

FBM Board Meeting Minutes
October 19, 2022 (4:00 – 5:00 pm)
Zoom Meeting

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

Apologies: Andrew Wilkinson

Ed called the meeting to order a 4:05 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes

Ed called for a motion to approve the April 21, 2022, minutes. Chip made the motion to accept the minutes as recorded. The motion was seconded by Jeff and all approved.

Treasury Report

Chip reported the organization has \$12,491.30 in its checking account; there is \$815.67 in savings. Susan Luhman made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Chuck seconded the motion. It was approved by all.

Old Business

FBM's Insurance

Chip contacted Charity One Insurance Agency, Inc. The annual insurance cost is \$1725.00. The company is not raising the

insurance price for 2023. Payment will cover February 2023 to February 2024. The first payment is due in January 2023.

Status of Measure V

Ed and Jeff have actively been promoting Measure V. Jeff distributed numerous signs county wide. Ed has attended several meetings with county officials to gain support for this initiative. Ed and Jeff have written Union articles supporting the measure. Some polls show 66% of Nevada Countians are in favor of the measure. Ed agreed there appears to be community wide support. However, as with many political issues false information has been spread.

Ann asked if FBM has done enough in support of the measure. The organization has provided a wealth of information about the measure while remaining neutral. She suggested FBM send out an email supporting V. Ed called for a motion to send an email. Susan Sanders made the motion and Ann seconded it. Susan Sanders offered to write a short piece and Jeff will add web links to vital information. The email will be sent in the next day or two.

Another Free Chipping Program

As previously stated, the FBM chipping program was well received. Ann checked with the Fire Save Council (FSC) to see how the project was perceived at their end. The FSC noted a few glitches but thought overall the program went well. Before organizing another free chipping program for the spring, the board thought it best to wait until the outcome of Measure V.

Ann thought the free chipping program benefitted Banner Mountain residents and showed that FBM is proactively helping members with their efforts to make their property fire safe. She recommended the board look for more ways to help FBM members.

Woodpecker Preserve Fuel Reduction Report

At the April 2022 meeting Jeff reported an FBM member had emailed him about the abundance of downed trees and branches on the Woodpecker Preserve trail. Susan Luhman offered to contact the member as well as the Bear Yuba Land Trust (BYLT) since it is one of their trails.

BYLT staff Shaun Clark and Kate Gazzo met with Susan on May 28 to walk the trail. They agreed the trail needed some serious clearing. On June 2 BYLT staff organized a work group. Twelve FBM and BYLT volunteers showed up worked and about six hours dragging brush and branches into manageable piles to be hauled off later. Numerous chain saws cut logs into piles.

As a bonus, Susan took the BYLT staff down to the Cascade Canal trail to show all the down limbs and trees, The BYLT staff scheduled another work day to clear the trail.

Fall Membership Renewal

After discussion about sending the 2023 membership letter now or after the November election (to see if Measure V passes/fail), the board decided to send the letter before the November election.

Jeff wants to update the membership records and purge those who do not respond to the membership letter. Diana asked if people ever ask to unsubscribe from blast emails. Jeff said this happens. However, he did not think that necessarily meant they wanted discontinue their membership. The board decided to add a section to the membership form for folks to indicate they are no longer interested in being FBM members. Jeff could then purge those folks from membership files.

Diana will contact Andrea Tarp (who has in the past sent FBM membership letters) to see if she will send the 2023 membership letter. Jeff thought there would be 500 letters to be mailed.

New Business

January 2023 Firesafe Council Meeting

Ann and Jeff have had conversations about how to re-energize the Firewise Council. Before Covid, the face-to-face meetings were well attended. Attendees exchanged ideas about how to make neighborhoods more fire safe and other fire related issues. Once Covid hit, there were no longer in person meetings and the momentum dwindled. Ann and Jeff proposed to have a January meeting (perhaps at the Madelyn Helling community room) to rekindle the energy.

Letter of Support for the Deer Creek Southside Firesafe Council

Ann will write a letter of support for regional Wildfire Prevention efforts, for the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Wildfire Recovery and Forest Resilience Directed Grant Program.

Ed adjourned the meeting at 5:00 pm.

The next meeting will be held November 29, 2022, at 4:00 pm.