

City Hall News

From the desk of

Fort Bragg City Manager Linda Ruffing

April 24, 2008

- 1. New Finance Director.** I am pleased to announce that I have extended an employment offer to Patricia Frost to serve as the City's Finance Director and she has accepted the offer. Patricia comes to us with more than 20 years of experience in accounting, 14 years of which are in municipal finance. Pat served for 10 years as the Finance Director of the City of Willits and is well-versed in all aspects of running a finance department for a small city. After leaving Willits in 2006, Pat worked briefly as a Deputy County Auditor in New York until the long, frigid winter sent her packing for California. Pat and her husband own property in Cleone and have long hoped to retire to Fort Bragg. Accepting this position may help that dream come true. In the meantime, she and former Finance Director Mark Johnson (who is now the Willits Finance Director) can wave to each other on Highway 20. Pat's first day of work will be Monday, May 12th.
- 2. Mill Site Specific Plan Team.** In addition to the introduction of RRM and CD+A at Monday's Council meeting, the Specific Plan team spent two days meeting with various City staff to obtain briefings on: the City's water system, sewer system, transportation infrastructure, the coastal trail master plan, the Noyo Center, the Pomo Cultural Center, the industrial arts facility feasibility study, the City's Economic Development Strategy, and the City's new Local Coastal Program. The team also took a tour of the site and the rest of Fort Bragg. The team will be back in Fort Bragg for a Council presentation on May 27th and we will be arranging for them to meet individually with Councilmembers at that time. The first community workshop on the Mill Site Specific Plan will be held in June.
- 3. Glass Beach Meeting.** City staff met with representatives of State Parks, Mendocino Land Trust, State Coastal Conservancy, and the California Coastal Commission earlier this month to discuss the proposed coastal trail project at the Glass Beach Headlands in MacKerricher State Park and walk the trail alignment. The project is fraught with "sensitive resource" issues as the headlands are covered with rare plants and several cultural resource deposits. I think Coastal Commission staff now understands that the only way a coastal trail (that is located anywhere near the coast) can be constructed is if it passes near or through environmentally sensitive habitat areas. State Parks made a good case for the "no project alternative" being a more environmentally damaging alternative since the 6.5+ miles of volunteer trails that crisscross the site are wreaking havoc on the rare plants.
- 4. Skate Park Grant.** About a month ago, the City sent a Letter of Interest to the "Sustainable Infrastructure Fund Grant Program" requesting \$50,000 for the City/Rec District Skate Park project. Grants Program Manager Jennifer Owen received an invitation last week for the City to submit an application for funding. The grant program is designed to support efforts to improve community parks and open space to make them more accessible, viable, and safe for children and youth. We'll be meeting with representatives from the Rec District to begin assembling the grant proposal and

constructing a timeline and work program for planning and design activities using the CDBG Planning & Technical Assistance grant that was awarded earlier this year.

5. **Caltrans Paving Project.** The City was recently notified by Caltrans that they are pursuing a project to repair failing asphalt surfacing on Main Street (State Route 1) between Walnut Street and Pudding Creek Road. The project is on a “very accelerated” schedule due to the rapid deterioration of the existing pavement with work to begin in late June or July of this year. Due to the high traffic volumes at that time of year, most of the work will be performed at night. Staff will be coordinating with Caltrans to ensure that disruptions to local residents, businesses and visitors are minimized.