

**MARIN VALLEY MOBILE COUNTRY CLUB**  
**Park Acquisition Corporation**  
**MVEST/FIREWISE STEERING COMMITTEE Meeting Minutes**  
January 31, 2022, 5:00 p.m.  
Meeting via Zoom Teleconferencing

*MVEST Steering Committee Members Present:* Pam Berkon, Joan Cervisi, Bill Davis, John Feld, John Hansen, Kevin Mulvany, Steve Plocher, Erma Wheatley

*Absent:* David Gray, Carol-Joy Harris

*Other MVEST team members and residents present:* Peggy Hill, David Tetta

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was approved.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

John F noted the MVEST office is untidy and needs TLC. John H recommended waiting until COVID lessens so we can all work together to sort through and clean it up.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

Minutes of the January 24 meeting were approved.

**MVEST FINANCIAL REPORT**

John H reported that \$3,573 is still in the MVEST account.

**MVEST NOTICES AND PROJECT REPORTS**

**Coronavirus Update**

The stealth version of Omicron is coming. Even though the whole picture seems to be fading away, there are still hundreds of people dying from the virus, with over 90% of them unvaccinated. Management is still recommending sticking to Marin guidelines, with no change in the protocols. Our website at [www.marinvalley.net](http://www.marinvalley.net) has links to the latest information from Novato and Marin Health and Human Services.

**Park Security**

In response to Kevin's article in the *Echo* offering to help residents locate their pedestal and water valves, he visited two residents at their homes, clearing out water valves for one, with two other people expressing interest. He has also

been handing out John F's March 2021 *Echo* comprehensive article on pedestals.

#### Marin Valley Firewise

No report.

#### Fire Safe Marin Report

John H. will meet with Steve Quarles, Ph.D., UC Berkeley professor emeritus to do a quick run through the neighborhoods here to help validate his form, by looking at the distance between homes and other things such as sheds, which will be used to modify the zone formula for use in all mobile home parks. The study will be used here and hopefully involve Los Robles and the park between Trader Joe's and the freeway and can help establish mandates.

#### Novato Fire District

Bill reported that administrative offices are closed. About 30 % of the fire district employees have been off on workers' comp since the pandemic started. Extreme measures are being used. He recommended that Quarles be asked to also take note of fire fuel in the Park while he is here. Mandates can be helpful for us to be more aggressive to help reduce fire fuel.

John H said we need scheduling information to allocate goats for the spring to see what resources will be needed or if we need to reserve another vendor.

#### Marin Center for Independent Living — Possible Partnership

No report. John H will contact them if doesn't hear from them in the next three weeks.

#### MVEST Equipment and Supplies

John F will reach out to Zone Chiefs to find out how training went and reports of new equipment needs.

#### Home Replacement Cost Project

Should schedule another meeting soon. The maximum amount the California Fair Plan offered to a new resident here was only about \$153,000.

#### MVEST Steering Committee Expansion Committee

On hold.

### 2022 Evacuation Planning

Will schedule first meeting. John F said the recent radio training suggested involved evacuation using the emergency exit. John H suggested utilizing the plentiful resources already available from Fire Safe Marin, which has a lot of videos on evacuation and go bags, and plenty of previous *Echo* articles. The committee should gather resources, sort them, see what's still relevant or needs updating, and use them.

### [www.marinvalley.net](http://www.marinvalley.net)

No report.

### *Echo* Article

The March *Echo* will probably feature repurposing a previous article on go bags and considerations being explored to develop a Community Watch program.

### Potential Neighborhood Watch-like Program

John F summarized the program as a way to expand our watchfulness to the community at large with the addition of nighttime walkers so that they are all aware of what's going on around them and have a way to report quickly and efficiently rather than waiting around and telling friends. It's HOW to do that.

#### *Considerations:*

*Uniforms* — The idea is to show that we are out there, that if people drive through and see someone with a Neighborhood Watch vest on, they will know that they are being watched. It's a signal to the bad guys. It could be more of a vest rather than a uniform. The purpose would be more for a safety vest, which is ANSI-2 compliant with reflective stripes so they can be seen at night, which actually should be used by anybody walking at night.

