



Board Meeting DRAFT MINUTES

Fire Safe Council of Santa Cruz County

Thursday, March 16th, 2023
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Location: Zoom

1. **CALL TO ORDER** - Joe Christy @10:06, quorum established
2. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS** - All
Joe Christy, president; Lynn Sestak, volunteer Firewise and temp HIZ coord and board member; Bob Gray, Felton Fire, Advisor; Tim Shields, Chris Berry, Watershed Mgr at City of Scruc Water dept; Lisa Lurie, RCD; Marco Mack Chair of Advisory committee; Rich Sampson CAL FIRE, sitting in for Brett Adler; Mike Sampson, Viewpoint Rd Firewise Committee; Keegan Guillory, BLM, Advisory; Logan Thompson, Planner at Santa Cruz County, Advisor; Ed Hayes, South Skyline FSC VP, former board member and member of advisors; LizAnne Jenson, resident of Bonny Doon, former board member; Mike Phinn; Matt Abernathy;
3. **CONSENT AGENDA** - Joe Christy
 - a. Any additions to the Agenda
 - b. Approve minutes from 2/16/23 Board meeting minutes approved by unanimous consent
4. **TREASURER'S REPORT** - Patty Ciesla
 - a. Total of \$7466 spent from checking since the start of our fiscal year. Treasurer's report will be ready for the 20th
 - b. Lisa recommends creating a status report on existing grants with balances, understanding what FSCSCC is in contract for, amounts, and progress made. Lisa will provide a template that the RCD uses.
5. **ACTION ITEMS**
 - a. **Advisory Committee proposed action** (See Marco's email) Committee met to address concerns from board member. Goal was to set aside emotions and turn concerns into action items. Advisory actions:
 - i. Commence a Financial Management System Evaluation. The addition of staff brings complications and a need for review of policies and procedures.
 - ii. Advisors desire to support and improve work of staff and board by building capacity. Propose working to build a relationship with the Fire Chiefs Association to improve working relationships with fire jurisdictions.

Discussion:

Ed Hayes states advisory committee intent is to alert to lack of full leadership in the officers core. Reporting has been slow and ineffective, primary goal to get financial house in order. Request advisory committee to assist, evaluate and work with treasurer, Also in attempt to get better leadership team to work with Fire Chief's Assoc to get qualified people to help with council leadership and filling officer roles.

Rich Sampson reminds of the history of the organization going back to 2010, the conditions that caused the org to be closed by Fire Chiefs included too much drama and lack of mutual cooperation. We can't have this any more. The chiefs are tired of it, not sure there is a will in them to join right now. It seems like many entities that were on the board of directors at the start have been shifted over to the advisory committee. We seem to be losing leadership on the board. This is really a grassroots organization and more leaders are needed from the

community. We have a lack of information about what the organization can do functionally. We may be over committed on grants. Glad to see there is a plan and a will to move forward. Bob Gray reports he's one of the ones trying to liaise with this group to the FCA, agrees there needs to be clear reporting on financials and grants side to be made available. Joe Christy says he can personally vouch for being over committed. Patty thanks the Advisory Committee for their work. Marco wants to set up a meeting for the March 23 for the AdCom to reconvene. Lynn will help set up a doodle poll to select the time.

Call for motions.

Chris Berry moves to accept the advisory committee's recommended actions, as shown in the two boxes. Agrees with Chief's Sampson's comments, appreciates the candor, Agrees the FSC is intended to be grassroots organization.

Motion seconded by Lisa Lurie, motion carries unanimously.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Staffing changes - Joe Christy Community Outreach Coordinator resigned. We have an HR consultant to help with staff issues and all issues should be funneled through her. If you want her contact info, Joe will provide.
- b. Advisory committee report - Marco Mack. Cal Stats mapping requirements for SRA, several links on FHSZs, need to be shared and reviewed for SRA, then need to review LRA. Parts of Aptos may become subject to WUI requirements.. Calfire subdivision review program - 30 or more homes with only one egress route. Individual Firewise communities could report if they meet this definition, example Redwood Drive/Cathedral with only one way out. How to mitigate this risk? Any questions email Marco.
- c. Report on [CAL FIRE Wildfire Fire Prevention Grant](#) - Patty Ciesla

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

(none requested for agenda yet)

8. OUTREACH PROGRAM REPORT

- a. Firewise 46 recognized communities in Santa Cruz County now. See Lynn's slides. New interest in Lompico. KPIG hog call recording. South Skyline Emergency Preparedness event Bob would like copy of the slides
- b. HIZ. Lost HIZ coordinator, impacts the program, need to find someone else to do that work. Things on hold.
- c. Brush brigade was started as a loose affiliation with HIZ, will report back. Chris comments this is awesome work, would like to see it publicized. Lynn: Sherry and Adam may be able to carry. Bob has a kid in HS wants to get involved. Joe will work on getting this up on the website.

9. **ROUND ROBIN** (3 minutes each) Ed Hayes: South Skyline FSC going to have another community emergency preparedness day May , noon to 3pm invited all the RCDs, Lynn for HIZ and Firewise, this council to have a booth and represent yourself, Home hardening vendors to be there, a good opportunity to network with others, 3 counties San Mateo, Santa Cruz, Santa Lara all together. Joe, talked to folds about Brush Brigades. Chris Berry preparing to contract with environmental about forest management of Loch Lomond property, Reports there will be a State of San Lorenzo River Symposium, invite people to attend, at Loudon Nelson at 9am this Saturday. Rich, reports there will be an event in May 11-12 or 12-13 Central Coast Task force for Regional Task Force

board meeting at coconut grove, meeting of people with booths. Tours of various projects, FSC can participate in that. More details to follow, resource fair at May 11 Coconut Grove.

10. TOPICS FOR NEXT BOARD MEETING

Joe, bring recommendations for a physical place for next (May) board meeting, Marco found a record that in 1914 there was a county? fire safety committee, see link in chat

11. ADJOURN 11:09

The next Board meeting will be held at 10am, Thursday, April 20, 2023.
