



Friends of Banner Mountain

Board Meeting Minutes July 17, 2024, 2:00 pm – 3:30pm

Attendees: Jeff Peach, Susan Sanders, Mo Graber, Ed Sylvester

Action items in **red**

Secretary Report –

- Susan, interim secretary, requested approval of April 17, 2024 meeting minutes. Jeff moved to approve, Mo seconded, all approved.

Treasurer's Report

- Jeff (interim treasurer) provided FBM 2nd quarter financial report, April 1 to June 30, 2024: Savings - \$9393.64, CD - \$7404, Checking: \$1,030.28
- Jeff moved to accept, Mo seconded, all approved financial report.
- Reimbursement requests were fulfilled and included: Sandwiches for Buckeye microgrant work party - \$84.00; Flowers for Chip - \$106.53

Communications Report

- Mo reported that over the past few months she sent out 6 newsletters/email updates; all were well received. **Mo will investigate providing FBM info in the "Club News" in the Union newspaper.**
- Jeff suggested that Mo add her byline the email updates/newsletters, all agreed it was a good idea and would make the newsletter more personal.
- Mo will promote the new website upon its launch – she provided a teaser in last communication. When we are really done then will promote it on Facebook, Next Door. Mo will be working on the Facebook page and will put in highlights from the emailed newsletters.
- Ted and Susan provided an article and photo about Spotted Owls, and are willing to submit more bird/wildlife articles and photo for the newsletter. –
- Jeff got a call from one of the Fowlers, one of the old-time families in Nevada County – the caller said they lived on Idaho Maryland and his family had been there for generations, and they had lots of history on logging. Jeff asked if he had photos and more information, thinking it would be an interesting article for the newsletter. **Mo will follow up with the Fowlers** (Done – Mo reached out to Ms. Fowler and she is interested in providing some family history and says she is really busy at this time. Mo expressed our gratitude and said she would message her again in late August).

Membership Report

- The group discussed our proposed approach to increase membership and a membership campaign schedule.
- Jeff reported that we now have up to 330 members.
- Membership drive will begin in fall – Jeff will send renewal reminders to 120 people, and will send out an email a few weeks before and suggest they join/renew online. Options for joining are now PayPal, Venmo, or credit via PayPal.

Recruiting new board members

- Each of us will come up with at least one suggested candidate for joining the board.**

Firewise Report

- Free Green Waste Bins on Juniper. Jeff had not gotten a report back from the lady on Juniper; we need photos to confirm that this was a community effort and not for just one resident. **Mo will follow up to see if she can get a good photo of a full bin** (Done – Mo followed up with Lynn Archer with a voicemail, no reply, then an email. Awaiting response).

- Buckeye Microgrant for \$3600 – Mo organized the work party – they cleared the road, chipped vegetation and put it in a 30-yard bin, water truck came and road was graveled; OES was very impressed with this effort. FBM provided a neighborhood lunch – **Mo will send an email to the neighborhood asking them to join FBM and to do an annual clean up.** (Done)

Nevada County Evacuation Study - Meeting with OES

- Jeff said to get a copy of the Evacuation Study you need to download it from the Nevada County website and then search for Banner for info relevant to FBM. The County hired two companies to do the study and the results were not surprising: highest risk areas were Lake Wildwood, Lake of the Pines, Greenhorn, Banner/ Cascade Shores. Most of the topics covered were familiar (e.g., need for clearing vegetation along roads, improving rural roads).
- Enrique Manzilla organized with County staff to discuss evacuation planning, focusing on Banner Mt, Greenhorn and You Bet. Jeff met with Sherri Vingom, NCSO Emergency Operations Center. Cummings, the commander of Emergency Response, was at meeting, and Alex Keeble-Toll from OES was also there.

Little Deer Creek Resilience Project

- Mo is waiting for info from Ann Westling to see how to promote this. Funding is approved. **Mo will send a follow-up email to Ann to assess status of the project** (Done – Mo sent an email to Chris asking for a press release, when available, so she can send the information out via the FBM mailing list).

2024 Firewise Festival results

- The Firewise Festival was a huge success, sold out. Firesafe Council issues were a concern, but Bob Long helped out by overseeing the finances on behalf of Coalition.
- The festival met all goals for good PR and visibility, and for raising money for Firewise Communities.

Technology Report

- Jeff reported that we finalized the move to Wix so now we have one site for the webpage. It is easy to use, no need for back up. Everything ported over successfully, the Contact form works.
- Webpage just needs a little more tweaking. It can be edited for both mobile devices and the computer. Jeff will soon \ be releasing a Google form for Firewise reporting.
- **Board members will send head shot photos to Jeff so that we can have photos of the board members for the website.** (Done)
- NevCo Fiber update Andrew (Nevada County Fiber) is waiting on a notification as to whether he got the State/Federal grant he applied for. This grant would cover installation of fiber optic cable from Red Dog Cross Road to the Water Tanks at Banner-Lava Cap and Banner Mt. Trail.

Annual Meeting - Oct 5, 2024

- Everyone agreed that the meeting should be open to all comers, members and non-members. We will try to recruit members at the meeting.
- Mo and Susan will work up agenda for the annual meeting (Mo already did this).
- For presentations the group thought that Heidi Hall could discuss fire insurance since she is working on that for the County. Maybe also have Alex and Keeble discuss evacuation. Andrew can also discuss Nevada County Fiber if he gets the grant.
- Mo will invite Alessandra Zambrano and Alex Keeble-Toll to our annual meeting.
- Mo and Susan went to Greenhorn meeting and reviewed their “Lessons Learned” that they sent to Mo. They served pizza from Round Table (with a discount), cookies and drinks. Information tables were on the side to discuss prescribed burns, FireSafe Council for ½ hour. They had 4-5 speakers, which was too many the talks went on too long. Upfront at the entrance they had table to receive donations, buy a T-shirt, get free OES materials (like tote bags). **Mo will communicate with Heidi about her presentation and Susan will follow up with a query to Round Table about a discount on pizzas.**
- **Mo and Susan will arrange a meeting to plan annual meeting** (Done met on July 24, meeting again on August 14).
- Publicity/invitations – email invitations, also sandwich boards at Pasquale and Red Dog, near water tanks, Idaho Maryland/Brunswick, Banner Lava Cap/ Nevada City Highway. Mo will go to Staples and get posters printed up.

Closing Thoughts/Other Topics

- **Firesafe Council.** Mo said that Susan Rogers sent an email with Op-Ed piece on Firesafe Council (regarding compliance with Brown Act). The response from Firesafe Council was not very satisfactory. Response can be downloaded from Yuba Net.
- **Holiday Display contest** – Mo suggest we start thinking about that. **Jeff will think about how to post a poll and photos of Xmas decorations on the website.** Offer a cash prize or gift certificate for the winners. Get YubaNet or Union engaged. We discussed what the boundaries should be for participants and basically decided that if someone thinks they live on Banner Mountain, they do.
- **Proposed Paye Subdivision.** Mo raised the issue of the proposed Pay Subdivision application with Nevada County. There are 6 parcels near her property that were designated as timber only, with the Payes applying for a permit to convert to residential. They noted that this area has many opportunities for trails and parking, but the group expressed concerns about land conversions and that trails may not be compatible with that area.

Next Meeting

- September 4, 2024 2:00

Meeting adjourned at 3:25

Respectfully submitted

Susan Sanders, Acting Secretary