



## FBM Board Meeting Minutes

March 5, 2025, 2:00 – 3:30

**Attendees:** George Olive, Mo Graber, Jeff Peach, Chip Wilder, Susan Sanders

Action Items in **red**

### 1. Confirm George as New Board Member

- Jeff moved, Mo seconded, all approved adding George as a board member (George abstained from this vote, participated in all subsequent votes).
- George is willing to serve as Vice President; Susan stepped down from the VP role and will now serve as the official Secretary rather than acting Secretary.

### 2. Secretary Report - Susan-

- Chip moved and Jeff seconded approval of minutes from the 12/4/2024 FBM Board Meeting. All approved.
- Action item from last meeting: Ed to follow up with Allison Lehman about the \$20,000 Defensible Space Grants – this is an evolving scenario, and we should check in on status.

### 3. Treasurer's Report Chip

- Status of accounts: \$9942.38 checking, \$8397.83 savings, \$7616.32 CD
- We have a 10- day window to decide what to do on CD – roll over, move to higher rate? Interest rate was 4.25%, accrued \$52.05 in interest. New interest rate will be 3.75%. [*Post-meeting note:* after consulting with board members via email, on 3/10/25 Chip shifted FBM's Sierra Central Bank funds as follows: \$2000 checking, \$16,025.21 savings, \$7,616.32.]
- Sierra Central charged a fee of \$29 for "too many deposits." More than 4 deposits/month is apparently considered excessive. Chip will talk to the bank on March 20th.
- Chip expressed his gratitude to Mo, Jeff and Gayle for their kindness in visiting him while he was in the hospital.
- Susan moved, Chip seconded Mo's request for \$89.50 reimbursement for Firewise meeting expenses (go bags, walkie talkies, etc.). Mo donated the refreshments. – All approved, Mo abstained.
- The group discussed anticipated expenditures for three upcoming 2025 Firewise meetings. Mo will need to pay for banners for sidewalk signs, door prizes etc. Susan moved that we authorize \$150/meeting for each of the next 3 Firewise meetings for Mo to use as needed. Chip seconded,

all were in favor (Mo abstained). Chip suggested we consider offering gift certificates, tape tickets under the seats for door prizes.

- **Chip will complete the Treasurer's Annual Report soon** [*Post-meeting note*: Chip distributed the Treasurer's Annual Report to board members via email on 3/10/2025]

#### **4. Communications - Mo**

- Chip moved to approve the Board Responsibility Statements that Mo had distributed earlier via email. Jeff seconded; all were in favor.
- Mo emailed the revised FBM 2025 Goals last week for the board to review, made minor edits to the goals in response to board comments. Chip moved for approval of the FBM 2025 goals, Jeff seconded, all approved.
- Mo reviewed the highlights of her comprehensive 2024 Annual Communications report, which she emailed to the board for review last week.
  - In 2024 Mo sent FBM e-mail subscribers 36 email communications on topics relevant to our members, with a recap of the relevant topic, links for more information and requests to members to share their questions and concerns.
  - FBM's Facebook page was used for flyers to advertise FBM events.
  - Mo created promotional flyers and sidewalk signs for FBM events, including the Annual Membership Meeting, Free Green Waste Event and Microgrant on Buckeye Road.
  - Mo developed the annual membership renewal letter and Board Responsibility Statements (aka Board Member Position Statements or Board Responsibilities/Duties)
- Mo brought up the topic of communications during an emergency. Chip discussed the need for a source of information where fire news could be received. KNCO is on the list, as is Yuba Net, KVMR, etc. Need multiple sources of information during fires and other emergencies.
- The group discussed adding more discounted vendor partners to our webpage; Perry's Landscaping reached out to Mo to be an established vendor and she applied her vetting process to solicit relevant info from him (type of business, license, what kind of discount, scoring grid for the references). Got 3 acceptable references and the group approved adding Perry's. This kind of vetting process is thorough but can be time consuming. Currently we have Navo, Hills Flat, Moule's, Ferrel-Gas as discount vendors. Jeff can create a spreadsheet with members names to provide to vendors to verify who is a current FBM member.
- Susan brought up the topic of articles about Banner Mt birds and other wildlife that we could put on our website. Susan's husband, Ted Beedy, has written books and articles about Sierra birds and is willing to supply pieces/photos on a regular basis for posting on the FBM webpage. The first one will be about Wood Ducks on Banner Mountain, an article which was originally published in the Foothills Audubon Newsletter, *The Phoebe*.

#### **Membership - Jeff**

- Mo reviewed the 2024 Annual Membership Accomplishments summary that she prepared, which included the following highlights:
  - Sent emails to e-subscribers about the benefits of FBM membership, and reminders about joining FBM at Firewise meetings.
  - Launched the very successful “Power UP” promotion asking members to exceed the minimum donation of \$25
  - Updated the FBM website to improve the payment portal.

