

MARIN VALLEY MOBILE COUNTRY CLUB
PARK ACQUISITION CORPORATION
MVEST/Firewise Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
Via Zoom Videoconferencing
March 22, 2021, 5:00 p.m.

MVEST Steering Committee Members Present: Pam Berkon, Bill Davis, John Feld, David Gray, John Hansen, Carol-Joy Harris, Kevin Mulvany, Steve Plocher, Erma Wheatley
Other MVEST team members and residents present: Peggy Hill, Judi Purdom, Ellen Jane Schulz

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved.

Public Comment

None.

Consent Calendar

Minutes of the March 15 meeting were approved.

Reports

Coronavirus

The fact that the Park has so far remained virtually free of Covid cases is likely a direct result of residents and visitors adhering to local and state health care directives, mainly wearing masks – correctly – and maintaining social distance, even when outdoors. As most Marin Valley residents are in a vulnerable age group, we all need to be even more cautious than ever, despite the fact that we may be experiencing “pandemic fatigue.”

Though some residents have received at least one vaccination dose, vaccinations for many residents may still be weeks away. Even after both doses of the vaccine are received, mask-wearing and social distancing will still be necessary for quite some time. It is recommended that residents get vaccinated as soon as possible, through whatever channel first becomes available to that individual, especially since new variants of the virus are quickly becoming more widespread.

Since the situation is rapidly evolving, John H. again recommended using the following link for keeping up to date regarding the local vaccination rollout: <https://coronavirus.marinhhs.org/>

Steve reported that Gregg and Mark Pierce not only do not wear masks but have been heard making fun of mask wearing and of Covid vaccinations. The committee agreed that since the two are employees at Marin Valley and therefore representative of Park Management, this behavior is a public safety issue. It is not known whether this behavior will affect, for example, the reopening of the clubhouse and other Park facilities for residents' use. It was suggested that for the safety of residents, perhaps mask-wearing by employees could be a condition of employment, as it is in some other workplaces where at-risk people may be found.

John H. reported that a resident had complained that the MVEST banners thanking people for wearing masks show an image of a person who appears to be of Asian descent and who looks frightened, that this is inappropriate and insensitive. The committee unanimously agreed that the person illustrated does not appear fearful and cannot reasonably be identified as AAPI, and that even if s/he could be, it would not matter -- that the purpose of the banners is simply to thank residents and guests for wearing masks to protect all of us from contracting and/or spreading Covid.

Park Security

Kevin continues to monitor the area in and around the Park, and reported that there is one campsite near the freeway and the Park entrance that appears to be newly occupied. Kevin has referred this to his contact at the Novato Police Department. All other campsites are unoccupied and cleared.

John F. is continuing to pursue the formation of a Neighborhood Watch type group in the Park. John has spoken with two Novato Police officers from what is called the Novato Response Team. They would like to hold a community meeting, which John is trying to schedule for sometime in April, via Zoom. There may be tube flyers and/or a robocall to announce it.

Matt Greenberg will have a double-sided no-trespassing sign placed on the path between the Park and St. Vincent's property. It was suggested that Matt announce the existence of the sign in his monthly *Echo* column.

Mr. Bill's Shed

Bill Davis has written an article about the shed for the April *Echo*. John F. gave Bill information about another charity to contact about donating the excess medical equipment now in the shed.

Marin Valley Firewise

John H. reminded the committee that there will be a FIRESafeMARIN webinar on Tuesday, March 30 at 6:00 p.m. Called "Defensible Space," the Zoom link is <https://firesafemarin.zoom.us/j/87382415962>. The speaker will be Todd Lando, Wildfire Hazard Mitigation Specialist/Battalion Chief, Central Marin Fire Department. If the Zoom call is at capacity, it can be viewed in real time on Facebook. It will be available for viewing after the event on the FIRESafe MARIN website and also on our website, www.marinvalley.net.

Bill and John H. are working with the Novato Fire District on plans for evaluations by a Novato Fire District Wildfire Mitigation Specialist for the entire Park, including individual homesites. MVEST will use this as an educational opportunity for residents, stressing that it is entirely free and voluntary for the resident and that the information about the resident's property will be private, shared only with that resident. Bill has written an article about the program for the April *Echo*.

John H. again reported that the Park's 2021 fuel break planning is under way and will probably again include goats' grazing as part of the process. This year there may be sheep involved as well, who graze as opposed to the browsing mode of the goats. Chipper day/s may also be included, and there is a possibility of procuring grant funds for parts of the overall process. John H. and Bill will work with Lynne Osgood, Deputy Fire Marshall for Novato Fire District.

John H. again reported on possible grants for homeowners for fire-risk-reducing yard work (\$500) and for home-hardening measures -- e.g., replacing single-pane windows with double-pane ones or changing home siding to a more fire-resistant material -- for matching funds, up to \$2,500, which would come from the Novato Fire District as part of the efforts of the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority. MVEST may be able to help with the application process.

There is also the possibility of obtaining a similar matching-funds grant for improvements to the MVMCC clubhouse, up to \$1,500, from the same source. John H. will write an article about these grant programs for the May *Echo*.

John F. has developed an instructional video regarding resident utility connections, or pedestals. This will be the first in a series of video trainings for residents. They will be presented via Zoom meetings that will be recorded and later posted to the website, www.marinvalley.net. This format will allow for a question-and-answer period and therefore may prove more useful than a straightforward training video. This first Zoom meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 24 at 6:30 p.m. The information was presented in printed form in the March *Echo*.

The next topic to be handled in this fashion is home laundry dryer safety, which David has researched. His article on it will appear in the April *Echo*, but the date for the Zoom presentation is yet to be determined. David is also researching a dryer vent cleaner that can be used by the homeowner, and has also found that the going rate for commercial companies to clean dryer vent systems seems to be \$275.

The following topic in the MVEST Zoom meeting series will be the wildfire mitigation program mentioned above, which will also be promoted via tube flyers.

Yard Maintenance Program

Peggy Hill reported that seven yards will be pruned, weeded, and neatened over three days, beginning this week, using funds from the newly created Humanitarian Fund for Yard Maintenance, under the auspices of PAC. Matt has also contacted the Marin Christian Academy to have student volunteers perform this service for approximately 10 additional yards at about the same time as the aforementioned work. Matt, Peggy, and John H. are coordinating both aspects of this program, which will improve the fire safety and the appearance of the Park.

FIRESafe MARIN/Marin County Firewise

See above under "Marin Valley Firewise."

FIRESafe MARIN Board meetings and Firewise Leaders meetings, both held monthly via Zoom, may be viewed on the FIRESafe MARIN website at www.FIRESafeMarin.org. John H. and John F. recommended

both meetings as being highly informative for anyone interested in fire safety in our Park.

Novato Fire District

No report.

Echo Articles

Erma reported that Anila Manning is doing an excellent job as the new *Echo* editor and that MVEST is well represented in the April issue. See above under “Mr. Bill’s Shed” and “Marin Valley Firewise.”

www.marinvalley.net

Our website continues to be updated and improved, including information about MVEST and Firewise meetings and webinars. Erma again reminded the committee that there are also links on the home page for information about Covid-19 vaccinations.

Old Business

See above under “Marin Valley Firewise.”

New Business

None.

Next Meeting

Monday, March 29 at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom teleconferencing.

Residents who are not on this committee who would like to attend, please contact John Hansen so that he may send you an agenda, which includes an email invitation to join the call via your computer or phone.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol-Joy Harris
Recording Secretary