



THE MORNING AFTER

Highlights from the
Ross Town Council Meeting
of November 8, 2012

Town of Ross

Volume 6, Issue 11
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Measure D Results - by Carla Small



First, I want to thank everyone who helped with getting out the message on Measure D. This would never have had this result without your help.

I, also, want to give everyone an update on the vote. With 54.3% voter participation at this point we have 628 yes votes (72.27%) and 241 no votes (27.73%), and

42 voters chose not to vote on this issue.

As stated in the paper, this does not include the absentee ballots received one or two days before as well as the absentee ballots turned in at the polls. If we end up with an 85% voter participation as is the expected average, we could have as many as 514 more ballots to be counted. Certainly, Chris Martin and I saw many voters bringing their yellow envelopes to the polls on Tuesday as we did our last minute opportunity to educate voters on Measure D.

Generally, the trend set with poll voting and earlier absentee ballots tend to reflect the outcome

of the election.

The Registrar of Voters will update their website (<http://www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/rv/main/CurrentElection/Results.htm>) on Friday, November 9th. There will continue to be some adjustments over the next several weeks, but the count Friday will reflect bankable results.



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Bolinas Avenue Safe Pathways Project Design Approved



The preliminary design for the Bolinas Avenue Safe Pathways project was presented by the Town's design consultant, Harrison Engineering. The presentation consisted of five design alternatives that proposed items such as programmable traffic heads, radar speed feedback signs, sidewalk repair and widening and new curb ramps at various loca-

tions/intersections, striping and new bike lanes.

The base funding for this project was \$250,000 of Measure A funding from the Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM). This amount included the consulting engineer's fees resulting in \$183,155 net remaining for the construction work. The Council had to decide on the potential use of other currently available funds, \$59,000 Road Impact Fees and \$69,000 available from TAM. The Council approved the design alternatives with the exception of the bike lane on the Ross side and directed staff to authorize Harrison Engineering to proceed on to the final design next phase

of the project. The actual alternatives will be selected after the project is bid. The final design and construction bid documents are expected to be done by December. We project the project will go out to bid in February 2013. If all goes as planned this project will be constructed Summer 2013.

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llopez@townofross.org
to join.



Rupert Russell
Mayor

The Mayor's Report



We have had good weather lately. So it was unfortunate that the one evening that it poured with rain was on Halloween. However, in spite of wet costumes that gradually became bedraggled through the night, the kids of Ross remain determined to enjoy parading around and continuing, despite the adverse conditions, to find new mysteries and adventures as well as hunt down their favorite candies, while the homeowners around Ross, especially on the blocked off parts of Shady Lane, remained generous, warm-hearted and hospitable. Thanks to our kids, parents and homeowners for continuing to make Halloween a fine tradition in Ross.

Next I want to thank our former Mayor and current Council member, Carla Small, for applying her enormous energy and stamina to running the campaign for Measure D. We have a vibrant and active democracy in Ross. However it takes passion and commitment to make that democracy work. That means that individuals sometimes have to take on exceptional burdens in order to help the community as a whole. Whether or not you voted for Measure D, or whether you believe in it or not is irrelevant, you have to admire the public spirit and good citizenship of Carla. Carla did not wish to stand by when the prior Measure C did not get the requisite majority and so she put her heart and soul into organiz-

ing and staying on top of Measure D. The result is important to the Town but the journey that Carla embarked on so as to support what she believed was the best interests of Ross is just as important. It involved enthusing our residents, setting forth the arguments, designing banners, setting up telephone banks, and creating teams to walk the neighborhoods of Ross, as well as much much more. Carla continues to set the bar high for dedication and effort on behalf of her community, the people of Ross, and I am sure, however we voted, we all respect and appreciate that very much. Thank you Carla.

News Briefs



Ross Common Holiday Tree Lighting

The Town Council granted approval for Ross Recreation Auxiliary to provide tree lighting on one tree on the Ross Common for the holidays. This is the second year for the holiday tree lighting on the Common.

The lighting will begin with a tree lighting ceremony on the Common on Friday, December 7th from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. The holiday lighting will remain on from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. nightly until January 2, 2013.

The ceremony schedule is as follows:

4:00-4:30 p.m. Open House for Ross downtown businesses
4:30 p.m. Branson Choir
4:55 p.m. Mayor to light tree
5:00 p.m. Santa arrives

Surplus Items for Sale

The Town Council declared items that have been stored at the corporation yard surplus enabling staff to sell and dispose these items. The items include eleven trees, fence panels and assorted items left over from the Fred Allen Park project, and concrete Lagunitas Bridge pillars. The Town will seek to donate the pillars to the Ross Historical Society. Funds from the sale of these items will be set aside for future capital projects.



