

Alpine Fire Safe Council

Approved Minutes
August 31, 2009
6:00 pm, Woodfords Fire Station

The meeting of the Alpine Fire Safe Council was called to order by Al Moss, Chair, at 6:01 pm at the Woodfords 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
Dave Mills	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Shirley Taylor	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Steve Yonker	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Jeff Brees	Coordinator	Markleeville Resident
Kerry Radelfinger	Administration	Woodfords Resident
Buck McClelland	Woodfords Fire Chief	Woodfords Resident

Absent:

I. Call to order

Motion to approve: Al Moss
All ayes. Motion carried.

Second: David Griffith

II. Introductions

III. Approve corrected minutes of July 27, 2009 meeting.

Motion to approve.

Motion: David Griffith
All ayes. Motion carried.

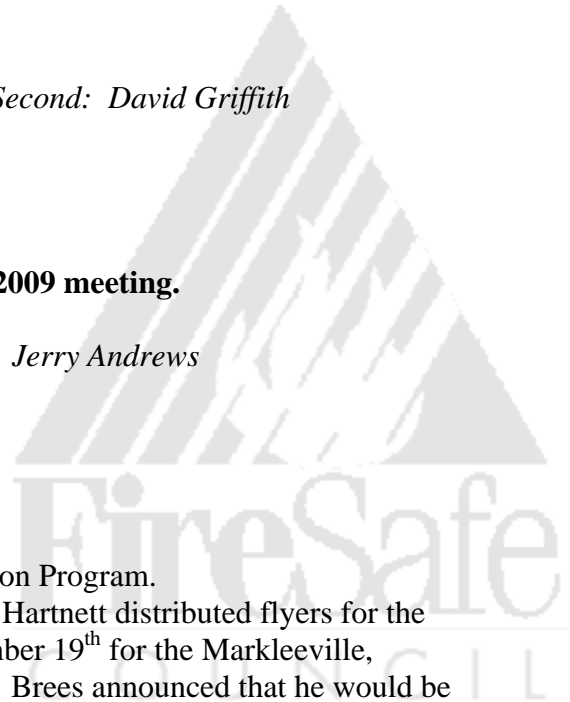
Second: Jerry Andrews

IV. Volunteer Time Sheets

V. Old Business

a. Update on Hot Springs Road Evacuation Program.

Brees explained that he, Andrews and Hartnett distributed flyers for the community meeting to be held September 19th for the Markleeville, Markleevillage and Shay Creek areas. Brees announced that he would be



attending the Shay Creek Homeowner's Association meeting to announce the meeting and hand out flyers. After some discussion, it was decided that Hartnett, Moss and Mills would go door to door in downtown Markleeville on Saturday to distribute the remaining flyers, with any leftover flyers to be mailed. In regards to the community meeting agenda, Brees said that they would be discussing the Hot Springs Road Evacuation Plan, defensible space, and project ideas for the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP.) Brees went on to say that he hoped to have a speaker from the Alpine County Sheriff's Department discuss the evacuation process, use of Search and Rescue volunteers and the Reverse 911 system. Brees said that he has not received commitments from any speakers at this time. Griffith questioned if the Reverse 911 system was up and running. Brees confirmed that it was functional and residents can sign up an additional phone number for an alternate contact. Hartnett said that he discussed with Andrews keeping the presentations to 15 minute intervals, no greater. After some discussion on the meeting agenda and presentations, it was agreed to structure the meeting as events would unfold in real life, from defensible space programs and pre-planning to an approaching fire and the evacuation process. Hartnett suggested that food coordination be scheduled after the September 12th RSVP deadline. Moss said that he would coordinate with Hartnett and Andrews to determine food needs and plan a trip to Costco to purchase food the week of September 14th. Brees asked for a budget for swag for the meeting. Brees presented pictures of LED lights and coffee cups as promotional ideas. It was decided to purchase enough swag to use for future meetings. A motion was made to purchase 144 cups and 144 lights for the community meeting.

Motion to approve.

Motion: Steve Yonker Second: Kris Hartnett

All ayes. Motion carried.

