

MINUTES
Inverness Ridge Association Board meeting
November 15, 2020
Via Zoom

Present: Sydne Bortel, Ron Bennett, Wilson Chris Eckert, Jennifer Howard, Leah Light, Julie Merk, Michael Ongerth, Tim Stanton, Marcus Thygeson, David Wilson, Jon Wurtzel

Absent: Helen Chapman

Visitors: Tamia Anderson, Ken Drexler, Patty Wimpfheimer

September Meeting minutes: Approved.

Treasurer's report: Stanton/Wimpfheimer. A report dated October 3, 2020, was previously circulated to the Board. The previous balance as of July 11, 2020, was \$11,538.38. Total income since the last report was \$800.08 (\$50.00 in dues, \$750.00 in chipping fees, and \$0.08 in interest earned. Expenses were \$3,819.00 in chipping fees paid to Inverness Garden Service and \$90.00 in payment for our Square Space Website. The closing balance as of October 2, 2020, was \$8,423.46. Income from October 3 to November 13 was \$1,100.03 (\$75.00 in dues, \$1,025.00 in chipping fees, and \$0.03 in interest). \$2,412.00 was paid to Inverness Garden Service for chipping fees. The balance as of November 13 was \$7,111.49. Some issues concerning chipping fees need further clarification with respect to the number of piles chipped and paid for. Further information on these matters will be forthcoming.

Announcements:

· NMWD tank replacement: Howard. Construction of the tank was suspended as of October 28 because a worker was exposed to COVID-19. An update on the anticipated completion of the tank in December 2020 is needed.

Old business:

· Road re-paving task force update: Drexler. Mike Ongerth has been working with Mike Evans to fill in gaps in the project report which is otherwise complete. Mike Ongerth indicated that he and Mike Evans have agreed on the questions that remain to be answered—the cost of culvert replacement, the cost of engineering curves, and the placement of curbs. We need authorization for a little more money and the county has requested a work order for authorization and an account of why additional funds are needed. In terms of a timeline for the ballot measure, it is clear that COVID has slowed us down. We had anticipated an October 2020 ballot measure but now the expected date is sometime in the spring of 2021. Because we will have a mail ballot, the vote can take place any time that it doesn't interfere with in-person ballot schedules. We still need an engineering report from the county public works department. Once that is available, the amount of the parcel tax can be worked out

and the matter will come before the County Board of Supervisors that sets the actual vote; it takes 90 days from their approval. Paving could then be accomplished within a few months after the election contingent on weather conditions—for asphalt it can't be raining and the temperature must be at least 50 degrees Fahrenheit. One issue is getting on a contractor's schedule so there is a need for conversation with potential bidders to be sure that bids are obtained in a timely way.

- PRERAB update: Ongerth. Randy Merk has been putting together separate bid requests for culvert, ditch, and drop box cleaning (which need to be done soon) as well as road grading and resurfacing. The expected cost for the two contracts is about \$30,000. We will have money to take down 5 or 6 diseased trees (including two that have already been removed) in these packages.

- Chipping program update: Ongerth/Wimpfheimer. This was biggest chipping year thus far. Discussion centered on whether we should continue to have a chipping program subsidized by IRA or rely on Measure C funds for this activity. It is unclear what financial support we can expect from Measure C and what they can do for us. It would be helpful to have a sense of how many chipping days we might get from Measure C. If two days are funded, we might not need to have our own program. Unfortunately, the decision making process is slow, so our ability to plan ahead is impeded. Michael Ongerth expects IGS to charge us about \$65-\$68 per pile pretty consistently whereas chipping supported by Measure C funds is "free" (already taxed). A reason for continuing the IRA subsidized chipping program is to keep the issues before our neighbors. On a related matter, it was agreed that communications with those responsible for dispersing Measure C moneys should be channeled through David Wilson and the Fire Safe committee for consistency. It was agreed to inform residents at the Annual Meeting roughly what is planned. David Wilson can also ask Measure C folk what their projections for an annual schedule might be; their fiscal year ends July 2021.

