



**Board Meeting Minutes of the Indian Valley Associates (IVA)**  
For meeting held on April 10, 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, Ed Grundstrom, John Isaacs, Vicki Martinez, Lynn Perry, Vivian Poole, Bill Stewart, Tom Tharsing, and Ron Witzel.

*Absent:* Craig Knowlton, Sherman Leland, Barry Sheppard.

*Meeting called to order* at 7:35 pm by President Rodney Bosche.

*Minutes:* Minutes of the February 16, 2012 Board meeting were officially approved. They had been approved by e-mail vote in accord with the new streamlined procedure and had been posted on the IVA website since the end of February.

*Treasurer's Report:* Jonell distributed the report dated April 10, 2012. There were no significant changes since February. The Treasurer's report was accepted.

*Road Safety:* Rodney had nothing to report. Bob Abeling remarked that Caltrans has contracted with a private firm to measure traffic volume at various points around the County using a car counting device. He also noted that Indian Valley residents contribute approximately \$450,000 a year to the County in taxes on property with an assessed value of \$220 million. Residents could justifiably propose a project such as the covering or filling of the deep trench along Wilson Ave. near the Indian Valley Road intersection, and request County funds to pay for it.

*Use Permits/Variances:* Nita had no applications to report.

*Website and Newsletter:* Kitty reported that the **website** ([www.indianvalleyhome.org](http://www.indianvalleyhome.org)) was up to date and had not undergone any major changes since February. Dates for the Spring Chipper Days in May and for the Annual Meeting in June are on the website. For the upcoming IVA **newsletter**, which is scheduled for release right before the Annual Meeting in June, Kitty distributed a task list from editor Nancy Niche to those who will be writing short items for the issue, as follows:

President's Letter: Rodney

Treasurer's Report: Jonell

Design Review Committee: Nita

Welcome message to new area residents: Bill

4-H: Toni Shroyer

Road Safety: Rodney

Nominating and Elections Committee: Ed

CSA-20: Gary

Annual Board Meeting Agenda: Rodney

The deadline for sending material for the newsletter to Nancy is Saturday, April 21. Items can be e-mailed to her at [slantnan@comcast.net](mailto:slantnan@comcast.net) as attachments. She plans to get the material to the printer by May 13, and have the newsletter back by May 18 for mailing May 19. It will have an envelope for membership renewal and dues payment in the centerfold.

**CSA-20:** Gary reported that the cost of the re-vegetation project along Arroyo Avichi Creek on the Indian Valley Fire Road, including construction of a split rail fence, was only \$9,780, well under the \$42,500 budgeted for the project, a savings attributed largely to the use of local volunteers. The amount left in the CSA-20 fund is nearly \$80,000. There are no current plans or earmarks for use of the balance. IVA Board members who participated in the Arroyo Avichi project once again remarked on how hard the volunteers had worked, particularly the Boy Scouts and the father-son teams. Of 75 pre-drilled post holes, 50 reportedly had to be re-drilled because they were in the wrong place. School kids subsequently involved in the re-planting learned about native plants and the importance of protecting and restoring native vegetation. The project is ongoing; the area will be watered and monitored for three years until the plants become stable.

In other CSA-20 news, the environmental impact of multiple users on trails in the area is being studied. There will be a meeting on May 11 to discuss vegetation management, and which areas should be protected. Gary remarked that if there are no new projects, the money in the CSA-20 account simply increases if it isn't spent. But the CSA-20 Committee believes that some of the funds should be used. The Board discussed the value of cutting down some of the undergrowth, thinning some areas of brush, and creating fire breaks as a precaution against wildfires. Members recalled that when CSA-20 was new, a lot of break-cutting and thinning was done in Ignacio behind Pacheco Valley. Someone remarked that an Indian Valley resident has recently been volunteering his time to do a lot of trail restoration and maintenance, gratis. The Board voted to send him a letter of appreciation and a restaurant gift certificate.

