



## Board Meeting Minutes

December 4, 2024, 2:00 – 3:30 pm

**Attendees:** Jeff Peach, Mo Graber, Ed Sylvester, Susan Sanders, George Olive (visitor and potential new board member)

Action Items in red

### Secretary Report

Approval of Meeting Minutes from September 4, 2024 – Jeff moved to accept minutes, Mo seconded, all approved (George abstained from this and all subsequent votes).

### Treasurer's Report

Susan reported the following information from Chip: Checking \$3,581.24, Savings \$8,395.34, CD \$7,537.06

Susan and Mo provided receipts for Annual Meeting expenses and were given checks for reimbursement: Mo - printing services \$244.95, Susan - food/drink \$71.42

Total costs of annual meeting = \$833.15 (as reported by Jeff after the meeting via email to the Board):

- Pizza \$200.76
- Costco Cookies \$59.94
- SPD Lemonade \$12.00
- Seaman's \$210.50 (Includes refundable deposit)
- Event Helper Ins \$105
- Signs Posters and Programs \$244.95

Other major expense is FBM General Liability and Directors and Officers insurance, about \$2000.

### Communications Report

Mo recapped her communications activities since the last board meeting: she has sent 10 email messages to email subscriber list with information on topics such as Firewise activities and reporting, County Food Waste program, Community Forums, Deer Creek Project updates, FBM Annual Meeting recap. The open rate for these communications is 62% open rate. Mo has also been maintaining a tracking log of communications by topic and date and will submit it to the BOARD after the first of the year per the bylaws.

Mo reviewed and revised the Membership Renewal letter and the Thank You letter to members who renewed.

Mo requested that the board review and approval of the draft Board Positions Statements which describe the duties of each board member. The black text is directly from the FBM Bylaws, the

blue text is language that Mo developed to flesh out the duties of each board member based on required tasks described in the bylaws

Deadline for board members to review the draft Board Position Statement, and submit suggested changes to Mo, is January 10, 2025

### **Technology Report**

Jeff provided a brief update on Nevada County Fiber on behalf of Andrew. On December 1 they started with 250 connections.

Nevada County Fiber has 2 years to complete the project - Andrew VERY busy with this work. Mo offered Andrew assistance by sending out traffic alerts to the membership letting people know that there would be roadwork affecting traffic. Andrew will also work with Supervisor Heidi Hall to get this info out to neighbors affected by the construction.

### **Membership**

Jeff said that 582 letters went out after he cleaned up the list, and responses have been very good. We are doing the traditional letter (about \$2.00/letter with self-addressed envelope), appropriate since many of our members are retired folk who like to do renewals by mail. Next year hope to do more on-line renewal requests.

New Member to Member Services tab parameters – how should we handle requests for advertising for local businesses? Who is allowed to advertise at our meetings and on our website. Hoping to develop this into discounts. It's a member-to-member tab, not open to all the public. Need to provide members some meaningful return on their membership fee. General consensus was that the membership tab should be allowed. We will revisit this decision to allow that and think about charging members, or giving a discount. ? Revisit at next meeting.

Ed pointed out that Banner Mt residents are grateful for local news on issues that affect Banner Mt residents. He also mentioned that the next local community forum will be a disclosure of County expenditures on local programs.

Recruiting new board members – George Olive is potentially interested in joining the board – his particular focus is on identifying neighborhood contacts, evacuation routes, and on proposed developments.

### **Firewise**

Jeff explained the relationship between FBM and FBM Firewise Community to George. Ed noted that it was important to clarify the relationship between FBM and the Firesafe Council. We all agreed that we need more neighborhood contacts (formerly called Neighborhood Captains).

In 2025 Firewise will sponsor a four-part meeting series: January 28, April 29, July 29, Oct 28. These meetings will be publicized to our email subscribers and with sidewalk signs. Meeting content/speakers will be finalized at the January Firewise meeting. **Mo will send a draft of the meeting schedule for meetings to the board.**

Propose a \$100 speaker stipend for Dr. Fites-Kaufman – Jeff moved, Mo seconded, all approved. She is a well-respected fire scientist, active on the Ridge, has a great presentation on defensible space and prescribed burns. She and OES Defensible Space are proposed to speak at [the](#) January 28 meeting. Other suggested topics at the meeting series including home hardening, Calfire Airport tour, perhaps get a CalFire pilot to speak.

Goal is to build community with neighborhoods – George described his local neighborhood group who secured radios for emergency communications. Ed noted that he has emails for his neighbors and can quickly send out info to them with this communication chain.

Little Deer Creek Resilience Project update– Barry Howard, one of the attendees at the Little Deer Creek Resilience held a Seaman’s lodge, – sent an email noting that First Rain (contractor for the project) has begun burning piles on BLM property.

\$20,000 defensible space grant opportunity – offering 59 grants \$20,000 for private roads only – matching funds? Can use In-Kind matching with labor. Ed said he inquired, and they won’t have details until January 2025, and Ed gave a reminder to keep FBM in the loop.

Jones Ridge Road, which is specifically mentioned in the Nevada County Evacuation Plan (and was the road where the Waste Management truck caught fire) might be a good candidate for this grant. Considerable work required to secure a grant, need to select a project that serves a lot of people and rises to the top. Need criteria for selecting microgrants – FBM/Banner Mountain Firewise can offer some expertise and suggestions for allocating microgrants.

Anticipated Microgrant opportunity (chipping, disposal bins, veg management) for \$3600 – who picks the communities that are awarded? Ask our email subscribers if someone in their neighborhood is willing to write the grant and manage it.

Interest continues to increase for NFPA Firewise Certificate -FBM just received their certification. Insurance companies request it. It has been suggested that FBM membership be a requirement to get the certification through FBM, however, the Firewise Steering Committee does not support requiring membership to receive the certificate. At this time membership is suggested upon requesting the certificate.

## Other Items

Lessons learned from the Annual Meeting – all agreed that we need not serve lunch or pizza, we could just offer cookies and tea/coffee or lemonade. Susan suggested alternate meetings with Zoom to minimize the expense and effort with an in-person annual meetings each year. We need to make sure we have a good speaker and interesting “hook” for the meeting. Ed noted that having Jeff’s audio equipment was very helpful at the meeting.

2025 Goals – more board members, membership campaign. We post goals on webpage – at next meeting need to write down the goals. **Everyone needs to think of 2025 goals for the next meeting.** 2024 goals are on our webpage.

FBM positions on pending developments/Ordinances – our mission is to preserve natural and cultural resources. We want to understand when and why we take positions on things. Do we want to have a bigger role? Need a tab for collecting letters that FBM was send on the Idaho Maryland Mine, ATT, Insurance.

Some of the topics of interest to FBM members include Tiny Home on Wheels Ordinance, Old Tunnel Road Development, and proposed Cell Tower on Red Dog Road. Susan suggested that she and Mo follow these and other issues, prepare letters describing our concerns, but take actual positions for or against only when we are confident that truly represents the opinion of the majority of our membership.

## Closing Thoughts/Other Topics

Everyone – black text is from bylaws; blue text is the implementation from Mo. Need to give seven-day notice of our board meetings.

Ed will follow up with Allison Lehman about the \$20,000 Defensible Space Grants.

Everyone needs to review the draft Position Statement that describes the duties of officers of the FBM board. Deadline for review– **January 10, 2025** -

Jeff moved, Mo seconded, and all approved to adjourn at 3:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Sanders (acting Secretary)