



TOWN OF FAIRFAX

STAFF REPORT

October 6, 2021

TO: Mayor and Town Council

FROM: Michele Gardner, Town Clerk

SUBJECT: Receive report on Councilmembers' assignments, committees, and activities in September

RECOMMENDATION

Receive Councilmember activities report.

DISCUSSION

Every month, each Councilmember provides a list of the meetings they attended in the preceding month on behalf of the Town, for inclusion in this report. Under the agenda section entitled "Council Reports and Comments" Councilmembers may choose to highlight one of those meetings.

Mayor Ackerman

- 9/1 Town Council Special meeting and Regular meeting
- 9/8 Marin/Sonoma Mosquito & Vector Control District board meetings
- 9/9 Flood Zone 9 update on SAFRR
- 9/9 Agenda setting meeting
- 9/14 Meet with Finance Director
- 9/18 Shakespeare in the Park!
- 9/19 Townwide Picnic!
- 9/22 Town Council / Planning Commission joint meeting, Council Special Meeting
- 9/27 Agenda setting meeting
- 9/27 MCCMC Climate Committee
- 9/27 SURJ Cohort
- 9/29 MCCMC Mayors Select Committee
- 9/29 MCCMC Regular Meeting
- 9/30 Ad hoc green microgrid solutions policy makers group
- 10/4 Coalition Connection regular meeting

Vice Mayor Hellman

- 9/2: Climate Action Team – transportation subcommittee
- 9/6: Climate Action Team – engagement subcommittee
- 9/8: Ross Valley Fire Dept closed session meeting
- 9/9: Council agenda setting meeting with Interim Town Manager, Mayor and Clerk
- 9/13: Fairfax Park and Rec commission meeting
- 9/16: Cal Cities Tax and Revenue committee meeting
- 9/19: Fairfax Town Picnic, tabling at Climate Action Committee
- 9/20: MCOE, Ross Valley School District, Ross Valley Charter, community leader meeting

- 9/20: Fairfax Community Skatepark team meeting with Interim Town Manager and Interim Director Public Works
- 9/20: Manor Hill Firewise neighborhood meeting
- 9/21: Climate Action Committee regular meeting
- 9/22: Marin County Age Friendly forum on Climate Crisis
- 9/22: Fairfax join Planning Commission and town council special meeting
- 9/23: Manor Hill community listening session on traffic safety
- 9/25: Mads tolling concert, part of Park and Rec concert series in the Peri Park Redwood grove
- 9/26: Tour of Gloria Duncan Creekside Preserve on Olema Road and the Frank Egger Redwood Preserve off Meadow Way.
- 9/27: Council agenda setting meeting with Interim Town Manager, Mayor and Clerk
- 9/27: SURJ (Showing Up for Racial Justice) for Elected officials cohort meeting #4
- 9/27: MCCMC Climate Action committee
- 9/29: Victory Village Resident-Provider discussion
- 9/29: MCCMC regular monthly meeting
- 9/30: Archie William High School community meeting
- 9/30: Fairfax Climate Action Committee – engagement subcommittee
- 10/2: White and Awakening Together class - a guided, collaborative exploration of our racial conditioning as white people.

Councilmember Coler

- Attended Countywide HUD Priority Setting Committee (Sep 2) – received a report on HUD CDBG and Home audit (3 findings but no concerns); reviewed and recommended allocation of the State’s Permanent Local Housing Allocation (PLHA, \$725K non-competitive grants awarded countywide) – recommended even 1/3 split for each: CLAM’s West Marin Coast Guard Housing; Homeward Bound’s Mill Street & their HUD parcel veteran workforce housing. The Committee strongly requested that as this funding is for the entire County, next year there should be outreach early to all communities and the Committee members. Also received presentations on AB 686 Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing and the Restrictive Covenants Program by L. Darby, Social Equity Coordinator.
- Attended MCE Clean Energy Executive Committee (Sep 3) – acknowledged clean audit for prior fiscal year; approved recommendation to MCE Board to extend the Cares Credit program though the end of MCE’s fiscal year (so 1/1/2022 – 3/30/2022) for eligible entities and continue outreach - ~33,000 residents enrolled, saves \$10/month; 881 small businesses (SB) enrolled, saves ~\$22/month); customer programs reported that CPUC has carved out 33% of their energy efficiency program for equity/market support which is not held to the cost effectiveness standard of the rest of the EE portfolio (good news, MCE has been advocating for this change) – this fits with MCE’s equity programs of SB assistance; home energy savings; electrification workforce development (trainings with 4 paid interns for disadvantaged communities)
- Met with MCE Clean Energy Policy/Legal staff re: biomass issues (Sep 7).
- Attended Fairfax Affordable Housing Committee meeting (Sep 8) – housing element (HE): brainstorming draft list of potential sites for discussion purposes only; overview of the “missing middle” housing concepts; outreach suggestions; discussion on AB 686 application to the HE.
- MCE Board meeting was not held in Sep (all day Board Retreat is Oct 7 by Zoom, 9-3).
- Attended Ad Hoc LAFCO committee meeting RE: working groups (Oct 10)

