

# Half Moon Bay CSW Meeting Notes

## **Table 1 (Rebecca Wise, Marguerite Machen)**

- Can we start a weekly or monthly FB feature where we spotlight a woman from the Woman's Hall of Fame? Post a picture and blurb about her?
- Community members:: Gael and Joelle

Gael: works in San Carlos; biggest problem in Coastside is traffic in and out via 92; commuters and vacationers/tourists need to leave home by a certain time in the morning to get anywhere; women with kids need to not only get themselves places, but also get the kids places, so the traffic is often an even bigger problem for women than men

Joelle: runs a non-profit for autistic youth; has trouble getting families to and from the non-profit due to traffic; has also noticed that HMB is a small town with a "good ol'boy" attitude; her non-profit only recently started getting local support (previously the only support they received was from places like San Francisco); she also noted HMB is very agricultural so there is a lot of language/cultural/economic diversity; Pescadero has worked to integrate Latino farm workers into the community to help bridge some of these cultural divides – for example, the farmers' market started playing Latino music and accepting WIC/ Food Stamps; HMB Library displays Spanish children books right up front; small things like this can really help people feel more welcome and part of the community

Gael: CSW should visit Pescadero; it is its own microcosm

Joelle: Unsure if the Latino population is primarily immigrants or citizens who were born here; Latinos are a very vulnerable community; language barriers and fear of deportation may prevent them from getting access to needed services; of the clients at her non-profit, ~60% are boys and ~40% are girls; they hired a behavioral therapist fluent in Spanish and are paying \$20-25/hr, which is not really a livable wage in this area

Gael: Agricultural industry is getting more automated; there are also unique difficulties for people who live in unincorporated areas, because a lot of decisions in those areas are made by the County BOS; only one Supervisor lives on the Coastside (Don Horsley); people resent that leadership because it's not local and can't fully understand Coastside culture/issues; also makes escalation difficult—people may not have an authority they can easily get to for something like zoning or land disputes; they would have to travel to the BOS in Redwood City

Joelle: discovered in the June election that voting places were limited; had to vote in Belmont

Gael: good example of challenges for women – women transport kids to school then commute over the hill for work; no public transportation

Marguerite: what is the role of men in Coastside?

Joelle: a lot of the old landowning families tend to be very “macho”

Gael: lots of single moms here; these aren’t just women’s problems but affect women particularly hard; school buses would be a big help; public transportation is used by people who are too old or too young to drive—everyone else commutes, exacerbating traffic

Gael: beach parking is really rough; library is doing good integrating cultures – programs for Spanish speaking children; it can be difficult for people to find places to meet to discuss community issues – schools now charge for afterhours use of their rooms because they are so desperate for money; she expects having the library will help in this regard

Gael: used to be a lot of work for women in local greenhouses, but that work is now automated or done by men

Solutions: Gael felt more people would use public transportation if mini-buses were offered like in SF; feels more people would take a mini-bus because full-size buses are intimidating to many women (especially if they are older, non-English speaking, etc.)

Gael: housing prices going up a lot – rich tech gurus unconnected to community have purchased a lot of local real estate; many of the local advisory councils don’t feel heard by the BOS

MCC – Mid Coastal Community

PMAC – Peninsula Municipal Advisory Council—the communication is good (i.e. information gets in and out) but people feel that the BOS doesn’t listen to their concerns

BOS don’t live here so aren’t as in tune with Coastside issues; the voting population is so low on the Coastside that BOS members are somewhat disincentivized from paying too much attention to the area – they could win all the votes in the Coastside and still not be re-elected

There is an innovative farmworkers housing program in Coastside called Moonridge; it’s referred to as the “Cutest projects;” residents self-police; it’s well-managed low-income housing that other sites/cities could/should look to as an example of low-income housing done right

Take cues from Pescadero on cultural integration

Encourage voter registration in disadvantaged communities to help get people more involved; a lot of Latino low-income communities are scared to register to vote—they don’t want to give the government their information because they are afraid it will lead to deportation; voter education is also a big issue—for example, some people don’t vote because they think their ballot will be thrown out if they don’t vote on every issue; they don’t realize they can skip items; in some unincorporated areas, if you want mail delivery, you have to register your address as HMB even though you’re not technically in HMB—this mismatch can complicate voting registration

## **Table 2 (Rebecca Oyama, Linda Koelling)**

The following are Issues that community members offered as important, facing women in Half Moon Bay/ Coastside:

1. There is a large population of Latinos due to the Agricultural environment on the coast-side. A lot of time was spent on this matter and the following

How can we find ways to engage the Latina community?

