

MEETING MINUTES

COALITION OF FIREWISE COMMUNITIES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018 5:30-7:30 PM

Location: Madelyn Helling Library

- A. **Welcome and Announcements** – Coalition chair Kent Rees reported that he had a good conversation with Joanne Drummond. She has a new job that will tap into her areas of expertise. She thanks the Coalition and will participate as part of the Alta Sierra community. There is a press release pending from her new employer.

As of the end of this meeting, Kent is resigning from his position as chair of the Coalition. Our next meeting (changed to Thursday, July 12 due to the July 4 holiday) will have an election for chair. Let Jeff or Susan know if you are interested in the position.

It was requested that there be more information on the Fire Safe Council board members and their affiliation and also the bylaws of the FSC board. Peter Beesley offered to research this and make it available to Coalition members.

Fire official Terry McMahan, a guest, said that he's identified about 500 vacant parcels that need fuels reduction and has sent out a notice of action. He is waiting to see what the reaction will be from the community members.

- B. **Review of Emergency Drills, Alta Sierra and Lake Wildwood – Matt Wallen, Cal Fire Battalion Chief** Guest speaker Matt Wallen said he's excited about the coalition's motivation and drive and feels the work of the Coalition is a positive force. There isn't enough CAL Fire staff to do what the Coalition is able to accomplish in the community. Cal Fire can help, guide, and provide assistance. He asked us to keep going and continue with our work.

The emergency drills started last year in Cascade Shores. Anything we can do to train new Cal Fire recruits is a bonus. Cal Fire gets positive feedback from employees about the trainings. We need to do this first for the community and second for the firefighters and the police. The drills help the community see specifically what the firefighters are dealing with. Wallen acknowledged that it will be harder for them to coordinate with communities that do not have an official organization (e.g., HOA) behind their Firewise community.

Wallen gave details of the Alta Sierra drill. He had 14 engine companies at Alta Sierra. They repeated the exercise the next weekend at Lake Wildwood, setting up different types of simulations, such as electric lines down, car accidents, electrocutions, people in altercations, robbery in progress, engine burn over, etc.

There was disappointment that there was not more coverage in the press of the activity to increase fire safe awareness in the community.

Jim Mathias spoke on coordination between fire agencies: Cal Fire is the state fire department, works for the governor, covers Oregon border to Mexican border. Cities have their own fire departments. The county has no fire department. There is a mutual aid system between fire departments, and the closest engine responds. Emergency dispatch is same for

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all the fire agencies. Most agencies have a few paid staff, there are some departments that are volunteer.

- C. **Feedback/Questions re: “30 Day Notice” From Last Meeting** - Kent Rees spoke of the 30 day courtesy notice and encourages all communities to use it as a tool that will encourage people to work on their defensible space. Most people will do the right thing when they are given a nudge to clean up their property. Concerned neighborhood outreach can be a very powerful entity, and people will often respond better to neighbor-to-neighbor communication than to a government official.
- C. **Discussion: Redefining the Coalition Relationship to the FSC and Board** – Kent offered his perspective on the recent drama at the Fire Safe Council. He feels that the FSC and the Coalition began to become too connected. The Coalition’s desire has always been to be independent, but Joanne came to the early meetings (and was very helpful). As time went on the FSC apparently felt there was too much involvement on her part and the line was crossed from disseminating information to advocacy. In the future, we need to avoid too close an association with FSC staff. Peter Beesley, a former associate director of FSC, said the FSC had expressed some concern about the push for enforcement. The FSC is trying to stay out of the advocacy role and stay with education and getting the word out.

Bob Long has been working on our request to the FSC board that they create a standing committee that is comprised of Coalition members. Bob is hoping this will happen in the next 60 days after the FSC has hired a new director. It was suggested that the Firewise Communities pool funds and hire a forester to help the action plans and assessments for those communities that are not yet certified. However, the mechanism for making this happen would be very difficult.

- D. **Discussion: Possible Bylaw Revisions?** – The Coalition by-laws need some revising. Vice chair Susan Rogers presented a PowerPoint with suggestions for changing the wording about vote-counting and amending the by-laws.

Section 8C Current Wording: If consensus cannot be reached, the decision will be made by a two-thirds majority of *members present at a meeting*. **Proposed revision:** *If consensus cannot be reached, the decision will be made by a two-thirds majority of those voting at a meeting.*

Section 10 Current Wording: These by-laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of *members present at a Coalition meeting*. **Proposed revision:** These by-laws may be amended by a *two-thirds majority of those voting at a meeting*.

In the discussion, it was agreed that an abstention is not a vote. The by-laws specify that “each fire wise community has only one vote. Each fire wise community will determine which representative will cast their vote.” Susan said that the Coalition will not get involved if, for

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example, two members of the same community cannot agree on how they would cast their one vote at a meeting.

It was moved and seconded to adopt the revised wording as submitted. A hand vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

At the **Thursday, July 12** meeting we may discuss the following possible changes to the by laws

- Improve definition of “membership,” e.g., reps of Firewise communities, individuals from community, persons on FSCouncil board.
- Define who can vote, hold office, and serve on committees.
- Define terms for officers’ length of service?
- Give officers flexibility to change meeting date when it conflicts with a holiday.
 - Contact Susan Rogers if you are interested in helping with this
 - Landline 271-1311 Email susanrogers at ncn.net

F. Discussion: Proper Use of Coalition Email List – A member expressed concern about the use of the email list. We need to make sure that there is not abuse or improper use of the email list. It was suggested that we create rules of conduct. Susan will draft Standing Rules to document procedures that do not need to be part of the by-laws. Coalition officers will use a BCC (blind copy function) when sending emails so that replies go only to the officers.

