

Alpine Fire Safe Council

Approved Minutes
September 29, 2008
6:00 pm, Markleeville Fire Station

The meeting of the Alpine Fire Safe Council was called to order by Al Moss, Chair, at 6:02 pm at the Markleeville Fire Station, Markleeville, CA 96120.

Present:

Al Moss	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Jerry Andrews	FSC Board	Markleeville Resident
Joyce DeVore	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
David Griffith	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Shirley Taylor	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Steve Yonker	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Jeff Brees	Coordinator	Markleeville Resident
Kerry Radelfinger	Administrator	Woodfords Resident

Absent:

John Super	FSC Board	Markleeville Resident
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I. Call to order

II. Introductions

III. Approve minutes of August 25, 2008 meeting.

Motion to approve.

Motion: Steve Yonker

Second: Jerry Andrews

Abstain: David Griffith

All ayes. Motion carried.

IV. Volunteer Time Sheets

V. Old Business

- a. Update on reflective address signs.

Shirley Taylor said she and Tom Sweeney attended the senior luncheon and distributed order forms and discussed the program. Taylor distributed posters at Health and Human Services, Woodfords Store, Woodfords Auto/Tow, Public Works, Planning Department, Library, and Sheriff's

Office and Nancy Thornburg distributed posters at the Administration Building and Post Office. Taylor will also post the posters at the Courthouse and in the Chamber of Commerce. Taylor thanked Radelfinger for her help making the posters. Taylor said Bill Morgan is going to write an article for the newspaper. Taylor is going to attend the senior luncheon again. Moss questioned if the Fire Safe Council should send out a mailing to notify residents of the program. Taylor suggested holding off on a mailing for a month to see what response they get from the order forms and flyers. Griffith questioned the cost of the signs. Taylor said they cost \$20 and she can provide assistance in installation as needed. Taylor said she has sold 16-17 signs. Andrews offered his help in installing signs in Markleevillage if any assistance is needed. Brees said the Markleeville Fire Department could help as well. Brees said they can make an announcement at the public comment period of the next Board meeting. Taylor was commended on her work on the reflective address signs.

b. Update on Defensible Space Inspections.

Brees had not spoken with Steve McClure, who is conducting the Defensible Space Inspections, but Taylor had received a fax from Terry at Lake Valley Fire which said 327 inspections had been done, with 37 appointment made, 27 appointments of which were finished. Andrews asked how many people were doing the inspections. Brees said that there are two inspectors plus the CalFire engine crew was going to be doing some inspections. Moss said Steve McClure is also promoting the reflective address signs. Brees said they are meeting the timeline and getting the inspections done.

c. Update on Chipping 2007 grant and Turtle Rock Fuels Collections Site.

Brees said the Fire Safe Council received a one month extension on the Chipping 2007 grant, which has about \$6000 remaining. Brees is going to get the chipping crew back the third week of October. Griffith said that October is a good month for the chipping program, with the Defensible Space Inspections taking place. Brees said a mailing will need to be sent out to notify residents.

Brees said the Board was supportive of the Turtle Rock Fuels Collection Site. Brees said the last weekend to use the site this fall will be November 1st and 2nd. Andrews asked if they will be chipping at the Collection Site. Brees said the budget was based on hauling on the pile away as it was the most viable option.

VI. New Business

a. Discussion of Diamond Valley School Art Project.

DeVore would like to have a poster contest at the school for the month of October with the theme "Never Feed a Wildfire." DeVore said funds would be needed to buy posters and markers for each classroom. DeVore

will attend the faculty meeting on Wednesday explaining what the kids could illustrate on the posters. DeVore said there would be a three week turnaround with the posters to be judged at the next AFSC meeting. DeVore said she had discussed with the principal having a \$15 first prize and \$10 second prize that the children could put toward buying books or science kits. Brees asked that DeVore take photos of the kids for grant documentation. DeVore said that the posters could be displayed at various locations in the county. Everyone agreed the project was a good idea and great educational project. A motion was made to approve \$300 for use for the Diamond Valley School Art Project.