- They are an underserved community and how do we get them to engage?
- Time is limited and for low income persons this can make meeting attendance really difficult: transportation options are limited, and travel times are long parameters
- Minimum wage is very strict; can't qualify for Cal Fresh, etc.
- They may engage in school and church because it's important
- We don't seem to do enough outreach but then there may be apprehension due to immigration status
- Should we look into citizenship opportunities?
- Outreach Caron – Jose Luis
- Advisory Board on Latinx issues city council
- Agriculture issues: women famers
- Tension: agriculture common: neighbor's newcomers who don't like conditions that come with farming: dust, sound, preexisting traditions hx of agriculture for land

Solutions

- Find ways to Collaborate on outreach through a variety of existing agencies
2. Healthcare
  - For women: Clinic closed down accessibility is the issue Seton ER
  - Concerns about possible closure of Seton Hospital
3. Housing
  - People cannot afford to live near jobs restaurants, teachers, etc.
  - Anti – density sentiment
  - Workforce housing doesn't exist /CSM workforce housing model
  - Pacifica as a model school board workforce
4. Accessibility/transportation Issues
  - Limited transit/traffic conduits especially for seniors
  - Not enough transit
  - Traffic
  - San Mateo opted out of housing buses on the Coastside
  - SamTrans routes (cross-county)
5. Immigration Challenges

- Need for farm workers growing pathways to legal status
- SVCS like Puente and Coastside hope that serve immigrants communities

## 6. Solutions

- Inclusion and access and outreach
- Hold session on what the BOS could be doing to better address the challenges of the Latino community (outreach CBOS)
- Put out more multi language literature
- Meet community where they can feel safe and welcome
- Advisory board on Latino issues to city council
- Domestic violence on Coastside and lack of resources from city
- Further Survey on the issues by CSW

### **Table 3 (Becky Abens & Shweta Bhatnagar)**

#### 1) What is an issue for women today on the Coastside?

- Transportation/Walkability –Need to make Route 92 walkable/bike-able
- Dangerous for walkers. Make roads wider for bikes/pedestrians. Some land by 92 is privately owned so space is limited
- Need walkable way up the hill
- Make path on east side of HWY 1
- Needed for safety, reduce traffic, bike to school
- Walkability of city overall. To major public areas
- Cost money to ride SamTrans
- Hard for parents to pick up/take kids to school – need school buses
- Need more sidewalks in residential areas
- Some residential don't want cars and gutters in front of their houses
- City gave sidewalk to homeowners for maintenance
- Housing - You have to move out of area to downsize
- No ability to go smaller because smaller houses cost more and not available
- Smaller houses not there. People build big houses on plot of land
- People don't want new smaller housing built in neighborhoods
- Schools - Need school lunches for students

#### 2) Solutions

- Widen road – talk to city council
- Build smaller houses
- Ask SamTrans provide service to airport for easier use
- Need smaller buses that come more often
- Remove current Coastside shuttle because no riders, instead go to shopping centers

- Better public transit on weekends to help reduce traffic

### 3) Head

- Want to take evening class at CSM and take bus home
- Want SamTrans to run longer at Coastside

### **Table 4 (Anisha Weber)**

Community Members: Wendi, Paulette, Virginia

Top 2 biggest issues identified at this table:

1. Housing – few options for downsizing as aging
2. Transportation – need school bus for kids, shuttle/bus to BART for commuters, and safe bike routes