#### **Membership Recap from 2021-2024**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Members</b>
2021	304
2022	314
2023	289
2024	322
2025	310*

*\*Still five months remaining to add members*

- Membership renewal cycle – If a donation comes in August 1, then donor is considered a member for the entire following year. Jeff said his goal this year is to get renewal letters out by August.
- Mo reminded us that we still don’t have a membership “drive” but rather a membership renewal process.
- Costs of renewal are \$2/letter, \$1200 to send all letters out. On the membership list there are about 300 people who paid at some point, then the “guest” lists, and a few actually join. If they haven’t paid in a couple of years and have not read emails, then we won’t spend money on a renewal letter.
- If we can figure out who has read the emails but not joined, Mo offered to do a personal email to follow up to see if those folk are willing to join. Delete the names of people who don’t read the emails.
- Chip moved to approve the 2024 Membership Annual Report, Mo seconded, all approved.

#### **Firewise Report – Jeff and Mo**

- Highlights of 2024 Annual Firewise Report that Mo prepared.:
  - Firewise Steering Committee met 4 times in 2024 to plan action items and community events. Added a new member, so we are up to 8 Steering Committee members now.
  - Sponsored a well-attended community meeting with Supervisor Heidi Hall as keynote speaker and many other representatives as presenters or table topics (CalFIRE, Nev Co

Consolidated Fire District, Office of Emergency Services (OES), Nev Co Resource Conservation District, Nevada County Fiber and more.)

- Sponsored multiple free Green Waste Events
- Provided input into Nev Co Community Wildfire Protection Plan
- Conducted an evacuation tour with County staff, surveyed the conditions of the evacuation routes off Banner Mountain, met with OES on the Evacuation Study.
- Received microgrant to improve evacuation route in Buckeye Rd; oversaw neighborhood workday event, coordinated free green waste bin, contracted with Firesafe Chipping Program and gravel company to improve road.
- Supported annual Firewise Festival fundraiser to raise money and awareness; worked with Yuba Watershed Institute and Chris Friedel on the Little Deer Creek Landscape Resilience Project.
- Mo moved, Chip seconded, all in favor of accepting the 2024 Firewise Annual Report
- Susan will do an audit to confirm that all required annual reports have been submitted, per her VP duties described in the Bylaws. [Post-meeting note: The following Annual Reports have been submitted: Financial, Communications, Membership, and Mo prepared a summary of FBM Accomplishments]
- Jeff will post all the 2024 Annual Reports on the web site when Chip completes his Treasurer's Annual Report and the board approves the report.

#### Firewise Plans for 2025

- We have ambitious plans with our 2025 Firewise meetings:
  - **Preparing for Wildfire Season** – 1/28/2025 – very well attended and successful.
  - **Protecting my Home** – 4/29/2025
  - **Fighting Fire from the Air** – 7/29/2025
  - **Evacuation Readiness** – 10/28/2025
- Firewise will be offering another free Green Waste Event on April 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. OES is paying for rental of the bins, County will provide keys, and we will meet NID reps to get into the locked NID property at Banner Lava Cap and Boreham Road. Need 4 to 6 volunteers to staff the event.
- Chip brought up the Evacuation Drill that was proposed in 2020, pre-Covid. Matt Wallen, battalion chief, was behind the Evacuation Drill, but there is not sufficient momentum to do that now. Maybe reconsider working on organizing a 2026 event at end of this year, after Steve Baker's presentation. We need 15 volunteers to sign up for Banner Mt evacuation drill. George would be interested in assisting after he is finished his responsibilities for SYRCL.
- Jeff noted that if we don't get more volunteers and Neighborhood Contacts, we may need to whittle down the boundaries of our very large Firewise Community.

#### Technology Report - Jeff

- Jeff reported that Andrew is overwhelmingly busy installing high speed internet fiber in 220 homes on upper Banner Mountain.

#### **Local Issues – Mo/All**

- Mo noted that there are lots of proposed developments and issues that prompt the public to contact FBM, requesting that FBM support or oppose proposed projects.
- Susan noted if we have volunteer bandwidth among our board members to work on these issues, then FBM can provide comment letters to local agencies that address topics of concern to FBM members and suggest analyses of impacts that should be conducted. However, we should take a position supporting or opposing a project only if we are confident that it adequately represents the opinions and interests of FBM residents.
- Some of the current proposed projects that Mo has been contacted about:
  - Old Tunnel Road– lots of houses proposed
  - Traffic signal at the bottom Brunswick & Idaho Maryland.
  - Loma Rica development – biochar facility
  - John Paye subdivision
  - Proposed RV in Unincorporated County – Tiny Homes advocates

Need to do a survey with members to solicit input and assess their concerns– **Mo and Jeff will work on a survey on these issues, George will assist.**

#### **Other Topics**

- Chuck's Plaque – On 2/22/2025 Jeff and Gayle Peach and Susan installed the plaque commemorating past FBM president Chuck Staetz's life and his many contributions to the Banner Mountain community. The plaque was placed on an existing bench above the Cascade Canal trail in the Bear Yuba Land Trust Woodpecker Preserve.
- Directors and Liabilities insurance with Charity 1 – Nonprofit Insurance. Jeff is working to resolve an issue to confirm that our policy is in good standing. We have a cancelled check showing the insurance was paid so hopefully resolution will be simple.
- Chip moved to adjourn the meeting, Susan seconded, all approved. Meeting ended at 3:38.

Respectfully submitted

Susan Sanders, FBM Secretary

