



Banner Mountain Firewise Community



Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 18, 2024

Attendees:

Jeff Peach - Leader
Ric Cameron
Maureen Graber
Bob Hanna
Gale Peach
Ann Westling

Absent:

Arnold Forman

Guest:

Steve Baker – Wings of Morning

Meeting Opened at 5pm

1. Steve Baker discussed his successes in rallying his neighborhood to embrace his “Go Plan”.
 - Leader of a 100-member group.
 - Represents Wings of Morning, Wild Lily, and Blazing Star neighborhoods.
 - Having a neighborhood “street meeting” garnered attention and support. Meetings in intersections have a lot of visibility.
 - Suggests a “multi-year/step up approach.” Expect a 5-year timeline. Start with reaching individuals, then neighborhoods, then the FWC, and then the county.
 - Consider connecting with local real estate agents to meet new neighbors.
 - The real “hook” right now is homeowner’s insurance.
 - Jeff says that Dr. Fites-Kaufman did an excellent presentation at the last Coalition meeting. She educated members on the usefulness of Prescribed Burns as well as Tools and Techniques for Reducing Fuels
 - Mo says there is continuing interest in homeowner’s insurance and current homeowner’s trying to sell their homes in a marketplace made difficult by home hardening/defensible space requirements and homeowner’s insurance costs.
 - Ann says that this information (prescribed burns and homeowner’s insurance) is stale and new presentations/topics are needed.
2. Ann and Maureen ask Steve to consider being the Neighborhood Contact for his Wings of Morning neighborhood group.
3. Maureen asked committee members what their passions are for 2025. Input received:

- Jeff. We need help. We need more neighborhood contacts to help with the workload. If neighbors are not willing to step up, then we may need to fold.
 - Ric. I am most concerned with safe evacuation. We need to continue our efforts on the section of Idaho Maryland Road from Tranquility to Brunswick.
 - Mo. I am project oriented. I don't like to leave money on the table. If the county has grants available, we should grab them. However, the person willing to write and coordinate the grant should have the freedom to decide what those projects are and how they are managed.
 - Bob. I don't have a passion at the moment. There is so much apathy that I don't feel supported by my community of 65 homes. I recently stepped down from my HOA board for this reason. Bob also says that there is interest in changes to Defensible Space Law/Revisions. This is an area that may garner community interest. Bob also thinks we'd be more successful by breaking groups into smaller pieces.
 - Gale. I need Jeff to feel supported. We need more leaders and more vegetation management.
 - Ann. I think we need to focus on evacuation. I also think that we should ask the community, through the FBM email, what their priorities are for any available grant work.
4. Jeff discusses how we might be able to develop more interest and recruit Neighborhood Contacts.
- FWC was doing really well prior to COVID
 - Lost momentum
 - Willing to give promotion another try to see if more volunteers join
 - Need to schedule annual meeting. Perhaps a series of meetings on interesting topics will pull people in. Group discussion on potential topics:
 - Private Road Grant Opportunities
 - Home Hardening Tips
 - Homeowner's Insurance Updates
 - Evacuation: Routes, Study, CALFIRE Air Defense
 - Evacuation: Temporary Refuge Areas and Animal evacuation
 - New Defensible Space laws/rules
 - Equipment – how to get money to purchase
 - How to Prepare Your Home for Sale
 - Private Roads – clarification on clearance requirements
 - How to Protect Yourself before, during, after a wildfire
 - Decision made to schedule a series of four (4) meetings in 2025
 - Have meetings at Madelyn Helling Library
 - Ann will see if its possible to have the CALFIRE Aviation top at the airfield.
 - Select January, April, July and October as meeting months.
 - Maureen will draft up a meeting proposal and initiate contact with presenters
 - Jeff will book the library
5. Ric says we need bigger FWC signs on community borders. Large, easy to read signs.
- Too many people still don't know they're in a FWC.
 - Current signs are too small and are not noticeable
 - Suggest a sign near the NID water towers at BLC and Idaho-Maryland.
 - Maureen will contact NID to see if they will allow a FWC sign here.
 - Bob suggests a sign by Gale Way. He knows the owners of that property and they are very supportive of our FWC. Bob will send their contact information to Mo for follow up.
6. Maureen requests clarification on the release of FWC certificates. A relator asked for a copy to give out to clients. Unanimous that certificates are only distributed by the

Firewise Leader after confirming residency. In this way the certificates have some control and we gain contact information for new members of the community.

7. Group agrees to reconvene prior to first community meeting on January 13, 2025.