



Indian Valley Associates
Annual Meeting Minutes

Saturday June 11, 2011
Loftus' barn, Indian Valley Road, Novato

1. Meeting was called to order at 1:22 pm by IVA President Rodney Bosche. Rodney welcomed everyone and thanked them for participating. He noted that he had served as President for three years and had been on the Board for seven or eight.

2. Board members: Rodney introduced those present: John Isaacs, Monica Brett, Bob Abeling, Barry Sheppard, Sherman Leland, Ed Grundstrom, Kitty Houghton, Gary Frugoli, Tom Tharsing, Jonell O'Day, Nita Bruinsslot, and Vivian Poole, and Emeritus members Ron Witzel, Carol Loftus, and Mike Murphy, who had just finished his board term. Absent was Board member Bill Stewart.

3. Special guests and speakers: Rodney introduced Judy Arnold, Supervisor, Lori Jessell of Novato Fire, Ken Jones, Deputy Sheriff, Gary Frugoli, CSA 20, and Linda Dahl, Marin Parks and Open Space.

Lori Jessell, Novato Fire: Lori is in charge of the chipper program under Novato Fire's vegetation management outreach. She commended IVA for its twice yearly Chipper Days and its pro-active management of vegetation in the valley, and she pledged to continue Novato Fire's financial support of the Chipper Days program. Her direct telephone line is 415-878-2622.

Judy Arnold, Supervisor: Judy praised IVA for its active engagement with leaders in the County, for communicating well with officials, and for its community involvement. Among topics she covered were: (1) stresses and short staffing during the last year, (2) the County budget and belt-tightening measures to achieve balance (a requirement for cities and counties under the law), and (3) the Housing Element that is mandated as part of state legislation governing urban development and transportation.

Re staffing: Until recently Judy was President of the Board of Supervisors, which had only three Supervisors during the last five months because of Charles McGlashan's sudden passing and Hal Brown's illness. Judy is also VP of SMART. Catherine Sears is the new Supervisor appointed by Governor Brown.

Re budget: On June 20 the County budget process will begin. Expenses of \$30 million and 240 positions have been eliminated in an effort to trim costs.

Re housing: Judy noted that Marin County's Housing Element had been returned by the State to the County as not acceptable. She said that no sites had been identified for possible new affordable housing in District 5, which includes Indian Valley and Bel Marin Keys. She noted that she and Assemblyman Jared Huffman have introduced a bill, AB 1103, to cover conversions in lieu of new construction. The Governor is expected to approve it if it passes both houses of the Legislature. It was passed by the Assembly and is now before the Senate.

Other issues: A fund-raising campaign is underway to reopen the Grant Avenue Theater. The July 4 parade is on track for Novato.

Q&A: In response to remarks by an IVA member who read from notes on the housing issue, Judy reiterated that Indian Valley is an unincorporated area, there are no sites designated for affordable housing in this District, she herself is not in favor of high density housing, and she has asked that Indian Valley be certified as suburban, not metropolitan. She said she hoped IVA would support AB 1103, which would keep Indian Valley rural, and said that IVA as an organization could send a letter to Jared Huffman voicing that support. In response to a comment that there was confusion about Judy's public

positions on some issues as reported in the blogs, Judy said that her positions were clear and blogs were not a reliable source of information.

[Supervisor Steve Kinsey was absent.]

Ken Jones, Deputy Sheriff: Ken encouraged Indian Valley residents to be especially aware during the summer period with youngsters on vacation, and to keep car doors locked. The Sheriff's office has two to three Deputies assigned to patrol Novato's four unincorporated areas, including Indian Valley. This works out to a visit once or twice a week by a Deputy to each of the areas. The office also offers a vacation house check. Those requesting the service should give the Sheriff the name of someone who can be responsible in the homeowner's absence. The number of incidents this year has been low. It has been three months since the last report, which was about minor "kid stuff" in a local barn. To a question about gangs, Ken said there are no gangs here. Gang enforcement for the county is handled by a San Rafael and a Novato unit, which coordinate their work. Any gang-related crime is reported to those two units. Asked about the county jail's occupancy, he said it was moderate to high. There is no longer an honor farm, although there is a detox facility. Jail capacity is 1,100, and usually there are 500-600 inmates, including immigrants. The jail is holding some California State prisoners for a fee. Ken urged residents to call right away if they see suspicious activity in Indian Valley. The phone numbers are: 415-499-7233 and 415-499-7234 for non-emergency matters, and 911 for emergencies. Alternatively, the number 415-479-2311 for the Marin County Sheriff's Dispatch Office in Novato is faster than 911 for crime, traffic accidents, and fires.

