



MOUNT VEEDER FIRE SAFE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Saturday, July 23, 2016

LOCATION: Carole Meredith's house, 4967 Dry Creek Road

ATTENDANCE: Joe Nordlinger, Bill Robertson, Jason Newton, Ken Van Oeveren, Joanne Sutro, Carole Meredith

ADDITIONS/REVISIONS TO AGENDA: none

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES: The minutes of the June 25, 2016 meeting were approved.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Joe Nordlinger reported that he did not know whether all of the fundraising letters to Mount Veeder area businesses had gone out. He asked Carole Meredith to go ahead and send out the follow-up emails anyway from the MVFSC email address.

Joe also reported that he is developing a GoFundMe campaign for MVFSC based on the concept that "if you love the Wine Country, then protect it from wildfire." A donation to the Mt. Veeder FSC would also benefit Glen Ellen and Sonoma because they are adjacent to the Mt. Veeder area. The dollar goal for the campaign was discussed and in response to the notion of \$1 million, it was suggested that people wouldn't donate to such a large campaign and that \$50,000 to \$100,000 would be more reasonable. Perhaps a series of campaigns would be better received, each one a little different than the others. Questions raised included whether we can start with a low goal and then raise the amount, whether we get anything at all if we don't reach our goal, and whether we could offer gifts in exchange for donations at different levels. Further discussion ensued about whether we should have a broad scope (e.g., jobs, conservation) or whether we should focus more on wine and vineyards. It was agreed that we would table the discussion and that Joe would circulate the content.

Joe asked Steve Levine to report on setting up a meeting with Kate Dargen and Steve reported that this has not yet been done. Steve did post Joe's article about creating defensible space around his own home on NextDoor. The next step is to post the time lapse video of clearing along LAR #1.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Jason Newton reported that we have \$37,877.85 in the checking account and \$24,230.92 in the reserve account.

CURRENT BUSINESS**PROJECT UPDATES:**

1. **Ongoing projects:** The Old Ridge Road maintenance work funded by the Napa Communities Firewise Foundation was completed and Greg Holquist submitted the invoice to NCFF. Greg was requested to provide a copy of that invoice to the DCLVFD treasurer, Jason Newton.
2. **Grants and funding opportunities:**
 - a. **NRCS:** Joe Nordlinger said that Kelly Gin of NRCS wants to let residents know of financial assistance available through her organization.
 - b. **California Forest Improvement Program:** Bill Robertson said he had talked to Jill Butler about opportunities available through the California Forest Improvement Program whereby landowners can be reimbursed up to 75% of their expenses for tree thinning and fuels management. Minimum project size is 5 acres but the property must contain at least 20 acres of forest land. It is not clear whether the 20-acre minimum could be satisfied by several contiguous landowners submitting a combined application.
3. **Neighbors in Need program:** Evangeline James was not present to report on the development of the criteria for this program. It was suggested that perhaps Kelly Wallace could be asked to take over this task.
4. **CWPP:** Joe Nordlinger has been working on this and has added an Integrated Digital Marketing component.

EDUCATION AND EVENTS: none

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Electronic address list from John Tuteur:** no report

NEW BUSINESS: It was proposed that we prepare a welcome letter to be sent to new residents.

ADJOURNMENT: 11:30 am

Next Meeting: Saturday, August 27, 9 am
Joanne Sutro's house, 4143 Dry Creek Road