



MOUNT VEEDER FIRE SAFE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Saturday, October 22, 2016

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

ATTENDANCE: Joe Nordlinger, Ken Van Oeveren, Bill Robertson, Joanne Sutro, Carole Meredith, Kevin Hansen (guest, Westwood Hills Park Fuels Reduction)

ADDITIONS/REVISIONS TO AGENDA: none

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES: The minutes of the September 24, 2016 meeting were approved.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Joseph Nordlinger reported that he had submitted 8 proposals to the Cal Fire SRA grant program. Each of the proposals covers an individual limited access road or public road segment. The total amount requested is approximately \$800,000. Joe asked about the submission deadlines for other grant programs and stressed the importance of having this information so that we can plan our proposal submissions well in advance.

From Joe Buchmeier at Cal Fire, Joe Nordlinger learned about a program called "SRA's Sonoma-Lake-Napa Funds" intended to keep seasonal employees on the payroll. The program could provide a crew of 8 plus a chipper. We agreed to request support for maintenance on the Old Ridge Road. We would like to be able to treat this support as a "gift in kind".

The group discussed the scope of all the projects for which we would like to obtain funding. Particularly in the case of public roadways, we need to break our projects down into manageable, fundable segments. We agreed on the need to identify our highest priority segments (possibly 1-mile long) of public roads. Several questions about working on public roads were also raised: Do we need to get permission from the county? What about property owners with fences next to public roads? What about segments that run close to creeks? We also need to identify parts of previous projects that are in need of maintenance. It is not yet needed on Lokoya Road. Enchanted Hills is doing their own work.

Joe Nordlinger wants the group to produce a map that shows demarcation of the public roads in ½ mile segments. It was suggested that Bill Robertson and Ken Van Oeveren could do this with the water tender, since Bill needs driver training with the tender anyway. November 11 was proposed as a day for this to be done. They will get the GPS

coordinates of each county mileage marker and also describe each segment with respect to slope and vegetation type.

TREASURER'S REPORT: We have \$41,332.50 in the checking account and \$24,230.92 in the reserve account.

It was noted that recent donations known to have been made via the MVFSC website had not shown up as deposits in our checking account. Carole Meredith agreed to ask Sue Santos how the website donations work. We want them to go to our checking account and we want to know when we receive such a donation. We know an email receipt to the donor is generated automatically but we also need to send a thank you letter.

CURRENT BUSINESS

1. PROJECT UPDATES:

- a. **NCFE:** Joe Nordlinger and Ken Van Oeveren attended the Napa Communities Firewise Foundation (NCFE) meeting on September 27 to present our funding requests. We have been awarded \$10,000. Joe asked Ken to clarify the next step by contacting Darren Drake, who is our liaison. Joe was asked to serve on the NCFE Board, but he has time only to attend board meetings and only if they are held in the evening.
- b. **CWPP:** Joe Nordlinger said his assistant is producing a table of contents into which Joe will place the various content components that have already been written. He hopes to have this done by the end of November.
- c. **Neighbors in Need program:** Evangeline James has drafted an application. Joanne Sutro suggested that the title be modified to read "Neighbors in Need: Application for Defensible Space Assistance Program." The group agreed that the application must distinguish between owners versus renters of the property and that it must require the applicant to explain why they qualify. If the applicant is a renter, then the owner must agree. A contract and release of liability will be necessary. Applications will be submitted by either postal mail to the fire station address or by email to mtveederfiresafe@gmail.com.

The program will be limited to seniors and disabled along with a low-income requirement. There will be no co-pay. We will refer to California Public Resource Code 4291 as the defensible space standard to be achieved in our program. We will start with 2 projects in the initial phase of the program.

It was moved, seconded and approved to pay Evangeline James up to \$1,000 for legal services in conjunction with her work on the application and contractual language for the Neighbors in Need: Defensible Space Assistance Program.

2. **Email and mail campaign:** Paul Woodward has reported by email that he has been making some phone calls. Carole Meredith has announced the Jackson Family Wines donation on NextDoor and will make subsequent posts about the other donations we have received so far. It was agreed that we should send our letter out

again to those who have not responded, updating the letter to include the names of donors.

We have received the following donations so far:

Fontanella \$250
O'Shaughnessy \$500
Progeny \$500
The Hess Collection \$2,500
Jackson Family Wines \$5,000
Sutter Home Winery \$5,000

3. **USFS grant audit:** Our grant is closed out and all the documentation should be on file at the fire station should we be audited.
4. **Firewood sales:** We no longer have to charge tax on firewood sales. We have 3 to 4 split cords. We need approximately 32 work hours to split the remaining wood.
5. We need to cut and split the accumulated wood. Gary Green would like to sell the splitter and trailer. Some of the wood is already split and ready to go. The group approved prices of \$100 for split firewood and \$75 for un-split. Carole Meredith will ask Sue to put this on the website. A splitting work party is needed to split more wood.
6. **MVFSC contact mailing list:** deferred to December

EDUCATION AND EVENTS: none

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Reaching more residents:** The group discussed how to include residents of Campbell Creek, Clear Creek, Campbell Flat, Wilson Valley and Oakville Ridge Road in our neighborhood. Suggestions included putting letters and brochures in their mailboxes and inviting them to the annual Pancake Breakfast.

NEW BUSINESS: none

ADJOURNMENT: 12:10 pm

Next Meeting: Saturday, December 3, 9 am
Joanne Sutro's house, 4143 Dry Creek Road