



Westport Municipal Advisory Council

P. O. Box 307, Westport, CA 95488

www.westportmac.org

Summary Minutes – October 1, 2013

1) Roll Call – Meeting was called to order by Chairman Van Bueren at 7:00 PM. Directors Grigg, Knapp, Michel, Van Bueren and Alternate Scott were present. Alternate Scott as a voting member awaiting disposition of the vacant director position.

2) Approval of September 3rd minutes – Motion by Scott, second by Knapp, passed unanimously.

3) Public Expression – None

4) New Business Discussion – California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR) “Parks Forward” visioning process

Director Grigg presented an email from the Sierra Club which provided information on a public planning effort started by the state Natural Resources Agency. The effort is called “Parks Forward” and is led by a 12 member commission. Its goal is to review where CDPR is today and, with public participation, envision what the parks system could become and identify what it will take to get there.

Director Grigg also reminded us that there was a CDPR rumor that Westport Union Landing State Beach (WP-UL) may be closed at the end of June 2014. Director Van Bueren referenced a news articles on a state law that should force a “thoughtful” process on any possible closures of state parks. WMAC is unaware of any recent public discussion of park closures or specific processes related to any future closures.

After some discussion which included the following points, it was decided that WMAC would write a letter to the Parks Forward commission:

- WP-UL should be included in the reservation and credit card payment system used at most state parks
- The letter should cover both WP-UL and MacKerricher State Park
- WMAC has received significant public input related to the desirability of developing the California Coastal Trail. Both parks in the WMAC sphere of influence cover significant stretches of the coast, both bluff top and beach. Their incorporation into the California Coastal Trail should be emphasized.
- WP-UL should get credit for Native American usage that does not show up on income
- WMAC interest in interfacing with Parks Forward
- Possible site improvements, including keeping Abalone Point at WP-UL open and partial clearing of the old State Hwy 1 for bicycles and hiking
- Point out economic contribution WP-UL has on the Village of Westport
- Review previous letters from WMAC related to WP-UL possible closure

A motion was made by Scott and seconded by Michel to draft a letter from WMAC to Parks Forward regarding community impact of the parks and ideas for park use and improvements. Unanimous approval. Michel volunteered to prepare the letter,

circulating via email to the other Directors for comment and approval.

5) Old Business

a) Passing opportunities on State Route 1 (Scott) – Further communication was exchanged with Roy Arsino of Cal Trans regarding passing opportunities between Westport and Fort Bragg. Two possible sites have been identified for a visit by Cal Trans for review. A possible Pull Out location south of Ten Mile Bridge and a possible passing opportunity (dashed centerline on north bound side) near the Inn at Newport Ranch.

b) Update on CDP12-2012 (Haul Road removal) (Van Bueren) – The appeal by local private citizens may be heard at the November 13-15 California Coastal Commission meeting in Newport Beach. There is a possibility that the hearing could be continued to the San Francisco meeting in December. WMAC is an interested party. A copy of the appeal and other information is posted on the WMAC website.

6) Announcements / Correspondence – None

7) Preliminary agenda for November 5th

- Review Parks Forward letter
- Review passing opportunities
- Vacant Director / alternate positions

8) Adjournment – meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM

Thad Van Bueren, Chair

Attest: _____
Bill Knapp, Secretary