



MOUNT VEEDER FIRE SAFE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Saturday, October 24, 2015

LOCATION: Dry Creek–Lokoya Fire Station, 5900 Dry Creek Road

ATTENDANCE: Greg Holquist, Ken Van Oeveren, Bill Robertson, Joanne Sutro, Joe Nordlinger, Carole Meredith

ADDITIONS/REVISIONS TO AGENDA: Establishment of fund for needy residents based on lead gift from Community Projects

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES: Several modifications and corrections to the 9/26 minutes were suggested

TREASURER'S REPORT: In Gary Green's absence, Ken Van Oeveren reported that our checking account balance is \$39,583.28. A question about an expense of \$224.81 was deferred until it could be addressed by Gary Green.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Project updates:

- a. **Limited Access Road #1 (LAR#1)/ PG&E CEMA grant:** Greg Holquist reported that the work was completed on October 11, 2015. More was accomplished than expected. The extent of the clearing work was 1.15 miles of roadway, 60 to 80 feet on each side. And Jean Chapman's entire driveway was also cleared. Sufficient funds remained for two more days, so the crew worked on regrowth on the Old Ridge Road. As required for the release of the second half of the funds, Greg has sent a report to Chris Hughes at PG&E, along with before and after photos.

A question was raised as to whether the Chapman driveway work was specified in the recent Community Projects funding request and it was agreed that we should review the written request.

- b. **Cal Fire State Responsibility Area (SRA) Grant Program / Lokoya Fuel reduction:** We have still not obtained final approval on this grant. Cal Fire now says that we are categorically exempt from the CEQA requirement because we are a non-profit organization creating shaded fuel breaks. Greg Holquist got the required Registered Professional Forester through the Davey Resource Group.

The grant document has now been revised several times. The Cal Fire people in Sacramento keep asking for more information and Megan Scheeline at Cal Fire is our intermediary. There is now a 2-week public comment period for document review before final approval.

2. **Fund for Needy Residents:** With the \$20,000 lead gift from Community Projects, we are establishing a Needy Fund to cover the costs of clearing to improve defensible space and access for selected properties in our neighborhood.
 - a. After discussion, the group agreed on the following qualifying criteria for selecting the properties
 - Financial need
 - Physical limitation
 - High risk site
 - Site must have an occupied primary residence
 - b. We will draw upon the legal expertise on the MVFSC board to develop language stating that in providing the assistance, the MVFSC carries no liability or obligation.
 - c. We need to establish a maximum amount to be spent on any one property, but we will not advertise that amount.
 - d. The MVFSC will hire the contractor, not the resident
 - e. We need to solicit more money to add to the \$20,000 Community Projects lead gift. Sources suggested are
 - Napa Valley Community Foundation
 - service organizations (e.g., Kiwanis, Rotary)
 - Insurance companies (e.g., State Farm, USAA)
 - f. After developing the criteria, we should begin spending the \$20,000 that we have already received.
 - g. We need to prepare a press release about the establishment of the Needy Fund and the Community Projects lead gift
3. **Recruiting and Board Development:** Joe Nordlinger outlined a process (and provided a checklist) for identifying and recruiting people for the MVFSC. He noted that we can have several categories of participation, e.g., board, advisory members, committees. Joe proposed the following process:
 - a. **Defining our needs:** We should consult our vision statement and other pillar documents. We don't just need more people, we need people with specific skills and expertise to help us secure funds and spend them to achieve our goals. Perhaps some people have not continued to attend our meetings because we haven't given them a clear idea of what they can contribute. We haven't given them assignments.

Which communities do we serve? Certainly the residents of our own neighborhood, but also the larger Napa area because preventing wildfire in our neighborhood protects watersheds from erosion and protects vineyards from smoke damage and destruction.

- b. **Finding candidates:** We can establish a board recruitment team. We could contact large vineyard owners.
 - c. **Screening and selection**
 - d. **Onboarding and orientation**
4. **MVFSC presidency:** The responsibilities of the MVFSC president include
- Running meetings
 - Directing fundraising
 - Running projects
 - Delegating tasks
 - Following up on action items

Greg Holquist stated that he does not have enough time to carry out these responsibilities and resigned as president of the MVFSC. Joe Nordlinger was nominated and elected as the new president.

OTHER TOPICS:

1. **Insurance:** Ken Van Oeveren reported that this was topic of discussion at a recent fire chiefs meeting. The county is self-insured. The MVFSC does not have insurance coverage in the following two areas:
 - a. If we hire an employee, we do not have workers compensation insurance
 - b. Equipment that we purchase that is not stored within a building. We need to insure the trailer that we bought.

ADJOURNMENT: 11:30 am

Next Meeting: Sunday, November 22, 2015
Joe Nordlinger's house, 4297 Dry Creek Road