

**Minutes - Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
Fire Safe Santa Cruz County (FSSCC)**

Thursday, August 3, 2017

10:30 AM

Location: Aptos / La Selva Fire Protection District
6934 Soquel Drive
Aptos, CA 95003

1. CALL TO ORDER at 10:30 by Joe Christy.

2. INTRODUCTIONS & WELCOME

Directors Present: Joe Christy, President
Angie Gruys for Chris Coburn (absent), Treasurer
Nicholas Retford for Chris Berry (absent)
Ian Rowbotham
Felix Sorrentino
Tim Hyland for Tim Reilly (absent)
Nancy Cole
Trevor Dirksen
Jen Michelsen
Ed Hayes
Andy Hubbs, Secretary

Directors Absent: Matt Johnston, Vice President

Attendees: Patty Ciesla, Santa Clara County FSC
Rich Sampson, CAL FIRE
Frank Rodgers, CAL FIRE
Sarah Collamer CAL FIRE
Becky Steinbruner, Soquel FSC & Aptos Hills Resident
Roger Tompkins, NRCS
Edd Silveira, Friends of De Laveaga Park
Chris Duymich, MBARD
Brenda Hermann, CCC
Michael Chiodini, BLM
John Romandia, Black Cat Construction

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ed Silveira comments on the July 8th fire that occurred in De Laveaga Park. Concerned about fire danger in the park area. Referenced 1988 article in which a need was addressed and nothing has ever occurred. Hoping a new effort can be made.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

4.1. Review and Approve of 06/13/2017 meeting summary

Motion to approve: Trevor Dirksen

Second: Ed Hayes

All in favor

5. REPORTS

5.1. Treasurer's report – nothing to report

5.2. Director's reports- -nothing to report

6. ACTION ITEMS

6.1. Discussion as to whether Directors should be constantly added or what system should be in place. Becky Steinbruner and Edd Silveria were both interested in becoming board members and that their nominations were tabled until a process is in place.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

7.1. Soquel FSC has disbanded. Discussion that equipment and remaining funds is underway.

7.2. Update on process of developing website – RCD has signed a contract with a designer. RCD has draft text for site. Have requested local photos for the site– please email them to Chris Coburn. Contract is between RCD and Treetop. Joe to provide information about Google for non-profit to RCD/Treetop web designer as an option for hosting the web site. Google for non-profits is utilized by Santa Clara county FSC, but Patty was not able to set up a discussion group. Joe has had some success with it at BDFSC. Patty points out the merits of Google Docs/Drive however.

7.3. Updated on Facebook Site – Patty set up a Facebook page for FSSCC modeling it after the Santa Clara County FSC page. Can be helpful with program promotions. Patty requests everyone go to the new page and “Like” it.

7.4. Update on securing Director's and Officer's Insurance – FSSCC project liability is covered through the RCD. Projects undertaken through individual FSCs are covered by their own insurance.

7.5. Status of Director's Conflict of Interest Statements - Several Board members have not yet signed the statements. Anyone sitting in for existing members need to sign statements as well. Collected signed forms from Joe Christy, Tim Hyland (CA State Parks), and Nicolas Retford (City of Santa Cruz).

7.6. Upcoming Grants

7.6.1. 2018 Landscape Scale Restoration Competitive Grant Program (LSRCGP) & Western States Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Grants – Andy discusses LSRCGP & Western States WUI grant; Patty mentions collaboration with other FSCs to address education as a potential for the LSRCGP. Santa Clara County FSC is considering applying and invites FSSCC to join them. Joe suggests update to Living with Fire as an educational component...pros and cons to this brochure. San Mateo has an updated Living with Fire Guide that could be used as a template. Also digital updates of Living with Fire and Ready-Set-go It was pointed out that CAL FIRE and CCC crews can be used for the 50% match required for both grant opportunities.

7.6.2. Discussion of projects, potential collaborations - CCC is still accepting applications for SRA funded projects. They now have their own chipper. Patty discusses SCCFSC SNAP program for folks needing assistance with cutting and chipping material for D-Space.

WUI possibilities:

- Possibly a SNAP program and Countywide chipping project in collaboration with the FSC's.
- De Laeaga tree thinning / fire hazard reduction
- Grant writing discussed. Collaboration among several members suggested to assist writing grants.
- Santa Cruz Water Department reports that Steve Butler (contract forester) thinks the opening of overgrown existing fire trails west of Loch Lomond is a good project.
- Project list/prioritization/CWPP update discussed. Thought this could be done without hiring a consultant.
- Rural Roads Program through RCD – could it be included in a WUI grant in terms of mapping/identification of fire access. SLWD also interested in mapping roads.
- Discussion of a need to develop a list of need and prioritized projects before applying for grants. A form to generate the list of potential projects will be developed by several board members: Trevor, Becky, Andy and Joe. San Mateo has an existing form that could be used as a template.
- FSSCC would like to put off applying for anything this year until projects selection criteria are determined. However, the SNAP/Chipper may be a possibility for this year because we have past templates for that program.

7.6.2.1. Chipping / Senior & Disabled Program – not formally discussed; refer to SNAP discussed in Item 7.6.2 above.

7.6.2.2. Update to living with fire in Santa Cruz County – discussed in Item 7.6.2 above.

8. ADJOURN

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors will be October 5, 2017 Location TBD

Adjourned at 12:10