

PARADISE RANCH ESTATES ROAD ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Summary for May 30, 2020

- PREPRD Finances.
- Drakes View Drive Patching.
- 2020 Vegetation Management Work.
- More below. . .

Minutes

Paradise Ranch Estates Road Advisory Board May 30, 2020

The Paradise Ranch Estates Road Advisory Board met on May 30, 2020 by video conference. Members Mike Ongerth, John Levy, Tamia Marg Anderson, Ron Bennett, Randy Merk, Jennifer Howard and Ken Drexler, Secretary, participated in the meeting. Tim Stanton, IRA President, Julie Merk and Marcus Thygeson also participated. John Levy led the meeting.

1. PREPRD Finances: Ken Drexler reported that as of the date of the meeting, the Paradise Ranch Estates Permanent Road Division had \$116,796 in funds for use in 2020. PREPRD started the 2019-2020 fiscal year on July 1, 2019, with \$134,258 on the County's books. Since then \$72,462 has been spent on road-related work, leaving a balance of \$61,796. However, since July 2019, PREPRD is estimated to have received \$55,000 in property taxes, resulting in about \$116,796 available for the rest of 2020.

2. Patching Drakes View: Mike Ongerth reported that the patching of Drakes View approved at the Board's April meetings had been successfully completed by the Inverness Gardening Service (IGS) over three Saturdays in May. He described IGS's work as a "first class job" and that it included patching some extra potholes. Mike also reported that there had been some fuel spills below the bulletin board which may result in additional potholes in that area.

3. Financial Trends: Before the meeting, Randy Merk distributed several charts he prepared showing PREPRD's annual income and expenses since 2007. The income chart clearly showed a decline in annual income when the 2006 vegetation management parcel tax expired in 2017. The charts also showed over these years that expenditures on vegetation management, dirt road maintenance and asphalt maintenance had grown. The fund balance that PREPRD started each fiscal year (July to June) peaked at \$257,075 in 2016-2017, and dropped to \$134,174 at the start of FY 2019-2020.

4. 2020 Vegetation Management Work: Board members then discussed whether to do vegetation management work this summer. Tamia Marg Anderson noted that this work fell into three categories: cutting flashy fuels (i.e. high grass) along the roads, clearing sight lines and cutting dead and dying trees. Mike said that since the 2006 parcel tax which supported vegetation management work expired in 2017, PRERAB had no authority to continue this work and that all of its funds should be used for roadway maintenance. Ken disagreed, observing that the vegetation management had long been viewed as road maintenance work. Mike also said that he worried about whether there would be sufficient funds to cover road maintenance if the paving parcel tax vote was delayed or failed. Mike observed that this year many owners had already cut the high grass along their frontages although there remained some work to do. Also, PG&E had done a lot of tree cutting, so there was not a lot of tree work to do. During this discussion, several members said that PRERAB should continue to do the flashy fuel work in 2020. Tim Stanton agreed, saying that this work was important and that the message to the PRE community about it had “been mixed.” Julie Merk suggested that PRERAB might sponsor a weed whipping program by residents. Another member suggested that the IRA publish a list of local weed whippers. Tim, IRA President, said that he was not comfortable with the IRA vouching for the work of others. A member noted that there were ads in the Point Reyes Light for persons to do weed whipping. After discussion, those present voted to approve a flashy fuel project for 2020 at a cost not to exceed \$10,000. Mike voted “no” and Marcus Thygeson abstained.

5. Dirt Road Work: The members then moved to discussing possible dirt road work. Before the meeting, Mike had distributed a list of work that he proposed be done on the dirt roads in PRE and a proposal from IGS to do the work for \$15,400. Mike said that the dirt roads were in bad shape and said the work involved resspreading gravel, reprofiling water bars and regrading road surfaces, plus some ditch cleaning. The work focused on Lower Douglas, the lower end of West Robert, Douglas from No. 50 to the gabion wall and Sunnyside between Nos. 40 and 60. During discussion, several members questioned the need for the work at this time. One observed that the washboard areas were effective in slowing traffic. Another observed that if the work was done now, it would have to be redone in the Fall. Mike said that if the recommended work was delayed to the Fall it would likely cost more than the amount of the current estimate. After discussion, Mike made a motion to proceed with the work. As the motion did not receive a second, it failed.

6. Paving Plan: Ken reported briefly on the status of the proposed repaving of Drakes View and portions of other roads. He noted that the COVID 19 situation had slowed work on the repaving project. However, he said that he had prepared a first draft of a Paving Plan and was circulating it for comment. He noted that when the Plan was finished it would be attached to the petition asking the County to set a parcel tax election. It will also be used to explain the project to PRE residents and obtain their support for the

petition and the project. Jennifer Howard asked whether a second meeting of residents was needed and whether the Plan could be sent out to residents and they be polled on it. Ken said although the Plan could be sent, he doubted that a poll would satisfy the County requirement that 70 percent of residents support the petition. There was also discussion about how to get input from residents at the lower end of West Robert and beyond 379 Drakes View.

NEXT MEETING: The Board set its next meeting for June 27, 2020.

KD
6/11/2020.