*Signs* — We should have signs as well. People would be more apprehensive about doing anything naughty in our Park if they saw signs and knew they were being watched. Many neighborhoods put up *Neighborhood Watch* signs even though they don't have a program but use them to get the message out and that there MIGHT be one there.

*Should not be MVEST based* — Signs great idea and everyone can call 911 or 415-883-5911. Night owls with reflective vests get the message across without having to say they are security. It means there are people wandering around the Park

and are visible. Every resident has the right to complain to the police or Matt. They could bring an issue to an MVEST meeting in the public comments section. MVEST shouldn't necessarily be involved with a group of people specially involved to do that, because it could blow back on MVEST due to a confrontation. It's important that they are residents like everyone else with no specific authority. We don't want it to morph into a group of people watching other residents. The recommendation for the program has information that all residents should know and be thinking about, and could be used as several *Echo* articles, and not necessarily be connected to a specific group. The night owls could be a group without specific authority like everyone else. MVEST should not be connected to a group as opposed to encouraging others and making suggestions for them to do, while not being official. That protects us.

*Get additional Security* — Since Security (Bright Star) only patrols the clubhouse, pool, and gym area, we should ask Matt how much more it would cost for them to make more runs through the Park. While not considered necessary in the past, it seems more appropriate now and is not that expensive.

*If it was an MVEST program* — it would have to be approved by PAC as MVEST is a PAC standing committee and by the City on order to be under the insurance umbrella for liability. We also have to offer the Police Department the opportunity to participate, and we'd have to give them something concrete.

*Ask Matt for quarterly or monthly crime updates* — Have Matt give us statistics and suggestions at the PAC meetings and what people could do to be safer. It would be good to have him as a liaison. Previously he has said homes are not being broken into; we have crimes of opportunity. Others said: but now things are being broken into, like the sheds, cars.

*People involved should have certain phone numbers on them* — police, fire, Matt and a coordinator. Matt must be very much involved since the calls will come to him, not the police. We don't want a lot of calls going to the police, especially with things involving children. They are short-handed.

*Responsibility is on residents* — It's up to us to keep things locked, don't leave obvious things out, or keys in cars. Anything unusual seen—send a note to Matt, not get us involved. This gets into an area where we are not professionals. Articles in the *Echo* could keep us more aware, especially now with home deliveries. There have always been things happening in the Park. It's Management's responsibility to let us know what's happening on a timely basis. We don't have data to show more happening now. Monthly reports would help.

We are eyes on the road, not trying to stop crime, or bust anyone, or tell them to go away—but responsive to the situation. Our rule is to not interface.

*Need to ramp up deterrence*—More patrols in the Park, more cameras, people more alert, make an investment in the next three months. See if that makes a difference. Let Matt know we are concerned about this. Maybe have this group, plus the security company, maybe both, not an either or. If you see something, say something. Another option: rather than people on the streets, someone or groups of people taking turns monitoring the cameras. With the recent theft here with license plate information given to the police, they decided not to follow up. It's probably a misdemeanor and household crimes are not being followed up. Best to only make good calls, not everything. Not wearing a safety vest at night could make you considered to be a prowler. HOL issued safety vests a couple of years ago, but most people don't wear them.

*Lighting*—Motion sensor and porch lights act as deterrents (a safety tip to include in *Echo* article.) Lights should light the area intended, not everything 100 yds. above and around. Motion detectors sometimes go on all night due to raccoons. There can be a middle ground with less bright lights, turned off sooner. Is ok but be concerned about neighbors.

*Like fire prevention*—a lot of this is yes, it doesn't always work, but over time we have to keep doing it anyway and keep bugging people: wear vests at night; get lights that are effective but don't shine in neighbor's eyes, aim them probably. There will always be complaints, but we keep at it anyway.

*Special committee for this?* Not yet, but rather depend on the minutes with an article on general safety at night about this in the *Echo*. Don't be afraid to say something to the appropriate people—what you say and who you say it to depends on what it is. John F to send summary.

#### NEXT MEETING

Monday, February 7, 2022 at 5:00 p.m., via Zoom.

Erma Wheatley

***Residents who are not on this committee who would like to attend, please contact John Hansen at [johnhansen.emt@gmail.com](mailto:johnhansen.emt@gmail.com) so that he may send you an agenda.***