- Firesafe Task Force and Measure C: Wilson. We have been reapproved for another year based on chipping report by Wilson. Historically, Fire Safe Marin gave money at one point for cleaning up boundaries with other state and federal properties but then they ran out of money; now we have Measure C. We have had a property tax surcharge that covers PRERAB reserves and vegetation management but this has elapsed. Under Measure C we do not have representation on the Joint Powers Authority and we have no way to plan our own activities (e.g. chipping) in the way we do when it is under our own control. This makes it difficult to count on Measure C money over the long term so we have a decision to make for our own road paving election—will we include money for vegetation management? Wilson thinks we need to do so out of prudence because it is unclear whether we can get it from Measure C.

At present, the repaving project includes significant funds for vegetation management and this seems to be prudent. We need to carry out roadside vegetation management and to create buffers between PRE and state/federal lands and to deal with the problem of neighbor neglect of properties. David Wilson has been working on issue. Christie Neal suggested we might be able to get money for some work from the Measure C current budget. Tamia Anderson had prepared a proposal for Cal Fire that could be used to apply for Measure C funds. The “shovel-ready” project involves private property and focuses on enhancing our main evacuation routes (Drake’s View Drive, Sunnyside, Behr Lane). Christie Neill thought this a good project. She offered to provide a template letter (hopefully to be received soon) to obtain permission from property owners so that we might go beyond the 10 foot easement to as much as 50 feet to remove dead/dying pines that grew up after the 1995 fire; most areas needing removal are on Sunnyside. The work would not be on park service lands though Christie Neill had some ideas for such work as well. Ongerth suggests moving forward with permissions in advance and also thinking about what follow up new projects might be envisioned ahead of time to get shovel-ready projects should money become available. Tamia Anderson noted some potential difficulties in contacting the land owners so this is a good idea. Also, it might prove useful to involve Dennis Rodoni in getting Measure C support. Various delays due to covid, Christie Neill’s impending retirement, and the upcoming holidays could slow this all down.

· PG&E liaison efforts: Ongerth/Stanton. Concerns have been raised about the timeliness and content of communications with PGE about tree work and road closures. For instance, an old oak near Tank 2 has been removed, but debris was left by Davey; PGE says it will be cleared up, but this has not happened yet. Other issues with tree work include removal of trees without proper consultation and blocking a fire hydrant at Carlton Place by a large log. PGE has been challenged by the need to carry out court mandated work but lacks the resources to do this work without contracting with multiple tree services. Management and supervision of the various contractors appears to be difficult and we don’t know which ones will be coming. Also, the contracts specify that debris smaller than 8 inches must be chipped, while larger debris can be left on ground; however, contractors aren’t always following this rule. Tamia Anderson suggested working with PGE public liaison people to see if they can better coordinate activities. Mike Ongerth noted that he has already been in contact with our liaison Josh Green who is in charge of Marin County vegetation management. Josh Green can be reached at (707) 373-0317. Tim Stanton reported that Josh has agreed to meet with him and with Mike Ongerth to work out communication issues. One suggestion was to call PGE customer service in the event of problems in order to file a complaint and get an incident number for follow-up. PGE did work on the hill on November 14 and it is believed that additional work days with power outages will be needed to complete the job. Mike Ongerth stated a belief

that with proper supervision PGE contractors should be able to sectionalize the line to keep more people on power during the work.

- 2021 Annual Meeting: Stanton. Our by-laws mandate a general meeting each January. The 2021 meeting will be held on January 23 by Zoom. A subcommittee composed of Tim Stanton, Jennifer Howard, and Leah Light will work out the logistics of the meeting. We need to elect board members, work out how to get dues paid, discuss the status of the water tank construction and the road repaving project. Tim Stanton will check with Patty Wimpfheimer about the feasibility of setting up an electronic way to pay dues.

- Request from Marge Ridge regarding parking along DVD: Stanton. Cars are sometimes parked in such a way that they make it difficult to stay in the correct lane while driving and that may potentially interfere with access by emergency vehicles. In the past, a flier requesting that people keep cars out of the roadway and away from the verge has been placed on cars. Marge Ridge forwarded to the Board a flier used in the past that could serve as a model for such a request. The wisdom of involving the fire department in efforts to promote safe parking practices and logistics for preparing a flier was discussed. Mike Ongerth, Julie Merk, Marcus Thygeson will draft a document for consideration at a later board meeting. In the meantime, Tim Stanton will remind the community about the need for thoughtful parking in his next update to residents and let them know that the future might bring fliers on windshields.

Next Meeting:

- Date: Annual Meeting January 23, 2020

- Venue: Zoom