

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

Thursday, December 7th, 2017

10:30 AM

Location: Community Foundation Santa Cruz County
Solari East Conference Room
7807 Soquel Drive
Aptos, CA 95003

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

2. **INTRODUCTIONS & WELCOME**

Directors Present: Joe Christy, President
Chris Coburn, Treasurer
Chris Berry
Ian Rowbotham
Ed Hayes
Trevor Dirksen
Jennifer Michelson

Directors Absent: Andy Hubbs, Secretary
Matt Johnston, Vice President
Felix Sorrentino
Nancy Cole
Tim Reilly

Attendees: Rich Sampson, CAL FIRE
Frank Rodgers, CAL FIRE
Janet Wohlgemuth, CCC
Patty Ciesla, Santa Clara County FSC
Whitney Haraguchi, NRCS
Roger Tompkins, NRCS
Edd Silveira, Friends of De Laveaga Park
Gary Sanchez, President Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Edd Silveria introduced Fire Wise Santa Cruz, a new grass-roots organization to represent the neighbors in the De Laveaga neighborhood.
- There was a discussion by the group of whether or not insurance companies will adjust rates for residents who live in the WUI and represented by a fire safe council / fire wise group. Statement of how highly regulated the State of California is with respect to fire coverage rates.

- There was a discussion about the City's role in maintaining the park surrounding the De Laveaga neighborhood as it relates to insurance policies.
- Gary Sanchez congratulated the group on establishing a fire safe council for Santa Cruz County.
- Gary mentioned a significant challenge in the recent Sonoma / Santa Rosa fires was that residents didn't know what to do in the event of a fire, weren't notified, and were not prepared.
- To this point, Santa Clara FSC has been conducting evacuation workshops, making people aware of evacuations / prepared to evacuate as part of the workshops – have held 6 workshops to date.
- Chris Coburn notified the group that the RCD worked with homeowners to chip up downed wood.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- 4.1. Review and Approve of 10/05/2017 meeting summary – Chris Berry moved approval of the minutes, Rich Sampson seconded. All in favor, and the motion passed.

5. REPORTS

- 5.1. Treasurer's report – it was noted that the Treasurer, currently Chris Coburn, checks in with the Board President, currently Joe Christy, before each meeting. Chris reported that the Fire Safe Santa Cruz County still only has \$40 in cash received via a donation. Chris Coburn reported that the RCD is tasked with acting as the FSSCC's fiscal sponsor, is still ironing out how that arrangement will be set up. Chris also reported that the RCD is working from funds allocated by the County Board of Supervisors to the RCD in support of the development of FSSCC. There was a conversation about the County contribution, and how the funds would be accounted for between the RCD and the FSC. Joe asked for a call for volunteers for fundraising. Joe mentioned that a committee has been formed to identify projects.
- 5.2. Patty mentioned how the Fire Safe Council in Santa Clara works, and how they have established staff to carry out and implement programs.
- 5.3. Chris Coburn suggested that we bring a proposal back to the Board back in February, Ed and Joe volunteered to be on a committee to help develop that position.
- 5.4. There was a suggestion to contact the McNeill insurance agency to obtain Director's and Officer's insurance.
- 5.5. Chris Berry reported that the City conducted an emergency drill at Loch Lomond and development of an emergency preparedness plan for the City water department.
- 5.6. Chris Berry that he will follow up with the City fire chief about concerns at De Laveaga Park.
- 5.7. There was a suggestion to develop a hazardous fuel load reduction program.
- 5.8. Director's reports - none

6. ACTION ITEMS

- 6.1. Chris Coburn nominated Chris Berry for Vice President. Rich Sampson seconded. All were in favor, and the motion passed.
- 6.2. Joe reminded folks that he forwarded along a logo to the group for consideration. There was a question of what the logo represented. There was not support for the logo. Patty volunteered to spend some effort on revising the logo.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 7.1. A representative from PG&E was to talk with the group about possible funding from PG&E, but unfortunately was not able to attend the meeting.
- 7.2. Bear Panel Fire – there was a suggestion for a debrief of the Bear fire in Santa Cruz County – discussing lessons learned. Bonny Doon Fire Safe Council will be holding a forum on the fire to learn about the fire from a firefighter’s perspective. Joe asked for input about a broader workshop about the fire, that includes planning, environmental and other perspectives on the fire. Title could be ‘wildfire and lessons learned from the Bear Fire.’” South Skyline is also hosting a talk on January 19th. General support to proceed on a workshop as discussed, to be held early in the new year in the San Lorenzo Valley.
- 7.3. Evacuation plans – Rich suggested that evacuation plans would be done on a local basis, not a ‘county wide’ evacuation plan. A new sergeant is being established in the Valley.
- 7.4. Supervisor McPhersons, Planning, CalFire, Sheriff’s office should be represented on the Panel. Possibly Robin Bolster-Grant from the County’s planning department.
 - 7.4.1. Agenda could include:
 - 7.4.1.1. 5 minute overview of map of area and where fire was
 - 7.4.1.2. Joe will follow up with County planning, Rich will follow up with the Sheriff’s office and others.
 - 7.4.1.3. Jen, Rich and Chris Berry will coordinate on the event, most likely in February.

8. ADJOURN – 11:58

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors will be February 1, 2017 Location TBD