Inverness Ridge Association Annual Meeting

January 25, 2020

Home of Barbara Jay, 100 Douglas

**Welcome**: The (37th?) annual meeting was brought to order by President Tim Stanton who welcomed IRA members and special guests Marin County Supervisor Dennis Rodoni and KWMR Station Manager Amanda Eichstaedt.

Tim introduced the IRA Board members, stressed the volunteer nature of the organization, and encouraged attendees to speak to board members about volunteering. If undertaking a full board position is too much, there are special tasks and projects in which members may participate.

**Election:** The slate of names included current board members Jennifer Howard, Michael Ongerth, and David Wilson, all re-upping for another term and new nominees Chris Eckert and Marcus Thygesen. Moved, seconded, passed unanimously. Terms are two years. Thank you, all!

**Treasurer’s Report** (Helen Chapman): Current balance $8168.51. Annual dues for this year remain $25 per household. If you forgot your cash or check, please mail to Inverness Ridge Association, P.O. Box 342, Inverness, CA 94937.

**IRA Updates**

* Fire Wise USA: Thanks to the dogged work of David Wilson, we are now recognized as a qualified Fire Wise USA community. This status should give us better access to fire prevention grants. (If you are interested in helping write grants, please contact a board member.) It may also help with homeowner insurance qualification.
* Chipping Program: Randy Merk spoke about the upcoming third annual chipping program. Forms with clip-off payment tags were handed out. Again, IRA will sponsor two rounds of chipping, one just after the July 4 weekend and one just after Labor Day. As the community grows accustomed to creating efficient roadside piles, we may be able to attain a slightly reduced bid.
* PRERAB**:**  Jennifer Howard gave an overview of the Paradise Ranch Estates Road Advisory Board, noting that all PRE’s approximately six and a half miles of paved and unpaved roads are collectively owned and maintained by PRE property owners. Marin County does *not* pay for maintenance. We do.

Sources of income for maintenance are: a) approximately $55,000 per year from Marin County, which is a portion of the property taxes we pay, and b) any assessments we choose to levy on ourselves.

Jennifer directed members to the pie chart on the easel in the other room for a look at PRERAB’s expense allocation for the years 1993 – 2019. She also referred members to the IRA website for a good FAQ section on PRERAB.

* Road Conditions: Ron Bennett spoke about the recent addition of gravel to unpaved roads ($26,000) and invited members to check out the gravel work recently done on the Douglas Drive/Laurel emergency exit. All vehicles are now able to drive over that section safely and should not get stuck on large roots. Reminder: that exit is on private property. We have the owner’s permission to use it only in a true emergency.

Speeding throughout PRE was a topic. There have been some extremely close calls lately. All residents are asked please to respect posted speed signs and not to speed over the water bars (like a speed bump but meant to divert water on unpaved roads). By going over the water bars too fast, we are increasing our collective maintenance costs.

Regarding the emergency exit system, Ron demonstrated how to open the locks at the top of Sunnyside Drive and also at Limontour Road. In both cases, the combination is 0911. Be sure to push the arm IN before entering the combination, then pull the arm back. A yellow paper showing all emergency exits was handed out.

* IRA Website: Our new webmaster is Nadav Savio, 58 Douglas Drive. Welcome to Nadav and thanks! The website is: invernessridge.info

**Guest Speakers**

First up was **Dennis Rodoni, District 4 County Supervisor**. He noted that his staff is available for assistance with grant writing, particularly if Measure C passes on the March 2020 ballot. He also said that Measure G, the 4% Transit Occupancy Tax designed to support West Marin’s emergency responders and housing needs, is now being spent.

Regarding the Coast Guard property in Point Reyes Station, now owned by the County, an RFP (Request for Proposal) has been developed. Some renovations are needed. Developers are responding.

The County is focusing now on the 2020 census and hoping to get a fair count, particularly in West Marin and the Canal District of San Rafael. Also under discussion is a single use plastic ban.

Emergency preparedness is a high priority and continues based on results of the 2016 Wildland Fire Study, the 2017 Subcommittee which resulted in 66 recommendations, and the 2018 Grand Jury report which resulted in Measure C, a proposed levy of ten cents per square foot of structure size.

Question: With garbage rates rising by 30%, could Recology provide greater recycling services?

Answer: Recology has a good reputation. They have struggled with the West Marin franchise. Rate increases should cover some non-polluting trucks, employee benefits, and facilities upgrades in the Cotati recycling facility in response to China’s stricter rules about taking recycled waste from this country. Composting is a new element, beginning with restaurants and commercial establishments.

Question: This area’s considerable clearing of brush and dead trees has resulted in two years worth of burn piles. Is there a way to get this dealt with?

Answer: There are plans to burn, depending on weather conditions. Probably will see some future changes to the methodology of burning. Australia is an example of how native knowledge of burning techniques is being examined.

Many thanks to Supervisor Rodoni for attending our annual meeting again.

**Amanda Eichstaedt, Station Manager for KWMR, FM 90.5,** spoke about her experience at the community radio station. KWMR is a rare gem, truly a local station. The transmitter is on Mt Vision. KWMR partners with the Marin Emergency Radio Authority and other Marin emergency services.

KWMR has an active social media presence. Check out KWMR.org and the KWMR Twitter feed for local news, updates, and programming listings. During an emergency, KWMR is one of the most comprehensive sources of information in West Marin. Announcements are every 15 minutes, at the top and bottom of the hour, and at 15 and 45 minutes.

The station boasts 90 volunteer programmers. Those interested in joining the group can contact the station and go through the necessary training.

How to listen: FM 90.5 in PRS; 89.5 in Bolinas; 92.3 in San Geronimo. You can use radio, stream, use an app for smart phone or tablet, or use Bluetooth. It is on Horizon Cable channel 47.

KWMR gratefully accepts donations, can be listed in estate plans, appreciates IRA gifts, and even could be the recipient of a vehicle donation program. They are always looking for volunteers, Board members, or Community Advisory Board members.

Many thanks to Amanda for a lively and informative presentation.

**PRE Repaving Task Force:** Ken Drexler heads the Repaving Task Force in charge of creating a plan for repaving Drakes View Drive and possibly other small areas of our road system. Other members of the Task Force are: Ron Bennett, Jennifer Howard, Julie Merk, Michael Ongerth, and Tim Stanton. Randy Merk has been helping with financials and analysis. The group has developed a matrix based on three main criteria: a) protection of prior investment in paving, b) safety, and c) fixing a chronic maintenance problem.

This week the Task Force will meet with County officials regarding election rules.

Another community meeting will be held at the Dance Palace when plans and recommendations are complete and a likely cost is determined. Stay tuned.

**Final Comments/Closing:** Kathleen Goodwin offered a copy of one of her beautiful books to new residents who don’t already have one. Stop by her home at 371 DVD.

President Tim Stanton thanked Barbara Jay for again opening her home for our annual meeting and potluck and he recognized the many hours of volunteer time put in throughout the year. Special recognition goes to Michael Ongerth, a visible presence driving our roads daily, communicating with contractors and organizations such as PG&E, receiving comments and questions from members, and serving as general “flak-catcher.” Thank you, Mike.

Tim also reminded members that regarding the Repaving Task Force, we now have the engineer’s recommendations, but need a positive vote if the road is indeed to be repaved. Hopefully, that will be this year.

Meeting adjourned 11:50 for our delicious luncheon.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Merk, secretary