



MOUNT VEEDER FIRE SAFE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Sunday, January 31, 2016

LOCATION: Joseph Nordlinger's house, 4297 Dry Creek Road

ATTENDANCE: Joe Nordlinger, Ken Van Oeveren, Gary Green, Bill Robertson, Carole Meredith, Evangeline James, Gary Margadant

ADDITIONS/REVISIONS TO AGENDA: none

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES: The minutes of the November 22, 2015 meeting were approved.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Joe Nordlinger said that he would like to have a reorganized agenda structure. The group discussed this and agreed on the following general agenda outline:

- Chairman's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Projects
 - CWPP
 - Ongoing projects
 - Funding requests
 - Future projects
- Education
- Old business
- New business

TREASURER'S REPORT: Gary Green reported that our checking account balance is \$37,463.72. During January 2016, we received \$74,998 from CalFire for the Lokoya Fuel Reduction project and we paid \$67,760 to Family Tree Service and \$6,175 to Western Forestry Consulting, both for the Lokoya project. We paid some of the expenses in 2015, so we now have a positive balance of \$1062.50 for that project. During January we also sold some firewood.

2015 Budget: In 2015, our income was over budget (\$120,534 actual vs. \$31,303 budgeted). Our 2015 expenses were close to budget (\$113,217 actual vs. \$108,020 budgeted).

2016 Budget: The proposed 2016 budget anticipates income from address signs (\$432), grants (\$110,000), wood sales (\$500) and checking account interest (\$10). Total budgeted income is \$110,942. Total projected expenses are \$103,915, including \$100,000 for fuel reduction projects, \$200 for address signs, \$2,900 for public education activities, \$250 for organizational education, \$450 for operating costs, and \$115 for sales tax and e-commerce fees. The \$10,000 reserve fund will be maintained.

The proposed budget was approved by the group and will now go to the DCLVFD Board.

PROJECTS:

1. **CWPP update:** Bill Robertson reported that he is still working on it. He is incorporating maps provided by Greg Holquist. He anticipates completion by the February meeting.
2. **Ongoing projects:** There are currently no ongoing projects. All 4 projects undertaken in 2015 have been completed (Wall Road SFB, Old Ridge Road SFB southern end, Lokoya Community Fuel Reduction Project, Limited Access Road #1)
3. **New funding opportunities:** Greg Holquist is working with PG&E on possible new funding for 2016. We have not identified our next projects.

We did not submit any requests for 2016 Cal Fire SRA funding this time, in part because of faulty communication within our group and our changing leadership.

EDUCATION AND EVENTS:

The week of May 1-7 is Wildfire Awareness Week and Saturday, May 7 is National Wildfire Awareness Day. We have typically held our annual Community Breakfast at the fire station in conjunction with Wildfire Awareness Week.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Board recruitment:** We need to identify specific skills that would be of benefit to the board, e.g., website maintenance, social media, homeowner's insurance. Once we've done that, we could advertise on NextDoor. But it is not enough to attract individuals who possess such skills. They must also have the time and willingness to use them to assist the MVFSC.
2. **Interagency updates (NCFF):** The group agreed that it makes sense for us to continue work with NCFF. We will ask Steve Hawks to discuss the Conflict of Interest requirement with NCFF.
3. **Social Media Outreach:** Carole Meredith agreed to publicize Joe Nordlinger's newsletter article (about a new resident improving defensible space) to the community email list and on NextDoor by the end of February. She also agreed to ask the California Fire Safe Council to update our information on their website.
4. **Electronic address list from John Tuteur:** Evangeline will get him the neighborhood map that he requested during the first week of February.

5. **Community Projects gift publicity:** We will arrange a group photograph with Community Projects presenting their lead gift (as an oversize check). This was proposed for Friday February 5.
6. **Criteria to establish need used by other Fire Safe Councils:** Bill Robertson reported that Amador, El Dorado, Willow Creek and Mariposa Fire Safe Councils use need as a criteria to provide assistance to residents. Some of them have a downloadable application on their website. Others don't have an application process and just fund a finite number of resident projects.

Among the criteria used are:

- 65+ years of age
- Medical proof of disability
- Household income
- What work is needed
- Must be property owner

Bill Robertson will send links to these FSC websites to Evangeline James, who will then look at the criteria and liability language and report back to the group.

7. **Trailer insurance:** in progress
8. **Conflict of Interest statement:** Every member of the MVFSC board is required to sign this. Signed statements are still needed from 4 people.
9. **4291 evaluations:** We will remove this from our agenda. If Cal Fire does this, then we don't have any liability for making recommendations. We should gather information about defensible space in our neighborhood.
10. **Water resources:** Ken Van Oeveren wants to collect up-to-date information about water resources in our neighborhood. Even though the county has this kind of information (associated with permit applications), it is not necessarily current or complete. Ken is finalizing a water source questionnaire. He proposes to put it on our website and NextDoor. Based on the kind of information he obtains, he may revise it further.
11. **National Firewise Community application:** Kelly Wallace was working on this. Evangeline James will contact Kelly about it.

NEW BUSINESS:

Gary Margadant told the group about changes in the way that road standards are administered, with the state taking over more regulation. However, the county may still grant exceptions to certain standards.

ADJOURNMENT: 11:30 am

Next Meeting: Saturday, February 27
 Dry Creek Lokoya Fire Station
 5900 Dry Creek Road