

Mission Canyon Association
MINUTES - Annual Meeting
5/09/2023, 7:30 p.m.

Minutes by Darby Feldwinn

1. Call to order & introductions (Jason Saltoun-Ebin)
 - Board Members Present: Alex Feldwinn, Darby Feldwinn, Gustave Agredano, Hugh Twibell, Hutch Axilrod, Jason Saltoun-Ebin,, Nancy Weiss, and Seldon Edner
 - Board Members Absent: Erika Sharghi, Jean Yamamura, Kevin Snow
 - Guests: Luke Swetland, Steve Windhager, Kadie McShirley
~75 Mission Canyon residence
2. Board Introduction & Election of Board Members
 - Reelection: Selden, Alex, Kevin, Darby
1st: Jerry Martin
2nd :Ray Smith
All approved
3. Speaker #1 - Das Williams, County Supervisor
 - Groundbreaking for new dispatch and information center
 - The county fronted the cost for it and now the cities will pay in to use it
 - This will help for people on the edge of districts so that anyone can help
 - The fire departments will be operating an ambulance service instead of AMR that is doing it now.
 - Das is also on the board of 3CE (Central Coast Community Energy) ~30 governments come together to provide our electricity. 2% less than SCE, They are able to offer more incentives than SCE.
 - The big incentives are: vehicle (\$1000 to \$4000 per vehicle in addition state offers)
 - Home charge reimbursement and also for parts and labor for installation.
 - Goal for Santa Barbara to achieve a reduction of 17,000 cars (this is about 1 in 4 cars) in the county by 2030. We need to do our part
 - Incentives for home electrification (change from gas to electric)
 - Feel free to contact him with any issues
4. Speaker #2 - Kate Furlong, SB County Fire Safe Council: Community chipping event - expanding and working in mission canyon
 - Started 20 years ago
 - Fire prevention and education, fire suppression, defensible space, infrastructure hardening
 - They offer them through a cap and trade grant through Cal Fire
 - They are able to get sheep on the hillside to clear brush and do chipping
 - Fire behavior is influenced by 3 things: weather, topography, & fuel. We can only do anything about fuel. We need to make defensible space
 - 0-5 feet, most import spot to do work,no combustible materials, also should not have wood chips in this area
 - 5-30 feet, lean clean zone, reduced fuel zone farther out

- Access zone which is our driveways
- Lots of ember studies show that combustible materials in the 0-5 zone can heat up the house and catch it on fire.
- Zones 1,2 Trim up trees and shrubs, remove dead branches, clean up dry brush. Remove limbs by structure
- Zone 3 access zone: Think about how an engine will get to house, needs to be 10 ft wide and 13.5 tall
- Chipping will happen May 30 and June 5
- Stack everything with cut side out and there will be some roll-off bins for things that cannot be chipped like palm fronds.
- They will not go up Tunnel Ridge, Memory Lane, Holly Road, Spyglass, Owl Ridge. Bring chipping to the bottom of the road
- Needs to be at least 3 feet in length
- Cannot be over 16 inches in diameter. Larger pieces need to go in the dumpster.
- Everything needs to be stacked by 8 am on the day of chipping.
- If you have questions go to sbfiresafecouncil.org/chipper. There is a map with a search function that will help you know when they are coming and has contact information if you need to ask questions.
- Roll-offs will be on Mission Canyon Road and exact locations are listed on the website
- What can't be chipped: leaves, succulents, pine needles, palm fronds, stumps, branches with thorns, vines, bamboo, root balls, grass, and other small trimmings
- No bags or trash in the dumpster.
- How far in advance: no more than 2 weeks from the date, dumpsters will be out a week before.

5. Speaker #3 - Ann-Marie Parkinson, Firewise USA

- A community solution to be more prepared for wildfire
- Fire does not burn everything evenly. Embers get into homes and decks and cause things to burn.
- They are trying to get entire communities to work together so that the community does not burn down
- Shared about several fires and the challenges that they had: Jesista, Coffee Park
- Agriculture buffers in coastal SB, these help the fire not go into Goleta or Santa Barbara, the few places we do not have them are San Marcos Pass, Mission Canyon, and Montecito
- Went over fire history in Mission Canyon: 1914,1917,1923 1984 Coyote fires, 2008 Tea, 2009 Jesusita
- You need to practice evacuating so that you will be ready when you have to do it
- Communication lines are the first thing to go down in fires
- Make sure that you know your neighbors and are able to help them
- What is FireWise?