Issues and Solutions discussed

- Women with limited access to resources, such as:
  - Single women with children
  - Low income women with jobs at night – can't attend events like this or back to school events easily
  - Non-native English speakers
  - Grandmothers with custody of grandchildren
  - Foster parents
  - Solutions:
    - Schedule these rotating meetings in various parts of the county
    - Reach out to different communities including organizations that support those various groups, like Puente
    - Solicit input in various ways/languages
    - Partner with groups who do this well
    - Leverage the new library
- Housing issues include:
  - Can't afford housing, such as teachers don't have the salary to live near their work
  - Can afford current house/mortgage, but limited option for moving/down-sizing, which is not addressed as much
  - People who own, but squeezed because of fixed income, not poor enough for senior housing, so stuck in their home alone
  - Rent control
  - Solutions:
    - Does prop 5 helps? Measure M?
    - Coops, communes, or other cohabitating housing ideas, but has challenges too, since individuals may not want to share a home with strangers
    - Research/explore what other counties/cities are doing, like the coops in Berkeley, or like buying shares into a business
- Childcare issues include:
  - Affordable Childcare

- Preschools don't have enough slots, and the high-quality ones never have room
- Transportation/Traffic issues include:
  - With special needs children, they have to always bring them over the hill for appointments, etc.
  - Foster parents have to bring their kids over the hill for services, etc.
  - School bus needs (as Marina shared)
  - Have to drive to a BART or train station
  - Solutions:
    - School bus
    - Van/Shuttle or express bus to BART
    - Carpool options
    - Safe bike routes
- Youth/Community/Services issues include:
  - More remote communities like La Honda or Pescadero are lacking in many services and some people don't have cars so they get isolated
  - Need local amenities for youth and community, such as bowling, movies
  - Need services for developmentally disabled
  - Need hospital services such as xray – currently Seton is bringing a tech over (sometimes)
  - Need dental services – currently one clinic that was closed awhile, now open again
  - Solutions:
    - Library will fill some of those needs
    - Puente and Catholic Church are filling some needs
- Personal Safety issues include:
  - Some places are unsafe for women/children such as under the Main Street bridge, by the creek, Carter Park
  - Lack of safe bike trails, such as the underpass to get downtown, sometimes they can't get around the homeless or drug users
  - Women with young kids don't always feel comfortable in various parks/spaces around the coastside

## **Table 7 (Nirmala Bandrapalli)**

Community Members: Nancy Evans, Debbie, Gloria J Ezekiel

### Issues

- Hard to find housing for Seniors who want to downsize and move to a smaller apartment.
- It's hard to find local places to get your blood drawn, need to drive 20 minutes to find a place.
- Access to health care is a huge challenge
- 31% of community in Half Moon Bay (HMB) are Hispanic. Many people cram together in one small apartment

- Teachers and Fireman can't afford to live in HMB because cost of living is beyond their salary range.
- Gloria waited for 5 years on waiting list before she got into senior housing in HMB
- Only few places pay \$15 minimum wage in HMB so losing blue collar workers
- People live in RV because they can't afford to live in homes
- Housing issues are beyond measure
- No co-op housing in HMB
- Water bills are soaring high in HMB and most people face issues dealing with their water bills.

### Solutions

- Affordable housing could be addressed by the funds collected from commercial properties developers (new buildings) in Half Moon Bay (HMB)
- Parts of local coastal areas need to be flushed out for building low income housing
- Promote HIP housing in HMB
- Build and manage housing for local community by partnering with non-profit Developers to build lean housing.
- Build Health care facilities like labs, and x-rays so people don't have to drive far away to get their blood drawn
- Expand the Coast side clinic to Medicare folks along with low income folks
- "Homes for All" found to support housing issues
- Co-op housing is a source to address housing issues

### **Table 8 (Christine Padilla)**

#### Question #1 Issues in HMB

Latino community is 32-34% of the HMB population and the mothers from this community are often isolated because of language barriers. They often work, care for the children and the home.

- Childcare for working mothers
- Childcare for mothers that need ESL classes and job training
- Working poor, working several jobs, but still can't support their family
- Housing, affordable rent, workforce Housing, Senior Housing (there is County funded senior housing, but anyone can apply, still additional needed for HMB residents)

#### Question #2 Solutions

- Creative volunteer match programs, exp. high school students tutoring children while mothers take ESL classes and participate in job training etc.

