

INDIAN VALLEY ASSOCIATES
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
AT LOFTUS' BARN
SEPTEMBER 10, 2016

Present were Craig Knowlton, Tom Tharsing, Nita Bruinslot, Skip Fenner, Lynn Perry, Jonell O'Day, Michael Goldin, Kent Aue, Claudine Le Moal, Ladd Cahoon and Monica Brett. Also present were emeritus members Carol Loftus, Ron Witzel and Bob Abeling.

Craig called the meeting to order at 10. 20 am. He welcomed everyone – existing members and new members. Then he welcomed Supervisor Judy Arnold and introduced her to the audience.

Judy Arnold began by reporting on her major issues.

1. The SMART train. Trains are being tested now and the tests are going well. Reaching speeds of 78 mph, the trains are tested at speed and at stops. They are fitted with positive train control which is a new safety system. As soon as they understand the system, Federal Rail will be in a position to sign off and the trains can start service. This should be late fall. 43 miles of track from Santa Rosa to San Rafael will be open. There is a grant of \$20,000,000 which will be used to extend the track to Larkspur. This should start in 2017 for service in 2018. After that, funding will be sought to start work on the Santa Rosa – Cloverdale track.
2. Novato Theatre. Most of the original building has been torn down. It was discovered that the foundation was not sufficient to support the proposed renovated building, so work has been extensive. It's a \$4,000,000 project with \$2,000,000 for ongoing expenses. Naming rights are up for grabs at \$1,000,000. Judy thinks that the new theatre will have a good effect on downtown Novato, encouraging restaurants, etc. The Mill Valley Film Festival wants to screen some movies in the festival at the Novato theatre.
3. Regional Trail Management Plan. We are in Region 3 of the County. Changes are planned to some trails including a connector between Indian Valley Open Space and Ignacio Open Space, both within CSA20. The County is looking for comments from the public regarding the plans. Public feedback is needed by October 16. Parks and Rec. will meet with us if needed.
4. Medical marijuana. The County wants to separate the cannabis dispensaries from the medical marijuana dispensaries. Cannabis contains 60 chemical many of which are used for healing. There will be 4 dispensaries in Marin – 2 in central and northern Marin and 2 in southern and western Marin. 12 applications have been received. The Planning Department will vet all the applications and will make recommendations.

There were questions from the floor regarding parking for the trains. Hamilton will have 130 spaces and there may be some spaces in Fireman's fund. Parking for bicycles is also planned.

Next, Craig introduced Officers Miller and Newcomer from the Highway Patrol. Bob said if there is a 20% increase in speed on a road, the County has to do a speed survey. He asked if we have reached that on Indian Valley Road. Apparently not, so the speed will remain at 30 mph. The portable trailers which flash a vehicle's speed as it approaches, actually note that speed, so is gathering speed information. Stealth radar has shown average speeds at 32 mph.

Tina Roberts commented that the parking on the road opposite the Open Space is getting out of control. Others reported many cars not stopping at the stop signs. Then a question was asked about cars parked with 2 wheels actually in the roadway. The officers said that if the car is over the white fog line, then a ticket is warranted. Should we ask for such a fog line? Someone suggested cameras to photograph speeders on the road. The officers said that any photos could not be used to catch and fine speeders. Such cameras would not be set up by the County and therefore would not be valid.

One neighbor, Jean, near the Open Space has only a 3 foot path in front of her house but people still park there, blocking her garage and entrance to her house. She reported many incidents of dangerous driving and parking. Someone said that the County should put in a proper walkway across the road at the entrance to the Open Space. Someone else asked whether we could make the whole of Indian Valley Road a double fine zone for the safety of walkers and riders on the road. The officers said there was no law to do that.

Craig proposed postponing the approval of the minutes of the last meeting until the next meeting.

Craig asked new residents to stand up and introduce themselves.

Cully and Kate Fredrickson of Indian Springs Road.

