



## **Board Meeting Minutes of the Indian Valley Associates (IVA)**

For meeting held on July 10, 2012

Home of Rodney Bosche, Indian Valley, Novato CA 94947

### **Board Members:**

*Present:* Rodney Bosche, Nita Bruinsslot, Jonell O'Day, Kitty Houghton, Skip Fenner, Ed Grundstrom, Lisa Marvier, Lynn Perry, Barry Sheppard, Bill Stewart, and Tom Tharsing.

*Absent:* Bob Abeling, Monica Brett, Gary Frugoli, Craig Knowlton, Sherman Leland, and Vicki Martinez.

*Meeting called to order* at 7:41 pm by President Rodney Bosche. New Board members Lisa Marvier and Skip Fenner briefly introduced themselves.

*Minutes:* Minutes of the June 9, 2012 Annual Meeting were approved.

*Treasurer's Report:* Jonell distributed the report dated July 10, 2012, pointing out the balance in the IVA account of \$7,987.55, up \$1,885 from June. She noted that the proceeds of the raffle at the June annual meeting reduced the cost of the event per valley resident to \$35. She thanked Vivian Poole, Monica Brett, and Jean Sheppard for a very successful raffle. The Treasurer's report was accepted.

In connection with the Annual Meeting, Barry noted that this year's signs, posted at key points along Indian Valley Road to alert residents to the annual meeting and barbecue, were a big improvement and can be used again next year with a date change. Annual meeting turnout was an estimated 90 residents, including young people and guests. Rodney commented on the high quality of the event, the good conversations and exchanges he heard, and an overall sense of neighborliness fostered that afternoon. Jonell agreed and suggested that the Board try to set the date next year to avoid a conflict with other local events including the June wine fest.

*Road Safety:* Rodney mentioned again the need for repairs to the culvert and ditch along Wilson Avenue near the intersection with Indian Valley Road, noting that no funds had as yet been identified to cover such work.

*Use Permits/Variations:* Nita reported that a project for which no letter was required had been reviewed. It entailed reduction of the size of a local property, and a reconfiguration. At another property, construction work had been halted because no closure permit had been obtained for an alteration to the septic system. The owner was referred to Rod Myers of Accredited Septic Monitoring for guidance.

*Website and Newsletter:* Kitty reported that there were no new changes to the website. Rodney reported that Nancy Niche had bought four wireless microphones for use at next year's Annual Meeting, and had donated them to IVA.

**Chipper Days:** The Fall Chipper Days will be the weekends of October 13-14 and 20-21.

Tom Tharsing reported on a stakeholders' meeting with Fire Safe Marin that he had been invited to. He and Rodney were among the nine who attended, with one representative of FSM, which was looking for input from residents and suggestions on how to spend funds. Tom took away a CD on fire in Marin and several informational brochures, including a homeowner's guide to fire safe practices.

**CSA-20:** A resolution that was passed without IVA's knowledge in October 2009 concerning Prop 1A recently came to light, and Larry Hoytt passed in on to Rodney. Funds currently stand at ca. \$78,000. There are no plans to take on any new projects for the present. Parks and Open Space reps reportedly like to keep things as they are.

Tom contrasted the approach of Fire Safe Marin, which actively goes out to Federal and State agencies seeking grant money to do fire safety-related projects. Tom suggested that IVA might persuade FSM to fund -- or to share the funding with CSA-20 for -- a perimeter or a firebreak, given the high fire danger this year, and given Indian Valley residents' concern over fire safety. Someone asked, but without getting an answer, where exactly a fire break might be cut in the CSA-20 Open Space.

Nita proposed that the Board ask Chris Bramham of CSA-20 to come speak at an IVA Board meeting. She noted that several years ago the agency was removing undergrowth and the lower branches of trees and was taking other measures to inhibit the spread of wild fires.

Rodney suggested that he and Tom write a letter on behalf of the IVA Board to CSA-20 inviting Bramham to speak to the Board on fire safety and a possible collaboration with FSM.

**President's Report:** Rodney reported that the September Board meeting would be held Tue. Sept. 11, 2012 at 7:30 pm at new Board member Lisa Marvier's house, address: 100 Pacheco Rd. Dates for the rest of the year are Tue. Nov. 13, 2012 for the Board meeting and Tue. Jan. 22, 2013 for the Annual Board Dinner.

Rodney raised again the efforts of the Marin Bicycle Coalition to open up single track trails to bicycles, and underlined the fact that Indian Valley Open Space rules currently don't allow this. He reported that his ad hoc survey committee, in canvassing the views of residents, had determined that respondees were overwhelmingly against the use of bikes on the side trails. [Results were: 69 against, 7 for, 2 not sure, and 2 declining to vote.] Rodney asked for more volunteers to continue polling walkers and others using the fire road, at the junction where it begins at Indian Valley Road, and to tally the surveys.

**Open time:** Bill reported that a local resident is planning to start a cooperative dairy. He and others have some concerns. The enterprise would need a permit. Under A2B4 zoning, residential and limited agricultural activity is permitted, with restrictions. Bill said he was also concerned about Eucalyptus trees in the valley because they are a fire hazard.

**Meeting adjourned** by Rodney at 8:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Kitty Houghton, IVA Secretary, August 2012

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