

Inverness Ridge Association Board Meeting  
May 14, 2022  
Via Zoom

Present: Sydne Bortel, Joe Burgess, Ken Drexler (for the road repaving discussion), Jennifer Howard, Julie Liss, Julie Merk, Michael Ongerth, Tim Stanton, Jim Wagner, David Wilson, Patty Wimpfheimer

Absent: Ron Bennett, Chris Eckert, Leah Light

Minutes of March 12, 2022: Tim Stanton for Leah Light

Approved.

Treasurer's Report Patty Wimpfheimer

As of March 10, 2022, our balance was \$10,625.25. Income during the last two months was \$15,223.18 (checks \$15,275.00; Paypal \$48.06) and we received \$0.12 in interest. Of these monies, \$15,000.00 was received from Glen Sherman as a gift designated for the road repaving project; Glen's generosity was acknowledged and much appreciated. Dues payments accounted for \$323.66 in income. Paypal fees were \$1.94. The balance, as of May 5, 2022, is \$25,848.43. Glenn Sherman's gift was acknowledged.

Announcements

None.

Old Business

Road Paving Task Force: Ken Drexler

Ken thanked the Task Force, the community, and the IRA Board for support for Measure R which passed with over 90% "yes" votes. Our consultants at ILS are preparing the formal specifications needed for county approval so that the project can go out for bids according to state rules. Specifications should be ready by the end of June or the beginning of July and the bidding process could begin as early as August, with road work actually beginning in the fall if everything falls into place. Mike Evans and Mike Ongerth will tour PRE to update details of the project to be sure that all specifications are correct. Once we have bids and know the actual cost of the project as proposed, the Task Force will be able to determine just which parts of the plan we can actually accomplish with available funds. Julie Liss asked what would happen should there need to be an evacuation while the project is under way. Mike indicated that we will be coordinating contractor activity with local needs. For instance, no work will be carried out on red flag days, all relevant local agencies (e.g., fire department, sheriff's department, FireSafe Marin) will be advised of the schedule once we know it.

A community event will be planned to celebrate the passage of Measure R and to update everyone on what to expect when repaving is underway. The contractor will tell us when work will start and when particular road segments are scheduled for attention so that people can plan ahead for road closures. We will also need to plan escape routes with Laurel and the park service if either Laurel or the fire road to Limantour possibly could be used when closures are needed. The process for replacing culverts is complex and will require road closures. For instance, when the culvert below 20 Drake's View Drive is replaced, there will be no access below that point. At present, we don't know how many culverts will need to be replaced—our culverts are more than 40 years old and will need to be inspected with remote cameras to determine their condition. Some sections of the road have settled (sagged) and contractors will fill these in as part of prep work, so these sections will not be available when this happens. Residents will be notified of proposed work as it is scheduled and signage will make the access issues clear. It is anticipated that repaving Drake's View Drive will take four days, and side roads, if we are able to do them, will take longer. We will probably need regular, perhaps daily, updates for work.

A planning group for the community event will include Mike Ongerth, Joe Burgess, Jim Wagner, and Jennifer Howard. IRA will subsidize this party which is expected to be a gala event!

#### PRERAB Update: Michael Ongerth

A project that has been pending for several months was completed last Thursday; curbing at the hairpin turn between Robert and Douglas curbing was repaired by placing boulders in the area that was being eroded to heal erosion scars. In addition, some diseased alders that blocked views for entry to the hairpin turn were removed at the same time. The contractor had permission to set up temporary detours with signage and detours. Mike apologized for not being able to let people know in advance that detours would be needed, but he will try to do so in the future. That was the only pending project. Mike also did a survey of current road conditions. Other than known potholes and some grading issues on Drake's View Drive and Sunnyside, the only other issue is possible reconfiguration of some water diversion devices (these are not speed bumps. Jennifer said that she is not sure that is the best use of our money for safety matters (see discussion in next item). Mike responded that Ben Ghisletta has articulated that water bars are not an impediment to the Fire Department serving our community because they are not moving fast enough to have to slow down when traversing them. Mike and Ben will inspect all our roads and determine what measures might be useful for fire safety (e.g., roadside vegetation management, fencing)†).

#### Evacuation Committee: Jennifer Howard

All residents and agencies that participated thought the May 11 evacuation drill was a successful event, with 33 cars and 51 people leaving the hill and converging on the park meeting place. A huge thanks was given to Jennifer for orchestrating the event—a first for West Marin. David Wilson asked if there was discussion of alternate evacuation routes. The consensus is that the critical thing is to know that we must follow sheriff direction as to what to do if Drake's View Drive is blocked and we can't go downhill. Generally downhill evacuation is the default option. Dave Wilson said that he believes that we need to continue to educate people about alternate routes but we must be aware of fire danger on Limantour Road and emergency vehicle needs for

the fire road. Communication about emergencies is critical; there are over 300 numbers for Alert Marin on our hill; however, for unknown reasons some people did not receive notification of the evacuation drill on the day it occurred. It was suggested that the siren may not have been loud enough. Sydne noted that having Michael direct cars so that they could merge into the stream of traffic at the intersection of Douglas with Drake's View Drive was very helpful. Hand-is difficult so having someone direct traffic at these points may be useful in the event of an actual emergency.

Jennifer observed that we need better clearance of trees on Drake's View Drive. Fallen trees during an emergency would be a serious problem for those trying to evacuate. The Marin Wildfire Protection Agency now offers grants of up to \$5,000 per household and residents may wish to apply for such grants to remove hazardously situated trees along Drake's View Drive.

#### FireWise Committee: DavidWilson

The current project continues; attention is now turning to Drake's View Drive as most of the planned work on Sunnyside has been completed. Work on Drake's View Drive is scheduled to begin May 16. Authorizations were obtained from homeowners along Sunnyside to carry out work beyond the easements on their properties but in fact no such work was carried out. Thus, no authorizations will be sought for work on Drake's View Drive.

Measure C chipping days will be held in July and October. Signups for July are proceeding well, with only 20/120 slots still available though additional slots may be added if needed. Ninety slots remain available for October. The consensus was to wait until July to determine whether additional IRA-sponsored chipping days would be useful to fill. The county appears to be flexible with respect to both the number of slots assigned to chipping days and to the amount of material that each household can chip.

In a few months we will need to renew our FireWise certification. We will need to update the 5-year plan from 2017, turning attention to the area to north of us where the Vision fire came from in 1995—this is state park property that has been neglected and that is now a tinderbox. David is trying to determine park plans for this area and how we might get additional support to mitigate fire danger there. Jennifer suggested that we need to also include home hardening and evacuation route considerations in our planning and to seek grant money for this from Marin Wildfire Prevention Association (Measure C funds).

#### Chipping days: Michael Ongerth and Julie Merk

See previous item.

#### New Business

#### Road Paving Celebration/Appreciation Event: Tim Stanton

See above.

Neighborhood Disaster Liaisons: Tim Stanton for Chris Eckert

We need two more liaisons for areas where there are none in place. Chris and Christian have been very helpful on these matters.

Next meeting

Date: July 9, 2022

Venue: Zoom

Respectfully submitted by Sydne Bortel and Lesh Light