

The Palomar Mountain Community Fire Association

Minutes of the monthly meeting of The Board of Directors, June 1, 2024.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 A.M. by President Robert Carlyle. Board members present in person at the Community Center (Station 79 grounds): Robert Carlyle, Tom Mendenhall, Michael Pique, Keith Ronchetti, Mark Thompson. Also present in person were Cliff Kellogg and Yvonne Vaucher. Elizabeth Getzoff and Lafe Ball joined our Zoom teleconference.

Pledge: Robert led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment: none offered.

Minutes: The minutes from the 05/04/2024 board meeting were approved. There was no April meeting because of snow.

Financial Report: Keith Ronchetti's written report (available at palomar-fire.org) showed a balance of \$91,978.64, with an additional \$1220.29 held for CERT. Our certificate of deposit, paying 5%, was renewed on May 13. Our Zoom license annual fee was \$159.90. Keith will file our "Statement of Information" with the state of California. The report was approved.

County Fire Advisory (CFA) Board. Cliff Kellogg was away in May. Next meeting August 12.

Station 79 Report: Captain Kowalski is away; no report.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT): Bill Leininger emailed that the next training session is June 15.

Palomar Mountain Fire Safe Council (FSC): Yvonne Vaucher. No FSC meeting in May. We have new Directors and Officers insurance through a non-profit insurance alliance and have cancelled the expensive policy we had before. Cecelia Borland went to the Fire Safe Council of San Diego Volunteer Appreciation meeting. Yvonne is still writing grant applications. Our CEQA costs are higher than expected but Yvonne will talk to Davey Resource to get the CEQA started - hoping for \$8,000, not \$12,500 as quoted. We got \$12,000 from the San Diego Regional Fire Foundation, through Joan Jacob's office. This will pay for dumpsters, chipping, and insurance up to 15 April 2025. Other good news is a grant from the Resource Conservation District, through the US Forest Service, for \$250,000 to remove dead and dying trees on Palomar Mountain, chiefly for Defensible Space Inspections (DSI).

Community Center of Palomar Mountain (CCPM): Robert Carlyle is the new Chair & Treasurer, with the other board members being Christine Locken (Secretary), Dylan Healey (Vice Chair), Michael Pique (Member at large). Meetings will be quarterly: May, September, November, February; probably following PMCFA meetings. Problems with the building: on-demand water heater in small bathroom not working; front door lock broken; roof leak near front windows and fireplace. Keith Ronchetti will inform Captain Kowalski to get the county working on these.

Board Insurance: Robert Carlyle says that getting Directors & Officers insurance separate from Liability seems impossible. He tried six different places. Yvonne says to try the Non-profit Insurance Alliance - takes a few months to get approved. Robert is tired of it all.

Gates across Summit Circle: The US Forest Service intends to re-establish a group camp site where the current Crestline Picnic Ground is. This will include installing gates to close off Summit Circle from both ends, at least during the winter. The location of the property boundary between the USFS and the PMVFD varies depending on which map you look at. Recently, the USFS has placed new property boundary signs inside where our dumpster is, and taking about 20 feet of the western border near the band stand.

Sign for Community Center events, on the East Grade: Current plan is a double-sided 4x8-foot sign, perpendicular to the East Grade. Michael Pique has been dragging his feet on getting a quote for the sign because of how much work it was to update the old sign every two weeks or so. He is also concerned about what the required setback from the East Grade might be.

Palomar Mountain Planning Organization (PMPO): The PMPO Annual General Meeting was held on May 25, 2024, 10 AM, immediately after the Pancake Breakfast. Attendance was exceptional, about 72 members plus the board. The state of California intends to build a new 500,000 Volt transmission line from near Ocotillo in the Imperial Valley up to Orange County, near San Clemente. One possible route might be over Palomar Mountain, generally following the East Grade Road from Panorama Trail to the Summit, then either through the State Park or down the South Grade Road. The PMPO has established a committee to look into this and report what should be done. Jim Hamerly is chair.

New Business:

Getting liability insurance for the PMCFA and San Diego county is in progress this week.

Adjournment: 9:56 AM 06/01/2024. The next PMCFA meeting is Saturday July 6, 2024 at 9 AM, at the Community Center. We expect to have Zoom call-ins available.

Michael Pique, Secretary

Minutes approved by PMCFA Board 07/06/2024