

**MINUTES
CITY OF NOVATO
STREETSCAPE MAINTENANCE COALITION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, June 10, 2013 7:00 P.M.**

I. ROLL CALL

Members:

Len Bernstein, Chair
Larry Paulger - Absent
Marcia Basalla
Ed Schulze - alternate
Susan Stompe
Charlotte Urban

Staff:

Bill Johnson
Maggie Rufo

Guest:

Michael Landram
Stuart Lirette
Liz Vernon

II. APPROVE MINUTES OF MAY 13, 2013

Approved

III. APPROVE AGENDA

Approved

IV. CITIZENS' TIME TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE

Liz Vernon, Novato Garden Club spoke about the fountain at Redwood Boulevard & Grant Avenue. The Novato Garden Club constructed the fountain in the 1970's. The fountain was supposed to be constructed of concrete, but when it was delivered it was made of redwood. The Rotary Club wants to refurbish or replace the fountain. They solicited comments & ideas from the public about the fountain. They decided to have a natural scape waterfall that will be 25' tall. They interviewed fountaineers and got estimates and architect Tom Telford created a fountain design. They will be able to reuse the pond and pumps and the water that is already set up. They have talked to council members and the city manager. Right now they are just collecting information and letting this committee know about their ideas for the fountain. Ed Shulze advised them to consider solar power to run the pumps. As for funding, they are hoping the city will contribute, via art fund money. They will also approach service clubs and business clubs, and possibly try to tie this in with the proposed transit hub nearby. The Garden Club wants to have input on the design and maintenance, but could not adopt the fountain. Staff states the pumps and filters are in good condition. The containment area has some leaks and may need a new liner. The transit center is at least a year or more out.

Michael Landram reported on his attendance at the Rotary Sunrise meeting – **see attachment**. They are not interested in adopting the Redwood Boulevard/Lamont Avenue island. Marcia Basella offered to do a native plant design, with no obligation from the rotary to adopt, but they could contribute towards funding for plantings and labor. The island has power and water and oak and redwood trees. Businesses along there do not want their visibility blocked by tall trees.

Stuart Lirette, Bahia resident, is working on the Bugeia/Bahia islands. He reported that Harold Bexton and his son have created a design following a California natives theme. Stuart has met with Charlotte Torgivitsky of the native plant nursery. The island was mowed by staff and Stuart asked for advice on eradicating weeds. Staff advised that about 4" of chips laid down will help keep the weeds at bay. They cannot chip the

entire main island because it is very large. The goal is for the islands to be low maintenance.

The first third of the island will be planted with flowers, for color. Stuart will email a plan and plant list. The city could start putting chips out there now in areas that will be planted. As the chips degrade they will improve the soil.

V. COMMITTEE MEMBERS' COMMENT TIME

Marcia commented on how clean the downtown was the morning after the Novato Art Festival. Kudos to the city.

VI. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Island Adoption – Goals & Objectives

1. Subcommittee Meeting Report & new language for agreement

The new volunteer application and agreement was discussed. There is still a problem with the question regarding marijuana use. Only should ask if a person has ever been convicted of a *felony*. Item 4 should be deleted. Emergency contact information should be optional, not *required*. The committee is dismayed that volunteers have to fill out so much paperwork. The committee agrees that the application needs to be simplified and there could be a sign-in sheet, used for drop-in volunteers, that has a release of liability statement on it rather than making the drop-ins fill out a form. At the top of the application add “All work to be done during daylight hours.”

Would have been a good idea to have a streetscape table at the Art & Wine Festival as it would be a good opportunity to promote island adoptions, volunteerism, sell t-shirts, etc., and even sign people up on the spot. Committee should consider participating next year.

2. Pacheco Valley update

The area is in bloom and looks great. More plants were donated by Charlotte T. Looking for an adopter for the island. Also, the park near the creek needs an adopter.

3. Streetscape Committee island update

Marcia has started working on a design for the island. The sign would be more visible if it faces the eastbound lanes. The island has been mowed and water leak fixed.

4. Bahia Islands update – see Citizens Comment item above.

5. Ignacio/Rotary – on hold. Larry to contact them.

6. Sunrise Rotary: report from Michael Landram – see Citizens Comment item above.

7. Redwood & S Novato Boulevard island is also blooming and looks good. Carolyn Grenier is the adopter. She’s been unable to find anyone to adopt the other island on Redwood. We need to put an Adopt This Island sign on it.

8. Miwok Park plantings area needs weeding and the elderberry needs pruning. Could use another planting effort – perhaps in the fall when SMHS students are back.

9. Bill has received two inquiries: Wilson Avenue, near the Youth Center, and Ignacio from Country Club to Montura (3/10 mile long). He met with Kathy Schlegel to discuss the islands at Pacheco Valley, on Alameda del Prado by the IJ building. There was a very successful work party with Bill, Len and Ed making signs. Having the phone number on the signs is generating calls.

B. Community Volunteerism – Goals & Objectives
No update

C. Finance & Fundraising – Goals & Objectives
No update

D. Publicity & Marketing – Goals & Objectives
No update

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Clean and Green Day 2014

April 26, 2014 will be the date. Letters were sent to the editors of the IJ and Advance giving thanks for volunteers and sponsors and those who donated.

B. Revision of Business Recognition Program Criteria (Recommendation to review the criteria over the year. Keep this item on the agenda.)

Marcia thinks committee should set parameters on size of area; how long the entity has been in business. Honor winners at council meetings. Should awards be seasonal instead of monthly? After two years the business is eligible to be recognized again. **Need to put something in writing for next meeting (Bill).**

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. New Business Recognition Nominations

Moylan's Restaurant at Rowland Blvd. & Rowland Way.

B. Annual Goals of the Committee

The overriding goal is volunteerism. As well as: business recognition; island adoptions; Clean & Green Day, presence at city festivals, e.g., the annual Art & Wine Festival.

C. Tree Lights on Grant Avenue

Staff checked out the lights and started working on repairs. There are eight strands of lights per tree. Zip ties are cutting into the trees around the trunks.

XI. NEW AGENDA ITEMS

None

X. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:52 pm

Next Meeting: July 8, 2013. Meet at 6 pm for Potluck