

# **BOLINAS COMMUNITY PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT**

**BCPUD    BOX 390    270 ELM ROAD    BOLINA CALIFORNIA 94924    415 868 1224**



## **COMMITTEE MINUTES**

### **Special Meeting of the Resident Permit Parking Plan Committee of the Board of Directors**

**09.22.22 10.00 a.m.**

**Location: Via Zoom**

Committee Members: Bruce Bowser (Chair), Sherry Hirsch (Secretary), Chuck McParland, Al Minvielle

#### **AGENDA**

1. Call to Order. At 4:09 pm using zoom
2. Roll. All members present.
3. Updates on status of county's plan for development of parking ordinances: There has been very little activity over the summer months. The committee last met twice in June. County staff (CDA and DPW) have a meeting scheduled for 9.29.22 with Coastal Commission staff to see what the possibilities are for any new ordinance. The county will discuss the permit program, the existing Measure X ordinance and ordinances that include a vehicle length limit. Member Hirsch will send a note reiterating our thoughts on the ordinances to Sarah Jones, Asst Director of CDA who is working on this issue. Previous discussions with Ms. Jones indicated that she was very much aware of the issues and would well represent us.
4. Updates on enforcement concerns: Over the summer, several members had an informal discussion with the MCSO homeless liaison Mike Thompson regarding enforcement. This was a follow up to the Sheriff's West Marin watch commander (Lt. Brennan Collins) June meeting to go over enforcement issues primarily in the downtown area. Current enforcement challenges indicate that they most likely will continue to occur even with new ordinances. The goal of both of these meetings was to see in what way the community can work with the Sheriff's department on these concerns.

Deputy Thompson indicated as did Lt. Collins, that the county has a policy to not criminalize those who are unhoused and so after a complaint is made (called in to the dispatch number) and a deputy responds, if the individual is unhoused, the next step is a referral to Deputy Thompson. He then links the individual with the County's Health and Human Services (HHS) department. The biggest barrier to moving people off the street is finding a place to refer people to park their vehicle. In a follow up to this discussion, member Hirsch had a zoom chat in August with Chloe Cook, HHS West Marin HHS manager to see how this system is working out. There are additional resources in our area and more planned, and some people have been helped, but Ms. Cook concurred with MCSO staff that the absence of a place to park in Bolinas is one of the biggest challenges to this problem. Many of the current individuals living in their vehicles are connected to Bolinas and don't want to relocate to housing out of the area or even if housing were available, they want to live in their vehicle. However there is no place to refer them.

Committee members also expressed concerns about the number of storage vehicles popping up on Brighton Ave. This used to be a big problem in the past but has abated somewhat. Parking a storage vehicle overnight is not legal, however if someone is unhoused and is using the vehicle for their housing needs it may be allowed. Member Hirsch offered to send an email to Lt. Collins to further clarify how deputies are operating regarding this issue. We also are not clear as to how a decision is made re: enforcement if it involves an unhoused person. Is the person first told they would be cited for some illegal act, and then referred to HHS for help if they are in need or is no attempt being made to cite on an assumption that the individual is in need? There are visitors to Bolinas who are clearly not needy but take advantage of the lack of limits on certain behaviors.

5. Committee membership and objectives: The committee now has 4 members, 3 from Brighton Ave. and 1 from Wharf Rd. Member Shaw is no longer on the committee. A concern was expressed that although the mission of this committee at the outset was narrowly focused on developing a permit parking program in the downtown area that would enable some control over the influx of visitors turning these streets into a free campground, and relief to residents living on the streets, work on this idea has touched upon a number of other parking and traffic issues, such as safety (stop signs) and overall enforcement issues. Essentially the committee has continued much of the work of the prior committee(s) over these many years. Going forward members expressed the opinion that the community needs to be proactive and organized to ensure that we have a livable downtown area. Consistent pressure on the county entities that are responsible for Bolinas requires constant engagement. The only vehicle we have for this purpose is BCPUD. More discussion is needed on this topic, committee mission, membership and the role of BCPUD.

6. Approve Meeting Minutes of June 14 and June 23 meetings (m, Minvielle, s, McParland), all in favor.

7. Community Expression. None.

8. Future Meeting Dates. October 11, 2022 at 4 p.m. Member Hirsch stated that she will not be available in the month of October, but can help prepare the agenda in advance.

9. Adjournment. At 5:30 p.m.