**Chipper Days:** Tom updated the Board on plans for the Spring Chipper Days, to be held on the weekends of May 12-13 and May 19-20. Tom's application to Fire Safe Marin for funds for Chipper Days was granted. This spring's postcard, to be mailed in late April to Indian Valley residents, includes the warning "High fire danger!" as requested by the Novato Fire District.

A Board member said there are some dozen or so renters in the valley who would participate in Chipper Days if they had advance notice. But it is hard to mail them cards without knowing their names. Cards mailed to the absentee owners of the properties in question reach those owners at their out-of-area addresses but are of little value if those individuals don't tell the tenants.

**President's Report:** Rodney reported that he had invited the following speakers to address the Annual Meeting: District 5 Supervisor Judy Arnold, Rod Myers of Accredited Septic Monitoring Systems, and Larry Hoytt of the CSA-20 Committee. Myers will talk about impending County-mandated changes in regulations and fees for stand-alone engineered septic systems -- the kind that many Indian Valley residents have -- and the need for public scrutiny and comment before the

regulations go into effect. Rodney will arrange a meeting for Myers with Judy Arnold so he can brief her on the issues. Rodney noted that the proposed new regulations have been suspended until a new law comes out in July, a law whose content has still not been made public. Bill suggested that someone from the County Environmental Health Services office also be invited to speak at the IVA annual meeting, so that residents could hear differing views on the subject. There was no immediate response to the idea from Board members.

Rodney asked those on the ad hoc Bicycle Committee to come to a short meeting Thu. April 12 at 6:30 pm to draft the questionnaire they will use to survey users of the Indian Valley Fire Road and its side trails, and to gather signatures for a petition against allowing bikes on single track trails.

Rodney reminded Board members that the next Board meeting will be Tue. May 8.

**Open time:** The following topics were raised:

- a. *Fostering better communication with residents of Indian Valley and getting them to join IVA and become active:* All who are on the list get Chipper Day post cards and the annual letter and newsletter. In addition, Ed Grundstrom sends out a welcome letter to new residents of the valley. Ideas for attracting new members to IVA and getting new and old members more involved included: (a) Adding a sentence to the annual letter urging people to contact their immediate neighbors on either side, along with their friends, and encouraging them to get involved, (b) Sending a second letter to residents two to three months after the Annual Meeting, saying we missed them at the annual BBQ, there is an IVA website they could visit, and we'd like their participation in IVA concerns, (c) Designing a simple poster with big print that is easy to read: "Join your homeowners' association! [www.indianvalleyhome.org](http://www.indianvalleyhome.org)" and posting it at four strategic locations – the fence at the intersection of Indian Valley Road with Wilson Ave., the fence on Indian Valley Road opposite McClay Rd., the pump-house in the pasture facing the start of the Indian Valley Fire Road, and the fence at the City-County line on Indian Valley Road, (d) Corraling volunteers for a project such as covering or filling the ditch along Wilson Ave.
- b. *Emergency preparedness and emergency services:* Board members agreed on the need for each household to be self-sufficient for at least three days should there be a general emergency in the area. Residents should know their neighbors and be ready to take care of people on their own street. They should know places where animals could be taken. There should be a list of those in the area who have various resources available to their neighbors. A list of the most important survival items to have in an emergency kit should be posted on the website. Vicki offered to get a standardized list. Rodney suggested posting a list of those who can agree to serve as area coordinators, should there be a general emergency.
- c. *The annual meeting raffle:* Board members have begun soliciting certificates to be raffled at the meeting. Last year the raffle raised \$500 which paid the cost of the BBQ.
- d. *Affordable housing:* John Isaacs cited the 400 unit affordable housing complex being built next to the 7-11 convenience store on Tamalpais Ave. He observed that a law now precludes managers from screening prospective tenants.

**Meeting adjourned** by Rodney at 9 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Kitty Houghton, IVA Secretary, April 2012

