



Board Meeting Minutes of the Indian Valley Associates (IVA)
For meeting held on April 25, 2013
Home Ron Witzel, Indian Valley, Novato Ca 94947

Board Members Present: Craig Knowlton, Nita Bruinsslot, Monica Brett, Tom Tharsing, Skip Fenner, Barry Sheppard, Ron Witzel, Nancy Niche, Lisa Marvier.

Guest: Joana Witzel

Absent: Rodney Bosche, Jonell O'Day, Vicki Martinez, Ed Grundstrom, Bill Stewart, Sherman Leiland, Gary Frugoli, Bob Ableing, Lynn Perry.

Meeting called to order at 7:38 pm.

Approval of the minutes from the meeting on February 28, 2013 – Skip moved; Lisa seconds the motion. Minutes approved unanimously.

In light of Jonell's absence, the treasurer's report was passed over, though there was no reason to believe it would have changed since last meeting, as there has been no driver for fiscal activity.

Use-Permits/Design Review: Nita reported that a letter of outreach had been issued by the City of Novato, basically asking us for information and a contact person, should there arise a need to communicate.

Chipper Days: May 11-12 & 18-19, 2013 with Hector Chan (Mr. Arbor) scheduled to chip on Monday May 20th. Tom handed the contract to Craig to approve and sign. Tom gave an update regarding his attempts to get a response from FireSafe Marin regarding their continued participation – to no avail. FireSafe Marin has not yet confirmed their support, and if they don't do it soon, we will have to 'chip in,' so to speak – for around \$750. (Nancy commented that she has to call Judy Arnold on another matter, so she will ask about FireSafe Marin's funding status, in general.)

Tom reported that the postcards would go out this week, and that they would now simply say 'Current Resident' instead of the owner's name, due to the frustration Jonell has had with printing labels from the outdated software used by the IVA. Monica made a comment that it might make it more likely to be thrown out as 'junk mail.' Some discussion ensued and it was decided that addressing the semi-anonymous cards to all viable addresses be headed with 'Indian Valley Association Member.'

Newsletter, Website: Nancy Niche gave an update on the website; it has been updated with the current board roster, the February 2013 minutes and the 2013 schedule of meetings on the calendar, including the annual meeting and picnic, as well as Chipper Days for the spring.

Nancy assigned certain tasks to various members of the board for the newsletter, suggesting a deadline date of May 9th to get the final draft to the printer, hence the newsletter out by Monday May 13th to members in time to adequately announce the annual meeting on June 1.

CSA20 Craig Knowlton reported that the County and the CSA20 is stalled until a pending vegetation management report is finalized (including funding needs). Barry Sheppard asked whose authority was required. It turns out it is under Open Space Manager, Linda Dahl.

The discussion dove-tailed into the Indian Valley Open Space 'Dog Station.' Across from Monica's at 1690 IV Rd. @ 1701 Indian Valley Road where the popular Open Space trail begins, we have a dog station where people leave their empty plastic bags (voluntarily for others to use), and they also take a bag from this box if they are walking their dog in the open space to clean up the droppings. The box is next to a garbage can that Novato Waste Disposal services at no charge. The box, originally made by Bob Abeling and installed with Ron Witzel's help, has become dilapidated and needs to be repaired or replaced.

It was decided that some research should be done on how much a 'real' dog station would cost, and that perhaps Novato Waste Disposal or Redwood Landfill would underwrite the cost of this. Nancy volunteered to contact Dan North and Judy Arnold to discuss this. It was also decided that we would stencil a dog on the garbage can so that recreational users of the Open Space would know what it was for.

This prompted the discussion of the Witzel Trail. It seems that a blockade has been removed and a length of trail opened up mysteriously. Ron and Joana noticed this recently. They will try and find out about this.

The discussion about the Annual Meeting & BBQ uncovered that with Rodney's resigning as president and from the board, we had no idea how the event committee functioned, as no one was here from previous years. It was also noted that Al Nunes and Bobby Mattos would like to retire from the job of manning the fires (BBQ), also we lack the contact for the church where we borrow the chairs and tables, and haven't any volunteers with a truck to pick them up. With all these issues, it was decided that we will postpone the event until **Saturday, July 13, 2013**. A committee was quickly formed, and the work is underway. Barring any conflict with the Loftus' schedule, this was voted to be the new date (Nita/M, Barry2nd).

With Rodney Bosche leaving the board, there is no chair of the Road Safety committee.

Meeting adjourned at 8:56 pm

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Niche