

Alpine Fire Safe Council

Approved Minutes
December 1, 2008
6:00 pm, Markleeville Fire Station

The meeting of the Alpine Fire Safe Council was called to order by Steve Yonker, Vice-Chair, at 6:05 pm at the Markleeville Fire Station, Markleeville, CA 96120.

Present:

Steve Yonker	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
Jeff Brees	Coordinator	Markleeville Resident
Kerry Radelfinger	Administrator	Woodfords Resident

Absent:

Al Moss	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
John Super	FSC Board	Markleeville Resident

I. Call to order

II. Introductions

III. Approve minutes of October 27, 2008 meeting.

Motion to approve.

Motion: Jerry Andrews Second: Joyce DeVore

All Ayes. Motion carried. Abstain: David Griffith

IV. Volunteer Time Sheets

V. Old Business

a. Update on Reflective Address Sign program.

Taylor said there have been 47 local orders that have been placed for reflective address signs. Taylor said that Nancy Thornburg wrote a nice letter asking those who have bought the signs to encourage their neighbors to participate in the program. Taylor and Thornburg sent the letters out and will also include a copy of the letter to new orders.

- b. Update on Turtle Rock Park Fuels collection.

Brees measured the pile and there was about 68 tons from 96 participants. The spring pile measured 120 tons. Brees said Public Works believes they are on budget for funding for the pile. Brees said it took more dumpsters than expected, but the labor cost was less. Brees said the Carson City Prison is getting up to speed and will take the material for free. Brees said if the County chips the pile, then Bently will pay for the material.

- c. Update on Prop. 40 project.

Brees said the CalFire Forester has been putting a lot of emphasis on treatment at Diamond Valley School. Brees said she is coming up on Wednesday to meet with the contractor and Brees hope to meet with them at that time. Brees said the contractor has been at the school for six days doing some mowing and hand work. Brees asked the contractor if there was going to be enough funds for work in other areas. The contractor said it depends what the CalFire Forester decides on Wednesday. Brees said the Proposition 40 funds have one more year remaining to be funded so, Public Works will apply for funding for next year. Griffith questioned if Hot Springs Road would get any treatment, if they continued working at the school. Brees said their priority was the school first, then the local road ways and Turtle Rock Park. Brees said that was a concern of his, and he hoped to meet with the Forester on Wednesday to discuss. Griffith said Hot Springs Road is still a priority in the Fire Plan. DeVore asked if they was any funding available by the state, such as CalFire's cost share program, that could be used for Hot Springs Road. Griffith said they need the landowner's permission and they have not had any success with getting it in the past. DeVore questioned if the road right-of-way clearing would be sufficient. Griffith said it would be much better if there was fuels reduction on private property in addition to the road right-of-ways. Brees said the Prop. 40 funds were to be used for clearing the right-of-ways. Brees said the Road Department has done some tree work on Hot Springs Road, which helped some, but there was still brush work that needed to be done. Andrews questioned if the property owners had been approached. Brees said that the Fire Safe Council had received a grant a few years ago for the project that would include fuels reduction on private property and they had received letters of support from the three main property owners on Hot Springs Road during the application process. Brees said they project failed as they could not get the property owners to sign off on the project in the end. Brees said there is some interest by property owners in doing some fuels reduction in a few other areas in the county. There was some discussion on CalFire's California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP) where CalFire pays 75% of the cost and the property owners pays 25%, which may be an in kind contribution. Griffith asked what kind of hoops the property owner would have to go through for the program, such as environmental clearance, hiring a forester, etc. Brees said they would have to write a timber harvesting plan, have a

forester involved, and possibly some environmental clearance, depending on the project. Griffith asked if there was any way that the Fire Safe Council can help property owners to get through the application process, including possibly helping with funding for the environmental work. Brees said they could facilitate the property owners in the process and help move the projects along.

Andrews said in regards to the Defensible Space Inspections, Brees had mentioned that some residents were noted on their forms as needing thin their green trees. Andrews said some residents would not be able to afford to do it and asked if the Proposition 40 funds could be used to help them. Brees said he thought it may be able to be used for that purpose. Brees said the County is the enforcement agency for the Public Resources Code. Brees said he told Brian Peters that it was noted on some inspections forms to thin green trees placing a burden on the property owner financially and aesthetically, which the county will have to decide how to handle. Griffith asked if the Board was budgeting for follow-up inspections. Brees said they budgeted \$30,000 for the next year for follow-up inspections. Andrews questioned how many properties needed follow-up inspections. Brees said they were supposed to receive the database mid-November, but he had not received anything yet. Brees said the County has not received anything either. Brees said Jeff Michaels, Lake Valley Fire Department Chief, is giving a presentation on the Defensible Space Inspections at the Board Meeting on December 2nd and the database may be available at that time.

d. Update on Chipping 2008.

Brees said the grant period ended November 30th for the Chipping grant. Brees will complete the final report which he will bring to the next meeting. Brees said there were 32 participants in the program and the crew chipped 627 yards of material. Brees said the crew worked really hard and got the job finished quickly.

Griffith asked if there had been any progress on the water tanker for the Mesa Vista area. Brees said there was an approximate \$60,000 shortfall for the tanker. Brees said that the Fire Chiefs had a meeting with Pam Knorr, County CAO, and the items that came out of that meeting that are needed were the water tanker, a new structure truck for Bear Valley, and the Fire Chief position. Brees said the Gansberg hydrant is under scrutiny by the Grand Jury. Brees said Chris Gansberg had called him as he was to meet with the Grand Jury and Brees provided Gansberg with some background information and told him that the Fire Safe Council would provide him with any help needed. Yonker questioned what the issue with the hydrant was. Brees said it was the process; that it did not go through the proper channels. Griffith said the Fire Safe Council should support Gansberg on the issue. DeVore questioned the status of the water tank at

the Woodfords Station. Brees said it is fully operational. Brees said they will be putting a pump on it in the next phase of the project, but they can draft water from it at this time.

Griffith asked if anyone had looked at the General Plan amendments to see if there was anything the Fire Safe Council should be concerned about. Brees said he will review the amendments.

VI. New Business

a. Staff Reports

Radelfinger asked if the Council would like to send thank you letters to the Volunteers of the Fire Departments, which has been done the last couple years. Everyone agreed to send out the thank you letters.

Brees said BLM is thinning at Indian Creek Campground. They will take out about 250 green and dead trees. Brees said they have some trailers they are chipping the brush into and hauling it to the prison. Brees said he will find out who owns the trailers and if they are available for use, possibly for the fuels collection site.

DeVore said she had hung up the posters from the art contest in the Administration Building and the Courthouse. Brees said they looked great and he had taken some pictures for grant reporting.

Andrews asked what it would take to become a Fire Wise Community, per the RAC requirements. Brees said they were still waiting to hear what that language means. Brees said they didn't know yet if they needed to become a Fire Wise Community or just use Fire Wise Community programs. Brees said he thought they were seeking to have a more clearly defined structure as to how the money is spent. Brees said there is some concern by other Fire Safe Councils over how the money can be used. Brees said there should be some clarification soon on the details of the program.

VII. Adjournment

Set next meeting at Woodfords Fire Station at 6:00 pm on Monday, December 29, 2008.

Motion to approve.

Motion: Joyce DeVore Second: David Griffith

All ayes. Motion carried.