- Met with Fairfax Interim Town Manager several times on transition matters (Sep 7, 14, 21, 28, Oct 5).
- Attended Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority Board meeting (Sep 16) – Approved MWPA Social Media Policy; approved RFQ issuance for wildfire evacuation/ingress/egress risk assessment (will be the 1st of its kind) acknowledged environmental compliance/project approvals for two Projects – Marin Valley Goat Grazing & and a LRAD siren installation in Mill Valley; approved 1st amendment to Fire Aside agreement to allow integration of defensible space grant programs to be integrated within the software (side note: EO Brown reported that MWPA did not receive its \$1.8M for 3 year grant proposal for AFN/low income senior grant program but MWPA has \$500K allocated of its funds to fully fund the program this FY, ETA Nov 2021 launch); received extensive reporting of FireSafe Marin on their many activities/accomplishments funded by MWPA, see <https://firesafemarin.org/programs/>, note: FireSafe Marin no longer uses webinars, they now have live programs airing on Marin TV (CMCM).
- Attended Town Picnic – tabled for the Fairfax Open Space Committee (Sep 19)
- Attended Community Media Center of Marin Board meeting (Sep 23) – Staff finished the San Anselmo and Larkspur upgrades to HD. The Tiburon and Ross new installations are also finished. Fairfax and San Rafael Zoom Hybrid installations are largely finished; with MMWD's install next week. Corte Madera is moving into temporary offices while their city hall is demolished/rebuilt – staff will move all equipment into their temporary space. Lorenzo Jones started as new Board member representing the business community.
- Attended Fairfax Age Friendly Task Force meeting (Sep 24) – Library rep participated; discussed CA Chronicles & iPhone/Android training upcoming in Oct; small free lending libraries setup at Victory Village and Bennett House. Planning for 90 and over annual celebration to be held November 13 – as with last year due to Covid, we will deliver gift baskets to participants (all those 90 or over will receive a Mayor's certificate by mail) – 54 on our current list.
- Marin County Mayors & Councilmembers Legislative Committee (Was scheduled for Sep 27 – Meeting was not held, cancelled due to staffing issues on 9/25) –Coler Legis. update: the Governor signed into law 3 housing bills: SB8 (extends the 2019 Housing Crisis Act sunset from 2025 to 2030 - accelerates the approval process for housing projects, curtails local governments' ability to downzone and limits fee increases on housing applications), SB9 (allows a single family residential lot to be split and allows duplexes with ADUs, so up to 4 units total per site), and SB10 (provides that local agencies may adopt an ordinance to allow up to 10 dwelling units on any parcel, at a height specified in the ordinance, if the parcel is within a transit-rich area or urban infill site). He also signed an urgency housing bill AB 1174 - makes changes to the existing streamlined, ministerial approval process for housing development in jurisdictions that have not yet made enough progress towards their allocation of their regional housing needs. To date, he has signed 31 housing bills which his website states "Governor Newsom has signed 31 affordable housing bills focused on cutting red tape and holding cities accountable for providing their fair share of housing." <https://www.gov.ca.gov/2021/09/28/governor-newsom-signs-legislation-to-increase-affordable-housing-supply-and-strengthen-accountability-highlights-comprehensive-strategy-to-tackle-housing-crisis/>. He also signed urgency legislation AB 361 which allow teleconferences (e.g., ZOOM) for legislative bodies subject to the Brown Act to continue (during emergencies – Covid, wildfires, etc.); the Governor's Executive Order ends 9/30/2021. The Governor has until Oct 10 to sign or veto bills.
- MCCMC LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE SCOPE OF ADVOCACY: Fiscal Protection: protect city revenues from state Local Control: support legislation that enhances local control of

resources to provide services while supporting regional co-operation. Oppose unfunded mandates and preemption of local authority and control of land use Transportation Investment: promote stable transportation finance structure for state and local government. Multimodal, enhancing livable communities Housing/Land use: protect local government land use authority. Oppose punitive housing legislation, and legislation that restricts or reduces local discretion on land use decisions. Other legislation can be recommended to MCCMC at a regular meeting.

