



MOUNT VEEDER FIRE SAFE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Saturday, January 26, 2013

LOCATION: Kelly Wallace's residence, 5269 Dry Creek Road

ATTENDANCE: Wayne Cain, Gary Green, Dorian Greenow, Greg Holquist, Evangeline James, Gemma Kochlis, Gary Margadant, Carole Meredith, Bill Robertson, Joanne Sutro, Ken Van Oeveren, Kelly Wallace

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES: November 24 minutes were approved

ADDITIONS/REVISIONS TO AGENDA: Carole Meredith asked to add an item about residents obtaining renters insurance. Gary Green asked to add an item about letters of thanks to funding organizations.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT: Kelly Wallace thanked Gary Green, Carole Meredith, Bill Robertson and Gary Margadant for their service and welcomed Ken Van Oeveren as the new treasurer. He reminded the group that the mission of the MVFSC includes fire safety, community education and fundraising to support those activities.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Ken Van Oeveren presented the report of 2012 expenses and income. Kelly Wallace presented the 2013 budget and comparison to 2012. Total income in 2012 was \$27,892 including a \$20,000 grant from Napa Communities Firewise Foundation (which was not deposited in the MVFSC account because NCF paid costs directly. The current balance is \$26,302.

Projected 2013 income is expected to exceed expenses by \$16,000. It was moved and seconded that we establish a \$10,000 reserve fund. Kelly Wallace will draft a policy on how the reserve fund can be used and present it at the next meeting.

Income from wood sales is expected in 2013 but is limited by the availability of volunteer labor and the logistics of moving, splitting, and delivering the wood. It was proposed that we 1) organize additional work parties, 2) enlist the assistance of high school students and 3) improve our means of transporting the wood.

It was agreed that the target income for wood sales be increased from \$2,500 to \$3,000 and that the budgeted costs associated with firewood sales be increased from \$300 to

\$500 to cover diesel fuel and chain replacement for chain saws. It was also agreed that the budgeted amount for Organizational Education (i.e., attendance at workshops) be increased from \$300 to \$500. And the expense amount budgeted for the Old Ridge Road project should be shown as \$20,000 instead of \$10,000 because we intend to use \$10,000 of our own money for this project in addition to the \$10,000 from NCFE.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. **Grants:** Gary Green reported that he has sent thank you letters to both Community Projects and Napa Communities Firewise Foundation.
 - a. **California Fire Safe Council Grants Clearing House:** Bill Robertson said that the next proposal deadline is not yet available. Gary Green reported that in the last cycle 139 proposals were submitted requesting more than \$12 million. Fifty-one proposals were funded for a total of \$4,422,086.
 - b. **2012-13 Napa Communities Firewise Foundation grant award:** NCFE will pay the expenses of our funded project directly, as they did last year.

2. **Events:**
 - a. **2013 Golf Tournament:** Greg Holquist reported that the event will be held on May 7, 2013 at Eagle Vines Golf Course. The pricing and other details are the same as for our previous tournament in 2011. The cost to participate will be \$125 per person for golf and dinner or \$30 for dinner only.

Greg also reported that he has obtained a new corporate sponsor. Osmose will contribute \$2,500. Greg is hopeful that PG&E will provide some support but said that they prefer not to support the same event year after year. We may be able to get support from both local and corporate arms of State Farm Insurance.

Greg anticipates both higher revenue and higher costs than shown in the 2013 budget (\$18,000 vs. \$15,000 and \$6,000 vs. \$5,000, respectively).

An action list of specific tasks to be accomplished has not yet been developed. A subcommittee was formed to organize the golf tournament: Greg Holquist, Gary Green, Joanne Sutro, Carole Meredith.

An event license and permit may be needed. Ken Van Oeveren will work with the sub-committee on sales tax issues.

Joanne Sutro has drafted a press release and will circulate it to several people for review. Greg Holquist will post the press release to the NextDoor website.

3. **Project Updates:**
 - a. **Old Ridge Road Shaded Fuel Break:** Gary Green reported that we are next in line for the services of the Delta Camp crew. As project manager, he plans to be on site at the beginning of each day that they will work.

Gary Green explained that, contrary to our previous understanding, Delta Camp can work on private property if the work is a Fire Safe Council project and

associated with NCCFF. Cal Fire requires a signed permission form from property owners. Gary Green is taking care of this. We will not need to be concerned with CEQA requirements because Cal Fire takes care of this.

Amy Head (schedule coordinator for the Delta Camp crew) says that they cannot get a chipper up to the site so they will burn the plant material that they remove. Based on experience with Davey Tree crews who have taken a chipper up the road to the site, the group questioned the assertion that a chipper cannot be used. Furthermore, the prospect of burning in May met with serious concern. Gary Green and Greg Holquist will work on this. Greg Holquist offered to involve Laszlo Bencsik from Davey Tree in order to demonstrate that it will be possible to bring a chipper up to the work site.

