



Board Meeting Minutes of the Indian Valley Associates (IVA)

For meeting held on February 16, 2012

Home of Rodney Bosche, Indian Valley, Novato CA 94947

Board Members:

Present: Rodney Bosche, Nita Bruinsslot, Jonell O'Day, Kitty Houghton, Bob Abeling, Monica Brett, Gary Frugoli, John Isaacs, Craig Knowlton, Sherman Leland, Vicki Martinez, Vivian Poole, Barry Sheppard, Bill Stewart, and Tom Tharsing.

Absent: Ed Grundstrom, Lynn Perry.

Meeting called to order at 7:37 pm by President Rodney Bosche.

Minutes: Minutes of the November 8, 2011 Board meeting were approved. After discussion, the Board voted to adopt the following streamlined procedure for approving future Board minutes: The Secretary will draft the minutes and e-mail them to Board members within seven days of a meeting. Board members will then have seven days to review the draft and e-mail suggested changes to the Secretary. The Secretary will make changes and e-mail a final version to Board members, and Board members will e-mail their approval, all within seven days. Nine approvals will constitute acceptance of the minutes. The Secretary will then post them on the IVA website. The new procedure should result in posting of Board minutes on the website within less than four weeks of a meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Jonell distributed the report dated February 16, 2012. Voluntary contributions to the Flower Fund are at \$298.89. Dues collected in 2011 and 2012 to date are at an all-time high of \$2,940. The Treasurer's report was accepted.

Road Safety: Rodney reported that one of the solar speed signs on Indian Valley Road was accidentally knocked down by a resident driving a car. It was reinstalled a few days later.

Use Permits/Variations: Nita had no applications to report.

Website: Kitty reported that the website (www.indianvalleyhome.org) had been updated by webmaster Nancy Niche, and dates for the upcoming Spring Chipper Days and for the June Annual Meeting had been included. There are two attractive new photos on the home page.

The Board agreed on a timetable for producing the newsletter, which is edited and assembled by Nancy Niche and is customarily sent out to Indian Valley residents shortly before the June Annual Meeting. The following deadlines are intended to forestall last minute stress and to meet the printer's schedule:

Sat. April 21 -- All material is submitted by writers, photographers, and reporters to Nancy Niche.

Mon. May 14 -- Nancy, having edited the materials and done the layout, submits the camera-ready newsletter to the printer.

Sat. May 19 -- Nancy picks up the printed newsletters from the printer. They are mailed to Indian Valley residents with an envelope insert for payment of annual IVA dues.

Sat. June 9 -- The Indian Valley Annual Meeting and BBQ takes place.

Chipper Days: Tom reported on plans for the Spring Chipper Days. The dates will be May 12-13 and May 19-20. Robin Cantarutti and Nancy Niche will once again let IVA use their properties. Tom has sent a funding application to Firesafe Marin asking for \$750. Novato Fire District has \$780 in matching funds available to IVA for the chipping costs of the spring event. Hector Chen of Mr. Arbor has agreed to do the chipping for no more than \$1,500. The approximate total cost of the most recent Chipper Days in the fall was \$1,724, including \$1,440 for chipping, \$60 for post cards, \$124 for stamps and labels, and \$100 for the dump fee. Spring post cards will be in the usual format, but with an additional alert about the high fire danger this year, as requested by Lori Jessell at the Fire District. Tom will prepare the contract with Mr. Arbor, send it to attorney and Board member Ed Grundstrom for review, and get it signed. He will also get insurance documents from Mr. Arbor. Jonell will print labels using an updated address list. Nancy will prepare the post cards. Tom will have labels and postcards in hand by April 16 and will mail them April 27, two weeks in advance of the first chipping weekend.

President's Report: Rodney Bosche reminded Board members that the next Board meeting is Tue. April 10. He asked for suggestions for speakers at the Annual Meeting. In addition to District 5 Supervisor Judy Arnold, a representative of the County Environmental Health Services office will be asked to speak about the impending change in regulations and fees for stand-alone septic systems. John Isaacs will try to get a speaker on the affordable housing issue.

Open time: The following topics were raised:

- a. Flowers will be sent to Ed Grundstrom, who was recently hospitalized but is back home and doing well.
- b. Writers for the IVA annual newsletter will include Gary Frigoli or his designee on CSA-20 activity, and Nita Bruinsslot on Design Review Committee work.
- c. A newly mandated regime by the County for monitoring stand-alone engineered septic systems and collecting fees for the Environmental Health Services office threatens to impose unfair burdens on septic monitoring companies and their customers. The Board of Supervisors and EHS have temporally withdrawn the proposed new county regulations until a new state law scheduled to go into effect on July 1, 2012 is reviewed. This information was provided to us by Judy Arnold.
- d. The California Metropolitan Transportation Commission is offering paid internships to high school students this summer. The deadline for applying is March 8. Details are available at the commission's website: www.mtc.ca.gov/jobs/high_school/.
- e. Marin County's Community Development Agency has decided to enforce local codes governing business in unincorporated neighborhoods of the County. Christy Stanley, Code Enforcement Specialist, wrote a letter Jan. 17 to the local resident on Indian Valley Road who had been holding barn sales under The Feathered Nest rubric. The letter stipulated no more than one client appointment at a time, and no impeding of traffic along a public road.

The Board believes that this action has effectively put an end to a use incompatible with local zoning that had caused traffic congestion in the area.

- f. An ad hoc committee of the Board will conduct a survey of users of the Indian Valley Fire Road to ascertain their views on the use of the side trails by mountain bikers. The Bicycle Coalition of Marin County is mounting a very vocal campaign to open up these side trails for use by cyclists. Board members believe that the coalition has strong influence with Supervisors and other local authorities, and that the rights of hikers and horseback riders could be infringed.
- g. New vegetation is now seeded and planted at the Arroyo-Avichi creekside restoration project in the CSA-20 open space. Loma Verde School did the planting and has been watering twice a week. The cost of the project thus far – carried out by local volunteers -- is a modest \$8,500, compared to the original estimate of \$18,000.
- h. The Annual Board Dinner next year will be on Tue. Jan. 22, 2013 (not Thu. Jan. 24 as erroneously announced in the November minutes).

Meeting adjourned by Rodney at 8:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Kitty Houghton, IVA Secretary, February 2012

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