

INDIAN VALLEY ASSOCIATES
NOVEMBER 16, 2017 MEETING
WITZEL'S HOUSE

In Craig's absence, Nita called the meeting to order at 7.30. Present were Nita Bruinsslot, Claudine Le Moal, Kent Aue, Vicki Martinez, Tom Tharsing, Skip Fenner, Jonell O'Day, Barry Sheppard, Monica Brett and emeritus member, Ron Witzel.

Motion was made to accept the minutes of the August, September and October minutes, with the addition of Claudine Le Moal's name as being present at all three meetings. John Heine's name should be changed from John to Mark and changing the name of Hank Varner to Hank Barner. With these amendments, Skip proposed to accept and Tom seconded.

Jonell presented the Treasurer's Report which showed a balance of \$13,143.06. Jonell reported that we received \$4,045 in dues. Many people paid more than required (many giving more to help with Chipper Days costs). Jonell requested to be paid an out of pocket expense of \$22. The board agreed to the request.

Tom plans the next Chipper Days to be held on May 12-13 and May 19- 20. Kent reported on an article in the Sacramento Bee which stated that CalFire had 53 million dollars earmarked for fire prevention which had not been spent. This money is for creating fire breaks and eliminating dry brush and debris.

Vicki complained about the dangerous state of CSA20 especially in the upper trails. There are many dead oak trees and branches as well as brush littering the ground. The Open Space is ripe for a wildfire unless some aggressive action is taken to clear the fuel. Tom is going to attend a FIRESafe Marin meeting tomorrow. The topic will be fire prevention. Vicki volunteered to write a letter with supporting photos of the hazardous conditions especially on the upper trails of the Open Space. After Craig's approval, she will send the letter to Judy Arnold, Mark Heine and the CSA20 board. Tom says that Novato Fire is very concerned about the condition of CSA20 and is anxious to get moving.

Meantime, the FireWise committee (Tom, Skip, Craig, Court Wiedenmeyer and Sam Goldenburg) met 2 weeks ago. Everyone is anxious to get moving with plans.

Discussion ensued about different groups in the Valley having different and uncoordinated plans of action in case of fire or other emergency. It's felt that a cohesive plan fully connected to the Fire Department and other agencies, is essential. Tom stated that the Fire Department personnel are professionals and they have plans for evacuations and the direction of evacuation. If too many people have uncoordinating plans, it could be dangerously chaotic.

Nita reported that there were no new permit or variance to report on. However she did talk about a issue that has come up with regard to a house and 3 acres up for sale on McClay. In the sale documents it showed that a certificate had been issued by LAFCO allowing access to the sewer even though the property is within the County and not within Novato City Limits. Ron said that LAFCO can do that. It can move boundaries or allow connections where not normally possible. IVA should write to oppose this kind of bending of our Specific Plan but it was felt that we need to know more definite details before doing so.

Annual Dinner. It was proposed that we should again have the dinner at Wild Fox on January 17th with a backup date of January 24th. Jonell will contact Wild Fox and book if available.

Tanya is away but she told Jonell to tell us that Bruce Stang wants to do the Nativity scene this year and he needs help. Set up usually starts after Thanksgiving.

Skip made a motion to adjourn and Tom seconded and the meeting did adjourn at 9 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Monica Brett
Secretary