It was proposed that we seek more funding for the Old Ridge Road project by asking for matching donations from the Mount Veeder community. However, it was pointed out that even if we had more money we would not be able to get more Delta Camp crew time because they are in great demand. It was pointed out that if we used our own funds, we might be less constrained and thus able to hire a masticator instead of using hand crews.

- b. **Update on moving fire prevention sign at Dry Creek and Orchard:** No progress was reported. Gary Margadant is waiting to hear back from the county regarding the proposed new location near the Napa city limits on Dry Creek Road. He will discuss the Tony Spleen the possibility of making the sign less conspicuous in its current location by attaching a blind or by rotating it slightly..
- c. **Green reflective signs:** Gary Green reported that we can purchase 200 signs with 4-inch letters from Interstate Sign Products for \$1485 plus \$360 shipping, which works out to \$9.23 per sign. He has drafted an order form for residents to use and will circulate it for comments. The group approved the expenditure of \$2,000 to purchase the signs.

As to the question of whether or not to charge residents for the signs, it was decided not to charge but to accept donations. We will need to provide instructions for installing these signs. And we should also recommend that multiple signs be used on long driveways.

Because this would be an online purchase, the need to have a mechanism in place for such purchases was raised. Ken Van Oeveren agreed to obtain a debit card in his name for the MVFSC checking account.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Fire road access point update:** Gary Margadant reported that he is still working on this.
2. **Possible bicycle ride fundraiser:** No further progress has been made. The possibility of organizing a challenge ride along the old fire roads was raised, but this was deemed too complicated because of all the different property owners involved.

3. **Upcoming FSC workshops for MVFSC board education:** No additional upcoming workshops besides the 1/30 Wildfire Prevention Regional Conference in Anderson that was mentioned at the last meeting.
4. **Website updates:** Gary Green has updated the MVFSC website with the DCLVFD logo with the assistance of Sue Santos, who has submitted a bill for \$46.67. He needs to obtain a copy of Dreamweaver software in order to continue updating the website. The cost would be \$379.99 to purchase or \$29/month to rent. Joanne Sutro mentioned that MVFSC might qualify as a non-profit with TechSoup to get free software. The group authorized the expenditure of up to \$400 to purchase Dreamweaver. The budget must be modified to include \$500 for Dreamweaver software and website services from Sue Santos.

Carole Meredith agreed to post MVFSC website links to NextDoor whenever she sends updates to the MVFSC community email list.
5. **Follow up on documenting in-kind services as done by Circle Oaks Home Association:** No new information.
6. **Napa County Fire Safe Councils email addresses:** No new information.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Problems obtaining renter's insurance in the Mount Veeder neighborhood:** A resident reported that she had been denied renter's insurance because of her location. Evangeline James reported that she is a renter and has just experienced a significant rate increase. It was suggested that this was a good topic to bring up on the NextDoor website.
2. **How to accept donations via the MVFSC website:** Gary Green agreed to ask Sue Santos about this.
3. **Support from Whole Foods:** Evangeline James said that Whole Foods has 'Community Days' and that they might be willing to make a donation to the MVFSC. Kelly Wallace said he will follow up on this.
4. **Water storage:** Evangeline James proposed asking property owners to install water storage tanks on their property to provide additional water for firefighting. Bill Robertson reported that the Mayacamas Fire Department did this on Cavedale Road.

OTHER BUSINESS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER: None

ADJOURNMENT: 12:05 pm

Next Meeting: Saturday February 23, 2013 at 9:00 am
Dry Creek – Lokoya Firehouse, 5900 Dry Creek Road

TO DO LIST:**Kelly Wallace:**

- a. Draft policy regarding use of reserve fund
- b. Learn more about the Whole Foods Community Days program and whether it might make a donation to MVFSC

Gary Green:

- a. Work with Greg Holquist to encourage Amy Head to use a chipper on the Old Ridge Road project instead of burning.
- b. Purchase 200 green reflector signs
- c. Purchase Dreamweaver on behalf of MVFSC
- d. Ask Sue Santos about mechanism for accepting donations via the MVFSC website

Greg Holquist:

- a. Arrange a meeting of the Golf Tournament subcommittee to organize and assign planning
- b. Continue to prepare an action list of specific tasks to be accomplished for the golf tournament along with target dates, including developing a publicity schedule
- c. Work with Gary Green to encourage Amy head to use a chipper on the Old Ridge Road project instead of burning. Enlist the assistance of Laszlo Bencsik of Davey Tree in this regard.

Gary Margadant:

- a. Continue talks with Tony Spleen about rotating or masking the road sign on Dry Creek near Orchard.
- b. Continue to communicate with Napa County about possibly moving the sign to the alternate location near the city limits.
- c. Investigate whether the old fire road access points are still viable

Ken Van Oeveren:

- a. Obtain a debit card for the MVFSC checking account