

Alpine Fire Safe Council

Approved Minutes
March 30, 2009
6:00 pm, Markleeville Fire Station

The meeting of the Alpine Fire Safe Council was called to order by Al Moss, Chair, at 6:01 pm at the Markleeville Fire Station, Markleeville, CA 96120.

Present:

Al Moss	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Jerry Andrews	FSC Board	Markleeville Resident
David Griffith	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Kris Hartnett	FSC Board	Markleeville Resident
Shirley Taylor	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Steve Yonker	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Jeff Brees	Coordinator	Markleeville Resident
Kerry Radelfinger	Administrator	Woodfords Resident
Kris Timberlake	CalFire Battalion Chief	Tahoe Basin/Alpine County

Absent:

I. Call to order

II. Introductions

III. Approve minutes of January 26, 2009 meeting.

Motion to approve: Steve Yonker Second: Jerry Andrews

Abstain: David Griffith

All ayes. Motion carried.

IV. Annual Meeting

- a. Review and possible approval of the year-end financial statements for the year ended 31-Dec-2008.

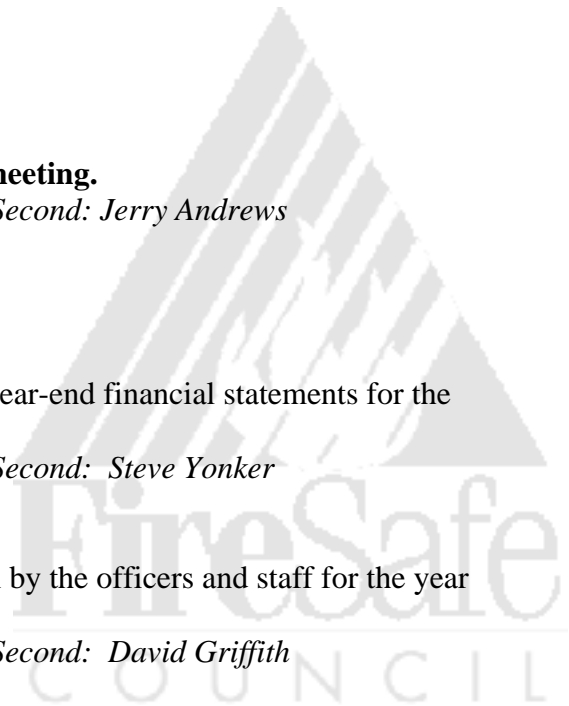
Motion to approve: David Griffith Second: Steve Yonker

All ayes. Motion carried.

- b. Resolution approving all actions taken by the officers and staff for the year ended 31-Dec-2008.

Motion to approve: Steve Yonker Second: David Griffith

All ayes. Motion carried.



- c. Acceptance of director DeVore's resignation (with regrets.)
Motion to approve: David Griffith Second: Steve Yonker
All ayes. Motion carried.
Brees will send a thank you letter to DeVore.
- d. Elections of two new directors to fill the following two positions:
- i. A two year term to fill the expired term of Jardine/Super.
Motion to approve Kris Hartnett to a two year term.
Motion to approve: Steve Yonker Second: Jerry Andrews
All ayes. Motion carried.
 - ii. A one year term to complete the term of DeVore.
Moss asked for suggestions for nominations to the Board. Some community members were suggested and a nomination committee of Moss, Taylor, and Andrews was formed and will come back to the Board with suggestions.
- e. Election of officers (Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary-Treasurer) for one year terms.
A motion was made to elect Al Moss as Chair, Steve Yonker as Vice-Chair and Shirley Taylor as Secretary-Treasurer.
Motion to approve: David Griffith Second: Jerry Andrews
All ayes. Motion carried.
- Motion to re-elect David Griffith, Jerry Andrews and Shirley Taylor to two year terms.
Motion to approve: Steve Yonker Second: Jerry Andrews
All ayes. Motion carried.

V. Volunteer Times Sheets

VI. Old Business

- a. Discussion and possible action regarding district meetings to view the Living with Fire DVD.
Brees said Joyce DeVore had asked for this item to be placed on the agenda for discussion of the possibility of convening district meeting to show the Living with Fire DVD. Griffith said open meetings have not been well attended in the past. Griffith said he was not sure it was the most effective way to reach people. Moss suggested hosting a county wide meeting at Turtle Rock Park to show the DVD. Andrews suggested also showing the DVD at the school. Brees said he would like to distribute information to the community by going to the meetings that people regularly attend, such as the Fifty Plus Club, Historical Society, and Shay Creek Homeowners Association. Moss suggested making a list of the monthly meetings in the county. Brees said in the next phase of the

evacuation plan, neighborhood meetings will be hosted to create block leaders and it would be a good opportunity to show the DVD. Griffith suggested also offering to show it during the school board and Board of Supervisors meetings. Brees said 30 DVD's were purchased.

