

FIRE SAFE SAN MATEO COUNTY

Minutes
Jan 11, 2006

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Guido Ciardi at 0940.

Attendance: Julie Lamb, Central County FD and San Mateo FD; Dennis Danielson, Midpeninsula Reg. Open Space Dist.; Gary So, CDF/SMCo.Fire; Guido Ciardi, SFWD; Philippe S. Cohen, Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve, Stanford; Rebecca Lauricella, Redwood City Fire; Selena Brown, Woodside; Steve Richmond, Fire Safe Coordinator.

Introductions were made and Dennis Danielson of Mid-Pen Reg. Open Space District was welcomed to his first meeting.

Correspondence – Richmond shared letters he had written to the Sheriff on behalf of Deputy Madigan and to PG&E thanking them for the \$500 grant for printing “Living with Fire”.

Additions to the Agenda: Guido Ciardi stated a Fire Safe Executive Committee had been formed and met on January 6. The purpose of the committee is to work on Fire Safe issues that need attention and bring recommendations to the regular meeting for approval. Current members are John Sims, Guido Ciardi, Philippe Cohen, Denise Enea, Jim Palisi and Steve Richmond. Any Fire Safe member is welcome to join the work group. Discussions at the first meeting were:

- Develop a budget for 2006/07 based on available Fire Safe funds.
- Revise Fire Safe Coordinator’s Duty Statement and Contract at January 19 meeting at Belmont.
- Suggest reducing regular Fire Safe meetings to six per year after present changes are made.
- Brings in special speakers with new products or items of interest for regular meetings.
- Work with CDF Ben Lomond Conservation Camp to provide invoicing and make purchases for the camp to meet the actual expenses for a crew. A small fee might be considered for this. There is also the possibility Steve Richmond could represent an agency and work with the crews in delivering and tracking the Fire Safe tools and equipment used on a project. Total cost to the agency would be about \$550 per day. Richmond does not feel there would be much demand for his services by fire agencies.
- Discussion was held on moving some meetings to the evening to include more homeowner groups. Guido suggested sponsoring a Fire Safe Fair.
- Work to expand membership to include public works agencies.

REVIEW OF 2005 GOALS – These goals were completed or are in progress:

- Educate planners, city councils, County Board of Supervisors on the need to be proactive in promoting Fire Safe communities.
- Develop a list of county-wide homeowner groups.
- Revise and update the Fire Safe website.
- Seek grants
- Purchase and overhaul crew vehicle.
- Seek Fire Safe projects with new agencies and homeowner groups.

Annual Report - It was decided to go ahead with the annual report so folks would be aware we no longer had the services of the Sheriff’s Fire Safe Crew. Richmond will work toward a draft for February and a final report March. Members were encouraged to submit supportive pictures by mid January.

AGENCY ROUND TABLE

Selena Brown, Woodside reported she had worked out problems with the website and is moving forward with total revision. She appreciated the response from members on corrections to the membership roster.

Philippe Cohen, Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve, had the opportunity to meet with two homeowners who are planning to build within twenty feet of the property line of the preserve. He advised them they were within their rights to build that close but when their insurance company tells them they must have 100 feet of defensible space, not to expect the preserve to provide that additional clearance to meet the requirement. Philippe was impressed with the meeting and the homeowners received this information in a good manner.

Dennis Danielson, Mid Pen Regional Open Space District, reported the district owns 50,000 acres and 200 miles of trails and roads. Maintaining these roads for fire and rescue is a prime consideration. New property has been acquired and the district is working towards a better good neighbor policy regarding shared roads and water. The district is moving towards cattle grazing to assist in managing part of the land they own.

Guido Ciardi, SFWD, says their roads were in much worse shape after the heavy rains than originally thought.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am.

Next meet: February 8, 2006