



Board Meeting Minutes

Fire Safe Council of Santa Cruz County

DATE: March 21, 2024 TIME: 10am PDT

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- 1. CALL TO ORDER – Present Board Members:** Joe Christy, Carly Blanchard, Lynn Sestak, Patty Ciesla, Adam Hensleigh, Michael Horn
Guests: Clare Peabody, Ed Hayes, Erik Brown, Keegan Guillory, Laurel Bard, Matt Abernathy, Thomas Sutfin, Tim Shields, Becky Steinbrunner, Lauren Moody, Brett Agler, Dani Franke, Lizanne Jensen, Eric Lombardo, Rachel Dann (Sempervirens fund), Sarah Newkirk, Kathleen McLaughlin
Absent board members: Lisa Lurie, Chris Bradford, Cindy Weigelt, Tony Akin, Sanjay Khandelwal
- 2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS – Joe**

Joe Christy and Lisa Lurie are terming out and will be leaving the board. Joe is looking for new board members to elect as well as the constitution of a new executive committee. Also need to come up with a budget committee. There are not enough board members today to have a quorum. Adam wants to get the board down to 9 so that we have a quorum at 5 members. Liz Kroft has indicated she wants to be off mailing list. Joe is initiating the bylaws and is adding Liz's resignation to the consent agenda as an additional item, although Adam nor Joe received confirmation of her resignation personally.
- 3. CONSENT AGENDA - Joe**
 - a) Additions to Agenda- *Joe motions to accept Liz Kroft's board resignation, Patty seconds. Motion carries unanimously.*
 - b) Approval of 1/18/24 minutes- *Patty moves to approve, Joe seconds. Motion carries.*
- 4. Executive Committee Report -**
 - a) President's Report-Joe: talked about items above already

- b) Vice President's Report-Adam: will discuss later in item 7b.
- c) Treasurer's Report-Christopher: absent
- d) Secretary's Report-Patty: Helping Chris by working with Leila Music from Jitasa. Jitasa has been set up to have employee payments through Quickbooks with autodeposit feature. Quickbooks will also do our taxes through Intuit. Patty suggests an approval of payments with coding tags. Will update coding so that the classes of grant code for things like programs/admin/fundraising are earmarked. The coding aspect will be in place to switch over to at the end of this month.

Adam: asks Patty about her progress with putting together a grant snapshot, finalizing the strategic plan for the board to approve and following up with Jitasa to generate a financial summary so the board can see financials clearly. Patty says she has yet to work on grant snapshot project. Wants to get the grants entered into QuickBooks correctly first before creating a more in depth analysis of our financial position. Generating reports is a lot of work and will take time. She is going to work with Leila from Jitasa on a weekly basis to create a grant snapshot report for the board meetings/EC meetings. Adam wants the visibility of financials and a tracking system in place so that we can be comfortable with the idea of hiring an HFR person.

*Patty will deliver a clear financial position by end of April to board, with a preliminary snapshot to sent to Adam and Joe in the coming weeks.

Chris Klier: would like an update on fuel reduction manager hire?

Joe talks about the obstruction to hiring has been a cash flow problem but that it's going to finally start to move again now that the chipping reimbursement invoices have been submitted to CalFire. Anticipating we will receive around \$100,000 as an advancement, once the controllers office approves it.

5. COE Report-Lauren: gave verbal review of her report she sent out

6. Outreach Program Reports-Lynn Sestak:

- a) Firewise- 55 communities, 11 in progress, 4532 homes engaged, 4 presentations in progress including talking to fire chiefs! Shout out to the RCD chipping program and all the assistance you give our community!
- b) HIZ-home ignition zone- only 4 active assessors currently, looking at software solution by end of April, assessor recruitment and training- potentially through new CalFire program that Mike Phinn has helped to orchestrate (Michael Horn and Clara Elliott are interested also eric

brown-firewise /eric lombardo landtrust) or Pat Durland organizing a training again.

- c) Brush Busters- Have a small band of volunteers to haul brush away from seniors/disabled residents.

7. ACTION ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD APPROVAL

- a) Proposed Meeting Schedule for 2024, starting in April:
Board Meetings: 10 am, 3rd Thursday of Even Months - 4/18, 6/20 (board elections), 8/15, 10/17, 12/19
Executive Committee Meetings: Time TBD, 3rd Thursday of Odd Months – 5/26, 7/18, 9/19, 11/2
Motion to approve by Patty, Joe seconds: approved
- b) Wildfire Resiliency Summit, Thurs June 6, 2-6pm, Veteran's Memorial Hall - Adam
 - i) Overview-wants to have shovel ready presentations by various groups and panels to show community that things are happening. Wants to highlight and give our Firesafe council visibility through this. Wildfire prepared homes, firescaping, fire tech panel and government panel.
 - ii) Budget-\$7,800 total. Adam made a \$375 deposit donation and has come up with a map of zip codes to deliver 13,580 postcards to. Website landing page with registration. Patty says we can pay for it with the OR3 grant. Claire says this grant needs to be spent by the end of the month?
Motion to approve Adams budget by Patty, Joe seconds. The motion carries. No abstaining.
- c) Land Trust November Ballot Initiative
 - i) Presentation by Sarah Newkirk, Land Trust Of Santa Cruz County Model wildfire risk reduction buffers in Paradise. Findings were that routine fuel reduction efforts/land management practices did in fact create a reduced wildfire risk. They want to model work out of this locally.
 - ii) Q & A-
Motion to approve endorsing initiative by Patty. Joe seconds, Motion carries.

8. Discussion Items

- a) Grant Coding and Jitasa-Patty. (discussed already)
- b) RCD Spring Chipping-Laurel Bard- spring chipping program opens April 1 for general public, March 25th for established Firewise communities who get a special code. Two step application-1st is basic info for chipping program, 2nd confirmation form and response for pile size/volume and to take pics of piles and record how many people helped make piles and for how long. Encourages people to apply for the

fall reimbursement program who want to clear private roads. They removed the requirement to submit a tax form for their fall chipping program.

9. Round Robin

- a) Thomas Sutfin-30,000 State Farm will be cancelled for July 2024.

10. Topics for next board meeting-NA

ADJOURNED at 12:09PM

The next Board meeting will be on ***Thurs, Apr 18th***

Board Motions:

- a) Approval of Liz Kroft's board resignation
- b) Approval of 1/18/24 minutes
- c) Meeting Schedule for 2024, starting in April 2024
- d) Approval of the June 2024 Wildfire Resiliency Summit budget
- e) Approval of endorsement of Land Trust Ballot Initiative

Action Items:

- a) Patty will deliver a clear financial position by end of April to board, with a preliminary snapshot to sent to Adam and Joe in the coming weeks.