

Board Meeting Minutes
Fire Safe Council of Santa Cruz County
DATE: Jan 19, 2023 10:00
LOCATION: Zoom



1. CALL TO ORDER - 10:08am

2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Attendees: Joe Christy*, Lynn Sestak*, Patty Ciesla*, Nancy Yellin, Adam Hensleigh (advisory committee nominee), Marco Mack (Advisory Committee chair), Cindy Weigelt*, Mike Phinn (HIZ volunteer), Brett Agler (CAL FIRE forester), Sanjay Khandelwahl (Loma Prieta area Firewise, FDAC chair), Thomas Sutfin (former CAL FIRE and SDSF Forest Manager), Ashley Weil* (Natural Resources State Parks), Chris Berry*

* Board member

3. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Passed on voting on [December Minutes](#)

4. TREASURER'S REPORT - Patty Ciesla

- a. Estimated bank balance, noted mostly unrestricted funds
- b. Anticipated Fire Foundation Grant and CSAA Grants and funds will be released from restriction
- c. Confirmed receipt of all documents from former Treasurer

5. ACTION ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD APPROVAL

- a. Hiring Laura Giorgi for Communications, Outreach and Education (COE) Coordinator/Admin - Patty moved, Cindy seconded, unanimously approved
- b. Electing Board Officers - Patty willing to continue as Secretary until Laura on board

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Scheduling Interviews
 - i. Joe reported multiple qualified resumes were received for each position, and one interview for the HFR position has been completed.
 - ii. Patty interviewed 2 candidates for COE position; noted CAL FIRE and CA FSC grants will fund most of this role (\$35/hr + 22% loading)
 - iii. Joe looked to establish an interview committee to interview the HFR
 1. Patty estimated this will take a commitment of about 5 hours to conduct 3 interviews
- b. Establish Board Development Committee (Onboarding, etc). - Joe
 - i. Objective: establish process to recruit and onboard new Board members, develop handbook, describe responsibilities for Board members at large
 - ii. Chris Berry, Joe Christy, Cindy Weigelt, Patty Ciesla volunteered to join

- c. Firewise/HIZ reports - Lynn
 - i. Reported 43 Firewise communities so far; \$6.1 million community dollars and 78,536 hours invested to date invested so far
 - ii. Requested nominal funding for supplies contractor bags for the Brush Brigade program (i.e. pairing student volunteers with residents in need)
 - iii. Patty confirmed this is a grant fundable expense
- d. Additional appointments to Advisory Committee
 - i. Joe nominated Thomas Sutfin, Adam Hensleigh and Sanjay Khandelwahl
- e. [Fine Scale Veg Mapping Expert Review Kickoff Webinar](#) - Joe
 - i. Vegetation mapping for Santa Clara, San Mateo and Santa Cruz counties
- f. Schedule meeting about [CAL FIRE CCI-FP grant opportunity](#)
 - i. Max award is \$5M with 6% overhead
 - ii. Joe invited anyone interested to contact him offline
 - iii. Patty inquired if there had been applications or inquiries for the Cal Fire CCI-FP grant yet
 - iv. FSCSCC intends to apply for the Fire Prevention grant
 - v. RCD intends to apply for a Forest Health grant

7. ROUND ROBIN

- a. Marco Mack shared information:
 - i. Suggested two Advisory Committee opportunities:
 1. Research governance and detail challenges
 2. Build connection with Fire Chiefs Association
 - ii. Identified goal for FSCSCC to be resident-driven, with guidance and direction provided by local agencies; formalize relationship with Fire Chiefs Association
 - iii. Provided highlights for other projects, including newsletter with Cal Fire project status, California code development, regulations, build method to give homeowners credit for their wildfire compliance efforts, presentation at UC Davis in Feb, Cal Fire training for defensible space inspectors (planned for eventual rollout to HIZ volunteers)
 - iv. Recommended the [CAL FIRE Zone 0 - Ember-resistant and Burn Permit webinar](#)
 - v.
 - vi. Recommended inclusion of these resources in the minutes for this meeting (see Appendix A)

8. ADJOURN

The next Executive Steering Committee meeting will be on February 16.

Appendix A

Cal Fire – Office of the State Fire Marshal

[Wildfire Mitigation Advisory Committee](#)

[January 2023 Meeting](#)

[Meeting Powerpoint](#)

[Model Defensible Space Ordinance \(Draft\)](#)

-For local jurisdictions to adopt by ordinance.

-This is voluntary and may be modified to meet local conditions

[Cal Fire new Burn Permit Approval Program](#)

-We need to confirm how the local Cal Fire Unit will incorporate this with local jurisdiction interested in participating, ex Central Fire.

-Eventually each CalFire emergency apparatus will have access to an online viewer that identifies each approved burn permit for that day. Below – I have included a screen shot of the CalFire Staff Only Burn Permit Viewer.

[CalFire eMail notifications for Project Updates and Webinars](#) (link to sign-up for future webinars)

Zone Zero and Burn Permit Webinar

[January 23, 2023 11:30am \(Click for Zoom Link\)](#)

[Zone 0 - Burn Permit Information - Webinar Flyer](#)

[Webinar Presentation](#)

[Webinar Recording](#)

[Cal Fire Youtube Link](#)

See videos related to SRA Mapping and other Public Info details

[Cal Fire Fuel Reduction Program](#)

[Fuel reduction Projects VIEWER](#)

[Cal Fire Subdivision Review Program](#)

For Subdivisions with 30 home-plus and only one egress roadway

[PRC 4290.5](#) LAW requiring Cal Fire to collect data & initiate a 5-year review/update

[Title 14 Sec 1267.01 FIRE SAFETY SURVEY](#)

Regulations providing guidance for implementation of PRC 4290.5

[Resident/Local Jurisdiction survey to notify Cal Fire](#)

[Link to the Cal Fire Viewer of subdivisions with only one egress](#)