Hartnett said he called MAC signs and a 6 foot glossy banner could be purchased for \$120. Hartnett added that the sign would have the AFSC logo and could be used for the Burn Pile and other events sponsored by the AFSC.

A motion was made to purchase an AFSC banner for \$120 through Mac Signs.

Motion to approve.

Motion: Steve Yonker Second: Kris Hartnett

All ayes. Motion carried.

- b. Update on the Gansberg hydrant status and discussion of the Grand Jury Report for 2009.

McClelland explained that the letter that Brees distributed from Brian Peters with Alpine County Community Development to the Woodfords Fire Department regarding the Gansberg hydrant states that the hydrant

provides sufficient flow to fill water tenders for fire fighting purposes and that the water line that serves the hydrant has an inlet screen at the source. McClelland went on to say that the letter states that the hydrant needs to be painted red to indicate the hydrant has a limited water supply and that retention caps need to be installed on the hydrant. McClelland stated that the Woodfords Fire Department will be putting the hydrant into service. Brees questioned what signage would be on the hydrant. Griffith explained that the signage should read that it is for fire usage only. A motion was made to send thank you letters to Buck McClelland for seeing the project through and making it work, to Brian Peters for drawing the project to closure, and to Mr. and Mrs. Gansberg for their participation in the project.

Motion to approve.

Motion: David Griffith Second: Kris Hartnett

All ayes. Motion carried.

Griffith questioned whether they wanted to respond to the Grand Jury report. Moss asked to discuss the issue at the end of the meeting.

VI. New Business

- a. Discussion of new insurance product offered for Blanket Accident Coverage for Volunteers.

Brees explained to the Board that there is a new insurance product providing blanket insurance coverage for volunteers. Brees went on to say that currently the Board has liability insurance, but this would provide accident insurance. Brees asked the Board if they were interested in looking into the coverage. Griffith said that unless there are particular concerns, the AFSC board members are covered for liability and with everyone carrying some form of individual health insurance, the additional coverage wasn't necessary. It was agreed that board was not interested in accident coverage.

- b. Discussion of Fall Chipping 2009.

Brees reported that the chipping crew is scheduled to come back on October 12th. Brees said that the program will remain the same and flyers will be sent out as soon as possible. Brees went on to say there is about \$12,000 remaining for the fall chipping program.

- c. Update on Proposition 40 projects on County properties.

Brees stated that the county road right-of-ways and clearing around Diamond Valley School and Turtle Rock Park were included in last year's Proposition 40 funding. Brees said that the project at the school was finished and part of the work was completed on Turtle Rock Park. Brees added that nothing had been completed on the road right-of-ways. Brees said that when the remaining Proposition 40 money comes through they will finish the work at Turtle Rock Park. Brees said that a separate

application was submitted by the county for this year, but the status is currently unknown.

- d. Discussion and possible action to raise hourly rate for the administrative assistant to the AFSC.

Radelfinger said that she appreciated Hartnett putting this item on the agenda and the Board discussing the issue. Radelfinger went on to say that in light of the current budget issues and uncertainty with the RAC funding and operating budget for the next year that she was satisfied with her current pay rate and position. Moss thanked Radelfinger for her comments and stated that Radelfinger's comments are well taken and though they wanted to move forward in giving a raise in the hourly rate it was important to get the budget in line and properly positioned before moving forward. Hartnett said that he placed the item on the agenda as was voted on the last time the issue was discussed and asked that it be placed back on the agenda in three months. Moss agreed to place the item on the agenda for the November meeting.

Brees announced that the RAC legislation had some changes and the money didn't need to be obligated until 2012. Brees went on to say that the background checks for the new RAC members have not come back, so they will not be able to make any funding decisions at the September 2nd meeting. Brees said that there will be about \$3500 due on the AFSC liability insurance premium by the end of September. Brees said that there is some Title III money that can be moved around to pay the insurance premium if the County approves. Griffith explained that this issue has arisen in the past, and the Board of Supervisors (BOS) voted to pay the insurance premium. Griffith added that without liability insurance the AFSC cannot operate and recommended going to the BOS to request assistance in paying the premium which can be paid back once the RAC funding is approved. Brees suggested that Title III funds can also be shifted around if necessary if the BOS approved. After some discussion, it was agreed to discuss the issue with individual BOS members to determine what direction they should move. Griffith suggested not making a decision tonight and speaking individually with the Supervisors to determine their viewpoint before taking it before the BOS.

