

Inverness Ridge Association Board Meeting
May 10, 2014
at the home of Susan Fisher
5 Sunshine Court

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. by Richard Blair, President. Board members present: David Wilson, Michael Ongerth, Helen Chapman, Laurie Stetson, Bob Lundstrom, Richard Blair, Marna Clarke, and Susan Fisher.

Minutes of the meeting of March 8, 2014 prepared by Acting Secretary Sydne Bortel were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's report: Treasurer Laurie Stetson reported last month's balance of \$10,233 was increased by \$400 in dues and .42cents interest, minus \$9.99 in party expenses, leaving a new total of \$10,624.30.

An email notice requesting dues was sent. To date 89 residents have paid dues for 2014 and 1 resident has also paid for 2015. Laurie noted that there are about 125 households in PRE at present.

Old Business:

PRERAB report: Please see John Levy's May 4, 2014 report attached to these minutes and which was emailed to residents prior to the meeting).

Mike and Laurie noted that they will try to schedule and complete the routine road maintenance in June before water rationing begins on July 1.

Note item #5. in John's PRERAB report confirming that the county has approved a trial dust-palliative treatment of up to 1,000 feet of dirt road. A fact sheet about this work will be circulated to residents before the work occurs.

David and Susan F. raised the issue of the growing problem of thistles invading PRE in disturbed areas and their rapid spread threatening native plants and gardens. Following discussion the board voted to authorize David to negotiate with the Inverness Garden Service in an amount up to \$1,200 to clear the county right of way along Drakes View Drive up to Sunnyside of thistles. A motion by Michael, seconded by Bob, carried unanimously authorizing this expenditure from PRE dues.

New Business

New Socializing plans: Richard reported on the recent pot luck community party he organized with the cooperation of the NPS in Bear Valley which he said was fairly well attended.

He raised the question: What is the IRA about? Since we don't have a charter with rules, what are the limits of what we should undertake to resolve various issues such as complaints about barking dogs. Following discussion there appeared to be consensus among board members present that each such matter should be approached on a case by case basis. Neighbors should be encouraged to work out minor issues without formal involvement by the IRA Board.

Burning Report by Bob Lundstrom: Bob did extensive research on the large, multiple-day burn which began on March 10 and continued for many days, generating smoke, concerns about adequate fire supervision, and multiple calls and complaints to the local fire department. Bob learned that no “burn permit” is issued, merely something titled an “authorization,” the latter issued by the Bay Area Air Quality agency whose primary mandate is to determine under what conditions to declare Spare the Air Days. They are not staffed to supervise burns. Nor, Bob learned, were the local or County fire departments specifically tasked to take on supervision once an “authorization” has been issued.

Following Board discussion it was moved by Susan, seconded by Laurie that the Board write a letter to the County Fire Marshall with copies to the local Fire Chief and to our Supervisor, Steve Kinsey making clear our concerns about the inadequacy of both the recent burning’s supervision and with the lack of adequate plans for future supervision of similarly issued burn “authorizations.” David Wilson and Chair Richard Blair agreed to draft a letter and send it.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 p.m.

The next meeting of the IRA Board is scheduled for Saturday, July 12, at 9:30 a.m. at the home of Susan Fisher, 5 Sunshine Court.

Susan Fisher,
Secretary