



BCPUD Board of Directors' Response to County of Marin Proposal re: Overnight Parking Zones in Bolinas

On June 28, 2018, the BCPUD Board of Directors held a special meeting and, among other things, discussed the proposed text of an advisory ballot measure to be placed on the November 2018 ballot concerning a County of Marin proposal to establish no overnight parking zones on one side of Brighton and Park Avenues, and resident-only overnight parking on the other sides of those streets. At the conclusion of the meeting, the Board directed staff to send an email to Supervisor Rodoni summarizing the Board's discussion and setting forth a counter-proposal on this issue. In light of the strong public interest in this topic, the text of the BCPUD's email to Supervisor Rodoni is set forth below, and a copy is posted on the BCPUD's website at www.bcpud.org.

This morning the BCPUD Board held a special meeting to consider proposed language for an advisory ballot measure for the November 2018 election concerning overnight parking in Bolinas. Specifically, the BCPUD Board considered language which attempted to encapsulate the proposal set forth in your May 17, 2018 letter for the establishment of no-overnight parking zones (11 pm – 5 am) on Brighton and Park Avenues on one side of the street and resident permit parking zones on the other side of those streets. I would be happy to talk about the meeting in detail with you, but the highlights of it were as follows:

1. The BCPUD Board consensus is that the May 17th parking proposal would not be supported by the community (and is not supported by the BCPUD Board as drafted) for at least the following reasons:
 - a. Prohibiting all overnight parking on one side of Brighton and Park Avenues between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. would severely and negatively impact homeowners, tenants and coastal visitors/guests of the homes on those streets as there is insufficient street parking there already for those folks due in part to the lack of off-street parking at many of those homes.
 - b. Many Bolinas residents and coastal visitors patronage the Bolinas Community Center, Smiley's Saloon and other downtown businesses on Wharf Road for events scheduled to run well after 11:00 p.m. and often need to park on Brighton Avenue, so completely prohibiting parking there between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. (even if on one side of the street only) would be highly unpopular to residents/coastal visitors and damaging to downtown businesses;
 - c. If enacted, the proposal likely would have the effect of moving long-term parkers to Wharf Road (because there are public facilities at the downtown park), thereby simply shifting a problem to another area of downtown where residents face similar challenges due an even greater lack of off-street parking.
2. The Board formulated an alternative parking proposal that it believes could be supported by a clear majority of the community (of course the purpose is to place the proposal on the ballot and find out!) – here is a draft text of a ballot measure expressing the Board's proposal:

“Shall the County of Marin enact an ordinance prohibiting parking between 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. on Brighton Avenue, Park Avenue and Wharf Road in downtown Bolinas, except for vehicles displaying a resident parking permit?”

The BCPUD Board offers this language for your consideration and the review of the various departments at the County who would have responsibility to implement and enforce such an ordinance. The Board believes this proposal addresses the problems with the May 17th proposal described above, preserves (and even enhances) public access to the coast (and the businesses and residents serving them) consistent with the Coastal Act, and is narrowly and simply tailored for ease of enforcement. We recognize that the details as to how the resident parking permits will be issued and administered would need to be carefully worked out and the Board wishes to emphasize that the permit process would need to include the ability of visitor-serving businesses and homeowners (i.e., short-term rental businesses) and residents’ guests to obtain a temporary form of parking permit while in Bolinas. Also, we want to underscore that the resident parking permits would be available to all 94924 residents, not just downtown residents. The Board further suggests that the permits be in the form of a placard similar to the blue handicap parking placard that is hung from a vehicle’s inside rear-view mirror so that is easy for law enforcement to see and difficult to counterfeit.

Finally, the Board discussed the concern expressed by some in town that regulating overnight parking in downtown Bolinas might “move the problem to the Mesa”. This might happen and if it does, we respectfully suggest that we then work together to find a solution if requested to so by the community. Note, however, that there are no public facilities on the Mesa; the Board believes, but may be proved wrong, that the public bathrooms downtown are a major reason why the long-term parkers are there.

Please let us know your thoughts on the Board’s “counter proposal” on downtown parking and next steps. We will post a summary version of this email to you in the Hearsay News and on Nextdoor tomorrow (Friday, June 29th) to inform the community about the results of the Board’s special meeting today and the BCPUD Board’s “counter proposal”. The Board’s goal is to have advisory ballot measure language about downtown parking in Bolinas agreed upon by the County and BCPUD Board in advance of the July 18, 2018 regular Board meeting given the August 10th deadline for the submission of ballot measures.

Dennis, thank you so much for continuing to devote so much of your time, effort and resources to helping the Bolinas community with this difficult problem. We really appreciate it and look forward to your comments.

All the best,

Jennifer

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