DANA 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes

The meeting was held January 27 at the Diamond A Recreation Center. John Walsh opened the meeting at 10:30, welcoming the attendees and thanking the volunteers who helped set up the buffet and meeting room. A special thanks was offered to Tia Pierce who organized the brunch and who is leaving the Board.

1. Tom Jones announced the results of the election for the 2019 DANA Board. Chris Coleman, Ruth Fassinger, Tom Jones, and Dee Young were elected to serve another two-year term. Leslie Kraynak was elected to a two-year term.
2. Dee young provided the annual financial review. Expenses and income from membership dues continue to be balanced. The reserve count did not have to be tapped in 2018.
3. Dave Duncan provided an update from the Emergency Preparedness Committee.
   1. We have made progress in raising money (through deductible donations) for the purchase of a fire engine which would be housed in the Diamond A Fire Station and which is suitable for use in Diamond A because of its agility and flexibility.
   2. A number of Diamond A residents participated in a Fire Safe Council awareness meeting that was recently held at the Sonoma Golf Club. While some attendees at the meeting espoused the creation of a large Fire Safe Council to include not only Diamond A and the George Ranch but also a number of neighborhoods north of Grove (and west of Arnold) such as Sobre Vista and Glen Ellen, our representatives heeded the advice of experienced people in Cal Fire and from the Mayacamas Fire Safe Council (as well as from Susan Gorin’s office) and recommended that we continue to develop a Fire Safe Council that would encompass only Diamond A and the George Ranch. A “straw vote” was conducted and the DANA members at today’s meeting supported that recommendation.
4. Tom Jones provided an update from the Architecture Review Committee (ARC). The ARC learned of some nuances in the application of the Sonoma Mayacamas Scenic Guidelines.
   1. Homes built before 2011 are not subject to the application of the Guidelines unless submission of the plans to Sonoma County PRMD triggers an Administrative Design Review. Such a review will be triggered if:
      1. Planned remodeling adds to the footprint of the home
      2. Planned remodeling structurally alters the exterior of the home
   2. The following changes to a home built before 2011 will not be subject to the Guidelines:
      1. Changing the color of the exterior of the home
      2. Changing the color or composition of the roof
      3. Interior work that does not increase the footprint of the home and does not alter the structure of the exterior
   3. Owners who wish to add permitted structures to their properties (guest house, garage, workshop, etc.) must comply with all of the stipulations of the Scenic Guidelines
5. After reviewing details of the creation of the Diamond A Directory and of the various email lists in service for members of the Diamond A Community (with a special thanks to Bruce Hoadley who established the foundation for the Diamond A community data base and the dependent lists), John Walsh announced the formation of the DANA IT Committee. The IT Committee will report to the DANA Board. The initial members of the committee are Tom Jones, John Walsh, and Dee Young.
6. The final items of business related to the Grove Street access to Diamond A
   1. John Walsh noted that the Cal Fire project to reduce the “fire ladder” effect of vegetation along Grove Street was underway
   2. Bob Kraynak reviewed progress in changing the designation of Grove Street from “local road” to “minor collector road”. The paperwork has now reached the proper agency in Washington, but the wheels of government move slowly. The change, when/if it happens will help us in getting more aggressive re-surfacing, such as that which happened on Grove between the George Ranch and Arnold Drive.
   3. John Walsh reported what he had learned from a meeting (and dialog) in Santa Rosa with the county’s roads division regarding adjusting posted speed limits in Diamond A. It turns out that the CHP and the Sheriff have been unwilling to enforce the 25 mph speed limit on streets in Diamond A (most notably on Grove above Canyon) because that limit is too low, based on the standards that govern posted speed limits. In fact, the County has determined that the limit within Diamond A should be 35 mph and will, in the coming months, be replacing the existing 25 mph signs to reflect the new reality. It is out expectation (and hope) that once those signs are in place, law enforcement agencies will work the Diamond A community to assure compliance.