

**MINUTES FOR A MEETING OF THE  
WILDFIRE MITIGATION COMMISSION**

Wednesday, July 19, 2017

11:00AM to 1:00PM

Training Room, Ashland Fire Station #1  
455 Siskiyou Blvd

In attendance: Tim Bewley, Doug Kay, Stephen Gagne, Tracy Peddicord, Bruce Moats, Tonya Graham, Julie Smitherman, Chris Chambers, Alison Lerch

Not in attendance: Stef Seffinger

**I. CALL TO ORDER: 11:00am**

**II. INTRODUCTIONS**

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: May 17, 2017 Stephen moves, Tracy seconds, all in favor.**

**IV. PUBLIC FORUM**

**V. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA: CEAP Plan**

**VI. BUSINESS**

**A. New Business**

- a. Firewise Presentation to Landscape Community
  - i. Julie talked with the Southern Oregon Landscape Community about giving a 1 hour presentation to the Landscape Contractors to earn their CEU. We could use the Community Center or Pioneer Hall. Week of August 30, 31. Alison will prepare a PowerPoint presentation and deliver it to the WMC in August. Julie will extend the invitation to landscape contractors and nurseries.
  - ii. More pictures of Ashland specific Firewise visual tour on the [ashlandsaveswater.org](http://ashlandsaveswater.org). Including before and after photos/videos.
- b. Daily Tidings Articles
  - i. Tim was interested in knowing about the feedback from the Alarm Box article. Alison experienced some feedback from the Farmers Market about signing up for Citizen Alert.
- c. Live Fire Exercise for 2018
  - i. Should we conduct a live fire exercise for the general public in Ashland? If there was a fire awareness day we could show children the videos from the 2017 Southern Oregon Firewise Expo. Maybe this could be done in conjunction with the Ashland Sprinkler Trailer.
  - ii. What about a Fire Summit from the Wildfire Mitigation Commission?
  - iii. What about a directed advertising campaign during the first week of May?
  - iv. Firewise landscaping was incorporated in the Spring Garden tour
  - v. Firewise can have a table at the Spring Garden Fair at the Expo
  - vi. *Parking Lot: Ashland City Tax discount from being Firewise Participant. This should be brought up at the next WMO meeting.*
- d. Ashland Firewise Communities Celebration Event (Tim, Doug, Tracy)
  - i. The Commission would like to host another Firewise Communities Celebration in October. October 2<sup>nd</sup>? A few presentations from new communities, before and after photos from new communities.
  - ii. What if existing Firewise communities could get more funding to their community if they talk about Firewise to another neighborhood?
  - iii. Desired outcomes of this event:
    - Recruiting individuals as advocates
    - Flash Presentations

## B. Old Business

### a. Insurance Letter – status update

- i. On June 26, 2017, we received a reply from Brad Hilliard from State Farm. The letter talked about how State Farm supports Wildfire Community Preparedness Day through 150 \$500 grants but that they do not offer a discount for homeowners in Firewise Communities. Ashland's ISO rating is lower because of the Firewise Program participation. A suggestion was made that we need Oregon State Fire Chiefs Association or a large State Organization that has lobbyist who have the ability to go to the legislators to encourage this process. Chief Shepherd likes the idea of giving a grant to individual landowners who are doing Firewise around their homes. The City could give a loan to an individual to do their mitigation work, but the loan is added to their tax bill over time.
  - Could a single structure get a Firewise certification? Not right now.
  - Can Ashland lower their ISO rating? We can buy an aerial, build a training tower, or get a secondary water source.
  - Can we create a juniper removal fund for lower income or people on a fixed income.

### b. Committee Updates: (4 minutes each)

#### i. Plant List Subcommittee

- Julie and Tracy would like to forward the plant list to their people and get a meeting before the next WMC meeting.
- Julie knows the owners of Valley View Nursery and will make a call. Julie will set up a meeting where Alison and Julie can be with Valley View Nursery.
- Put Waterwise Ashland as the top link on the 3<sup>rd</sup> column
- Keep vetting this trifold to the Farmers Market for the next month and get more feedback.

#### ii. Wildfire Mitigation Ordinance

- Next Meeting is July 31<sup>st</sup> from 2-4pm at Station 1. The regularly scheduled meeting is every other Monday from 2-4pm at Station 1.

#### iii. Wildfire Task Force (Smoke Marketing, Evac/Com, Business Resilience)

- Smoke Marketing: There is a collaboration with the healthcare community to put a publication and a dedicated website and advertising time
- Evac/Com: This information will be incorporated in the 2017 Ashland Is Ready Preparedness Booklet
- Business Resilience: The Chamber of Commerce is working through the Business Preparedness Program through CERT.

#### iv. Community Wildfire Protection Plan Subcommittee

- The CWPP is being driven by Alison, Chris and Vicky Sturtevant. The Risk Assessment is still in the process.

#### v. Farmer's Market

- People loved that the plant list was tailored to the Rogue Valley. Next Farmers Market is August 1<sup>st</sup> from 8:30am-11:30am

#### vi. Firewise Update

- Two new neighborhoods approached Alison (Scenic and Frank's). 4 coming up.
- Alison will send Tracy and Tim an email about the next Assessment dates for a ride along.

#### vii. AFR/AFAR Update

- A public tour of the Forest Service prescribed burn is scheduled for July 29, 2017 at 9am. Helicopter thinning and hauling is completed.

Ground based thinning is still in process.

- C. Parking Lot Issues
  - a. Branding the WMC
  - b. Wildfire Commission Collateral

## **VII. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

## **VIII. REVIEW AND SET COMMISSION CALENDAR / NEXT MEETING**

- A. Mayors Brown Bag Lunch: July 28, 2017, 12:00pm (ComDev)
- B. Next WMO Meeting: July 31, 2017, 2-4pm (Station 1)
- C. Next WMC Meeting: August 16, 2017, 11:00am (Station 1)
- D. Wildfire Task Force: September 6, 2017, 10:30am (Station 1)

## **IX. AGENDA ITEMS FOR August 16, 2017**

- A. **Firewise Landscaping Presentation**
- B. **CEAP Plan – send the link to the CEAP out to the group.**

## **X. ADJOURN: 12:30pm**

*In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Public Works Office at 488-5587 (TTY phone number 1 800 735 2900). Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to the meeting (28 CFR 35.102-35.104 ADA Title I).*