



Westport Municipal Advisory Council

P. O. Box 307, Westport, CA 95488
www.westportmac.org

Summary Minutes—May 7, 2013

The WMAC Board of Directors convened for a meeting on May 7, 2013 at 7:00 PM at the Westport Community Church in Westport.

1) ROLL CALL

Directors Grigg, Knapp, Van Bueren, Vidaver, and Alternate Scott were present. Director Eyerly was absent. Director Van Bueren presided.

2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No Discussion of Minutes and no Public Comment.

Motion: Minutes from 3/2/13 meeting were unanimously approved on a motion from Director Knapp, which was seconded by Alternate Scott.

3) PUBLIC EXPRESSION – (Discussion Only) – No public discussion

4) NEW BUSINESS – Discussion and Possible Action

a) CDP# 18-2012 Caltrans Seaside Storm Repair. Public Discussion: Art Krone, Westport – Would like parking and access in general to encourage kayaking. Steve Goleman, Newport Ranch – Wider roadway and better parking is beneficial. Would like to see parking and shoulder widening on both beach and inland side of Hwy 1. Previous communications from WMAC to CalTrans and the county have supported incorporating space for bicycles in any improvements made in the area covered by CDP# 18-2012.

Action: Motion made by Director Vidaver to Support with comment that adding shoulders for bicyclists is desirable, seconded by Director Scott. Unanimously approved.

5) OLD BUSINESS – Discussion and possible action

a) Chadbourne Gulch / Blues Beach access input. Prior to opening the discussion Director Van Bueren announced that the draft letter from the April 2nd meeting had been withdrawn and the purpose of this meeting was to get input from members of the public. At least 45 people attended the meeting, 36 put their names on the sign in sheet. It was not possible to capture all of the comments. All of the public input was in favor of keeping access unrestricted. “Leave the beach alone, no improvements or changes”, was a common sentiment. Many did not want any action taken by or contact with Caltrans related to the Blues Beach area. While there was some agreement that Blues has issues, primarily lack of toilet facilities, many indicated that they took part in clean up and other efforts to “self regulate” the area and would continue to do so and encourage others who regularly used the beach to join in. Several didn't understand why the issue had been raised and were concerned that the community would be divided by continued public discussion. In response another person pointed out that other county beaches now have severe restrictions on access and curfews because nobody did anything, “Don't walk away”.

Director Van Bueren closed the public discussion and polled the directors for their thoughts on the topic. Director Grigg was concerned that the topic had become decisive and any effort on the

WMAC's part would not be productive, WMAC should drop the issue. Director Scott noted Blues Beach has potential as a place for young people to go and is a source for economic benefit to the Westport community, sanitation has been identified as an issue that could be addressed, public input supports unlimited access. Director Vidaver said some issues should and can be addressed, the community seems to be coming together to take care of issues as they arise, vehicle access could be allowed, need to find a balance. Director Knapp felt public input is clearly against limiting access to the beach, use should not be restricted, but users need to be responsible, public input has identified a growing effort by users of the beach to clean up and self-regulate.

Action: Director Knapp made a motion, seconded by Director Grigg, “to drop consideration of the Blues Beach issue”. The motion passed unanimously.

b) Siamex inquiry – Director Van Bueren reported that the county planning office had responded that the barn renovation near the south end of Westport did have current permits in place for the work being done, as reported by Pic Sousa at last month's meeting. A previous verbal contact with the planning office had indicated no permits were required for the barn project. Pic gave a brief update on the project and invited anyone interested to stop by.

c) Passing opportunity on Route 1 – Alternate Scott did not have any new information on the topic.

6) OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS – Discussion Only

Miki Smith reported that herbicide spraying along Branscomb Road was rumored to be imminent. Director Vidaver volunteered to investigate and report back to the WMAC.

7) SET PRELIMINARY AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING-- to be held on June 4, 2013

- a) Possible update on Route 1 passing opportunities (Scott)
- b) Possible herbicide spraying along Branscomb Rd. (Vidaver)

8) ADJOURNMENT--Chairman Van Bueren adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:00 PM.

Thad Van Bueren, Chair

ATTEST:

Bill Knapp (for Chuck Eyerly)