

COUNTY SERVICE AREA (CSA) 20 ADVISORY BOARD

Novato Fire District Administration Building
95 Rowland Way, Novato, California
Minutes for Meeting of September 14, 2020

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Craig Knowlton
Jonathan Gasson
Ron Witzel

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Knowlton at 10:01 am.

2. OPEN TIME

No one from the public came forward

3. APPROVE MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 13, 2019

M/S: Knowlton/Gasson approved the minutes with corrections

The Minutes of the 9/9/19 meeting included discussions by the newly formed Fuels Subcommittee (Knowlton and Gasson) meeting together with Lynne Osgood NFPD and Nate Clark of MCP were recalled by the Chair, and the FY2020 Budget Item to allocate \$25,000 for fuel remediation projects based on a motion by Witzel, seconded by Knowlton.

AYES: All

NAYS: NONE

4. UPDATE ON CURRENT CSA 20 ACTIVITIES

Park staff provided an update on the status of CSA 20 activities. Nate Clark gave a presentation update on completed fuel reduction projects within CSA 20. They include 4 projects covered under the \$25,000 in the FY2020 Budget

- ✓ The Buzzard Burn Trail removal of 4 downed trees,
- ✓ .7 acres of remedial chipping \$4200
- ✓ The Indian Valley Fire Road understory fuel removal 1.02 Acres \$4600
- ✓ The Pencil Belly removal of upslope Bay trees and chipping and removal of vegetation,

All four projects performed by Contractor: Forster & Kroeger Landscape Maintenance.

Luke Bishop, Supervisor Open Space Ranger, mentioned fish were dying in Pacheco Pond with 10-15 dead fish, water is being tested and thought to be an algae bloom causing a lack of oxygen.

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A phone contact number is provided for the public to report Open Space issues, call Ranger Phone number, (415) 473-2816

Jason Hoorn, Natural Resources Coordinator, provided an update on Parks' Road and Trail Management Plan and proposed Inclusive Access Plan related to Indian Valley Open Space Preserve, which would include a 5' wide hardened path and minimizing gradients, and the project plan would be subject to public input and feedback.

Commissioners Knowlton expressed the increased impact of additional traffic, and Witzel suggested that access from the Indian Valley College would be more appropriate for these enhancements.

A member of the public stated that mountain bike riders continue to be a problem off trails, eroding trees, and speeding down Schwindt trail, dangerously shooting out onto the Indian Valley Fire Road.

5. FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020 BUDGET AND FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 BUDGET

Jim Chayka presented an update on CSA 20 FY 2020 Income and Expenditures and FY 2021 Budget funding information. Advisory Board Members reviewed and recommended allocating \$25,000 for additional Fuel Reduction Projects for this year. Discussion ensued of various fire mitigation techniques, Controlled Burns, Goat and/or Sheep grazing contracts.

M/S Gasson/ Witzel Approve FY2021 Budget and projects with \$25,000 allocation per discussion

AYES: All

NAYS: NONE

6. DISCUSSION ABOUT TRAFFIC AND PARKING ISSUES ON INDIAN VALLEY ROAD

Commissioner Witzel presented an update on safety concerns regarding parking and traffic at the Indian Valley Rd entrance to Pacheco Valley Open Space Preserve and years of inaction by DPW despite repeated assurances by Supervisor Judy Arnold of her notifications to DPW to resolve safety concerns, property damage, disturbance and intrusion issues affecting adjacent neighbors.

John Neville, Associate Civil Engineer with Marin County DPW stated (a) that "nothing can be done" with regard of limiting parking west bound from the stop sign, and (b) it was highly unlikely that DPW would recommend "negotiating an MOU between Marin County government and IVC" to limit parking west of the stop sign on Indian Valley Road and redirect drivers to IVC's "no-fee" Parking lot #6.

Neville stated that the current situation provides "the best areas" for parking.

He stated no improvements are currently planned by DPW, though he agreed to consider review of the situation and surveying the Right-of-way, possibly considering striping the parking spots and narrowing drive lanes in an attempt to suppress accelerating traffic.

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He stated that there exists a 40' Right-of-way for use by the general public under the law, and approximately 24' of roadway.

Commissioner Knowlton described the prior unresponsive interactions with DPW and request for a fog line to be measured by the CHP in order to cite cars parked in the roadway, and also noted that the speed limit is excessive as posted at 30 mph and the intermittent roadway striping allowing passing of slower westbound traffic should be eliminated.

A member of the public expressed public safety concerns.

7. ELECT OFFICERS FOR 2021

Advisory Board Members elected calendar 2021 Officers: Chairman R. Craig Knowlton, Vice-Chairman Jon Gasson and Secretary Ron Witzel.

M/S Knowlton/Gasson

AYES: ALL

NAYS: NONE

8. ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS COMMENTS

There were no comments

Motion to Adjourn at 12:10 pm

M/S Witzel/Gasson,

AYES: ALL

NAYS: NONE

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