- b. Update on reflective address sign program.
Taylor said she had planned to give the Board of Supervisors a six month update at the last Board meeting, but due to the length of the meeting she postponed it to the next Board meeting. Taylor said the final figures to be distributed are \$400 for Emergency Service, \$180 for Woodfords Fire Department, and \$170 for the Markleeville Fire, with a small percentage from each organization retained to continue the program. Taylor said 117 signs were sold. Taylor said Shay Creek Homeowners had accumulated \$373 and she asked if they would like to distribute some of their money to Emergency Services or Markleeville Fire Department. She has not heard back from them at this time. Taylor said Moss had suggested sending out a second mailing in June for the program. Taylor said the program will be reviewed in September to determine if it will be continued. Taylor said that all orders that come in from this point forward will be equally divided between Emergency Services, Woodfords Fire and Markleeville Fire. Brees said he can peddle the reflective address signs at the local community meetings with the DVD showings. Brees said they will also have a community meeting to update the CWPP project list and make the information available there.
- c. Update on winter fire prevention newsletter.
Brees distributed a draft copy of the winter newsletter. Brees hopes to send out the newsletter twice a year, once in the spring before wildland season with information on the burn pile and chipping program, and one in the fall with winter fire prevention tips. Timberlake said he could send a digital copy of the LE100 that CalFire will use for the defensible space inspections so that residents know what they will be looking for. It was agreed to send out a spring newsletter, which will include information on the chipping program and defensible space inspections. Brees said any suggestions for newsletter content can be sent to himself or Radelfinger.

VII. New Business

- a. Discussion and possible action on the availability of "stimulus" funding for the Mesa Vista-River Ranch fire fighting water supply system.
Griffith said there is a lot of federal stimulus money that will be coming through the system for shovel ready projects. Griffith said the county has on its agenda to repave Emigrant Trail and there would be no additional environmental work needed to lay a pipe line down at the same time for future water supply for the Mesa Vista area. Griffith suggested asking the county to consider the possibility of such a project. Moss suggested asking the new Public Works Director to review the Mesa Vista Water

Study that was completed. After some discussion, it was decided to send a letter to Pamela Knorr, County Administrative Officer, to address the issue.

Kris Timberlake, Battalion Chief –CalFire Tahoe Basin/Alpine County, said he or Jan Bray would be regularly attending the Fire Safe Council's monthly meetings. Timberlake said they like to work closely with the Fire Safe Councils and make sure planning, such as Community Wildfire Protection Plan's (CWPP) were consistent with the local CalFire unit's fire management plan. Timberlake said some recommendations of the Angora Fire Commission were to bring CalFire to the Basin because they provide 24/7 all risk fire protection and for Public Resources Code 4291 Defensible Space Inspections. Timberlake said CalFire is able provide the enforcement of the code. Griffith asked if CalFire would be doing the enforcement in Alpine County. Timberlake said they would be serving Alpine County, though they will also be responsible for inspections for three other fire protection districts, Fallen Leaf, Meeks Bay and Lake Valley. Timberlake said they will be aggressively pursuing defensible space inspections. Andrews questioned if they would be working off the defensible space inspections done last year for follow-ups. Timberlake said last year was informational only with no enforcement and their goal is to move that over to enforcement. Timberlake said Senate Bill 1595 was passed and went into law January 1st, 2009. The fuels management prescription for defensible space inspections is now based on structural ignitability with a sliding scale to be used by the inspector, rather than the 30-100 foot parameters. Timberlake said they will be applying it like they applied the defensible space inspections in the past. Timberlake said the bill allows the insurance companies to call CalFire in as the designated fire expert if they want the homeowner to go more than 100 feet. This is creating an additional workload for the CalFire inspectors which could affect their ability to do the defensible space inspections. Timberlake said if they received a list of the properties that did not comply last year, they would use that as a starting point for the inspections. Brees will work with Brian Peters, Planning Department, to compile a list of non-compliant properties for CalFire.

b. Staff Reports

Brees said he is in the process of updating the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP.) Brees is also updating the email distribution list, so any additional names can be forwarded to Radelfinger