Provide a collaborative framework to help neighbors

Get organized

Understand their risk

And work together to reduce

Run by the national fire protection association

Free program

Flexible

9 groups

2 in Mission Canyon

Upper Mission Canyon Rd.

Upper Tunnel Rd.

- Application process (they will help with this)
 - 1: Organize
 - 2: Plan: Who is in and who is out, fire department does a risk assessment, develop a three year action plan
 - 3: Do: community education, homeowner volunteer hours, report quantity of vegetation removed
- Maintaining FireWise recognition
- Annually: record and report deduction activity, volunteer hours, and vegetation removed
- Benefits: organized, understanding risk, building community, strengthens grant applications, prioritization for future SB FSC funds, Insurance benefits
- If you are interested in becoming a captain you can talk to Gustavo
- You can sign up for free home hardening and defensible space evaluations
- Fencing. Do not have a wood fence touching your house. Just replace the first 5 feet with metal
- Door mats can catch fire and light your door on fire. Use a rubber mat
- No mulch within 5 ft of house, use river rock
- Small gaps in stucco can cause issues because embers can get in
- Gaps where garage door shuts can be a problem
- Stucco starting to fall off at bottom of a house is a place that embers get in
- Free evaluation in late June and early July
- Cal Fire hazard maps and insurance
- We are in a area that is a high probability that a fire could happen
- Defensible space and fire breaks do not affect these maps
- Hazard - likelihood that it will happen
- Risk this has to do with defensible space damage of wildfire when considering mitigation
- Boundaries are used for policy decision making
- New maps released in late 2022
- Have not be formally adopted by legislators
- Will include “ember casting” this time
- Mission Canyon below HWY 192 is not included in new map yet

- Since 2017, 50,000 homes have burned (Santa Barbara has 40,000 homes)
- 196 have directly died from wildfire
- \$56 billion in property damage
- Areas burning that never thought they would burn
- These maps should not affect insurance companies. They do their own maps
- Mitigation is key: FireWise, new insurance policy in CA
- Oct 22, DOI mandates that insurance companies must provide discounts to consumer for mitigation work, disclose consumers wildfire risk score, create a process to appeal the score
- April 2023 insurance companies submitted their plans on how they will give discounts.
- Not out quite yet

6. Speaker #3 - Rob Hazzard - County Fire Marshal

- Born and raised in SB, 5th generation
- Was a captain that worked with fuel management, put in the fire break behind the water tower
- Cal Fire is going to do fuel breaks Santa Barbara County and will release them next year
- Historical fires stopped right around Montrose Place
- There are patterns with fire history
- Fires happen every 40 to 60 years in the same place
- Right now vegetation is really young so it holds more water and does not burn as much.
- Eventually there will be another fire in the Canyon. This is why we need to do mitigation
- The fire department is going to do some maintenance to the fuel break at the top of the Canyon. The last time that they did this was 3 years ago. Top of Tunnel Rd. around the water tank and up the trail a little way and at the top of Mission Canyon.
- The fire department will also come out to inspect your home if you want
- What is the fire season going to look like this year?
 - Lots of grass you need to weed whack it
 - Risk of chaparral fire is low because of hydration and high water levels in plants.
 - In the fall the fire risk will increase because of sundowners.
- All stations are staffed with paramedics now.
- Mission Canyon was the first in the county to do a CWPP (community wildfire protection plan). This helped the fire department get grants.
- Helps figure out what are the priorities for mitigation work.
- But it really needs to be updated.
- Got a grant to help redo our CWPP and they will hire a consultant to help with the document. It will be from the Montecito boundary to the 154. Lots of modern science will go into it. They will use some of the information

from the old CWPP. They will need input from the community and help from the community. They will try to put together a development team that will be in charge of it. It will take a bunch of work to do. But they will help us get grants in the future.

- Once it kicks off they will have a webpage on the county fires website so you can stay informed. You will also get flyers and mailers so you can participate.

Next Board Meeting: 7:30 pm on June 6, 2023, via Zoom