

Handout

Agenda Item 2 I

Date May 12, 2016

LGVSD SANTA VENETIA NEWSLETTER ARTICLE

As most of you have already heard, a couple of months ago a Santa Venetia resident suffered significant injuries while riding her bicycle on Meadow Drive. Another bicyclist riding on the path from Schmidt Lane to Meadow Drive was going way too fast and crashed into her in the public right of way. She suffered a broken leg as a result.

Many of us were not only saddened to hear of this, but very concerned that it might happen again. The fact is, the person who caused the crash was riding way too fast and was not being safe. The path itself was examined to determine if any unsafe conditions required attention to reduce the likelihood of another accident.

The history of who built the path and for what reason is a bit unclear. We do know that the San Rafael School District is linked by way of a use permit from 1967. This was most likely to provide children a safe route to Old Gallinas School. The path is jointly owned by Marin Cove HOA, Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District and a small portion by a private property owner on Meadow Drive.

The LGVSD Board considered several different options from closing the path to installing a pathway fence to force bicycles to slow down. LGVSD also contacted the San Rafael School District to clarify the open use permit on file. In addition, a meeting between a County engineer and the general manager of LGVSD took place, where the County offered to help by installing a bicycle stop sign and striping the path.

While LGVSD Board will continue to seek ways to prevent accidents the following action will be taken:

Trim the ivy on a fence running off the side of the path which will improve visibility.

Marin County will install a small stop sign where the path meets the public right of way. Striping will be used in the same area which will identify where all bicycles must stop.

As a longtime resident of Santa Venetia I know how valuable the path is to our community. I have used it myself hundreds of times, and know many of you frequently use it as well. Our hope is that the path will continue to serve the community and no more accidents will occur. We can all do our part by riding safe on all paths and being respectful of other path users.