Diamond A Neighborhood Association annual meeting minutes 02 28 2016

The meeting was called to order just after 10:30 by John Walsh, who

* Thanked the members who set up the brunch (Fro Vallerga, Dee Young, Tia Pierce, Robin Layton, and Fred Merrill)
* Thanked the departing Board Members (Bruce Hoadley, Robin Layton, and Liz Treacy)
* Congratulated the new Board Members (Tia Pierce, Christine Meacham and Craig Garcia)
* Announced that the proposed changes to the DANA bylaws had been accepted by ballot of members
* Referenced the hand-out that summarized the DANA financials
* Reminded members of 2 email addresses which allow direct communication with the DANA Board and DANA President. They are (respectively):
  + [danaboard2@gmail.com](mailto:danaboard2@gmail.com)
  + [podanabod@gmail.com](mailto:podanabod@gmail.com)

David Duncan, as liaison between the DANA Board and the Emergency Preparedness Planning (EPP) Committee, noted the following

* The EPP was reinvigorated last spring
* The EPP is not an emergency response team (that work is best left to professionals); rather it seeks to
  + Find ways to educate neighbors about self-sufficiency in case of disaster
  + Provide liaison with California Fire Department and Sonoma Valley Fire and Rescue
  + Plan DANA community events such as a “Prepare Fair”
* The majority of homeowners in Diamond A have returned emergency resource questionnaires
* David Cain has assumed responsibility for periodic mailings

Jack Nisson, a member of the EPP, provided an update on the Diamond A Fire Station

* The special leasing arrangement between the Rec Center (owner of the property), the small group of DANA volunteer fire and rescue personnel, and Sonoma Valley Fire and Rescue will expire within a few years
* If Diamond A wishes to continue to enjoy the advantages of having our fire station (faster response time for medical emergencies, faster response time for neighborhood fires, reduced homeowners’ insurance, etc.), modifications to the current system must be made
  + Diamond A residents are no longer able to effectively staff the station
  + Mark Freeman (captain of Sonoma Valley Fire and Rescue) has suggested that his organization could provide staffing by utilizing students from the SRJC Fire Education program
    - * Student staff would need to be housed in Diamond A, either by innovative housing built or brought on site or by use of underutilized guest house space in one or more homes in Diamond A

Bob Kraynak provided an update on his progress in getting attention from the County about condition of roads in and leading up to Diamond A. In addition, Bob has requested that CHP work to mitigate reckless driving on Grove Street both approaching and within Diamond A with an emphasis on monitoring speed.

John Walker provided an update on the Architecture Review Committee (ARC)

* The mission of the ARC is spelled out on the Diamond A web site
* The CC&Rs throughout Diamond A stimulate the ARC to explore problems due to blockage of equestrian easements
* ARC has regular interactions with Sonoma Count Permit and Resource Management Department (PRMD) personnel
  + ARC makes every effort to help Diamond A property owners follow PRMD guidelines, the most recent of which is the Sonoma-Mayacamas-Taylor Mountain Guidelines
  + When residents become concerned that property owners are not adhering to guidelines/ordinances, they may take advantage of the following:
    - 707 565 1904 for concerns about Vacation Rentals
    - 707 565 3391 for documenting concerns about other issues
    - 707 565 2121 for disturbances of the peace (such as loud parties)

Dee Young, representing the Trailblazers, made a request for donations of labor and/or money to support the annual clearing of the equestrian easements. Dee also said that plans were afoot to schedule conducted hikes along the equestrian trails in Diamond A.

The final section of the meeting, moderated by John Walsh, was devoted to providing an update on Vacation Rentals in Diamond A and, more generally, in Sonoma County. John conveyed the following information about activities and actions occurring after the last DANA Board update in September (see the Diamond A web site for the September status update):

* Diamond A residents participated in both the Planning Commission Public Hearing on November 19 and the Board of Supervisors Public Hearing on January 16
* Diamond A residents submitted written comments to PRMD and to Ms. Gorin’s office prior to each meeting
* The final ordinance modifications have not yet been published, but the following are likely to be incorporated:
  + Stipulation of additional criteria for code violations by VR permit holders
  + Expansion of VR code enforcement activities by County agencies
  + Elimination of any references to neighborhood association CC&Rs
  + Establishment of Vacation Rental Exclusion zones; criteria for and implementation planning for such zones to be determined
* Key recommendations made PRMD and approved by the Planning Commission were erased by the Board of Supervisors in a 4 to 1 vote (Ms. Gorin was the dissenting vote)
  + There will not be a freeze on new VR permits in R1 zones
  + There will not be a mandatory 2-year renewal cycle for VR permits

John’s update was followed by a lively Q&A with meeting attendees; in response to one question, Tom Jones reported that there were:

* 5 properties with final VR permits in the Diamond A Ranch Estates
* 2 additional properties in the Diamond A Ranch Estates with VR permits that have been appealed
* 1 property within the Diamond A Ranch Estates with VR permit loss through sale of property
* 2 properties within the “Unaffiliated” group in Diamond A with final permits for VR

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15