

FBM Board Meeting Minutes
January 20, 2021 (4:00 – 5:00 pm)
Zoom Meeting

Attendees: Chip Wilder, Diana Abrell, Susan Luhman, Jeff Peach, Andrew Wilkinson, Ann Westling, Ed Sylvester, Chuck Staetz and Susan Sanders

Ed Sylvester called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

Approval of the Minutes

Ed called for approval of the October 28, 2020 minutes. Ann made the motion to approve the minutes; Jeff seconded it. The board unanimously agreed.

Treasurer's Report

Chip reported FBM has \$970.18 in its checking account. The savings account has \$7,146.39.

Chip estimated annual operating expenses to be around \$3,262.45.

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|-------------------------|------------|
| Liability insurance | \$1,727.95 |
| Firewise | \$300.00 |
| Constant Contact | \$346.50 |
| Stamps | \$440.00 |
| Mailing, printing, etc. | \$300.00 |
| PO box rent | \$148.00 |
| APPROX. YEARLY COSTS | \$3,262.45 |

Ed asked for a motion to pay the FBM board liability insurance. Susan Luhman moved to approve; Ann seconded it. The board unanimously agreed.

Jeff made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Ed seconded it and all approved.

Other Business

Chuck Staetz stepped down as the FBM board president. The board asked Chuck to continue as a board member with voting rights. Chuck agreed.

The board is reviewing ways to honor Chuck for his FBM leadership.

Jeff made the motion that Ed become the FBM president. Chip seconded it. All approved the motion.

Assigned Duties

Ed requested the following board members to assume areas of expertise:

Diana -- trail issues

Susan Sanders – environmental issues

Jeff – FireWise and membership

Andrew – broadband issues/lack of cell and Internet when power is shutdown

Membership Renewal

Jeff and Chip have been sharing the 2021 membership process. Chip retrieves the checks from the post office and delivers the money to the bank. Jeff sends the thank you's and membership cards. To date there are nearly 300 members.

Ed would like to expand membership. One idea would be to run an article in the *Union* describing FBM activities and encourage folks to join. Fire safety continues to be a big issue on Banner Mountain. Describing FBM's fire safety activities might encourage more local residents to join. There will be more discussion about this.

FireWise Update

Jeff reported two activities, which the FireWise committee must achieve by November 2021:

- 1) Develop a hazard assessment and
- 2) Create a action plan

There is a cost associated with submitting these documents. Jeff is not certain how much. Jeff plans to attend a Fire Safe Council meeting in February and will learn the cost. Jeff thinks there might be Fire Safe Council funds to help offset the cost. After attending the February meeting Jeff and Ann will collaborate to take next steps in developing the assessment and action plan.

Due to Covid-19 the Wildlife Urban Interface (WUI) evacuation exercise was put on hold. Jeff would like to evaluate the rescheduling of another drill but conditions are too uncertain at this time. Ed and Chuck mentioned when the time is right, smaller area evacuation drills might be more advantageous.

Internet/Landline Access During Power Shutoffs

Ann contacted Senator Brian Dahle's office regarding Senate Bill 431. This bill addresses internet/cell discontinuation when electric power is unavailable. The bill did not pass in 2020. Senator Dahle's staff was uncertain the bill would be re-introduced in 2021 due to the power exercised by Xfinity. Local residents may have to raise their concerns to get the bill re-introduced. Ann offered to contact other state senators to determine whether someone might resurrect the bill.

Neighborhood Leader Program

Ann explained how the Neighborhood Outreach Leader Program works. Its purpose is to encourage neighbors to collaborate to create defensible space and work together on other fire safety issues. Some neighborhood leaders have organized defensible space advisory visits. Others have been successful in getting neighbors to help clear neighbors' yards. Creating a neighborhood buddy list in case of evacuation; sharing a green waste receptacle amongst several in the neighborhood or helping each other transport green waste to drop off locations are just a few other projects.

Diana asked if these neighborhood outreach groups were made up of multiple streets or a single street. Ann said it could be a number of streets grouped together or a single street.

Several neighborhoods already have such programs. FBM board plans to identify neighborhoods that do not and to try to develop such programs.

Chip talked about phone trees. Phone trees consist of one person who would be responsible for contacting all in the neighborhood out reach group about fire danger.

Ed said the local radio station – KNCO is exploring hiring someone who would provide local residents of current, updated fire information.

Frequency of Board Meetings

The next discussion was about how often the board should meet. All agreed to meet the third Wednesday of the month. If there is nothing to discuss, the meeting will be cancelled.

Ed adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.