

1 **MUIR BEACH COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT**
2 Minutes of the Board of Directors' meeting held on
3 Wednesday, October 28, 2020

4
5 **OFFICIAL MINUTES ONLY UPON APPROVAL**
6

7 Prior to approval of these minutes by the Board of Directors in a public meeting, these
8 minutes are draft only and subject to change. Upon approval by the Board, these
9 minutes become the Official Minutes of the meeting.

10
11
12 **Item 1: Call to Order**
13

14
15
16 Steve Shaffer called the meeting of the Muir Beach Community Services District Board
17 of Directors to order at approximately 7:07 pm.

18
19 Directors present: Victoria Hamilton-Rivers, Peter Lambert, Steve Shaffer
20

21 Staff present: Mary Halley, District Manager
22 Chris Gove, Fire Chief
23 Ernst Karel, Meeting Secretary
24
25

26 **Item 2: Approval of Agenda**
27

28 Item(s) not included in this agenda: None
29 Because Leighton Hills and Gary Friedman could not be present, and because Victoria
30 Hamilton-Rivers is in another time zone, Item 9 will be moved up, and items 10, 11, 12,
31 and 13 will be postponed to the next meeting.

32
33 MOTION: To approve the agenda
34 Moved: Hamilton-Rivers, seconded by Lambert
35 Vote: AYES: Unanimous
36
37

38 **Item 3: Consent Calendar**
39

- 40 1. Approval of Draft Minutes from Regular Board Meeting of 9/16/20.
41 2. Approval of Quarterly Financial Reports dated 9/30/20.
42

43 MOTION: To approve the consent calendar
44 Moved: Hamilton-Rivers, seconded by Lambert
45 Vote: AYES: Unanimous
46

1 **Item 4: Items Removed from Consent Calendar**

2
3 No items removed.
4
5

6 **Item 5: Supervisor Dennis Rodoni**

7
8 Marin County 4th District Supervisor Dennis Rodoni gives a County update and is
9 available to answer any questions, along with Marin County Sheriff (Lt. Commander
10 Brennan Collins), Department of Public Works Traffic Engineer (Dave Flynn), and NPS
11 Park Ranger & Marin Community Liaison (Mia Monroe).
12

13 The main topic is COVID-19 updates, into which he goes into great numerical detail
14 about the present situation.
15

16 The next topic is fire season, which could go into December easily. Marin got a Safer
17 grant, means adding 6 fire/paramedics, largest increase in staffing since 1974. Full
18 salary and benefits for 3 years. It's a very fortunate opportunity, and they're looking into
19 sustained funding for those.
20

21 Steve Shaffer asks about the barriers left after the bridge work on Pacific Way bridge.
22 Rodoni replies that the county was pleased with the work done, and he'll look into the
23 barriers. Linda Lotriet asks about how Marin County treats contact tracing. Rodoni
24 replies that it's very robust. Ernst Karel asks about his position on the EIS for Pt Reyes
25 National Seashore which involves protecting the ecologically destructive, cruel, and for-
26 profit dairy industry on public lands, and killing native Tule Elk on public lands in order to
27 do so. He says that he supports the commercial dairy industry on public lands but
28 doesn't support killing the native elk. Lisa Eigsti asks about safety and security in MB,
29 given the attack on a trail that happened a month ago. Rodoni replies that a 911 call
30 should be all hands on deck, so he doesn't know what happened with that call that
31 would have indicated that it could have gone to Park Service – shouldn't be the case
32 that they wouldn't come because it's federal land. He could look into that at the 911 call
33 center to find out. He does not know why the Park Service delayed the alert.
34

35 19:42 [recording started at 19:07]

36 [35:35 on the audio recording]

37 Mary Halley asks about the letter written in February by the Alliance of Coastal Villages
38 to the Coastal Commission, asking that there is an allowance for the protection of
39 coastal villages, as that had been completely missed that in their 5-year strategic plan.
40 They are coming up to approve their 5-year strategic plan, and our concerns do not
41 seem to have been addressed at all. We feel that they have completely missed the point
42 and this critical component of the Coastal Act. They are not thinking long-term about
43 how we want coastal villages to look. Prior to the upcoming meeting, should we speak
44 with Katie Rice, or will you? Rodoni agrees that it would be more impactful if we
45 together with other coast representatives get together with her. She tries to avoid having
46 meetings that she would have to report. Rodoni was supportive of our letter but he didn't

1 know the approval vote was coming up so quick and asks to be kept in the loop and
2 would follow up with a letter if the coastal group writes a letter.

