

INDIAN VALLEY ASSOCIATES
MARCH 16, 2017 MEETING
AT WITZEL HOUSE

Craig called the meeting to order at 7.35. Present were Craig Knowlton, Tanya Omran, Kent Aue, Nita Bruinsslot, Tom Tharsing, Lynn Perry, Skip Fenner, Vicki Martinez, Barry Sheppard, Monica Brett and emeritus Ron Witzel. Jonell O'Day was sick and unable to attend.

Craig reported that Novato's Urban Growth Boundary policy which was voted on for a 20 year period about 19 years ago, is up for renewal and will be on the November ballot. We are not in Novato's sphere of influence and under LAFCO, annexation by the City is prevented or at least slowed down.

Tom reported on Chipper Days and news from FIRESafe Marin and NFD. FIRESafe Marin has no direct income (aside from \$20,000 from the County) so they are constantly looking for grants from different government entities to keep the service going. They have one paid employee, but there are a number of people from Novato Fire Dept and other departments, who volunteer their time in their efforts to make the urban/wildland interface less susceptible to fires by clearing and eliminating flammable vegetation especially around houses. Needing more funds, they are looking for donations from community entities like Indian Valley Associates. Craig suggested a donation by the IVA and asked for opinions. Members agreed that we should make a donation and Nita proposed a motion that we donate \$500 for this year. She felt that a commitment to make an annual set donation was not a good idea because we might need our Association funds for some urgent need in future years. We would vote on a year by year basis the size of our donation. Barry seconded the motion and it passed.

Craig spoke about the Open Space entrance on Indian Valley Road and its parking problems. We have been talking to Judy Arnold and the DPW for help to reduce the number of cars parked along the road around 1690 IVR. CHP suggested a "fog line" which requires a survey by DPW to determine the correct width of the roadway. CHP requires this before they can perform parking enforcement. Some parts presently used by people parking for the Open Space will not be usable because once the fogline is painted, it will show that parked cars will have 2 wheels actually on the roadway. This is not legal and so will result in ticketing the car. Ron pointed out that there are parts of IVR that only have a single center line which means that overtaking is permitted. This doesn't seem to be a good idea so he would like to see double center lines everywhere. U-turns around the Open Space entrance would also be illegal. These U-turns are very dangerous given that they take place on a blind corner. The DPW would need to put up more signs from Pencil Belly up to the old Levenson property, indicating that there is no parking on the path on that side.

Craig then reported that the County has removed the ban on animal slaughter on A-3 to A-60 zoned parcels. A mobile van can visit up to 12 days a month but must be at least 100 feet from the property boundary.

About 20 volunteers came to the Open Space to work on the new trail named in honor of Ken Harth. The Waterfall Trail is now known as the Ken Harth Waterfall Trail.

As Jonell was absent, there was no Treasurer's report.

Chipper Days – Tom reported that Chipper Days will be on May 13th/14th and May 20th/21st. Both the Cantarutti's and Frank McGovern have once again offered their properties as collection sites. Tom received a check for \$2,715.41 from Fire Safe Marin. He gave the check to Tanya who will pass it on to Jonell. This check covers 100% of our cost for the Fall 2016 Chipper Days. Tom said that we must man each site each day, both as a courtesy to the Cantarutti's and Frank, and also to monitor the drop offs. Tom emphasized that there must be a list of names, addresses and signatures of each person dropping off for our records and for FIRESafe Marin funding. Tom said he would get the postcards advertising the Chipper Days printed.

Permits and variances.

Nita reported that she has received preliminary proposals for 3 projects:

- 1 Maiero property on Gage Lane
- 2 McCullough property on Deer Trail
- 3 Medvedev property on Tanglewood

The Maiero house and garage is planned to be 7680 sq feet with a barn of 4455 sq ft. The existing house will remain for employee use.

Nita suggested that we write a letter to the County requesting them to observe our Specific Plan and its regulations.

The McCulloughs plan to extend the existing house and then to also build an auxiliary building of 1544 sq feet, which appears to be over the height limit set down in our Specific Plan.

The Medvedev proposed house is rather angular and modern and the neighbors are concerned that it doesn't fit into the landscape. The neighbors have met with the County planner, owner and architect. The County planner has requested changes from the architect. Tom, Skip and Ron will compose a letter to our Supervisor (Judy Arnold) reflecting the opinions and concerns expressed at the neighborhood meeting. They will ask for her help to soften the house design. The letter will be sent when we get the full plans package.

Open Time

Tom presented a memo from the Novato Fire District concerning their wish to make some communities Fire Wise Communities. Marin Mobile Home Park and Pacheco Valley have achieved this designation with the help of NFD. Indian Valley is also in a high fire danger area and could benefit from this program. Some insurance

companies offer lower rates for Fire Wise Communities. Skip will look into this with NFD and report back.

Skip made a motion to adjourn and Barry seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9.05.

Respectfully submitted

Monica Brett

3/23/17