Motion to approve.

Motion: Steve Yonker Second: David Griffith

All ayes. Motion carried.

- b. Discussion and possible action to update/amend the AFSC mission statement.

Moss asked the Board if they had any concerns or changes they would like to see in the AFSC mission statement. Moss said he would like to revisit the mission statement every year or so to ensure it still fits with the organization. Griffith said that the mission statement was written to be restrictive in its scope but has always been interpreted broadly. Griffith said it was good to revisit the mission statement on a periodic basis as things change. There were no changes suggested for the mission statement.

- c. Staff Reports

Brees said the Burnside Fire burned 200 acres. Brees said the Markleeville and Woodfords Volunteer Fire Departments, Alpine County Sheriff's Department, Forest Service, a CalFire engine, Lake Valley Fire Department, BLM, 9 Type 1 hand crews, and multiple air resources helped on the fire. Brees said there was a couple injuries, though nothing serious. DeVore asked about the fundraiser for the fallen pilots from the air tanker. Brees said the plane had been working on the Burnside Fire and was reloading to go the fire in Stead when it crashed. Moss said he suggested to Stacey James and Buck McClelland that collectively through the County and volunteer agencies funds could be pooled to send to the families. Radelfinger said the library was selling tickets for a fundraiser to be held at the community park. Moss said he will follow up with James and McClelland on the status of the event. Griffith suggested Bill Morgan include a paragraph in the newspaper regarding the fundraising effort. Moss recommended writing a letter to the Markleeville Fire Department, Woodfords Volunteer Fire Department, Sheriff's Department, Search and Rescue and all other Alpine County agencies that were involved to thank them for their great response and cooperation. Brees will write the letter and send a copy to the Board of Supervisors. Moss also asked that a letter to the editor be sent to the Record Courier.

Motion to approve.

Motion: Al Moss

Second: David Griffith

All ayes. Motion carried.

Brees said the Secure Rural School Act had been attached to the Tax Extender Bill which was passed by Congress and waiting to be sent to President Bush for signature. The bill includes a 4 year reauthorization to the Secure Rural School Act which funds RAC.

Brees said that he has been researching biomass opportunities and talked to an individual in the solar power and cogeneration field in Tahoe who said that Sierra Pacific would need a reliable, quantifiable source of power they can use everyday. Brees said there is some potential to generate power for the county facilities in the future. Griffith said that for the biomass cogeneration to be successful they would need to have a regional center in Alpine County. Griffith said there aren't enough fuels in Alpine County alone, but there is potential in getting fuels from the Tahoe Basin and other local areas to produce the quantity needed. After some discussion, it was agreed that Moss and Brees would begin the communication with Pam Knorr on the subject.

Griffith asked Brees if he had a chance to look at the setback variance request. Brees said he had not looked at it. Griffith said that historically the Fire Safe Council has tried to look at setback variances from a fire perspective as there isn't paid personnel in the Fire Departments to review items such as setback variance requests. There was some discussion as to ways to remedy the lack of review of setback variances by fire personnel. Griffith said a lot of money has been put into fire suppression and there are some simple things that can be done for fire prevention and some are tied up in zoning. Griffith said any type of a variance, including setbacks and water issues, can have a big impact on fire prevention and is often not looked at by the fire departments. Griffith said there is a lack of communication between the planning department and the fire departments, which do not have the personnel to sit in on the meetings so there isn't any review from a fire perspective. Griffith suggested the issue should be raised with Knorr so that it is part of her background information.

VII. Adjournment

- a. Set next meeting at Woodfords Fire Station at 6:00 pm on Monday, October 27, 2008.

Motion to approve.

Motion: Jerry Andrews

Second: Steve Yonker

All ayes. Motion carried.