Reducing CalPERS Legacy Costs

The Town Council passed a Resolution of Intention to enact a new lower cost retirement tier for Miscellaneous members in the CalPERS system. This new tier will reduce future costs for the Town while enabling the Town to recruit qualified staff in the future. This action is one of a series where the Council has taken steps to reduce legacy Town costs.

Staff Approval Authority to be Expanded

The Town Council, sitting as Planning Commission, directed staff to draft an ordinance that would allow town staff to approve minor planning applications. The ordinance will be considered by the Advisory Design Review Group on November 27th and by the Town Council on December 13. The ordinance would establish an exception application for items such as air conditioners, emergency generators and play structures within setbacks, subject to certain size limits and other requirements including neighbor support. The

ordinance would extend the time that planning approvals are valid from one to two years, with opportunity for one additional one-year extension (approvals are currently valid for one year with the opportunity for two one-year extensions after a public hearing). Staff could approve side and rear yard fences from six to seven feet tall with design review (6 feet currently permitted with no review). The design review criteria for fences would be expanded to reflect the Town Council policy of approving transparent gates and well-

landscaped front yard fences on Sir Francis Drake and Popular Avenue. Lot line adjustments could also be approved by staff with no public hearing. The Town Council believed that the changes would be a benefit to residents by expediting approval of minor applications and also reducing the length of Town Council meetings. Some of the projects would still require public notice to neighbors. The draft ordinance will be available on the Town Website prior to the November Advisory Design Review group meeting.



Fiscal Year 2013 Q1 Financial Summary Report

The Town Council received the 2013 First Quarter Financial Summary report for the three month period July 1, 2012 to September 30, 2012. This report is part of a new effort to bring financial transparency to the Town's finances for the Council and the community. Key highlights:

- Building permit and planning application revenues are up over budgeted figures.
- Marin County Assessor's Office assessed valuations of property are up in 2012

from 2011 by \$44M vs. the previous year when valuations grew \$13M.

- General fund revenues are up \$305K while expenditures are under budget by \$89K resulting in a \$394K positive variance (note: of the \$305K revenue variance, \$242K are **one-time revenues**).

provide more data on the revenue side as the Town will have received the first major property tax payment from the County and there will be six months of expenditure data to review.

Summary

The Q1 financial picture is positive overall with revenues higher than anticipated and expenditures lower than projected. Time will tell if these trends continue. The Q2 report will

Financial Investment Advisory Committee Members Appointed

Three Ross residents were appointed by the Council to the newly formed Financial Investment Advisory Committee (FIAC). Michael Battey, James Martling and Mason Flemming will serve a one year term on the committee along with Council members Katie Hoertkorn and Carla

Small, and Town Manager Rob Braulik.

The committee will meet quarterly and provide information and financial investment advice to the Finance Committee which in turn, will make recommendations to the Town Council. The FIAC is advisory only and not a

decision making body. Final decisions on financial investments are made by the Town Council.

The new appointees bring a wealth of financial investment experience to the committee especially as it relates to local government investments.





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 December Council meeting.

Address	Applicant	Council Action	Vote (for/against/abstain)
30 Sir Francis Drake Blvd.	Marin Art & Garden Center and Wendy Posard & Associates	Approved	4-0-0
64 Shady Lane	Michael Baum and Julie Carabello	Approved, directed to reduce all other site fencing to 6 feet	4-0-0
83 Shady Lane	Stefanie and Nathaniel Cook	Approved	3-0-2 (Russell & Brekhus recused)
49 Glenwood Avenue	John and Michelle Battelle	Approved with limited construction time	4-0-0
73 Winship Avenue	Brian and Erica Hunt	Approved	3-0-1 (Brekhus recused)

WINTER MAINTENANCE REMINDER

It's time to get your ditches, drains, watercourses and creeks on or adjacent to your property ready to carry all the storm water. It is the homeowner's responsibility to keep the right-of-way in front of your home clean to the edge of the roadway even if there is no watercourse. This means keeping the ditch areas and catch basins on the side of the road clean, particularly on hillside streets. Thank you for doing your part.

What's Next...

- Town Hall Offices will be closed Monday, November 12, 2012 for Veterans Day, and November 22 & 23, 2012 for the Thanksgiving holiday. Happy Thanksgiving!
- The General Government Committee will meet on Friday, November 16, 2012 at 8:00 a.m.
- The Advisory Design Review Group meets Tuesday, November 27, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.
- The Finance Committee will meet on Wednesday, November 28, 2012 at 2:00 p.m.
- The Public Works Committee will meet on Thursday, December 13, 2012 at 4:00 p.m.
- The next regular Town Council meeting will be held on December 13, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. Agendas and staff reports are posted in advance of the meeting 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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