

## **Minutes of the Inverness Ridge Association Board Meeting**

**November 12, 2022**

Present: Ron Bennett, Sydne Bortel, Joe Burgess, Ken Drexler (for discussion of road repaving project), Jennifer Howard, Leah Light, Julie Liss, Julie Merk, Michael Ongerth, Jim Wagner, David Wilson, Patty Wimpfheimer, Christian Winslow (honorary board member)

Absent: Chris Eckert, Tim Stanton

Minutes: Leah Light

The minutes of the meeting of September 2022 were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Patty Wimpfheimer

As of September 9, 2022, the beginning balance for the current period was \$25,899.02. We received \$50.00 in dues payments (check) and \$0.32 in interest. The only expense during this period was \$252.00 for Squarespace fees, leaving a November 11, 2022 balance

of \$25,697.34.

Announcements: We welcomed Christian Winslow, a new honorary IRA board member who will stand for election to a two-year term in January.

Road Repaving Project: Ken Drexler

The timing of the county approval process is such that we would not be able to complete the necessary steps, get bids, and do the repaving work specified in Measure R before winter rains begin. Hence, the project will be postponed until 2023. On the upside, the county has already started to collect the paving parcel tax we have approved and the moneys collected will reduce the amount we need to borrow from the county. This is important because the interest rate we pay the county will be higher than anticipated due to inflation; at present we do not know just what this interest rate will be.

PRERAB: Ken Drexler and Michael Ongerth

Ken noted we will need to patch 47 potholes on lower Drake's View Drive and other parts of the road system because the repaving project will be postponed. The top layer of asphalt is degrading in some places, exposing the layer beneath to additional wear and tear. This is problematic because it is much more expensive to repair the road if the base layer is eroded. If funds permit, additional work on East and West Robert and Baywood would be desirable. It is also time for our annual ditch and culvert cleaning as soon as we can get bids to accomplish this. Ron Bennett noted that we need to do the patching of potholes in dry weather. Julie Liss pointed out that we should link road repair to safety issues (evacuation) for grant application projects. Jennifer said it would be good to leverage funds we raise ourselves to apply for additional grant moneys to

improve road safety. Right now MWPA has only an individual grant program so this will not be a source for community-wide projects.

Residents will be given ample notice of the timing of work, including road closures that will impact traffic up and down Drake's View Drive.

Firewise Committee: Jennifer Howard and David Wilson

Jennifer reminded us of the letter from the fire department forwarded to the community by the Firewise Committee. This letter gives an approximate start date of November 15 for the Measure C vegetation management project on Drake's View Drive. The project gives us a boost for clearing along our escape route but is a one-time endeavor. A community Zoom meeting to discuss the work was scheduled but was cancelled due to lack of interest.

The state parks are working on a project to create and maintain healthier forests. There will be a comment period for interested parties to weigh in on the plan. The park plan is independent of discussions that David Wilson also has been having with park officials to clear state lands that about the Paradise Ranch Estates.

David Wilson reported that our Firewise community status has been renewed through 2023. This is good news because it is a prerequisite for funding from Marine Wildfire Prevention Authority and other bodies.

David also briefed us about Tomales Bay State Park. He and Mike Ongerth walked Robert and the canyon at the top with Cindy Shaeffer of the Park. This canyon fell into state ownership when the previous owners failed to pay taxes and it has not been well-maintained to reduce fire hazards. The canyon is the route via which the Vision Fire entered our community. It is a senescent forest ready to burn. The state has produced a public works plan for managing the park, something it is required by recent laws to do. The plan emphasizes restoration of the ecology of the park. The park holdings are quite extensive and much of it is poorly maintained. The question for us is whether we should participate in a December meeting and also provide feedback on those aspects of the plan that deal with fire prevention. Should we join with other inholdings in making comments, as suggested by Jerry Meral? Jennifer Howard supported this plan and volunteered the Emergency Preparedness Committee to review the comments. Jerry would like us to involve Tom Gaman who was involved in the review of the Vision Fire.

Emergency Preparedness Committee: Jennifer Howard

The committee met with Elaine Wilkerson of Ready Marin on September 16; Ready Marin maintains an informative website ([readymarin.org](http://readymarin.org)). The committee would like to have a social gathering that deals with CERT training and perhaps with fire-smart landscaping. Also, the committee plans to meet with Ben Ghisletta to discuss our warning siren as well as the Dover and 7-Douglas routes that might be used under certain emergency conditions.

Christian Winslow reported on a meeting that he and Chris Eckert had with Ben Ghisletta and Lynn Axelrod of the Point Reyes Disaster Council. He presented a proposal that they are

working on to focus on Paradise Ranch Estates (not Kyleswood or Laurel) and to revitalize our neighborhood liaison. At present, the territories served by neighborhood liaisons are too large and are not organized in an optimal way. The proposal would be to increase the number of neighborhood liaisons from 9 to 18 and to reduce the number of properties under their purview, grouping properties in a way that makes them more coherent with respect to intersections rather than as linear strings along roads. Neighborhood liaisons would be brought under the umbrella of the Emergency Preparedness Committee. Hopefully, the IRA Board would be involved in identifying and recruiting neighborhood liaisons. This plan will be introduced at the annual meeting this January.

Jim Wagner shared his experience as a relative newcomer to the community walking the Laurel escape route. He believes that it is not as well marked or easy to find as it might be and the signage is not altogether clear. The possibility of adding reflectors to mark the route was suggested. However, the route appears to be passable to Laurel. Mike Ongerth reviewed the history of this route, stressing our need to respect the privacy of the property owners and to avoid casual use of the route, especially by visitors to the area who are not familiar with the private ownership of the land.

Elections: Leah Light

In 2022, Joe Burgess, Chris Eckert, Jennifer Howard, Julie Liss, Mike Ongerth, Jim Wagner, and David Wilson were elected to two-year terms and they will all continue on the IRA Board for another year. Sydne Bortel, Ron Bennett, Leah Light, Julie Merk, Tim Stanton, and Patty Wimpfheimer were elected in 2021 and all those present agreed to stand for re-election. (Tim Stanton, queried by email, agreed to be a candidate as well). Christian Winslow, now an honorary Board member, will stand for election too. Board members were invited to suggest additional potential nominees.

Annual Meeting: Jennifer Howard

The annual meeting of the Inverness Ridge Association will take place via Zoom on January 21, 2023. The planning group will consist of Tim Stanton, Jennifer Howard, Leah Light, and Patty Wimpfheimer. In addition to brief committee reports, Mark Brown of the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority will be our speaker. We would also like to invite Elaine Wilkerson and Dennis Rodoni.

A community gathering in the spring, at which people could socialize in person, is also planned.

Next Meeting

Date: General Meeting, January 21, 2023

Place: Via Zoom