Brees attended the Planning Commission meeting regarding the Mahalee Lodge. Brees said from the fire services standpoint the developer has made things easier as they are trying to lower their demand for water. Griffith asked if the equipment at the Markleeville Fire Department would be adequate to fight a fire at the Mahalee Lodge. Brees said they would

need to purchase some ladders and additional training would be needed. Griffith asked if the Markleeville Fire Department was requesting some financial assistance from the developer to cover those costs. Brees said there are existing impact fees, as well as self-imposed impact fees. Brees said there is a fiscal analysis that will be done to determine if the impact fees are adequate for the fire services. Brees said the EMS will receive some of the impact fees as well. Brees said the fire services biggest concerns were access, water supply, building height, and cabin spacing. Brees said the developer has satisfied all their concerns at this point.

Brees said the RAC is looking for new members. Brees has the phone number for the USDA Forest Service Ranger in the Carson District office who has the applications. Brees will contact the County to determine if they are handling the application process. Brees said the money has to be obligated by September 30th.

Brees said BLM has a new five year fuels plan and will start burning 24 acres behind Turtle Rock Park on March 31st. Brees said they will also be doing work at Indian Creek Campground and some additional mastication at Turtle Rock Park.

Brees said there was meeting Pamela Knorr called to discuss a proposed job description for a Fire Manager/EMS Coordinator. Brees was not able to attend as the Planning Commission meeting was held at the same time, but he sent one of the Markleeville volunteers. Brees said the job description list was extensive and they are working on refining it. Brees said Knorr hopes to take the job description before the Board of Supervisors this month. Brees said there should be more information available soon.

Brees said the remaining grant funds in the RAC Start Young School Education grant will be utilized by doing another school education program at the end of the school year at Diamond Valley School using the Lake Valley Educational Trailer. Moss asked if he needed help from Woodfords Fire Department. Brees said he will coordinate with Markleeville and Woodfords Fire Department to assist with the program.

Brees said there is 4291 training at Lake Valley Fire Department on May 20th. Brees will be attending and asked anyone interested in attending to contact him.

Moss said he spoke with Chris Gansberg who had been served with a Grand Jury notice in regards to the legality of the fire hydrant that is installed on his property on Foothill Road. Moss said Dennis Cardoza, Public Works Director and Chris Gansberg came to an agreement to install the fire hydrant on his property to help provide an additional source of

water for fire fighting in the area. Moss said Gansberg had the hydrant installed per a Memorandum of Understanding with Dennis Cardoza and Alpine County. Moss said at this time the fire hydrant is not permitted and has not met all the standards and qualifications to be fire ready. Moss said he advised Gansberg to meet with Pamela Knorr - CAO, the Public Works Director, Buck McClelland - Woodfords Fire Chief and anyone else involved to get the problem remedied. Moss said Gansberg asked him to sit in on the meeting, which Moss agreed to do. Moss said the project was done according to the stipulations of the MOU. Moss said Brees, Griffith and himself have been in communication with Gansberg to help draw closure so that the hydrant can be put in use.

Brees said he has been working on a few fuels projects that he had hoped to include as grant applications for the California Fire Safe Council Clearinghouse. Brees said he was not able to get all the homeowners' approval before the grant deadline, so he did not submit the applications but he is continuing to work with Jan Bray, CalFire, to be ready for the next round of grant applications. Brees distributed a map of the proposed projects. Brees said the projects include Thornburg's shaded fuel break, rebuilding the Acorn fuel break off of Upper Manzanita Lane, and the existing Proposition 40 fuels projects around Diamond Valley School and on Hot Springs Road. Brees said they had run out of funds through Proposition 40 to complete the work last year. Brees said funds may be available through Proposition 40 or Proposition 84, with similar match requirements. Brees will be sending a letter out to the property owners and he will be walking the fuels projects with Jan Bray.

Griffith said the County is reviewing their Development Standards. Griffith said over the medium and long term the way to reduce the risk of wildland fires will be how well the county handles development and by ensuring that the fire departments concerns are met. Brees said he reviewed the Standards and there does not appear to be changes. Griffith said he would like to look at areas where the Standards can be improved. Brees said his main concern was for the county to enforce the existing Standards, which has not always been done. Griffith asked Brees to be aggressive in reviewing the Standards and ask the County for changes in ordinances and procedures as needed to help correct problem areas.

VIII. Adjournment

Set next meeting at the Woodfords Fire Station at 6:00 pm on Monday, April 27, 2009.

Motion to approve: Jerry Andrews Second: David Griffith
All ayes. Motion carried.