Cuyamaca Woods Fire Safe Council, Inc.

Meeting Notes

November 21, 2015

Location: Lake Cuyamaca Restaurant

Attending:  Steve Nankervis, Terri Groth, Susan Carter, Jon Driscoll

Susan confirmed that a quorum of the Board was present. The meeting was called to order by Susan with discussion of items to be reviewed.

Minutes recording email vote of October 27: Motion to Approve – Steve, Jon 2nd. All approved.

Treasurer’s Report: Terri presented the Treasurer's report highlighted by a EOY balance of $8,611.19.  One of the highlighted expenses is the liability insurance premium of $1,200.  The cost for Greg Rubin (speaker at our last educational event) was $300.

Terri noted to the board that several of the new members need to provide their personal information of name & address to complete the "statement of information" required by California.  Additionally there was discussion regarding the revenue from the Calendar sales whether this was to be split or shared with the POA or retained in total by the CWFSC, Terri is to check.  Terri was also going to check on two open cost items for which CWFSC had not been invoiced, the first was regarding the last community chipping day, was it possible an invoice remained open for the chippers use and second had Matt intended to turn in a receipt for the food he provided.

Old business: discussion revolved around the Greg Rubin presentation, there were in excess of twenty persons in attendance, his presentation and the information contained within was of such value that all are in favor of doing it again and expanding the reach to create a greater opportunity and venue to allow for more property owners in the greater area to learn about Fire Safe Landscaping.  One of the topics discussed regarding the fire safe landscaping is the defense around the legal concept of contributory negligence that property owners someday may be faced with, i.e. Personal Liability for their actions or inactions regarding how they take care of their property.

New business: Susan discussed the California Conservation Corps (CCC) grant that is due to start in early February. She explained that we need to mail out letters requesting permission from affected property owners. She also said that there is another grant opportunity coming up with grant application deadline of January 6th.

Getting permission from the affected property owners is difficult because we have to do mass mailings, and only a percentage of people respond. One of the first needs is to have a action plan in place to provide a faster response to opportunities that come up among the CW & surrounding property owners.  An example was given where an opportunity came along to obtain some County assistance, this opportunity had a short time window to be responded to, the opportunity could not be taken advantage of due to the missing links between Property owners names and lack of email addresses connected to property addresses.  Discussion was opened to find a solution to the need for an up to date email/property owner listing with ideas that included development of a website linkage for use as a fast track or timely information segment for property owners, encouraging an email or text list of property owners.  With the combining of email lists from the POA, a phone tree to gather property owner information that is needed we can achieve a fast response mode of communication. Terri suggested we divide up the property owner list along with the Water District’s list with their phone numbers and call them to mention the Fast Response email plan and wanting to add these people to the list.  Susan said she would send Jon the most up-to-date version of our email database.

Additional discussion was opened in the quest for a good grant request writer to seek funds from the State centering on the programs that are key to control excess fuel, dead and dying trees, ingress and egress to property, fire prevention and safety training.

Goals for 2016 were discussed. Some mentioned were:

* Each street to locate and develop a turn around area for the Emergency Responders that meets their needs for safe access and withdrawal. We would have team leaders on each street. This could be in conjunction with the idea Colleen talked about, which is identifying safe zones on each street.
* Join in efforts for State and County programs/grants with the Harrison Park folks.
* Establish chipping dates in April and June, these dates are desired to be earlier in the season to provide opportunity to reduce Fuel sooner.
* Consider having a major fundraiser party with music and beer. Jon suggested we have a separate party team (for example, the person who organizes a chipping event should not also have to organize a party and food.) Idea – keggers $5/glass, Jon would contribute the keg.
* A key factor in Grant obtaining and for filling Grant conditions is to provide Volunteer hours, discussion revolved around are those hours only on the day of the activity say chipping or can we include the hours of work that leads up to that day i.e. preparation by the property owners.  Susan explained that in the last grant we were able to include brush management work that individual property owners did on their property as part of the volunteer match. Also important that we take pictures before and after and turn these pictures in along with all hours invested. Collecting volunteer hours has an additional advantage that it builds community awareness. Perhaps we could foster competition among streets.
* Community WildFire Protection Plan, decision is we either create our own or in conjunction with the Julian Fire Safe Council which already has one. If we created our own it would be built specifically for our area or we could amend the CWPP with the purpose to have it a tight plan for using in grant applications. Susan said she would email the Julian Fire Safe Council CWPP and the Harrison Park CWPP to CWFSC members. She said the Harrison CWPP could be a model if we decide to create our own.
* A major goal is to network with other groups such as other potential FSCs, and continue participation on the San Diego County Fire Safe Council.

It was agreed that Terri and Steve would bring refreshments for the next meeting. Extras will be left for the firefighters.

The meeting was concluded by a affirmative vote of the four members present.