
 - a. Easy Grade Trail change-in-use, Project Evaluation initiated
 - b. Marin State Park updates??
- 7) National Parks in Marin:
 - a. Strava issues at Pt. Reyes National Seashore and elsewhere
 - b. Recent public statements in re “Recreation” in GGNRA
- 8) MCL Invasive Plants Subcommittee: (Paul Minault)

Next MCL P&OS meeting: NOTE CHANGE TO WEDNESDAY, May 13, 3:00 – 5:00 to avoid conflict with Bay Area Open Space Council conference

MARIN CONSERVATION LEAGUE

Parks and Open Space Committee March 12, 2015

DRAFT MINUTES

ATTENDEES: Nona Dennis, Chair; Larry Minikes, Greg Zitney, Linda Novy, Arlin Weinberger, Rick Fraites, Robert Eichstaedt, Tom Boss, Jill Templeton, Connie Berto, Larry Kennings, Roger Roberts, Paul Minault (late), Jack ??, Mia Monroe (NPS), Matt Sagues and Carl Somers (County Parks and Open Space District)

Meeting was called to order by Nona at 3:00 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS and AGENDA CHANGES: 1) Public Workshop on RTMP – Region 1, Sunday, March 22 1:30 – 4:30. Mill Valley Community Center; 2) County Parks and Open Space Commission, March 19, Civic Center, 3:00 – 5:00; 4) Redwood Creek Trail Improvement & Dias Ridge Trail Extension EA, Scoping meeting March 18, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at Mill Valley Community Center; 5) Tamalpais Lands Collaborative (TLC) “Whole Mt. event, April 25th (see onetam.org);

MINUTES for February 19, 2015, approved.

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. GGNRA: Mia Monroe, long-time Site Supervisor at Muir Woods National Monument, was present at the meeting to introduce her new assignment as public outreach and liaison in Marin for NPS. She will be spending about half-time at Muir Woods and half-time at Ft. Mason. She announced that the GGNRA General Management Plan (GMP), 10 years in process, has been formally approved. The committee did not discuss the GMP.

The committee discussed the upcoming scoping meeting for the Redwood Creek Trail Improvement & Dias Ridge Trail Extension EA, on March 18, 6:00 – 8:00 at MV Community Center, followed by a Trail Walk on Saturday, March 21, 10 – noon, meet at Golden Gate Dairy Stables parking. This is a popular trail that is used by Muir Woods visitors and others, that is badly in need of restoration. Robert noted that it needs to continue to be safe for both equestrians and for visitors to Muir Woods and their families, who may be unfamiliar with the local terrain. It should remain a hiker-equestrian trail, off-limits to bicycles. A straw poll revealed consensus agreement with this restriction. Nona will comment to that effect at the scoping meeting.

2. Marin County Parks and Open Space District

- a) Assault on hiker on Luiz Fire Road. On February 26 a 65-year-old woman hiker was assaulted by a Mt. biker after a brief encounter. She suffered extensive injuries, including a concussion. The story need not be repeated here; an article in the Marin IJ, Sunday, March 8 captured the details of the assault. We are concerned that the investigation has either been suspended or “gone underground.” In any case, the public is not getting information, and the

perpetrator is a danger to have free on roads or trails. We will urge the Parks Department to continue to pursue this case vigorously until the assailant is found.

- b) RTMP Roll-out. The committee briefly discussed the purpose of the Public Meeting in Mill Valley Community Center on March 22, 1:30 – 4:30, which will focus on OSPs in Region 1, and urged people to attend. About 25 people, including Supervisor Sears, attended a pre-meeting at Horse Hill OSP on March 1, put together by Robert Eichstaedt. It was a useful way to show road and trail maps of the four OSPs that are included in Region 1.
- c) Inclusive Access Plan. Several committee members reported on a public meeting held in Corte Madera on February 26 to explain the process through which County Parks will plan for access to parks and open space that is compliant with ADA, state, and federal requirements. Consultants are now preparing an Accessibility Report. The Department staff will conduct another public workshop before commencing a Draft Inclusive Access Plan designed to accommodate a full range of mobility needs. (See February 19 P&OS Minutes) There will be future opportunities to comment later this year as the Draft Plan is developed.
- d) Community Grant Program, Measure A. After hearing from Kevin Wright, Outreach Coordinator for County Parks, who explained the Measure A \$100,000 Community Grant program, Nona submitted an MCL Letter of Interest for a \$5,100 grant to fund a series of events to take seniors into parks and open spaces. The program will adapt MCL's current Walks into Conservation History for access by seniors who might find it otherwise difficult to visit the OSPs or county parks. Six excursions will be planned for the 2015-16 year (if awarded to MCL), using rented van transportation.
- e) Bike Emergency Boxes on two Preserves. Nona explained that she had sent e-mails to the Supervisors the day before this item agenda, urging Park Department to take the project to the Parks Commission first. It was an Eagle-Scout's project, sponsored by Access4Bikes. The main objection was that the project could be precedent-setting and therefore should be reviewed first by the Commission. We also objected to "advertising" on public lands of an organization that operates as a political "PAC" by contributing to election campaigns based solely on the receptivity of a candidate to opening narrow trails on public lands to mountain bikes.

3. Trail Policy Final Draft

- a) Nona explained that MCL does not have a general trail policy beyond recommendations included in "Community Marin." A "final" draft of the proposed Trail Policy was distributed for review, with the objective of recommending it to the MCL Board for adoption. Discussion included several revisions:
 - a. take care not to leave litter ("or" revised to "and") dog waste
 - b. Add line about discouraging night riding and strong lights as disturbing to wildlife
 - c. In the phrase: "... expected encounters on the trail (e.g., cyclists, dogs, back-pack wearing hikers) . . .", delete the open-closed parentheses and words contained within.

- b) After discussion, it was moved, seconded, and approved that the revised policy should go to the MCL Board for review with the committee's recommendation to adopt.

4. Invasive Plants Subcommittee:

- a) The Subcommittee is continuing to monitor the budgeting of Measure A funds by cities, towns, and districts with the intent of encouraging them to dedicate a portion of those funds to combat invasive plants (weeds) locally. The first target city was San Rafael. A letter will go to the San Rafael Parks and Recreation Commission proposing that a portion of Measure A funds be allocated to managing the city's numerous open spaces, which currently are not managed for invasive plant removal.

5. Tamalpais Lands Collaborative. (repeated from February 19 minutes)

- a) TLC has launched the onetam.org web page, and will give the P&OS committee a progress report at the April 9 meeting.

7. National Parks in Marin:

- a) No update available on the Pt. Reyes National Seashore Ranch Comprehensive Management Plan EA.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00

The next meeting is April 9, 3:00-5:00, MCL conference room.
Minutes by Nona Dennis