



THE MORNING AFTER

Highlights from the
Ross Town Council Meeting
of July 12, 2012

Town of Ross

Volume 6, Issue 7
July 13, 2012

Welcome New Council Members



Council Member
Elizabeth Brekhus

Elizabeth Brekhus grew up in Ross, attended Ross School, and returned to Ross in 2000 with her husband, Jordan Lavinsky. They have two of their three children at Ross School. Elizabeth loves the charm of the small town and the sense of community that the Town fosters. She has worked as a civil litigation attorney in Marin County since 1997, and specializes in land use and municipal law.



Council Member
Katie Hoertkorn

Katie Hoertkorn has over 25 years of experience in logistics and transportation including being the first female Vice President at DHL, with revenues over \$7 billion. She has held leadership positions with Wineshopper.com and New Vine, and been a guest lecturer at Stanford Business School. She holds a Bachelor's and Master's degree from the University of Wisconsin. She is a member of St. John's Episcopal Church and has co-chaired the Tour de Noel the past two years.



Council Member
Beach Kuhl

Beach Kuhl has lived in Ross for 38 years with his wife, was active in Ross Recreation activities while his children attended Ross School, and has maintained an interest in community affairs since. He is interested in making local government as transparent as possible maximizing citizen involvement. He holds degrees from Cornell University and Stanford Law School and has practiced as a trial attorney in San Francisco for over 50 years, serving also as a judge, mediator and arbitrator.

Election of Mayor and Mayor Pro Tempore



The Council appointed Rupert Russell as Mayor and Beach Kuhl as Mayor Pro Tempore. Mayor Russell on behalf of the Town and Council, presented outgoing Mayor Carla Small with a commemorative gavel plaque and thanked her for her many efforts the past year including overseeing three Town Managers, one possible financial crisis, and three new Council members, while calmly leading the 4th of July parade. He added "we have been very fortunate to have a Town Mayor with the caliber and standards of Carla Small, she has set a very, very high bar".



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**The Morning After has
a new look!
Let us know what you
think.
Send your comments to
llopez@townofross.org.**



*Carla Small
Outgoing Mayor*

The Mayor's Report



I would like to welcome P. Beach Kuhl, Elizabeth Brekhus and Katie Hoertkorn to the Council. Rupert and I are privileged to be working with you over the coming years. Thank you for your commitment to our community. Our new Town Manager, Rob Braulik, has now arrived and is leading our team. His breadth of experience, innovation and leadership will help support the current and future quality of life Ross Town residents enjoy.

I would like to express my sincerest appreciation to Liz Welsh, our Chief of Protocol for her orchestration of a fantastic July 4th celebration. With the loss of town funds, Liz

pleaded her case to the Ross Historical Society, the Ross Property Owner's Association and the Ross School PTA. They covered the costs and Liz went to work. Cynthia Wollam and Tom Fishburne organized the parade; Ed Dong put together and led the old fashion games. BJ Martin created the flower centerpieces. Paul Bohan was responsible for the sound system. Katie Baughman sang "The Star Spangled Banner". Many volunteers, young and old helped with set-up and break-down. And lastly, Don Santa and Woodlands Market provided a very popular food tent with the best \$2 hot dog around. Thank you for a Norman Rockwell experience.

It has been my pleasure and privilege to serve as your Mayor this past fiscal year. Working together in a collaborative fashion, the Town Council made major steps that we believe will reap benefits for our community. And thank you, to the community who has been so gracious to me this past year. I, personally, could not be more proud of our Town Staff, especially, as we have and will continue to work through our fiscal challenges. Their commitment to our community is exemplified on a daily basis. You have been immeasurably helpful to me during this past year. You make me look good and I thank each and everyone of you.



*Rob Braulik
Town Manager*

Town Manager Report

Greetings from your new Town Manager. I just started this past week and am pleased to be here serving the Town Council, the community of Ross and working with the Ross team of Town employees. I have started working with the Mayor and Town Council members, meeting with key partner agencies in the Town including Ross School superintendent Chi Kim, meeting with residents on various matters and starting work on Town projects such as the renewal of the U.S. Post Office lease. I look forward to working with the Town Council, the Town staff and the community of Ross. Thank you to all for your warm welcome.

Community Donation Account Established



The Council agreed to establish a new account in the Town's General Fund for collecting and appropriating community donations for Town services. With the Special Public Safety Tax not passing at last month's election, the Town has had to dip into its reserves to cover the operating expenses for the current fiscal year. At last

month's Council meeting, some residents indicated an interest in soliciting donations from Town residents to help support ongoing services and minimize the use of the Town's reserves. Any donations received would be used to help defray the cost of public safety services and also minimize the use of reserve funds until a new tax can be voted on in November 2012.

