

# MARIN HEALTHCARE DISTRICT

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## **Board of Directors Lease, Building, Education and Outreach Committee Tuesday May 6, 2025 @ 5:15 PM Marin Healthcare District Office**

### **MINUTES**

#### **1. Call to Order**

Director Ramirez called the meeting to order at 5:16 pm.

#### **2. Roll Call**

*Committee members present:* Samantha Ramirez (Board Member); Kathy Taylor (Community Member); Molly Koehler, MD (Community Member)

*Staff present:* Tricia Lee (EA)

*Guest present:* Jill Kinney (VP Marketing and Communications); Ann Sparkman (Board Member)

*Committee members absent:* Jennifer Rienks, PhD (Chair)

#### **3. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

#### **4. Approval of the Agenda/Approve of Minutes**

Agenda approval: Ms. Taylor moved to approve the agenda as presented.

Director Ramirez seconded. **Vote: all ayes**

Minutes approval Director Ramirez moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of April 14, 2025.

Ms. Taylor seconded. **Vote: all ayes**

#### **5. Future Seminar: Healthy Eating and Growing Your Own Food**

The committee focused the meeting on planning the upcoming health seminar centered around gardening and home food cultivation, noting two primary goals: securing a location and identifying a master gardener or gardening expert to shape the event's structure and educational value.

Ms. Kinney reviewed three potential venues:

- (1) Marin Art and Garden Center (Ross): Beautiful setting with capacity for 200, but accessibility is a concern. The estimated cost is \$15,545, including venue rental, gardening instructor, guest charges, promotions, and simple food service. The committee discussed possibly including interactive stations (e.g., planting seedlings) to enhance the experience.
- (2) Falkirk Cultural Center (San Rafael): More central and accessible, with a capacity of 100–125. It offers multiple gardens and is more cost-effective, with an estimated total budget of \$11,000. Concerns included AV needs, weather, and whether the space aligns with the event's interactive goals. The venue has a unique character (including rumors of being haunted), but committee members appreciated its charm and central location.
- (3) Slide Ranch: A scenic and educational venue in a remote coastal area. Despite its outdoor appeal and established educational programming, the high rental cost (\$10,000) and logistical challenges

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(distance, weather, travel time) led the committee to conclude it wasn't a viable option.

Other potential sites (e.g., Canal Community Garden, Corte Madera Native Habitat Garden, and China Camp) were also discussed, but they either lacked sufficient seating or event infrastructure.

The committee refined the seminar's theme to focus more on growing your own food rather than general healthy eating, given that healthy eating had been covered in past events. Discussion included the possibility of offering hands-on gardening activities (like planting herb pots), targeting both adults and families, and giving attendees tangible takeaways such as seedlings. Master gardeners may be invited to advise on content and help develop seasonal planting guides.

The committee discussed prioritizing budget toward participant engagement (e.g., materials and food) over promotions. Partnership opportunities were discussed to help reach diverse audiences and reduce marketing costs. The event is tentatively targeted for late June, with concerns raised about promotion timelines and overlapping summer travel.

#### **6. Next Steps**

The committee agreed to aim for a follow-up meeting on May 27 at 5:15 PM to finalize the venue, date, and presenter. Ms. Kinney will reach out to master gardeners in the interim to help shape content and programming.

#### **7. Adjournment**

Director Ramirez adjourned the meeting at 5:50 pm.