

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

Thursday, April 4, 2019

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Location: Santa Cruz County Office of Emergency Services

5200 Soquel Avenue

Santa Cruz, CA 95062

**1. CALL TO ORDER:** At 1032 by Paul Horvat

**2. INTRODUCTIONS & WELCOME**

**Directors Present:** Paul Horvat, President  
Ed Hayes, Vice President  
Joe Christy, Vice President  
Frank Rogers (in for Andy Hubbs, Secretary)  
LizAnne Jensen, Treasurer  
Ian Rowbotham  
Chris Berry  
Lizzy Eichorn  
Becky Steinbruner  
Tim Reilly  
Bob Loveland

**Directors Absent:** Jen Michelsen  
Felix Sorrentino  
Andy Hubbs, Secretary

**Attendees:** Rich Sampson, CAL FIRE  
Pam Peck, Monterey FSC  
Judy Garrison, Monterey FSC  
Ellen Farmer, Firewise  
Abby Young, Firewise  
Susan Omaly, local HOA  
Sharon Simas, Firewise  
Betsy Stiefelmaier, Firewise  
Ron Dornseif, Hidden Glen HOA  
Dave Cordano, Hidden Glen HOA

**3. AGENDA REVISIONS/APPROVAL**

3.1. No changes made to the agenda.

**4. CONSENT AGENDA**

4.1. Review and approve 2/7/19 meeting minutes. LizAnne requested that item 6.5 under Reports be edited to read that she volunteered to be part of the Development Committee. Joe moved approval of the minutes with LizAnne's suggested change, LizAnne seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion carried.

## 5. PUBLIC COMMENT

- 5.1. Abby Young from Santa Cruz Firewise: Abby made an announcement that Wildfire Preparedness Day is May 4. She requested that event information be posted to the FSSCC website and Facebook pages. She is looking to partner with FSSCC on local Firewise efforts.
- 5.2. Dave Cordano from Hidden Glen HOA: They have 60 private homes as part of their HOA. They are working to organize their community to develop a fire safety plan and would appreciate input on their plan.
- 5.3. No other public comments.

## 6. REPORTS

- 6.1. Executive Committee report  
A strategic planning session was held last week and was facilitated by Paul. The four foundational pillars of FSSCC are Partnership, Administration, Community Education and Outreach, and Wildfire Risk Mitigation and our shared vision is: *In the event of wildfire in Santa Cruz County, the community is adequately prepared so that no life is lost, damage to property is minimal to none, and natural systems are revitalized by fire rather than destroyed by it.*
- 6.2. Treasurer's report  
No activity since last board mtg. \$1942.50 cash available. No tax filings due at this time.
- 6.3. Education and Outreach Committee report  
There is a need for a leader for this group. The committee aims to meet on a more regular basis. The first article titled "Ten steps you can take to make your home more defensible" was written by Becky and was published by a number of news outlets. She is in the middle of drafting the second article. The committee is open to topic ideas: insurance (people getting dropped), Firewise efforts, etc. Becky has been in contact with Peter Meza (CA Department of Insurance). He is willing to come to our area and give presentations about insurance considerations as they relate to fire.
- 6.4. TAC report  
The TAC has not met since last meeting. If anyone gets a request for chipping or any type of assistance, please direct them to the FSSCC website (<https://www.firesafesantacruz.org/no-cost-chipping>). Clarification from Rich Sampson: the County Chief's Chipper is 20 yrs old and can be unreliable. However, if there is a community project that a fire district would like to use the chipper for, it can be used for that. CAL FIRE, County fire and other districts can use it at no cost if they have signed on to the Chief's Chipper agreement. Contact your local fire district if interested in its use.
- 6.5. Development Committee report  
The committee has been involved in developing the strategic plan and will be working closely with the Education and Outreach Committee on certain aspects of the upcoming outreach events.
- 6.6. RCD report  
Lizzy submitted the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter invoice to the County today. Nimble Corp has 17.5 hrs left. Lizzy has worked 127.5 hrs since the start of the FY. Original budget was 120 hours. The RCD moved some funds from workshop supplies categories, web design and staff member time to cover 6.75 hrs for Lizzy's upcoming work in Q4. The outreach event costs can be covered by CA FSC grant. There is \$95 left in the County budget for website support, which will be used to add a donate button on the FSSCC website.

The FSSCC/RCD MOU needs to be updated for FY19-20, which will be addressed at the next ESC meeting. The CA FSC grant is executed and environmental clearance is pending.

There have been a number of assistance requests through the FSSCC website for neighborhood-scale projects and chipping services. The majority of people don't know where to start but are concerned about fire risk. FSSCC needs to develop the capacity to respond adequately to these needs efficiently and meaningfully.

The RCD is working with CAL FIRE and State Parks to implement the Hinkley Ridge/ Buzzard's lagoon shaded fuel break project. This project is included in the Governor's 45-day report.

#### 6.7 Other director reports

- Paul and LizAnne have both been in contact with the man who oversees the state Firewise program (Pete Muñoa). They are in process of scheduling a meeting with him.
- Joe mentioned that on the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) website, there are products (flyers/handouts) available for use at outreach and education events (up to a certain number are free).
- Becky (and other board members) attended the South Skyline Wildland Fire Assessment Program (WFAP) training which was aimed at training people to be able to do home assessment checklists with communities. The group agreed that this would be a good training for FSSCC to host and it would be beneficial to put the workshop materials on the FSSCC website.

No other reports.

## 7 DISCUSSION ITEMS

### 7.1 Review long-term strategic plan

The board was in support of the Long-Term Strategic Plan developed by the Executive Steering Committee. It was tabled to be approved at the June board meeting pending minor edits.

### 7.2 Discuss County-wide Firewise program progress

LizAnne presented an update on the Firewise coordinator position. The ESC is moving forward with securing funding.

### 7.3 Other discussion: Rich mentioned the prescribed fire program in Henry Cowell and that there is an outreach event on May 16<sup>th</sup> at the Boulder Creek Fire Department (facilitated by supervisor McPherson's office).

## 8 ADJOURN At 1201 by Paul Horvat

The next Regular Meeting of the Board will be Thursday, June 6, 2019, at the Santa Cruz County Office of Emergency Services building, 5200 Soquel Avenue.