

**FBM Board Meeting Minutes
February 17, 2021 (4:00 – 5:00 pm)
Zoom Meeting**

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

Apologies: Chuck Staetz

Ed Sylvester called the meeting to order at 4:10 pm.

Approval of the Minutes

Ed called for approval of the January 20, 2021 minutes. Ann made the motion to approve the minutes; Chip seconded it. The board unanimously agreed.

Treasurer's Report

Chip reported FBM has \$970.18 in its checking account. The savings account current balance is \$7,576.53. Many members have contributed additional support to FBM beyond the \$20.00 membership fee. Chip anticipates more new members resulting from the Union article about FBM and its mission. The Board commended Ed, Ann, and Jeff on the article.

Ed called for a motion to accept the treasure's report. Diana made the motion to accept the report. Ann seconded it. The motion was unanimously approved.

Other Business

Ed nominated Ann Westling to be the FBM's board vice president. Susan Luhman moved to approve Ann as the vice president. Susan Sanders seconded it and all approved.

Old Business:

Cascade Canal Trail - Diana

As noted in the last board meeting, FBM members/trail walkers continue to experience unpleasant encounters with the Gracie Road landowner.

The Board discussed several options to consider if the harassment continues, and decided to wait until spring before making a decision on how to proceed. For now the focus will be on trail maintenance.

Fire Readiness Overall Goals – Ann

1. Improve communication with other fire-related groups
2. Enhance communication on issues that affect Banner Mountain residents
3. Facilitate greater neighborhood connections
4. Improve evacuation preparedness
5. Complete hazard assessment and action plan for Firewise Community status
6. Continue to emphasize fuel reduction and defensible space.

Jeff recommended reworking the newsletter – he would like to send a quarterly newsletter in addition to the more informal emails he sends with animal pictures and tidbits of news.

Jeff would like the board to consider replacing WordPress (current website platform) with something more secure and user friendly. Wix and Site 123 might be better suited to FBM's needs. The Board must decide whether to transfer to new format immediately and then rework it or redesign it and then transfer to new format. July would make a nice transition since the domain is paid for until then. Jeff offered to get estimated expenses to switch web platforms. The Board will consider all options and make a decision once the costs are available.

The Board wants to encourage more Banner Mountain residents to become FBM members. Susan Luhman made a motion that FBM send a communication to all Banner Mountain residents. Susan Sanders seconded the motion. All agreed this was a good idea. Ann volunteered to rewrite the Union Op Ed article to be sent as a one-page flyer to the all Banner Mountain residents (approximately 2,000). She will send a draft to the board. Diana offered to contact Andrea Tarp – 49er Direct Marketing to request a mailing cost estimate.

Communication During Power Outage

The Board would like the next newsletter to solicit:

- Concerns from residents about the lack of internet and landline during power outages;
- Any workarounds folks have found; and
- Interest in knowing and adopting workarounds.

Firewise Committee - Jeff

Jeff attended a Fire Safe meeting. Jamie Jones, Executive Director of the Nevada County Fire Safe Council indicated the county fire safe organization may pay for FBM's Hazard Assessment.

Jeff plans to schedule a Firewise committee meeting via ZOOM. The meeting will probably be sometime during the second week in March.

Action Item:

December 4, 2020 Caltrans published a 49-page report describing measures to improve safety on Highway 49 between McKnight Way and Auburn. On February 17th, the Union published an Op Ed article (Written by Susan Rogers –Nevada County Coalition of Firewise Communities) requesting Caltrans to consider roadside fuel reduction efforts to increase wildfire resiliency and help ensure safe operation of the highway corridor.

Ed asked Susan Sanders to review the article and respond with a comment letter to Caltrans, giving FBM's viewpoint on the Caltrans report.

Ed adjourned the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

The next board meeting via ZOOM will be on March 17th at 4:00 pm.