

INDIAN VALLEY ASSOCIATES
MINUTES OF MEETING
AUGUST 17, 2017
WITZEL HOUSE

Craig called the meeting to order at 7.30. Present were Craig Knowlton, Lynn Perry, Kent Aue, Barry Sheppard, Skip Fenner, Tom Tharsing, Jonell O'Day, Vicki Martinez, Bill Stewart, Nita Bruinslot and Monica Brett. Also present was emeritus member Ron Witzel.

Craig reported that the minutes of the last meeting would be presented for approval at the Annual Meeting together with the minutes of this meeting.

He also reported that the Supervisors had considered opinions from the public regarding AirBnB in Marin County. There is an article in the IJ reporting on this meeting and discussion. No vote, but consideration of the situation with a report before a vote in the Fall.

Jonell presented the treasurer's report which shows a balance of \$10,239.10.

Tom reported on Chipper Days. There was discussion on the problem of how we are going to pay for Chipper Days if we lose some of our usual funding. The cost of chipping the brush and disposing of it has risen significantly since we started this program and if we lose funding we may have to either cut back on the number of weekends we have Chipper Days or we may have to ask for some other way of getting money. The total cost of 2 Chipper Days weekends is usually around \$3000, which means \$6,000 for 2 weekends in spring and fall. Since our bank balance is \$10,000+ obviously we can't afford the entire cost. Usually Novato Fire Department pays half of one event (\$1500) spring or fall and FIRESafe Marin has also been giving us money, but FIRESafe Marin has not secured grants to fund chipper day programs currently. So the question posed was how should we deal with this problem? Should we cut the program to just 2 weekends in spring? Or 2 weekends in spring and 1 weekend in fall? Or ask for residents dropping off at the sites to pay say \$10 per load? (the Dump charges around \$50 per truckload so this is a bargain). Or should we raise the cost of dues to IVA? Nita suggested bringing this problem to the residents at the Annual Meeting. Perhaps we could all discuss it, air opinions and then vote? Tom said that he would write about this problem in his report on Chipper Days in the annual newsletter.

Nita said there was nothing to report with regard to permits and variances. However it was reported that Frank McGovern had attended a meeting at the County with regard to a request from a homeowner on McClay. His septic system having failed and finding no way of mitigating the problems because of proximity to the creek and other leach line problems, he requested connection to the sewer even though he is not within the city of Novato. Frank McGovern apparently strongly objected to this because it would weaken our specific plan in regard to building lot

size and septic systems. Apparently several houses on McClay outside of the city limits have been able to connect to the sewer but this lot is well outside the city limit and might create a precedent undermining our basic regulations within Indian Valley. There was discussion whether a mound system might be possible.

Jonell reported that she has almost finished the newsletter. Barry said that he would copy the original onto a larger page which would be a good size and easy to read. Tom promised that his comments on Chipper Days would be delivered on Friday so that Jonell can get the newsletter to the printer. Jonell, Tanya and Monica will get the newsletters ready for mailing on Tuesday and will be mailed out on Wednesday.

Craig talked about the Annual Meeting to be held on September 9. He said that Judy Arnold will come and speak and he said that he would invite Bill Tyler from NFD. Lynn offered to pick up the donuts and Tanya and Claudine will set up the coffee and tea urns. Craig will put out the signs advertising the meeting and the meeting place and he will get the chairs on Friday. Kent and Skip offered to arrange the chairs in the Loftus' barn.

Tanya is handling the elections. Everyone up for re-election this year has agreed to run again, except for Michael and Ladd who were not present at the meeting. Tanya will contact them.

Vicki reported that there is a lot of brush on the Buzzard Burn trail in the Open Space. She said it was really bad and of course, it's a fire hazard. She will write a letter to the Open Space District with a copy to the Supervisors complaining about the problem.

The CSA20 board has vacancies and Jill (Craig's wife) would like to fill one vacancy because she's a daily visitor and very familiar with the Open Space. Craig asked if anyone objected to having then both on the board. No objections.

Ron thanked the "pooper scooper guy" when he saw him in the Open Space the other day.

Jonell brought up the subject of the present we give Lloyd and Carol for the generous use of their barn for our annual meeting. She suggested that some meals delivered by a local restaurant might be a great gift idea. She said she would organize.

Barry made a motion to adjourn and Nita seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8.40.

Respectfully submitted,
Monica Brett
Secretary
8/18/17