

INDIAN VALLEY ASSOCIATES
JULY 16, 2015 MEETING

The meeting at the Witzel house was called to order at 7:32 pm. Present were Craig Knowlton, Tom Tharsing, Jonell O'Day, Claudine Le Moal, Garry Frugoli, Barry Sheppard, Michael Goldin, Ladd Cahoon, Skip Fenner, Nita Bruinsslot, Bill Stewart and Monica Brett. Also present were emeritus members Bob Abeling and Ron Witzel. Joanne Witzel was also present. Absent were Lynn Perry, Sherman Leland, Yves Lermusi and Vicki Martinez.

Craig asked if there were any amendments to the minutes of the last meeting. Jonell pointed out that the bank balance at that time was \$5,063. Skip moved to approve and Gary seconded.

President's report

Craig said that he had received confirmation that the work on the shoulder of Indian Valley Road would begin October 1st. The shoulder beginning at Old Ranch Road will be repaired to make it safer for foot traffic. The IVA offered to contribute a portion of the cost of the repairs, but was not taken up on the offer.

Concerning design review, CDA is going to start charging \$50 to receive a hard copy of use permits and variance requests. They want to send via email. There were comments that receiving plans via email would be very difficult. It was decided to find out if we could have both. This new system will begin in 2017.

Craig asked for feedback on his "frequently asked questions about IVA" which he posted on NextDoor.com. The consensus was that it was very good. Thanks to Craig.

Newsletter – Craig asked the chairs of different committees to please submit their reports quickly so that Nancy can get the newsletter together. Tom wants to publicly thank Mr. Arbor for stepping in and finishing the chipping job which was left only a third complete. He charged us \$1,800 which was a very cheap price for the work done.

Treasurer's Report

The bank balance is \$8,564 after paying Mr. Arbor \$1,800. There was discussion about the flower fund. Jonell collected \$80 from members who had not contributed for several years. This fund is kept separate from IVA's bank account and consists of donations from the board members.

Chipper Days

Craig has received a check for \$1,000 from the Novato Fire District for Chipper Days. FIRESafe Marin arranged for and paid \$3,000 for chipping but the job was only a third done. Hector, from Mr. Arbor, agreed to complete the last two thirds of the Chipping for \$1800. A big saving for us. NFD said they would pay half this bill as matching funds, however they had some extra money and sent us another \$100, making a total of \$1000. IVA spent \$1037 for all Chipper Days expenses. Tom will apply for \$1500 from NFD for our next Chipper Days whenever it may be. FSM has spent all its chipping money for the year. If we only have \$1500 a year, we may have to temporarily forgo doing Fall Chipper Days.

It was suggested that we should ask Cal Fire to help us since they have taxed us \$150 a year for fire safety.

We need more volunteers to monitor the dump sites. Some people who dump are not paid up members so in future the sites will only be open to paid up members of IVA or dumpers may pay \$20. A notice to this effect will be placed in the IVA Newsletter.

Bob commented that the Open Space District is benefitting from the brush clearance so possibly they will contribute funds for us.

Nita proposed a motion reducing Chipper Days to be held only in May, due to lack of funds. Gary seconded.

Use Permits and Variances

Nothing this month.

General Meeting & BBQ

Date set for September 12th.

Jonell suggested we have a picnic this year, not a bbq eliminating the need for bbq chefs and also the smoke and noise associated with barbecues.

Chairs from the church for \$100 – Bob will organize.

Food committee – Jonell

Nomination committee – Claudine

Raffle – Monica

Guests – Judy Arnold, Sheriff's Dept and NFD. Someone about Emergency Preparedness?

Website

Nita reported that the website is still not working properly especially when asked to print information. Also minutes of meetings have not been uploaded for a long time. She suggested hiring a website manager. Jonell knows a tech person called Robert Bakerin who could set up the website and the cost of setup and maintenance seems to be reasonable. On the other hand, Nancy is willing to continue with the

website and she has asked to be reimbursed for some online training with WordPress which is easier to use and to update. There was discussion and it was decided to give Nancy the money to do the WordPress training. It was also decided to meet Jonell's friend before we make a decision on how we should improve the website.

Nancy Moxie called Nita complaining that the ballfield lights at IVC are very bright and at times are left on all night. The lights should be shielded and only illuminate downward onto the playing field, not the rest of the valley. Nita suggested talking to Mike Hemill of the Novato City Council.

Jonell said that Carol would like someone to take over setting up the scenery and clothing of the Nativity Scene. Jonell said she would talk to Carol and then talk to Bruce Stang about this change.

Bob told us that the Open Space (CSA20) has grown by a few acres (8?). The new acreage is over on the Country Club side.

Claudine commented that there could potentially be some interest in buying houses in the Valley for housing people during rehab. A house on McClay that is within city limits is currently being considered for this purpose.

Novato City Planning is updating the Sphere of Influence. Bob said he will contact LAFCO again to make sure that Indian Valley is still outside Novato's sphere of influence.

There being no more business, Gary made a motion to adjourn and Skip seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Monica Brett
Secretary