- Many of these programs can be held at the library
- Workshop at library for mother's who want to open family childcare centers
- Partnerships with the trades, union apprentice programs
- More translators, resource materials in Spanish

### Question #3 BoS support

- Comprehensive childcare program in collaboration with County and City
- More County funding, more outreach, coastside often feels left out
- What County or programs in other cities are working that can transfer to HMB
- Support more funding for educational programs exp. the Big Lift, Build Up for SMC's Children
- Explore more property tax money coming back to the Coastside

### **Table 9 (Anya Drabkin, Dana Linda)**

#### Question 1:

##### A. Haphazard planning

- Coastside needs more holistic approaches to infrastructure planning that addresses the health, educational, recreational, cultural, and geographical needs of the surrounding areas.
- Many of the existing community resources are located in Half Moon Bay or over the hill, which leads those in neighboring areas to drive greater distances to gain access to services from the County.
- Board of Supervisors does not have respect for public health
  - Listening to outside interests, not community
- Coastside is becoming an urban community but lacks urban amenities, mobility systems, and equal distribution among neighborhoods.
  - e.g., recreational parks for children and families
- Significant divided between white, English-speaking and Latino, Spanish-speaking communities

#### Solutions (Question 2):

- Our group would like to see planning or actions designed to address and help bring together the Coastside's diverse cultural communities.

##### B. Lack of Leadership Opportunities & Training for Girls



- Women still remain underrepresented in local government and boards
  - lack of confidence can be attributed to lack of experience
- Need to develop these qualities in girls (e.g., volunteer-based programs in schools)

### C. Bullying in schools

- While our group does not have school-aged children, we would like to see school districts better address student confrontations, gang violence, and bullying on local scales
- Youth environment is impacted by changing and disparate demographics of coastal communities. We believe bilingual education has helped, but the Coastsides remains largely divided across racial, ethnic, and language communities.

### D. Access to affordable healthcare for middle class

- Healthcare remains very poor throughout Coast. There is a lack of hospitals, doctors and medical specialists, and emergency care facilities. Most residents are forced to seek treatment over the hill.
- Resources appear to be available for either very low income or very high-income; however, middle class residents do not receive sufficient care options (e.g., cannot find).
- The Coastsides requires adequate and accessible medical services to support growing older population.
- The group referenced two facilities (one that appeared to be an urgent care) available for emergency medicine but expressed concern with the lack of certified staff and resources to attend to emergencies impacting older residents.

#### Solutions (Question 2)

- Creative housing options/other programs to attract/retain doctors

### E. Insufficient representation for women in law enforcement

- Women don't have strong enough advocacy in sheriff's office
- Not sensitive to women's issues, including domestic violence

#### Solutions (Question 2)

- Sensitivity training for sheriff's office
- Better resources (e.g., shelters, diversity & inclusion training)
- Need safe homes/safe space for women in crisis
- Advocate/better representation of women to help recognize and target women's issues

### F. Geography makes it hard for people to come together and to access resources

- Safety/traffic
- Children/families running across the highway to the beach
- People cannot leave their houses at certain times of the day because of traffic
- Transportation

### Solutions (Question 2)

- Structured carpool/ride share/bus solutions for shuttling kids to school

### G. Lack of affordable housing/inappropriate housing for low income

- Affordable housing being built in inappropriate places—that is, without easy access to public transportation, stores, etc.

### Solutions (Question 2)

- Residential Home Sharing Programs: providing necessary services to someone who rents out a room or in-law unit—particularly important for senior living alternatives.
- As an aside, some members of the group were skeptical about affordable housing. Discussion centered around affordable housing as a huge industry, selling bonds, etc.

### Question 3:

- Board of Supervisors: Please think proactively about Coastside planning, rather than only develop haphazard solutions in reaction to challenges
- Develop an integrated plan for traffic, safety, growth, housing, and medical care.
- Expand medical centers and healthcare options (e.g., providers, labs, emergency care)