Council Approves Special November Election

With the failure of the Special Public Safety Tax (Measure C) not passing with a two-thirds vote at last month's June 5th election, the Council voted unanimously to place the measure back on the ballot again this November. The Public Safety Tax, formerly known as the General Municipal Services Tax, has been relied on by the Town to support the operations and capital needs of the community for many years. Unlike many jurisdictions, the Town of Ross does not have a large sales tax base and relies

mainly on property taxes, fees, and grants. The special tax would raise approximately \$642,000 in revenue for the Town.

The Council unanimously voted to approve the following language for the ballot measure:

"Shall the voters of the Town of Ross adopt an ordinance replacing the prior municipal services tax with a special tax for maintaining public safety services for a period of four years at a lower maximum rate of \$950 per dwelling unit for

single family residences and \$950 per parcel for all other uses, and increasing the Town's appropriations limit by the amount of the special tax proceeds?"



Council Sets 2012-13 Committee Assignments

Community Protection:

Carla Small, Chair
Katie Hoertkorn

Public Works:

Elizabeth Brekhuis, Chair
Beach Kuhl

General Government:

Beach Kuhl, Chair
Elizabeth Brekhuis

Finance:

Katie Hoertkorn, Chair
Carla Small

Ross Recreation:

Elizabeth Brekhuis

Ross Property Owners Assn:

Beach Kuhl

Ross School:

Elizabeth Brekhuis

Leadership Cabinet:

Elizabeth Brekhuis

Marin Art & Garden Center:

Katie Hoertkorn

Non-Council Appointments:

Chief of Protocol: Liz Welsh

DISCO: Patti Shimek

Solid Waste: Rob Braulik

Ross Valley Paramedic Authority:

Bruce Hart, Brian Salmen (Alternate)

Commission on Aging: Teri Dowling

Bolinas Ave Neighborhood Cte:

Chris Martin

For the full list of the 2012-13 committees, go to http://www.townofross.org/pdf/agendas_council/2012-committees.pdf

Rebuilding of Structures after a Disaster

The Council sitting as the Planning Commission, discussed a revised draft of an ordinance that would allow the Building Official to issue building permits to property owners to rebuild substantially damaged residences after a major disaster. No Town Council review or a public hearing would be required so long as certain conditions are met. The Planning Commission with Planning Commissioner

Small opposed, asked staff to return to the Town Council with an amended ordinance for consideration at a future Town Council meeting. The amendments include such things as deleting fee waivers, including appeal and enforcement procedures to ensure residences damaged or destroyed as the result of a natural disaster are rebuilt exactly as they were before the natural disaster occurred.





Senior Planner
Elise Semonian

Planning Application Scoreboard

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications considered at last night's Council meeting. For more information on each planning application, visit www.townofross.org/pages/town_council/staff_reports.html. The minutes of this meeting will be available on the website at www.townofross.org after approval at the August Council meeting.

Address	Applicant	Council Action	Vote (for/against/abstain)
4 Canyon Road	Christian Lind/Lisa Bernardi	Approved	5-0-0
21 Loma Linda Avenue & 220 Wellington Avenue	Cris & Pilar Torresi James & Megan Calhoun	Approved Resolution of intent to abandon & schedule hearing for vacation of right-of-way	5-0-0
210 Lagunitas Road	David & Jeanine Samuel	Approved with reduced size rear deck	5-0-0
15 Woodside Way	Susanne & Peter Chase	Continued to August 9, 2012 meeting	-
30 Wellington Avenue	John & Karene Chendo	Approved	5-0-0

Coming soon.....

The Finance Committee will meet on Monday, July 16, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. The Advisory Design Review Group meets Tuesday, July 24, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. The Council set the date of Tuesday, August 14, 2012 for its annual retreat.

Town Dinner: The Town Council under Mayor Communications, discussed the annual town dinner held in late September of each year. The Town funding for this event was eliminated with the failure of Measure C on June 5th. Many community residents have communicated to the Town Council an interest in having a "community picnic" completely paid from **private donations and in-kind contributions**. The Town Council gave guidance to the Chief of Protocol Liz Welsh that they would like her to proceed with a **privately funded** "community picnic event".

The next regular Town Council meeting will be held on Thursday, August 9, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. Agendas and staff reports for all meetings are posted in advance of the meetings on the Town's website at www.townofross.org. All meetings are held at Town Hall unless indicated otherwise. You may email Council members by accessing the website at www.townofross.org/pages/contact/email_council.html.

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