

May 12, 2026, Comments regarding MVMCC during open time at Novato City Council meeting

I'm Sonia Seeman, Novato resident for 50 years, and former Novato Deputy City Manager serving for 25 years until I retired in 2000. During my tenure I was a first-hand witness to and participated as city's management representative in the creation of the Marin Valley Mobile Country Club Park Acquisition process with goal of achieving an affordable park for current and future residents.

It was a complex transaction including numerous legal and financial mechanisms requiring close coordination among various stakeholders...the park residents, the city, and a host of professional consultants, ensuring compliance with required documentation to effectuate the purchase of the park, consistent with that original goal of park affordability.

The original intent of the transaction was to establish the NFA as an interim administrative authority during the bond/loan period. Once the bonds/loans were retired, paid entirely by park residents' rents, the ownership of the park would be transferred to an appropriate non-profit entity along with the affordable housing covenants.

A critical component of the acquisition process was the requirement that at least 40% of the units/spaces would be maintained in perpetuity as affordable housing consistent with Novato Housing Element provisions.

Hopefully current matters surrounding this final transfer can be resolved among the stakeholders through fact-based, thoughtful and respectful dialogue among designated representatives of the parties, perhaps in a sub-committee or task force format.

Who could have imagined that after several decades, Council Member Eklund and I are now witnessing the final step in fulfilling the city's commitment to the MVMCC residents by transferring the park to non-profit ownership that maintains this affordable housing in our community.

*Sonia Seeman May 12, 2026*