

INDIAN VALLEY ASSOCIATES
MINUTES OF MEETING ON NOVEMBER 20, 2014

1. The meeting, held at the Witzel's house, was called to order at 7.31 pm. Present were Craig Knowlton, Ladd Cahoon, Tom Tharsing, Michael Goldin, Nita Bruinsslot, Lynn Perry, Claudine Le Moal, Vicki Martinez, Skip Fenner, Monica Brett. Also present, guests Yves Descheemaecker, Joanna Witzel and emeritus Ron Witzel.

2. Lynn moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting and Tom seconded.

3. Craig commented on taxes, the IRS and our EIN. The planning department approved the housing element and the Elloway property has been approved for 5 units at market rate. The matter goes to the Supervisors on December 9. The current housing element calls for most affordable housing to be allocated to the northern part of Marin, primarily Marinwood and St. Vincent/Silvera Ranch.

4. Treasurer's report. Jonell reported a register balance of \$10,477.03 with \$255.15 in expenses. The cost of stamps for Chipper Days postcards will be repaid by FireSafe Marin.

5. Chipper Days. Jonell arranged for the Junior ROTC to be site monitors and they worked the second weekend, while members of the board worked the 1st weekend. There was a minor problem at the McGovern site because there's no fence or gate. A neighbor dumped there on Wednesday, Felix (owner of the chipping company) happened to drive by and saw them. Tom and Craig met the woman neighbor and explained that dumping was only accepted on weekends. The pile at McGovern's had gotten large, Felix chipped some of the pile the next day and hauled the chips to the offending neighbor who had asked for the chips. Altogether, there were 446 hours worked by a combination of resident brush clearing and site monitoring. FireSafe Marin allows \$20 an hour credit for each hour worked. The majority of the chips, 63.5 yards, went to West Marin Compost in Nicasio at \$5 a yard which FireSafe Marin will pay for. FireSafe Marin will also pay for postcard printing and postage.

The next Chipper Days will be different. We may use the truck and chipper now belonging to the Ross Valley Fire Department instead of contracting with Felix to do the work. The question was raised about who would operate the chipper and Tom thought it might be the North Bay Conservation Corp. We must make a reservation for the spring chipping and dates were set for the weekend of the 15/16 and 23/24 May, 2015. The Novato Fire District has \$1500 budgeted for IVA Chipper Day events this physical year, ending in July. We plan on using this money for our Spring Chipping event.

6. Nita reported on some changes to the plans for Tyler Dodd's new house which will be constructed on the old Levorsen property. The first set of plans were approved by the committee and these subsequent plans showed more detail with

regard to grading. Everything looked to be in compliance with our Specific Plan so no action was required from us.

7. Chavalle Ranch. A permit was requested for a Christmas tree lot at the ranch. IVA is against such a lot considering the one-way private road leading to the ranch. However, the permit was never picked up so it's a dead issue.

Comments were made about the Sheriff parked on Old Ranch Road, monitoring the 2 stop signs there.

Jonell asked if the association intends to have another annual dinner party. It was decided that Jonell should arrange the dinner for January 15th, 2015 at the Wild Fox.

Craig asked for volunteers to help erect the nativity scene in the usual place on the corner of Bloom Lane and Indian Valley. Bruce Stang and helpers will be starting on Friday, November 28 around 9 am.

Yves was introduced as a possible new board member.

Comments were made on the traffic congestion caused by Santa's Attic and a fundraiser for the Fistula Association. Santa's Attic has not caused real problems before but the 2 events happening on the same weekend drew many more cars this year.

Joanna announced that on December 19, some of us will be touring the Valley stopping at some places to sing carols. Everyone is welcome to come and sing or ask us to stop at certain houses for certain people. We will be starting at the Open Space at 7 pm.

Tom reported that Fire Safe Marin has installed 4 cameras around the County which will continuously look for fires. The cameras have been installed and software for this service will be ready shortly.

Ladd brought up the bad condition of the walking pathway along the road. It has been eroded so that the level is below the tarmac road. It is hard to negotiate, especially if pushing a stroller with a child. Vicki noted that we have money in our account, so why couldn't we use some to improve the path? The problems of responsibility and liability and insurance came up. Craig said that he would talk to Judy Arnold to see if the County can come up with funds.

Questions were asked about children monitoring the Chipper Day sites. If one of them is injured, who is liable? Then questions were raised about liability and responsibility of the board members. As we are unincorporated, we have some protection, but Skip advised everyone to ask their insurance agent as to whether they are covered.

Jonell moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Vicki and the meeting adjourned at 8.45.

Respectfully submitted by Monica Brett