



**Santa Barbara County Firesafe Council
Board of Directors' Meeting
January 2, 2020**

Board members present: John Ahlman, Ted Adams, Phil Seymour, Fred Tan, Rob Hazard, Ray Smith, Abe Powell, Joan Hartmann, and Nic Elmquist

Call to Order

09:00 AM- J. Ahlman calls the meeting to order.

Minutes

No minutes taken last meeting.

Treasurers Report

There was no treasure report.

New Business

1. News and Announcements: short round-table discussion from each member.
2. Grant Status:
 - a. CalFire grant submitted to complete a CWPP for the Gaviota Coast through the FSC. Carpinteria, Montecito, and SB County Fire submitted applications. F. Tan reported out they will be reviewed this spring. He will still be involved during his transition into his new job and will still be the POC if there are any questions in the near term.
 - b. Santa Barbara Foundation still has \$5,000 unexpended. Some potential options are to purchase video equipment to use at the FSC meetings and post on the webpage for people who cannot attend and to fund additional educational handout material.
 - c. PG&E Grant has \$5,000 to be used for educational purposes in the north county. C. Smith is working on a proposal for these funds but was not in attendance to report out.
3. Neighborhood Program: R. Hazard explained that County fire has plans to expand this program but it is dependent on receiving the prevention grant. A. Powell briefs on the efforts SB Bucket Brigade is doing with organizing neighborhoods throughout the county and developed "5-Step Neighborhood Action Kit" (link to document on SB Bucket Brigade webpage). J. Hartmann views this program as a good opportunity to build capacity at the local level. P. Seymour asks the board their thoughts on the FSC coordinating a "pilot program" on one of the already established neighborhoods (i.e. Painted Cave, Eucalyptus Hill, Via Regina, etc.), but there was no specific resolution either way. A decision was made to table this topic for further discussion.
4. Cave Fire Review:
 - a. Challenges: access issues along Painted Cave road; some evacuation instructions were confusing to residents; time of year impacting resource capacity (USFS seasonal employees laid off)
 - b. Successes: local resources that knew the area and had good pre-plans; vegetation management that had taken place by both private land owners and agencies, San Marcos CWPP; water capacity being supported by private water sources (resident gave testimony on how his 10,000 gal tank was used); lower portion had burned in 2009

leading to a reduction in fire intensity when the fire got to this area; Painted Cave
“Community Defense Team”

5. Treasurer: One option of use of future funds is to hire someone like Lynn Shively to be paid and manage the FSC account. F. Tan’s replacement will be on the board but the group sees benefit in having a civilian as the next treasurer.
6. Insurance Update: Paul Cashman was unavailable to attend, but will provide an update at a future meeting.
7. New Meeting Location / Times:
 - February 27th – Board Meeting (08:15 – 09:00) / Membership Meeting (09:00-11:00)
 - March 5th – Board Meeting (9:00 – 10:30)
 - April 23rd – annual Membership meeting
 - May 7th – Board Meeting
 - June 25th - Board Meeting/Membership Meeting
 - July 2nd - Board Meeting
 - August 27th - Board Meeting/Membership Meeting
 - September 3rd – Board Meeting
 - October 22nd - Board Meeting/Membership Meeting
 - November 5th – Board Meeting
 - December – No Meeting

The April 23rd meeting will be the annual meeting with Board selections and will focus on Defensible Space and Wildfire Preparedness heading into the 2020 fire season. The plan is to do the meeting at Direct Relief in the evening with a Key Note Speaker. Victoria Cooper from Via Regina has offered to help coordinate the meeting.

There is unanimous support from the Board to move the monthly meetings to Direct Relief. R. Hazard will reach out to check on availability.

8. Registration with State Attorney General: there are two different registrations needed. P. Seymour will register FSC with the State Attorney General.

Action Items:

1. N. Elmquist will draft a proposal for the FSC to purchase audio/video equipment to tape meetings for the website to review at the next meeting.
2. R. Hazard will check on availability of Direct Relief for use of the FSC meetings, including the Spring Meeting.
3. P. Seymour will register FSC with State Attorney General

Motions:

None

Next Meetings-

1. February 27th- 08:15 Board Meeting, 09:00 General Membership
2. March 5th- 09:00 Board Meeting

Board Adjourned at 1100 AM.

Minutes respectfully submitted: Nic Elmquist