

Inverness Ridge Association Meeting

September 9, 2017 Minutes

Leah Light's home

The meeting of the Inverness Ridge Assn was called to order by President Tim Stanton at 9:50 a.m. In attendance were Tim Stanton, Helen Chapman, Sydne Bortel, Leah Light, Mike Ongreth, Bob Lundstrom, Kay McMahon, Jennifer Howard, and Julie Merk. Visiting was Ken Drexler, representing PRERAB and the PRERAB task force on road repaving.

Meeting minutes of the July 8, 2017 were approved. Thanks to Leah Light for hosting.

Treasurer's report by Helen Chapman: Previous balance: \$12,054.83; Total income from dues and interest in July and August: \$375.47; Total expenses in that period: \$5.88; Balance as of 8/25/17: \$12,424.42

Announcements

1. North Marin Water District water tank construction scoping meeting will take place the first week of November at the Dance Palace, exact time and place to be determined. NMWD will share plans to improve the water tank at the top of DVD.
2. Davey Tree Company DVD road damage claim Tim has contacted the claims manager of Davey Tree Company, the firm that contracts with PG&E to trim back trees too close to power lines in Paradise Ranch Estates. Their work this year has been substandard. A section of road was damaged by their truck (resulting in the claim for road repair). Large amounts of debris from cut trees were left by the roadside, traffic safety was insufficient, and some tree work was poor, possibly resulting in weakening of trees. Tim is encountering difficulty dealing with the bureaucracy at both Davey and PG&E. A suggestion was made that a representative from one or both of these organizations be invited to the November IRA Board meeting.

Old Business

1. PRERAB update Mike Ongreth reported that flashy fuels have been cut back by Inverness Garden Service. More was spent this year because of the increased amount and height of weeds that grew after last winter's rains. Next work to be addressed, Mike hopes, by late September- paved road pothole repair. Identified areas of need: DVD, Dover, Lower Dover, and East Robert. Later in fall, after some rain has fallen, dirt road upkeep will be addressed by adding gravel and fixing potholes in areas that need it. Weeds will be cut to help drainage. All drop boxes and culverts will be cleaned. The chipping program is slated for late fall or early winter. More on this later in the meeting.

Mike also mentioned the topic of traffic control. He and others have noted more speeding cars and discussion ensued regarding ways to slow down both locals and visitors. Solutions considered are water bars, mirrors at blind curves, and speaking directly to offenders. Pedestrians should be vigilant.

Tim thanked the Road Board members for the immense amount of time they put in.

2. Road Repaving Task Force PRERAB members Mike Ongerth and Ken Drexler reported on progress by the task force. Ken noted that the County will not take the lead in getting a measure on the ballot to vote on road repaving. It will be up to residents of PRE to make sure this repaving job is accomplished and the necessary ballot measure language is approved by the County in time for the November 2018 ballot. Current steps: The task force is seeking a project manager. Ten to twelve engineering firms recommended by the county are being interviewed to determine a) whether they are willing to advise on a project this small, and b) are willing to work with the locals consistently to write specs the County will approve. The task force hopes to have chosen an engineering firm to recommend to the IRA board by late October.
3. Communication with residents Jennifer Howard reported that she, Kay McMahon, and Leah Light have begun working on a communications strategy and FAQ sheet about how best to present the topic of repaving and the proposed ballot measure to the membership of IRA at the January Annual Meeting. Such a presentation would be the main topic of the annual IRA meeting and would cover a history of the situation, a timeline, and election information. It would be helpful to have the engineer who is managing the project attend the meeting. Jennifer says they would stress safety issues, effects on property values, and rental values. The election, probably done by mail, will be held November 18, 2018. The initiative must be submitted to the county for inclusion on the ballot 180 days prior to the election. Voters can register until right up to election time.
4. Chipping Program Tim Stanton and Mike Ongerth noted that without the monies generated by the now-expired Paradise Ranch PRD tax of \$185 per parcel, the method of funding the chipping program for the last few years is now gone. Mike passed around a flyer from the Inverness Fire Department to residents of the Old Inverness Association and stated the simple and effective method used there could serve as a model for a chipping program in PRE. Residents would purchase a baggage ticket to put on a pile of debris measuring up to 10' x 5' x 5'. Chipping would occur where the stack is located. When the contractor hired to do the chipping comes through, piles with tags would be chipped. In Inverness the ticket cost has been \$45. It was noted this is a good deal compared to bringing a chipper up individually. A motion was made that IRA sponsor and administer a chipping initiative which follows the Old Inverness Association and Inverness Fire Department model. The ticket cost should not exceed \$100. The motion passed unanimously. Additionally, it was suggested that a good time to sell the tickets

would be at the IRA Annual Meeting. Tickets for those joining the association could be sold at a preferential rate as an inducement to joining IRA.

New Business

1. Laurel emergency exit downed tree and vegetation Tim explained that a downed tree lying across the vehicle emergency exit between the bottom of Douglas Drive and the top of Laurel is supposed to have been removed and hasn't been. This path serves as an emergency exit for both Laurel and IRA. Tim and Ron Bennett have now arranged with the responsible parties to pay for getting this tree and nearby vegetation cleared. Inverness Gardening Service will complete the job. Thanks to them for following up on a situation that posed a potential catastrophe.
2. Also on the topic of emergency and disaster preparedness, Jennifer Howard asked how, as a newcomer, she would know if she needed to evacuate. The signal is supposed to be a siren, and the siren is supposed to be tested once a month. This hasn't been happening. It became clear through discussion that there is a need for updating emergency procedures and getting the word out. Leah Light and Bob Lundstrom volunteered to check into the matter, contact the West Marin Disaster Council, and report back. It was suggested this topic be addressed at the January IRA annual meeting.
3. Meeting Scheduling The next IRA Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2018. Sydne Bortel will ask Barbara Jay if she is willing to host that meeting again. The next IRA board meeting will take place at the home of Jennifer Howard on November 11, 2017.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Merk, subbing for Myn Adess