



# Fire Safe San Mateo County

September 11, 2013 Meeting Minutes

## Attendance:

**Philippe S. Cohen** - Vice President. Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve

**Denise Enea** - Woodside Fire Protection District

**Don Bullard** - Woodside Fire Protection District

**Todd Lando** - Executive Director. Urban Forestry Associates

**Brian Malone** - Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

**Stephen Kraemer** - San Mateo County Parks

## Call to order

Todd Lando calls the meeting to order at 9:46 am.

## Approval of Minutes

- *Minutes are not approved due to lack of quorum.*

## Treasurer's Report

- Denise Enea updated group on status of 501(c)3 application and account balances held by San Mateo County.
- Update on Executive Director expenses, year to date.
- UFA invoices totalled \$12,622.
- Denise will prepare a more detailed accounting for the October meeting.

## Announcements

- Nothing to report.

## New Business

- SLAC now contracts with Menlo Park Fire for fire protection.
  - Woodside Fire is still the closest resource, so responses likely will not change.
- Malone (MidPeninsula Regional Open Space District - MPROSD) asked about "citizen volunteers" who showed up to recent call in Woodside/Portola Valley.
  - Some discussion about citizen volunteers not affiliated with fire service.
- MPROSD is still accepting public comment on the draft Vision Plan.

## Fire Adapted Communities Program Presentation

- Guest Speaker Dan Bullard, Woodside Fire Protection District
- Bullard attended a WUI/Fire Adapted Communities class at the national fire academy.
- Pilot class, related to National Cohesive Wildland Fire Strategy.
- Federal money may be more available to communities who adopt the Fire Adapted Communities program.
- Program is 3 phases - currently in phase 1.
- 3 regions, nationally.
- Firewise and CWPPs are encompassed by the Fire Adapted Communities Program.
- January class will be held at National Fire Academy, with applications due by October 15.

## Correspondence

- Letter from El Granada Homeowners Association.
  - FSSMC was CC'd on a complaint letter detailing an unmaintained property. Letter had already been sent to Coastside Fire/Jolley.
  - Letter filed, no further action needed.
  - FSSMC should consider outreach in the area to homeowners who signed the letter, and neighbors.

## Non-profit status

- No update. Application resubmitted. Awaiting response from IRS.

## Grant Updates:

- Western States Fire Assistance/WUI.
  - FSSMC submitted application for Highlands Recreation District shaded fuel break and Defensible Space education.
  - Discussion regarding access issues and land ownership.
  - SF Water will work with HRD to determine access and parcel ownership.
- Todd Lando attended CA Fire Safe Council Grant Workshop in Sacramento mid June.
  - FSSMC is preparing an application based on past "chipper" applications, but with an expanded education component.
  - Application due next week
  - Woodside Fire to act as fiscal sponsor.
  - FSSMC should be able to sponsor its own application in 2014, if 501(c)3 status is approved.
  - Clearinghouse grant application process has been "tightened."
  - Reporting requirements are more detailed.
  - Fire Safe Council may not directly apply for funding without 501(c)3 status.
  - Fiscal sponsors will be held to stricter requirements.
  - One application per group/agency will now apply to primary applicants and fiscal sponsors. FSSMC may not act as a fiscal sponsor if it has applied for a grant directly (once 501(c)3 status is achieved).
  - FSSMC will assist agencies with applications. Local groups are asked to contact FSSMC if planning to apply.
  - September 17 deadline for Clearinghouse Grant applications.

## Committees

**Grant Committee:**

- Call for new project proposals for potential grant funding.
- Members are encouraged to email ideas, concepts, or proposals to [toddlando@firesafesanteo.org](mailto:toddlando@firesafesanteo.org).
- Concepts and proposals needed mid to late August.
- Members are encouraged to participate. Contact [toddlando@firesafesanteo.org](mailto:toddlando@firesafesanteo.org) if interested.
- Clearinghouse Grant cycle announced. Workshop dates are set for mid-July. Applications open in late August.
- Todd Lando to attend workshop at McClellan AFB.
- Deadline September 17.
- Committee members:
  - Denise Enea
  - Andy Hubbs
  - Todd Lando

**Public Relations Committee:**

- Rim Fire and Morgan Fire brought attention to [www.firesafesanteo.org](http://www.firesafesanteo.org).
- Site visitors up significantly.
- Ask members for photos and videos. Lots of images available in media.
- Denise has a good structure protection video from Colorado. Will share with group.
- Committee members:
  - Denise Enea
  - John Romandia
  - Todd Lando

**Living With Fire Update Committee:**

- No significant work since grant writing commenced.
- Update suggestions currently requested for defensible space pages.
- Committee members:
  - Andy Hubbs
  - Jim Palisi
  - Christine Reed
  - Philippe S. Cohen
  - Joel Smith

**Website:**

- Significant traffic increase related to recent fires in the media.
- Agency/Group pages have been added for each regular attending member.
- Please review content for your group or agency, and submit corrections or content to Todd Lando at [toddlando@firesafesanteo.org](mailto:toddlando@firesafesanteo.org).
- Weekly newsletter is being distributed by email whenever new content is added to the website.
- Detailed reader statistics are being recorded, and will be available for future presentation to the board and analysis.

## Agency Roundtable:

### Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District - Brian Malone

- Hot dry 4th of July.
- Ridgetop preserves were open on 4th of July.
  - No issues reported.

### San Mateo County Parks - Stephen Kraemer

- Fuel reduction projects picking up again.
- AB109 County Crews will start brushing this month.
  - Crews will run out of Huddart park, for work in SMC parks only.
- Cal Fire Crews are working in Huddart and Wunderlich parks with days funded by Cal Fire.
  - Eucalyptus up to 6" DBH is being removed.
- Richard Road project underway.
  - PG&E funding.
  - Brushing and line clearance.
- 40 acre fire last weekend on SMC Parks property.
- Cal Fire in contact with SMC Parks to resolve gate and key code issues.
- Bear Gulch
  - September 27 meeting scheduled with Cal Fire.
  - Good location for winter crew work.

### Woodside Fire Protection District - Denise Enea

- Chipping program season began in June.
- Crews will be used at least one day per week.
- Private contractor will be used when very busy.
- Lots of small starts have been reported, contained by IA crews.

### Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve - Philippe S. Cohen

- Coordinating with Menlo Park FD.
- Crews worked on trails last week.
- Campus compost pile issues discussed.
  - New contractor will better manage piles.
- Mowing and Trimming Underway.
- Jasper Ridge offered tours to fire crews to familiarize them with JR facilities, emergency access roads, provide up-to-date maps, and solicit feedback on how we can enhance our prevention efforts.

### Cal Fire

- Rich Sampson is in Yosemite at the Rim Fire.
- Fire Season "taking off."
- Crew days are being allocated equitably.
- Crews have been busy with fires.
- Fuel reduction project near Pacifica underway.
- One Less Spark program being launched.
- SRA fee discussion.

- CEQA/Shovel Ready projects are needed for crews.

**Urban Forestry Associates** - Todd Lando

- No issues to report.

**Open Forum**

- Executive Board meeting will be held prior to the October meeting.

**Meeting adjourned 11:30 am**

Respectfully submitted by Todd Lando.

Next meeting will be held at Woodside Town Hall Wednesday October 9, 2013 at 9:30 am.