

INDIAN VALLEY ASSOCIATES
MINUTES OF
MEETING ON APRIL 17, 2014

Meeting held on April 17 at the home of Joanna and Ron Witzel.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30. Present were Craig Knowlton, Gary Frugoli, Vicki Martinez, Bob Abeling, Skip Fenner, Michael Goldin, Jonell O'Day, Claudine Le Moal, Nita Bruinsslot, Sherman Leland, Barry Sheppard, Tom Tharsing, Ron Witzel and Monica Brett.

A presentation was given by Curt Kruger of Trail Partners. Curt introduced Monte Kruger from Willow Tree Stables before beginning to lay out the history and aims of Trail Partners. The partnership was formed to address the conflict which has been brewing for many years about the use of the open spaces and parks. The equestrians felt that no machine belonged in areas intended to stay as natural as possible. The hikers and dog walkers wanted quiet and a peaceful place to walk. The mountain bikers wanted the experience of riding in the hilly backwood trails. Each faction seemed to hate the other and there were many angry scenes both on the trails and in meetings.

Marin Horse Council and Marin County Bike Council started talking to each other and then brought in the hikers under the auspices of Marin Conservation League. Once the representatives of each group got together, a plan was made to change the culture so that everyone could understand and tolerate (even embrace) the wishes of the others through positive education and campaigns. Since the stop smoking and don't drink and drive campaigns were so successful over the years, the plan was to change people's minds about sharing all the trails in peace.

A catchy phrase is being sought – something like “keep the code”. The code would be a code of conduct towards each other. They decided that educating children about the code was very important. Once people sit on a horse whilst encountering a bike, they understand the reactions of the horse and the danger when a bike is coming down a hill fast behind and above a horse. This is when bad accidents happen. So making children aware of this makes for better understanding as they grow up. It seems that education and peer pressure are already having positive affects, making everyone aware of the aim for peaceful enjoyment and conservation of our open spaces.

Bob offered our help once material is available to spread around in our community.

Craig and the rest of the board thanked Curt for his presentation.

The rest of the meeting began at 8.25.

Skip moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Gary seconded.

Craig gave the president's report which concerned the problem we have with accepting the funds we receive from the Fire Department and FireSafe Marin. There was lively conversation about the pros and cons of incorporating as a non profit organization in order to get a Tax ID Number. The Fire Department needs this number so it can report to the Government with a 1099. The problem has arisen that a member (who is no longer a board member) has stepped in and secured a number, giving her own social security number. This may cause tax and liability problems, so ways to work through this were discussed. Skip is worried that as it stands, the board members are vulnerable to law suits in case of accidents, etc. whereas, once incorporated, we would have protection. There was discussion about whether we should backtrack on the Tax ID Number recently secured, so that we can go through the process of incorporating as a non profit and then get a number in the prescribed steps. Or, whether we should use the number and try to work it out from there. It was decided that Craig would contact Ed Grundstrom to get his opinion on the situation so the matter is tabled until we get the advice of Ed.

Next Jonell presented the treasurer's report. The balance on April 17 is \$7,850.38 after paying Mr. Arbor for chipping and other smaller expenses.

The flower fund has a balance of \$193.11.

Jonell reported that after crediting the income from the raffle, the actual cost of the barbecue was \$48.87.

Tom reported on Chipper Days. Now we have a tax ID number, a W9 has been filled out and money from the Fire Department is on its way. Tom will ask the Fire Dept. to hold the check until we have solved our problems regarding incorporation etc. Otherwise, Jonell will hold the check. Meantime, Chipper Days will go ahead and are scheduled for 2 weekends in the middle of May. The postcards notifying residents are going out now. Another problem is that FireSafe Marin needs matching funds from us in the sum of \$750 – the amount they are donating. It would be acceptable if we can show hours of work in cutting, pruning and delivering brush to the sites at \$20 an hour. It was suggested we make forms for people to fill out when they dump, specifying their hours worked. This would mean volunteers working at the dump sites for a few hours each day they are open.

Nita had nothing to report.

Annual barbecue – Jonell, Claudine and Monica will be on the committee organizing the party and raffle. It is hoped that Vivien Poole will also help, as usual. Sherman volunteered to cook along with his son, Griffin.

Jonell reminded everyone that we need to solicit gifts for the raffle at the General Meeting.

Craig asked for a volunteer to be elections chairman. Sherman said he would do that and would make up the ballots for the election at the General Meeting.

Craig said he would make up the agenda for the General Meeting. He and Gary will think about who should be invited. CHP etc.? It was suggested that Ken Harth be invited and thanked for all his work on the trails in the Open Space.

CSA20 – there will be an update next meeting. Meantime it was noted that there is a vacancy on the committee. Anyone who does not live within 500 feet of the Open Space and within the bounds of CSA20 is eligible.

The meeting adjourned at 10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Monica Brett