



Fire Safe San Mateo County

December 12, 2012 Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

Denise Enea – Woodside Fire Protection District
Guido Ciardi – San Francisco Public Utility District
Philippe S. Cohen – Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve
Todd Lando – Urban Forestry Associates
Ray Moritz – Urban Forestry Associates
Brian Malone – Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
Christine Reed – Central County Fire Department
Andy Hubbs – CAL FIRE
Lori Cuesta – Western ECI / PG&E
Dick Schwind – South Skyline Firesafe Council
Ed Cooney – Town of Hillsborough
Margaret Glomstad – City of Burlingame
Clayton Jolly – Coastside Fire
Rich Sampson – CAL FIRE

Call to order:

9:33 am. Denise Enea calls the meeting to order.

Correspondence:

- No correspondence noted.

Board of Directors Nominations:

Nominations for Directors:

- CAL FIRE
 - Rich Sampson

- Clayton Jolly
 - Coastside Fire Protection District
- San Mateo County Fire
 - Andy Hubbs
- Jasper Ridge:
 - Philippe S. Cohen
- Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
 - Brian Malone
- San Mateo County Parks
 - Stephen Kraemer
- PG&E
 - Lori Cuesta
- Woodside Fire Protection District
 - Denise Enea
- San Francisco Public Utility District
 - Guido Ciardi
- Redwood City
 - Jim Palisi

Motion (Enea), seconded (Ciardi) to approve list, all in favor. Motion carries.

Nominations for Executive Board, four positions:

- Rich Sampson
- Denise Enea
- Philippe S. Cohen
- Guido Ciardi

Executive Board elected by Acclimation

- Bylaws and Board of Directors to be posted on website.
- 3 year term commitment for Executive Board.
- Recruitment for Board Members
 - Develop a recruitment letter.
 - 7 positions are open.
 - Reach out to HOAs.

New Business

- Urban Forestry Associates proposes that Fire Safe San Mateo develop a membership program to target landscapers, gardeners, landscape architects, pesticide applicators, tree services, and similar related businesses that operate in San Mateo County.
 - Program might charge an annual fee in exchange for training and listing on the Fire Safe San Mateo website and publications.

- Might be modeled after the California Oak Mortality Task Force membership and training program.
- Fire Safe San Mateo should be careful not to use language such as “certification” to describe any potential training or seminar provided to members. Certification is a loaded term with implied responsibility.
- UFA has identified nearly 400 potential businesses in industries related to fuels management and wildfire hazard reduction in San Mateo County.
- Training might include Defensible Space creation, fire safe landscape practices and building, recognizing structural vulnerability.
- Denise Enea recommends moving forward to develop a more detailed proposal, and wants FSSM to focus additional resources on education.
- Philippe Cohen suggests finding a collaborating organization, and emphasizes that any training provided must be credible.
- Dick Schwind discussed the possibility of expanding a program like this to train volunteer educators, who could then bring the FSSM message and defensible space education to homeowners.
- Some discussion regarding potential liability issues.
- Denise Enea requests that UFA begin moving forward.

Grant Proposals 2013

Margaret Glomstad, Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Burlingame provided a written proposal for grant funding in Wildland Urban Interface Areas (see attachment).

- Project is located in Mills Canyon.
- 18 acre park, would utilize hand crews to create a 30’ shaded fuel break extending two miles around the park.
- Project may be considered maintenance, which might reduce cost associated with CEQA.
- Work with Friends of Mills Canyon.
- Burlingame Fire and Parks might provide chippers.

Ed Cooney from the Town of Hillsborough provided a written request for grant funding for several projects in the Town, including (see attachment):

- Public outreach campaign.
- Fire mitigation and maintenance equipment.
- GIS Mapping.
- Fire road maintenance.
- Ongoing maintenance of Defensible Space Zones and high fire risk areas.

Clayton Jolly, CAL FIRE update on coastal projects requiring grant funding.