Lauren Dunne of Indian Valley Road

Meg McQueen of Wilson Ave

Matt Knolls at the top of Wilson

Peter Rubens of Pacheco

Sam Goldberger of Wilson Ave

---Stevenson.....

Craig thanked the DPW for the work done on Indian Valley Road shoulder at Old Ranch Road.

Craig reported on a meeting held on August 21st about CSA20. It is suggested that the Ignacio trail will be incorporated with the Indian Valley Fire Trail making one long trail which will be multi use. Ron said that a lot of pressure is being used by Access 4 Bikes to open trails for bikes. They are pressing hard and have legal and financial support. Nita talked to some bikers who said that because their population is much bigger than the equestrian population, they should have the right to use all trails. Someone suggested starting a petition against such increased access.

Next Craig explained there have been questions raised regarding the 7,000 sq. ft. building limit within Indian Valley and that it was being discussed with the Planning Department. Craig is working with Tom Lai on this as it pertains to our Specific Plan. Any proposed development within Indian Valley of over 4,000 sq.ft. automatically goes to the Planning Department and also to our committee for review.

Craig and Bob went to the LAFCO meeting regarding the sphere of influence renewal. They made it clear that we still do not want to be in Novato's SOI. Novato wants to monitor development outside its City Limits and wants the County to let them review such proposed development. We vehemently oppose this suggestion.

At the CSA20 meeting on Monday the 12th, parking for the Open Space is on the agenda for discussion. Attendance at the meeting to comment on this is requested. If attendance is not possible, please to send letters.

Craig commented on our bank account and said that we are looking for improvement projects on the road and hope to find matching funds to do this. Someone suggested signs on the road to slow drivers down for the safety of walkers horses and dogs.

Tom reported on Chipper Days explaining to new residents that IVA arranges 4 weekends in the year – 2 in spring and 2 in the fall. There are usually 2 drop off sites within the Valley but this time there will only be one – Frank McGovern's property on McClay Road. The dates will be October 8th-9th and October 15th-16th. The idea is to clear all brush from around houses for fire safety (all for free). A postcard to all residents about Chipper Days will be in the mail shortly. Tom explained that Novato Fire Dept gives matching funds up to \$1500 for this – half in spring and half in the fall. FIRESafe Marin also gives us money for Chipper Days, but we must provide thorough documentation of the events. There is a sign up sheet at the drop off site and each resident dropping off must fill out name, address and number of trips with brush. Hector of "Mr. Arbor" has been chipping and removing the brush for several years now and charges us very reasonable fee for this service. Tom asked people to support Mr. Arbor in thanks for his generosity.

The new owner at 1770 IVR is having trouble with trees and power lines. She asked if grants were available to help with the cost of work like this. Tom said that matching funds are available up to \$500 through Novato Fire.

Tom thanked Frank McGovern for his kind help in allowing his property to be a drop off site.

Craig thanked Lloyd and Carol Loftus for once again letting us use their lovely barn for our meeting. A gift was given to them in appreciation of their generosity.

Craig thanked Jonell and Lynn for arranging all the nice refreshments at the meeting.

Jonell reported that IVA has a bank balance of \$10,519.32. She said that she typically likes to keep a reserve of between \$6,000 and \$10,000 in case of emergencies.

Elections. There are 16 board members and we meet most months in the year. 5 board members are up for re-election:

- Skip Fenner
- Sherman Leland
- Gary Frugoli
- Yves Lermusi
- Tom Tharsing

Tanya Omran of Bloom Lane said that she would be willing to serve on the board so she was a write-in candidate on the ballot. The results were:

- Skip Fenner
- Sherman Leland
- Yves Lemusi
- Tom Tharsing
- Tanya Omran.

Nita made a motion to accept the actions of the board for the past year and Jonell seconded. A majority of the membership voted to approve the motion.

Craig adjourned the meeting at 12 noon.

Respectfully submitted

Monica Brett
Secretary