Gary Frugoli, Marin County CSA 20 representative: Gary recognized Larry Hoyt, Vivian Poole, and Jonell O'Day as his fellow CSA 20 representatives. The proposed budget this year is \$75,000. \$53,000 was approved to be spent last year. There are some funds from other sources. The next project will be landscape improvements around the Witzel Trail and bridge to enhance safety for hikers and horseback riders. If volunteers can be enlisted, the cost will be lower.

Linda Dahl, Marin Parks and Open Space (previously Parks and Recreation): Linda underscored the importance of documenting the way things are in the valley if the residents' aim is to maintain the area in its current condition. Various interest groups have their own agendas – bicyclists, horseback riders, hikers, bird watchers -- and conflict over the use of trails is an ongoing issue. Linda also follows enforcement of Federal and State laws such as the Endangered Species Act at the county and local level. She oversees protection of the Open Space District as well as keeping it accessible for recreation. A two year plan is in progress to map the area and the trails for vegetation management.

4. Hosts: Rodney thanked Lloyd and Carol Loftus for hosting the annual meeting once again in their barn.

5. Ed Grundstrom, IVA Board elections: Ed reported that there were seven incumbents up for re-election, and three newcomers running for three open Board positions. Incumbents were Rodney Bosche, Monica Brett, Nita Bruinsslot, John Isaacs, Jonell O'Day, Barry Sheppard, and Bill Stewart (who had filled the second year for Dianne Gasson who left the Board in 2010). The newcomers were: Craig Knowlton, Dr. Vicki Martinez, and Lyn Perry. There were no nominees from the floor. All ten were voted onto the Board by acclamation. Continuing members of the Board not up for reelection were Bob Abeling, Gary Frugoli, Ed Grundstrom, Kitty Houghton, Sherman Leland, Vivian Poole, and Tom Tharsing.

6. Committee Reports:

a. Treasurer – Jonell O'Day: Jonell reported that the balance in the treasury was \$6,299. Most of the current expenses were to cover the annual barbecue held right after the annual meeting.

- b. Chipper Days – Tom Tharsing: Tom reported that the budget for spring Chipper Days was \$1,540, drawn from the Fire Department (\$720), IVA (\$720), and Fire Safe Marin (\$1,000). After expenses the activity should break even. Once again, Mr. Arbor’s Hector Chan was hired to do the chipping.
 - c. Website and Newsletter – Nancy Niche: Nancy reported that the IVA website had been redesigned and launched in early June under the new URL www.indianvalleyhome.org. It communicates to the County for IVA. The newsletter, which comes out in hard copy once a year before the annual meeting, is for the residents of the valley and had just been released.
 - d. Membership and Use Permits/Variances – Nita Bruinsslot: There was no report on membership. On use permits, Nita explained that the Design Review Committee assures that plans are not in conflict with or in violation of the Indian Valley Specific Plan.
 - e. Welcoming Committee – Bill Stewart: In Bill’s absence there was no report.
 - f. Road Safety – Rodney Bosche: Rodney reported improved observance of the speed limit on Indian Valley Road since enforcement had been stepped up in the last year.
 - g. Annual Meeting Set-up Committee – Rodney thanked Lloyd and Carol Loftus, Tom Tharsing, Barry Sheppard, Sherman Leland, and John Isaacs for their able service.
 - h. BBQ Committee – Rodney thanked Vivian Poole, Jonell O’Day, Monica Brett, and Sherman Leland for their hard work and the successful results.
 - i. Chuck Wagon BBQ Crew – Rodney thanked Al Nunez and Bob Mattos for expert cooking.
 - j. Raffle Sponsors – Rodney thanked Vivian Poole for soliciting raffle gifts and organizing the raffle. Vivian thanked all the sponsors who donated gifts.
- 7. Open Time** – There was no new business.
- 8. Election Results** – Ed Grundstrom announced the results of the Board election.
- 9. The meeting was adjourned** at 2:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Kitty Houghton, IVA Secretary, June 2011