- Coral Reef project needs maintenance.

- Cooperative, using crews.
- may use Federal dollars if available.
- 3-5 days of work are needed.
- Last maintenance was 4 years ago.
- Global grant for San Mateo County Eucalyptus removal.

Andy Hubbs, CAL FIRE.

- CAL FIRE fuel removal funding typically came from Federal Fuels dollars. This source of funding will end in 2013.
- SRA fee may help fund future fuels projects.

2013 Goals:

Fire Safe San Mateo will establish simple, attainable goals for projects and progress in 2013.

1. Increase General Membership representation.
 - Outreach and recruitment to HOAs and business community.
2. Apply for grants.
 - Develop a list of potential projects.
3. Complete transition to 501 c(3) .
4. Update “Living With Fire.”
 - Form committee.
 - Inventory current stock.
 - Email group asking for inventory and needs.
5. Develop a membership training program per UFA proposal.

CDCR Training Update:

- January 30, 2013 at Woodside Fire.
- To use the crews in 2013, agencies and groups must have their work supervisors attend the annual training class January 30, 2013 at the town of Woodside 2995 Woodside Rd. from 0900 – 1300. Please RSVP to Steve Richmond at RCHMDCONSL@aol.com.

Additions to Agenda:

Books and Finances.

- Request accounting report from County, even if format is difficult to read.
- Account balance was \$162,000 at last report.
- \$15,000 is owed to Ben Lomond Camp.
- UFA has sent bill for services.
- Invoices in past came from Steve Richmond, payable to San Mateo County Fire Department.
- San Francisco Water want to continue paying SMC fire, since paying to a sole source is easier than paying to a council.

Living With Fire Update:

- Need to assess the need for updates and number of copies currently available, and required in 2013.
- Evaluate for potential updates:
- Code changes may be introduced July 1, 2013.
- Look for code language references and evaluate for potential update.
- UFA can manage updates to the electronic version in any pre-press format. Request an electronic copy from the printer.
- Christine Reed will contact the FPOs by email to ask if they use Living With Fire, and evaluate need for additional copies.

Urban Forestry Associates Update:

- Bookkeeping
 - FSSMC will open bank accounts and create a budget after non-profit status is approved.
 - Camp billing needs review.
 - Steve Richmond will request a bookkeeping report from the county, but warns that they are difficult to read and understand.
- UFA will establish a Google Apps account under the FSSMC domain name to improve communication, document sharing, and collaboration.
- UFA will undertake the advancement of the FSSMC website.
 - New website will be presented at January meeting.
 - Previous website developer had discarded site due to inactivity, so UFA is starting from scratch.

Grant Applications:

- Members are encouraged to contact Urban Forestry Associates with ideas for projects that may benefit from grant funding.
- Per Denise Enea and Andy hubbs, the CA FSC grant for the chipping program was declined, but there is no word yet on the WUI grant.
- Per Rich Sampson, the CWPP will be updated soon. We are looking for RCD funding again. This time look for buy-in from Fire Chiefs, but not the Board of Supervisors.

Agency Roundtable:

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District - Brian Malone

- Recently completed a 950 acre land purchase.
 - An old ranch, tours are available to FSSM members if requested.
 - Will be managed as a grazing property.
- Highway 35 CDC work is complete.
 - Billing is paid and finalized.
- Mulder Trail is now complete.

South Skyline Fire Safe Council - Dick Schwind

- 25 CDC sponsors have been trained.
- RCD and WUI grants include 1500 hours of volunteer time to-date.
- Acquired a new tool - a sled - for moving brush uphill.

San Mateo County Fire - Andy Hubbs

- WUI Grant was rejected.
 - Failed to fund chipping program in 2013.
 - Will look into reason grant was rejected.
 - \$100,000 was awarded in 2011.

Meeting adjourned 11:41 am

Respectfully submitted by Todd Lando