3
4 [42:00] Linda Lotriet asks who the best people are to approach in the coastal
5 commission, since Rodoni won't do it directly. Rodoni explains why. Lotriet follows up
6 with how important the cultural aspects of the coast are, in addition to the natural
7 aspects, and that must be made clear with the coastal commission.

8
9 Ming Hwang asks about regulations in place for AirBnB as related to Covid-19. Rodoni
10 notes that there are county regulations on operators, though none related to testing, but
11 rather about cleaning and about employees. It's difficult to enforce and they have to
12 basically rely on operators to do the right thing.

13
14
15 **Item 6: Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority Executive Officer Mark Brown**

16
17 Mark Brown, the new Executive Officer for the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority –
18 which is made up of a combination of all of the cities/towns and districts in Marin,
19 including the CSD –gives an introduction and makes himself available for questions.

20
21 Brown tells his own story. Spent whole career with Marin County, worked at
22 Throckmorton Station. On the Safer grant and addition of six firefighters: it will mean
23 that Throckmorton will go from 2-person engine company to 3-person, year round. 50%
24 increase in staff. Also, a paramedic will be staffed on that engine, so advanced life
25 support becomes available to Muir Beach and other areas.

26
27 Muir Fire from last year – lucky it started where it did. With Woodward Fire, lucky there
28 was limited infrastructure and public safety threat. We need to all act together. Easy to
29 focus on megafires, but those are actually only 1% of the fires in CA. Need also to focus
30 on the tiny 3-acre fires, which are 99% of the fires. Rarely is it a big wall of fire that
31 comes into a community. We need to fire-harden our homes, each doing our part. MB is
32 an example of limited escape routes, so need to improve safety of evacuation routes.

33
34 Goes over everything local communities are doing. Chipper days have been very
35 successful; will make improvements next year. Marin County Fire has set up a low
36 income/senior grant program to help those people also do the work necessary for
37 chipper days. NOAA weather radios program – good VHF radio coverage throughout
38 Marin, with battery backup. Red flag sign program. Environmental compliance: we need
39 to find a way to bring fire back in, and live with fire, but there are places where we can't
40 do proscribed burns. Evacuation study: what we haven't tackled is how we're going to
41 move the people – for that we need to know the true risks of our evacuation routes. With
42 the evacuation study will provide more data.

43
44 David Taylor asks about best practices for Muir Beach VF, and about coordinating with
45 state and federal agencies for the land surrounding the community. Brown notes that
46 Firewise is the best step we could be taking. Evacuations is a community effort.

1
2 [1:09:30] Ming asks about fires on the beach, and Mia Monroe responds.
3 Stuart Kaplan asks about insurance.

4
5 **MOVED UP:**

6 **Item 9: MBCSD Lands and Easements Management Committee (update)**
7

8 Committee Chair Mary Halley and fellow committee members will give an update on the
9 legal research and progress towards developing a set of land and easement policies. The
10 Board is being asked:

- 11 a. to approve an additional \$3200 (above the current \$2500) for continuing legal
12 review.
13 b. to determine if the committee should continue past its already extended
14 deadline of 10/28/20.
15

16 The lawyer is at work on the 10 questions, and the 11th question about Seacape
17 covenants got added back in because it was deemed necessary by the committee. The
18 committee is asking for approval of additional funds to cover that.
19

20 Hamilton-Rivers moves that the additional budget is approved, and that the committee
21 be extended.
22

23 A lengthy discussion ensues about the 11th question.
24 [cf. 1:20:00 to 1:38:00 on the audio recording]
25

26 MOTION: That we approve the additional budget of \$3200, to include
27 question 11 on the Seacape covenants
28 Moved: Hamilton-Rivers, seconded by Lambert
29 Vote: AYES: Hamilton-Rivers and Lambert
30 NAY: Shaffer
31 The motion passes.
32

33 MOTION: To extend the committee for 90 days.
34 Moved: Lambert, seconded Hamilton-Rivers
35 Vote: AYES: Unanimous
36
37

38 **Item 7: Fire Department Report**
39

40 Fire Chief Chris Gove gives his quarterly report.
41

42 We just had a second chipper event sponsored by Fire safe Marin, on our first event last
43 month there was strong turnout and we chipped and removed many tons of brush and
44 branches. More funding was found, and a second round was approved. This time the
45 pile limit was removed, and unlimited piles were allowed, and we were overwhelmed by
46 the turnout some piles were over 100 ft long. We had a hard time handling the chips

1 that were produced. Next year we may have to only chip back onto the properties.
2 Overall, I was encouraged by the participation and the amount of potential fuel that was
3 removed which brings us to my next topic.