There was a question about how many should be on the Firewise Committee for each Fire Wise Community. It was suggested to have 5-7 people.

G. Subcommittee Progress Reports –

Real Estate: Susan Rogers had no update. The realtors had a meeting in late May, we will know after that what is happening. Mike G. shared a Real Estate Transfer Disclosure Statement from El Dorado.

Enforcement: Peter Beeseley reported that Ed Scofield did not have a lot of info on Firewise communities, and Hank Weston thinks county residents will not like more rules and regulations. It appears that the 30 Day courtesy notice may actually be an effective tool. Heidi Hall was enthusiastic, wants details.

Evacuation: Each FWC needs to assess the evacuation routes, make sure there are alternates.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

**Next Coalition Meeting, Thursday July 12, 2018,
Madelyn Helling Library**

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Attendance

Attendance 6/5/2018		
	Auld, Pam	Sherwood Forest FW
	Babiarz, Charlie	Mt. Lakes Estates
	Baldock, Ray	Forest Knolls III HOA
X	Beesley, Peter	Greater Alta Sierra FC
	Bell, Kevin	Bear River Ranch
	Bleile, Nancy	Greater Champion
	Bottomfield, Marlene	Tumbling Creek Neighborhood
	Branstrom, Bob	Wolf Creek Lodge
	Buschman, Gena	Greater Cement Hill
	Chandler, Steve	Lake of the Pines
X	Cuccia, Mike	Mt Lakes Estates HA
	Curtin, Ed	Darkhorse HOA Auburn
	Dary, Raymond ?	
	Davidson, Dario	Lower Colfax FW
	Davis, Dennis	Toller Ridge Ct
	Diamond, Eve	Owl Creek/Jones Bar Neighborhood
	Dodge, Charolette	Wolf Mountain
	Drummond, Joanne	Alta Sierra POA
X	Ellisor, Jim	Rattlesnake Ridge Estates
	Emery, Jack	Echo Ridge Neighborhood
X	Enoch, Beth	Greater Cemtn Hill NA
	Ericson, Krista	Wolf Creek Lodge
	Fish, Cathe	Squirrel Creek HOA
	Freeman, Chrissy	Lower Colfax
	Fusshoeller, Pascal	LVRMNA
	Gardner, Scott	Sierra Knolls Estates
	Gardner, Suzanne	Sierra Knolls HOA
X	Gilbert, Ames & Nancy	Lower Colfax
	Gitchel, Sam	Greater Champion
	Goering, Peter	Ananda Firewise Community
	Gompertz, Virginia	Lake Wildwood HA
	Guerwitz, Phyllis	Lake Wildwood HA
	Hall, Helene	Banner Mountain Neighbors
	Hanna, Bob	Forest Knols III HOA
X	Hardy, Joan	Cascade Shores HA
X	Hawkins, Vicki	Darkhorse HOA Auburn
	Hofeling, Russ	Forest Knolls Estates

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	Hoff, Barbara	Tumbling Creek
	Hood, Dave	Stonebridge HA
	Houdyschell, Bill	Tahoe-Donner Assoc.
X	Israelian, Thomas	Dalmation Drive
	Jansen, Sandy	You Bet Community
	Jeffrey, Nancy	The Gazebos
	Johnson, Ryck	Buck Mountain Rd Assoc
X	Jorgensen, Frances	Greater Champion FW
	Knox, Christine	Red Dog-You Bet Community
	Lee, Bob	Lodestar HOA & FWC
X	Long, Bob	Chair – Sherwood Forest
X	Main, Martin	Bear River Ranch
	Mann, Gordon	Lake of the Pines
	Mason, Jackie	Lake Vera-Round Mtn
	Masters, RuthAnn	Cole Country Estates
X	Mathias, Jim	CalFire
	McGillicuddy, Paul	Lightening Tree Rd Assoc
X	McLean, Mike	Ridgeview Woodlands HA
X	McMahan, Terry	Nevada County Consolidated Fire
	Mezzetta, Jim	Rough & Ready Estates
	Novak, Gloria	Lake Vera-Round Mtn
X	Peach, Gale	Friends of Banner Mtn
X	Peach, Jeff	Friends of Banner Mtn FWC
X	Peach, Justin	FBM
	Peck, Tom	No Affiliation
X	Pettis, David	Wolf Mountain
	Porter, Debbie	Golden Oaks HA
X	Pridemore, Karen	6B Ranch Estates
X	Proano, Robert	6B Ranch Estates
	Rees, Kent	Cascade Shores HA
X	Reilly, Christopher	Alta Sierra POA
	Roberts, Moana	Jumper Hills FWC
X	Rogers, Susan	Glenwood-Maidu-Charlene
	Russell, John	Rattlesnake Neighborhood
	Scarmon, George	Lake Vera-Round Mtn
	Scarmon, Jeanne	Lake Vera-Round Mtn
	Small, F.Mac	Alta Sierra POA
	Smith, Vern	Ranch Rd HOA
	Staetz, Chuck	Friends of Banner Mtn

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	Taylor, Marilyn	LVRMNA
	Torrence, Cathlin	Greenhorn
	Van Arsdale, Rhonda	Lake Wildwood HA
X	Warner, Michael	Alta Sierra POA
	Wetzel, John	Upper Rough & Ready
X	Williams, Curt	Foxwood Estates
	Williams, Mike	The Cedars
	Williams, Pete	Greater Champion NA
	Wilson, Bill	Lake Vera-Round Mtn
	Young, Pam	Wolf Creek Lodge
	Ziebron, Michael	ASPOA - Alta Sierra
X	Hedman, Jan	Dalmation Drive
X	Muldord, Steven	Friends of Banner Mountain
X	Sims, Gopal	Ananda Firewise Community