- e. Staff reports

Brees said that he spoke with the Forest Service RAC Coordinator and she has not yet distributed the performance reports on the last RAC grants, but would distribute them at the next meeting.

Brees announced that the website had been updated.

Brees attended the Fifty Plus Club meeting and gave a presentation on ember awareness and showed a portion of the Ember Aware DVD. Brees

said that \$29 was spent on ice cream for the meeting. Griffith asked what the reaction was on the DVD. Brees said that it was well received.

Brees said that he and Don Jardine met with head of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy of Mt. Whitney region to see if there were any funding possibilities. Brees said that they are not able to fund the operating budget, but they are interested in biomass and fuels reduction projects. Griffith questioned if administrative expenses could be added on to a project, such as a defensible space program. Brees replied that administration could be included in the project budget. Mills questioned if they would fund the chipping program. Brees said that they could fund the chipping program, but those funds are currently coming through another source. Brees said that the Conservancy likes collaboration projects, such as with the Forest Service, but the Forest Service's environmental work is not current.

Brees announced that he would be attending the BOS on September 1st to announce the fall chipping program.

Brees said that he finished the Bear Valley component of the CWPP. Brees added that most of the updates for the main document were also finished, with the project list to be updated after receiving community input.

Griffith questioned the status of Cal Fire's defensible space inspections. Brees said that CalFire has finished about 90 homes in Alpine County at this time and he expects them give a report at an upcoming BOS meeting.

McClelland announced the Woodfords Fire Department's water tank and overhead fill were finished and operational. McClelland went on to say that the department in conducting two weeknight trainings per month and one weekend training and currently have 24 volunteers in the program. McClelland explained that Brian Beadnell has been hired to do all the training and all of the firefighters were going through Firefighter 1 training. McClelland said that with the equipment and training they are looking for ways to advance the program and have signed up with Lake Tahoe Community College to receive \$3 for every hour per person for training which should net about \$20,000 per year for the department. McClelland added that they are also looking at a program for cost recovery collection along with other revenue generating programs such as providing a billable ALS ambulance service and a ski area impact tax. McClelland requested that AFSC board communicate with the public to determine what residents are willing to pay to support the program. Moss said AFSC conducted some preliminary work with the help of Jim Haen and Bill Morgan a couple years ago to determine what people would be willing to pay to fund a fire chief position. Griffith went on to explain the

study that was done and said that at that time they found that the most property owners were willing to pay was about \$200 per year. Griffith added that all McClelland's revenue generating ideas mentioned need to be pursued and brought together. Griffith stated that the AFSC has always taken the approach to support the fire departments, including the political support to get the fire departments the resources they need to do their job. Griffith said that he was impressed with the job that McClelland has done to build up the Woodfords Fire Department to the point it is at today. McClelland reiterated his request that the AFSC Board speak to the community about the fire department to determine what people will pay and to rally community support. Moss asked McClelland to give the AFSC guidance for areas they can be of assistance to the fire departments in the future.

Taylor questioned if the school art contest would be done again this fall. Taylor added that Joyce DeVore is willing to organize the program. Brees said that the Lake Valley educational trailer will be used during Fire Prevention week in October for the school education program and they could also host the school art contest. It was agreed that Brees would contact DeVore to set up the art contest for this fall at Diamond Valley School.

Hartnett questioned the need for reflective stickers to adhere to the reflective address signs for those individuals who need additional assistance during an evacuation or other emergency. Brees agreed to speak with the Sheriff's Department about the issue.

VII. Adjournment

Set next meeting at the Markleeville Fire Station at 6:00 pm on Monday, September 28, 2009.

Motion to approve.

Motion: Jerry Andrews

Second: David Griffith

All ayes. Motion carried