

**INDIAN VALLEY ASSOCIATES**  
**APRIL 2017 MEETING**  
**AT WITZEL HOUSE**

Craig called the meeting to order at 7.30. Present were Craig Knowlton, Nita Bruinsslot, Kent Aue, Tom Tharsing, Skip Fenner, Ladd Cahoon, Lynn Perry, Barry Sheppard, Jonell O'Day, Tanya Omran, Vicki Martinez, Claudine LeMoal, Monica Brett and emeritus Ron Witzel.

Bill Davis from the Marin Valley Mobile Country Club addressed the meeting regarding Firewise communities and how to become one. MVMC and Pacheco Valle are both Firewise Communities. He discussed setting up the plan to become such a community which is essentially removing fuel in order to make the homes more fire safe. He suggested making up a small team of "committed people" who would be the leaders and they would typically meet every week or so to discuss progress with informing home owners. First an overview is needed and then the committee can inform homeowners what is required to qualify for the Firewise designation. It is up to the individual home owner to implement the recommendations or not. Compliance with the plan is not mandatory, merely a hope that people will become aware of fire hazards and thus want to ameliorate the problems. The Fire Marshall is willing to inspect and give an assessment of what should be done. On May 6<sup>th</sup> there will be a "Fire Wise" presentation given by the Novato Fire District, Marin Valley Mobile Country Club and Pacheco Valle. It will be held from 10:00 to 2:30 at the Marin Valley Country Club, club house, 100 Marin Valley Drive.

President's report

Craig reported on the CSA20 meeting this week which addressed the parking problem on IVR at the Open Space entrance. Ron and Craig said that they would be sending a letter to DPW regarding trying to control the parking. The letter will request the painting of a fog line and also more "No Parking" signs. They went on to discuss projected work and decommissioning of trails.

There will be a meeting for Region 4 on May 13<sup>th</sup> at the Margaret Todd Center to discuss other CSAs in Novato.

Ladd offered to fill the vacant seat on the CSA20 board.

There was a discussion on the dry and rotting fallen branches everywhere in CSA20 but particularly near the entrance. Monica said that she would write an email hoping that some clearing could be done before fire season and asked other to do the same.

Jonell presented the treasurer's report which showed a balance as of January 18, 2017 of \$9,584.58. She reported that FIRESafe Marin had sent us a check for \$2715.41 to reimburse the IVA for the 2016 Fall Chipper Days.

## Chipper Days

Tom reported that he delivered our \$500 donation to FIRESafe Marin which was received very gratefully.

He said he was going to mail out the Chipper Days postcards the next day. He also said that FIRESafe Marin has no money at the moment for Chipper Day events but expects more income later. Tom has filed an application in case money becomes available later in the year.

NFD will match our \$1500 with their \$1500 so that if the bill is \$3000, our cost will be \$1500. He noted that individual property owners can apply for a \$500 NFD matching grant to clear fire fuels around there homes.

There was a discussion as to the size of trucks dropping off at the 2 sites. Because of limited space, Tom thought a normal pick-up truck with an 8 foot bed would be the largest allowed. Kent suggested that the postcard next time could say "Open to Indian Valley Residents only".

Next Tom asked for volunteers to be site monitors. He still needs more people. He said that Sabina Cantarutti will open their site at 8 each weekend morning and close it at 4 pm.

Tom said that he does not usually have a contract price with Hector of Mr. Arbor until Hector can see how much brush there is to chip. Hector is always very fair with his pricing.

FIRESafe Marin and NFD have received a \$45,000 grant to cut back branches on Old Ranch Road and Upper Wilson. This will make it much safer to get their equipment up those private roads which are not taken care of by the County.

Nita reported that she has received no new projects but it seems that the Elloway property will be for sale.

Vicki made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Ladd seconded. Adjourned at 8.50

Respectfully submitted,

Monica Brett  
Secretary