- Attended SURJ (Standing Up for Racial Justice) cohort 5 workshop (Sep 27 & premeeting Sep 21) – homework - discussed Letter from a Birmingham Jail by MLK and Dick Cavett interview with James Baldwin. Challenges to moving the needle on racial justice and individual action steps.
- Attended Marin County Mayors & Councilmembers meeting (Sep 29) – Speakers: Katie Rice & Liz Darby – Marin County's Restrictive Covenants Project; Primary speakers were Linda Jackson, from the Aging Action Initiative, and Lee Pullen, Marin Co. Commission on Aging, who will provide updates on the Aging Action Initiative, age-friendly and other plans, and ageism.
- Attended Countywide HUD Priority Setting Committee (Sep 30) - Appoint three Countywide Priority Setting Community Committee members representing protected classes for: Fairfax, Ross, San Anselmo – one applicant only is incumbent Phillip “PJ” Feffer; Belvedere, Mill Valley, Sausalito, Tiburon, and adjacent unincorporated communities, including Marin City and Tam Valley – 5 applicants; and a Countywide, at-large member – one applicant only is incumbent Cathy Cortez; discussed the upcoming funding cycle priority review; the Federal Lead Safe Housing Rule and implications for projects funded through the Federal Grants program.
- Attended MCE Executive Committee meeting (Oct 1) – MCE annual retreat is Oct. 7, 9-3 on Zoom.

Councilmember Goddard

- Ross Valley Paramedic Authority (RVPA). Received an update on the closure of the Ross Fire Station (Station 18) and the potential opportunities for other service models and general impact on ambulance service provided from that station.
- Ross Valley Fire Board meeting
- Archie Williams Government Class. Participated on a panel presentation and discussion with high school seniors regarding the intersection of Government and citizen’s personal liberties.
- Fairfax Affordable Housing Committee meeting. The committee reviewed recommendations and made suggestions for potential opportunity sites for affordable housing for the 2023 Housing Element update.
- Organized and led the Town’s Rosh Hashanah celebration. The inclusive event was attended by 60 community members.
- Attended the Fairfax Theater Company’s fabulous performance of Shakespeare’s most famous monologues and sonnets, in Peri Park. Thank you FTC!
- Participated in the renovation of the Merwin Street Mural
- Attended the Fairfax Picnic. Thank you Fairfax Volunteers!
- Cascade Canyon Firewise Steering committee meeting
- Plastic Free Marin meeting
- County workshop on the ‘single-use food-ware reduction’ Ordinance. The County will be considering an ordinance similar to Fairfax and San Anselmo’s, later this Fall.
- Met with Andrew Henning from Project Opening Doors Marin

- Marin County Council of Mayors and Councilmembers (MCCMC) Economic Recovery committee. Received presentations about workforce development in Marin:
 - College of Marin's job skills and professional certification programs, and the
 - Small Business Development Center of Marin
- Special Town Council Meeting
- Manor Hill safety and traffic calming listening session
- Victory Village Tenants listening session. This was an opportunity to have tenants share their experiences and challenges living in a community with a wide diversity of people, some with physical or serious mental disabilities. The meeting was attended by service providers, mental health caseworkers, property managers, representatives from the County and the Housing authority, and organized by the Marin Organizing Committee. Action steps to follow.
- Monthly MCCMC Business Meeting
- Attended my cohort's 4th workshop for Marin County elected officials facilitated by 'Showing Up For Racial Justice' (SURJ)
- Conducted 2 days of bike and walk audits at white Hill Middle School. Studied traffic impacts based on #'s of students using active modes of transportation to determine demand for additional or decreased levels of Yellow School Bus service
- Participated in the International Walk (and roll) To School Day

Councilmember Cutrano

Report not available at the time of publication.