4
5 Firewise: We had a community zoom call with John Hansen of FireSafe Marin last
6 month offering us the potential of us becoming a firesafe community. Several people led
7 by Don Piotter stepped up to the plate and last night we had our first meeting to
8 organize. In the coming weeks we'll be walking the community doing a inventory of the
9 state we are in now and coming up with a 3 year action plan for the members that
10 decide to join. Marin county fire just inspected approximately half the homes here and
11 offered educational advice on how to reduce our exposure we hope to continue their
12 work. In the next couple of months, we will be offering some educational material and
13 meetings on how the community can participate.

14
15 Fire House: It's been a long road, but we've finished drawing up some plans that are
16 potentially ready to submit to the coastal commission. We're having a meeting next
17 week and then we are ready to present the plans to the community.

18
19 Fire department: We continue to drill regularly, and we just welcomed Jackson Moore
20 as a probationary fire fighter. He will train alongside us and get the required medical
21 certification at college of Marin. We continue to respond to many beach fires despite the
22 signage.

23
24 Thank you for allowing us to be of service.
25 Respectfully,
26 Chris Gove
27 Chief, MBVFD

28
29
30 **Item 8: District Manager Report**

31
32 Halley goes over the highlights from her 10/28/20 District Manager Report, a written
33 document which (as always) is included with the monthly meeting packet available
34 online at <http://www.muirbeachcsd.com/meetings>.

35
36 [1:42:25 – 1:47:05 on the audio recording]

37 MBCC will not be used as a polling location this year; go to marinvotes.org to get info
38 about voting. Please vote.

39
40 The Alliance of Coastal Marin Villages had a meeting on Oct 12 with Supervisor Rodoni
41 for COVID updates, reduced ADU permitting requirements, fire and fuel reduction, and
42 West Marin drinking water concerns.

43
44 Redwood Creek discharged has pretty much flatlined. We've been on conservation
45 since September 9. We've been monitoring usage of our 20 largest users who have
46 reduced usage 26% on average, from 0% to 68%. The 10-day average of water

1 pumped for the whole community has decreased by 21%. We will stay on conservation
2 measures until the first significant rain.

3
4 Removed fire fuel load on Lower Tank property thanks to the chipper program.

5
6 We are tracking well on the budget. We have had some expense refund from PG&E
7 which can at least help to bring in the water budget to being even (not in deficit).

8
9
10 **Item 10: Prop 68 Per Capita Grant Resolution No. 2020-2 POSTPONED**

11
12 The MBCSD has been approved to apply for a Prop 68 Per Capita grant of \$177,952 to
13 be used for recreational capital outlays or acquisitions. Project applications have various
14 requirements among which is that the Board approve a resolution agreeing to the terms
15 of the grant. Project applications are per 'location' when evaluating the various
16 possibilities. The grant requires 20% matching funds (unless a district serves a low-
17 income population), plus the maximum of 50% pre-funding, and the placement of a 25-
18 year deed restriction on title fee properties were the funds are to be used to make sure
19 the properties remain in recreational use, among other conditions to be discussed.
20 There will be a need to identify donation sources for the 20% matching funds, as well
21 as, a possible source of pre-funding for projects to then be reimbursed if pre-funding is
22 deemed necessary.

23
24 Possible action: To approve (or not approve) Resolution 2020-2 Approving
25 Application(s) for Prop 68 Per Capita Grant Funds (*See attached Resolution 2020-2*
26 *Authorization for Prop 68 Per Capita Grant*)

27
28
29 **Item 11: Palapa at the MBCC POSTPONED**

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31
32 Resident Diana Estey will present her idea/proposal for building of a Palapa (an open-
33 sided dwelling with a thatched roof) below the deck at the Community Center.

34
35
36 **Item 12: MBCSD Legal Counsel Policy Review POSTPONED**

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38 The Board requested at the 9/16/20 Board meeting to review the MBCSD Access and
39 Use of Legal Counsel Policy. (*See attached MBCSD Access and Use of Legal Counsel*
40 *Policy-2018*)

41
42
43 **Item 13: Lower Tank Property – Protective fencing POSTPONED**

1 **Item 14: Public Open Time**

2 No comments

3

4

5 **Item 15: Recognitions & Board Member Items**

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7 Shaffer recognizes Maury Ostroff for all the work he does.

8 Victoria offers condolences to Leighton, and a speedy recovery to Trish.

9

10

11 **Item 14: Adjournment**

12

13 Next Agenda Meeting Date: Wednesday, December 2, 2020

14 Next Board Meeting Date: Wednesday, December 9, 2020

15

16 There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting is adjourned.

17

18 Meeting adjourned at 8:57 pm.