

Inverness Ridge Association Board Meeting

November 9, 2019

At the home of Jon Wurtzel and Christian Winslow

2 West Robert

Present: Tim Stanton, Ron Bennett, Sydne Bortel, Helen Chapman, Jennifer Howard, Julie Merk, Mike Ongerth, David Wilson, Jon Wurtzel

Absent: Leah Light

Visitors: Tamia Marg Anderson, Christian Winslow, Maury and Bonnie Wolohan

Meeting called to order 9:45

Approval of September minutes: Mike moved, Ron seconded; approved.

Treasurer's Report (Chapman):

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| Previous balance | \$ 13,091.37 | (9/27/19) |
| Total income | \$ 2,375.12 | (Largely chipping fees) |
| Total expense | \$ 7,370.00 | (Sept Dance Palace Rental, Square Space Annual Fee, IGS) |
| Balance | \$ 8,096.49 | |

Announcements

- Bill Tichy has resigned from the board due to health reasons. (Stanton)
- NMWD News (Howard): Advertising for Tank 4 work happened in October. Meetings for contractors and award of a contract to happen soon. Project dates slated for Dec. 3 to August 14, the completion target.
Jennifer also talked to Rocky Vogler about the work his crew did during PG&E mandated outages. They hauled generators around so water could still be pumped up the hill. Observed at this time of heightened fire concern were some homes' continuously running exterior home sprinklers. A discussion ensued regarding the impact of this practice to the entire community and the possibility of depleting the overall water supply in a crisis. Jon: This needs to be part of a larger policy discussion. Ron: In fire conditions, that water turns to steam. Suggested: a group consisting of Mike, Ron, and Jennifer will continue the discussion. Mike volunteered to write a letter to Rocky expressing our appreciation for their ongoing work.
- Fire Wise USA Grants (Wilson): David noted that the proper name for our neighborhood fire affiliation is Fire Wise USA, not FIREsafe Marin. He said the grant deadline for this year is December 4, therefore we will concentrate on next year's round. Tamia Anderson spoke about friends in Cazadero who last year received a grant in the neighborhood of \$60 to \$70 thousand to cut back roadside fuel

along a five-mile road, comparable to the kind of project PRE could undertake. According to Tamia, we need a team consisting of an administrator/point person, a GIS mapping person, an accountant, and a writer. Tamia believes this is a multi-year process and the first year is the toughest. There is also a question about our tax status as a 501-C-4 organization. The FIRESafe Council is 501-C-3.

Old Business

- Road Repaving Task Force (Stanton, Ongerth, Merk, Bennett): Tim led a review of the meeting at the Dance Palace, noting Ken Drexler, chair of the Repaving Task Force, welcomes feedback. Generally, the reviews to the Dance Palace meeting were favorable. Some sense exists the Task Force is largely looking at dollar decisions. Tim feels the question of side road paving is one of the trickiest parts of the issue, for example, the neighbor disagreements concerning whether or not to pave West Robert. Jon expressed the view that speeding on better-paved roads is a serious concern. An effort to reach AirBnB and VRBO owners about this issue could help. Mike noted that not too many renters were at the meeting.
- PRERAB Update (Ongerth): Two parts to upcoming work. First is fixing potholes on paved roads before the repaving project. Holes should be marked within the next few weeks. Second is the usual autumn maintenance, largely of unpaved roads, to deal with grading, potholes, and washboarding. Moisture is needed make these fixes work effectively so they will be done after the first couple rains.
- Chipping Update (Ongerth/Chapman): Mike noted there was lots of participation with about 120 to 130 piles chipped in the combined two rounds (July and September). Helen says 86 households participated. Several residents joined IRA so as to take advantage of the special members' rate. David asked about the IRA subsidy. The first year it was about 50%; second year closer to 25%. Next year's cost to IRA members will be \$50/pile of 6'x6'x10', maximum 10 piles. The Merks and Mike will make up 2020 chipping flyers for the general meeting in January.
- Trail Maintenance (Bortel): Trail Maintenance Day is in one week. Sherry Stanton and Sydne met with Shawn Maloney of the National Park Service. Twelve people are signed up. Meet between 8:00 and 8:30 at Muddy Hollow for muffins and coffee. Snacks will be provided but not lunch. Workers will need to go straight home to shower as there is poison oak on the trail.
- Laurel Evacuation Route (Merk, Ongerth) The work was approved by the owner and Mike arranged with Lunny to bring gravel. Burton Eubank, a neighbor on Laurel, spread and compacted the gravel over the section of large roots that could have caused low cars to get stuck. Many thanks to all involved. Reminder: This route is to be used for emergency reasons only.

New Business

- Insulation of PG&E Wires (Merk, Anderson): The topic of PG&E electric wire insulation arose after the Dance Palace meeting when a resident proposed the idea of undergrounding wires for fire safety. That is a prohibitively expensive solution and

many of our electric lines run through properties, not just along roads. Tamia says that in some municipalities (Mill Valley, Oakland) PG&E is now putting in some insulated wire. If this is to be followed up, we need a good PG&E contact and work from the electrical division level. Discussion: Might Dennis Rodoni be able to help with PG&E contacts?

- Inverness Ridge Trail Prescribed Burning (Stanton, Wolohan): The Wolohans, 40-year PRE residents, visited to express their great concern about the many burn piles, particularly under a tree canopy, along Inverness Ridge Trail. Their concern is mirrored by many. They asked whether IRA would support a solution to getting rid of the piles other than burning.

(According to Ron, the 30 to 50 piles, created by the Tam Crew as a training exercise, are too big, too tall, too dense, adjacent to a dying forest, and on a bed of combustible material. Siskiyou County recommendations require burn piles to be no greater than 4' diameter; 10' from any combustible materials; have a water source nearby; someone on site.)

Fire suppression has been contracted to Marin Fire by the National Park Service. We will need to speak diplomatically to Christie Neill.

Alternatives mentioned for dealing with the piles other than burning: Hauling the material out or using a tracked chipper. A robotic chipper has been used in some areas.

Tamia suggested speaking to Greg Jones about Park fuels.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is the January Annual IRA Meeting and Lunch and will be held again at the home of Barbara Jay, 100 Douglas Drive, on January 25, 2020.

Meeting adjourned 11:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Merk, Secretary