PARADISE RANCH ESTATES ROAD ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Summary for April 25, 2015 

1-  Summer dirt road work being planned.

2-  Board planning where to apply dust palliatives and seeking feedback.

3-  Drakes View potholes to be filled.

4-  Project to cut roadside flashy fuel to proceed in May - June.

5-  More below. . .

=============================================================Minutes of Meeting

The Paradise Ranch Estates Road Advisory Board met on April 25, 2015, at the Ongerth residence in Paradise Ranch Estates. The meeting was attended by Board Chair John Levy and members Mike Ongerth, Ed Stetson, Tamia Marg Anderson and Ken Drexler, Secretary.

1. Spring/Summer Dirt Road Work. Mike Ongerth explained that the Board had received authorization to have Bob Lewis do emergency work on the dirt roads. However, delays in starting the work coupled with the lack of recent rains led to a decision to cancel the project and include the work in the upcoming spring/summer dirt road work. Mike said that he had asked Bob Lewis to come to PRE and look at the dirt roads to identify additional work to be done in the coming weeks. He also invited Board members to suggest needed work. Mike reported that because of the drought, NMWD wants the contractor doing the dirt road work to obtain any needed water from the Gallagher well which is about five miles from PRE.

2. Dust Palliatives. Members noted that, with some exceptions, residents seem to want to proceed to apply dust palliatives. Tamia Marg Anderson explained that the minimum cost would be $4,000 for two miles of road, excluding the cost of the 2,000 gallons of water that would be needed. Board members then discussed where the treatment would be applied. Tamia said that she would compile a list of road sections to be treated on Douglas, Sunnyside, Behr Lane and Upper Robert and sent it to Board members for review. Then the Board will seek feedback from residents in the areas to be treated. Tamia said she would ask Hagemann for a firm bid and discuss water availability and prepare a notice to residents.

3. Drakes View Potholes. Mike Ongerth said that he would mark potholes on Drakes View for patching. Ed Stetson volunteered to help. They said that they hoped to get the work done by early May. Mike said that he would contact Inverness Gardening

4. Vegetation Management Projects. Flashy Fuel Work: The Board members discussed the scheduling of the work to cut the flashy fuel growing beside the roads in PRE to reduce fire danger. Each year, the goal is to cut the grass early in the spring but after the rainy season is over. Tamia said that this year her current target for a bid walk would be the third week of May. She said that she planned to invite Swift, Inverness Gardening Service, Pacific Slope and Ismael’s cousin to participate in the bid walk.

Sight lines: In recent years, cutting to maintain sightlines and clearances along the road in PRE has been conducted separately from the flashy fuel work, generally toward the end of summer. In 2014, this work was done in August. Board members noted several areas that particularly needed attention this year: the curve on Drakes View below Bob Lundstrom’s house, the coffee berries between 80 and 90 Sunnyside and the ferns at 21 Dover.

SOD Tree Removal: As to the removal of trees that have died or were dying from sudden oak death, Board members did not believe that this was an urgent problem at this time. However, it was agreed that the Board should seek input from Diane Hartley, Barbara Jay, Alan Bortel and other residents about trees that have or were dying. When such trees were identified, their cutting could be put in order of importance based on their location and danger to the roads.

5. DVD Repaving. Ken Drexler said that he had talked to Dick Daly and he was willing to participate in a walk with Craig Parmley down Drakes View to discuss the repaving of the road. Ken said that he would contact Craig Parmley to set up a walk.

6. Street Sign Changes. Ed Stetson reminded Board members that Laurie who had been working on street sign issues in PRE said that there was no road in PRE named “Robert Drive”. He said she recommended that the sign for the road turning off of Drakes View at Tank No. 2 reading “Robert Drive” be changed to read “East Robert Drive.” This change would resolve the confusion caused by the first house on the right after the turn off of Drakes View being Number 2 Robert Drive and the second house on the right, just after the road splits to go up and down the hill, is also being Number 2 (of West Robert Drive). This led to a discussion of who was responsible for the naming of roads: the Marin Assessor?, the Marin Fire Department? Google? Other map makers? The Board deferred action on this issue until a later meeting.

7. Mirrors and Signs. John Levy suggested that the Board request funding for three large mirrors: Two on Sunnyside at Nos. 19 (a second mirror) and 80 (Stevens) and one on Drakes View across from the bulletin board, replacing the small mirror there now. He estimated the cost at about $180 each. Ken agreed to contact Craig Parmley for his approval for the purchase of these mirrors.

On the subject of signs, John asked all members for their suggestions on where more signs were needed and where existing signs where broken or missing.

8. Chipping. With the annual project for clearing sightlines and road clearances coming, the Board discussed whether to continue to chip piles of cuttings left by residents beside the roads. Mike said that he though this chipping was important to residents and of value to the neighborhood and should be continued. All agreed that the problem was how to deal with residents who put out overly large piles of brush after the bid walk. Tamia suggested that the way to deal with this would be to schedule the bidwalk and cutting in rapid succession. This way the bids would include the chipping work.

Late Note: On May 26, 2015, Laurie reported that Craig Parmley, who has to approve all expenditures of Road Division funds, did not consider the chipping of brush cut outside the road easement to be an appropriate use of such funds.

NEXT MEETING: The members tentatively set its next meeting for Saturday, July 25, 2015 at the Ongerth residence. 

KD 5/28/2015