

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

Wednesday, October 10, 2018

11:00AM to 1:00PM

Training Room, Ashland Fire Station #1
455 Siskiyou Blvd

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Stephen Gagne, Dan Dawson, Tonya Graham, Steve Jensen, Bruce Moats, Hazel Wheeler, Alison Lerch

II. INTRODUCTIONS

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: September 19, 2018

Bruce moves to approve the minutes, Hazel second, all in favor.

IV. PUBLIC AND GUESTS FORUM

V. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Move the Brainstorming of the Retreat Framework to New Business A.

VI. REPORTS (2 minutes each)

- A. Council Liaison if Applicable – No Report
- B. Report on Wildfire Mitigation Ordinance – Alison
 - a. Alison has a contract with Mark Mularz to produce a Wildfire Safety Ordinance pamphlet for be handed out at COMDEV.
 - b. Alison will send the next draft of the Ordinance pamphlet to the commission when the next draft
 - c. The approved Ordinance needs to be educated to the Planning Commission and Tree Commission. Stephen will look into the tree removal process and other issues with the Tree Commission.
 - i. The WMC will send a representative to monthly Tree Commission meetings
 - ii. Can nonnative trees that are a fire problem be exempt from the tree removal permit?
- C. Plant List Subcommittee – Doug/Tracy/Bruce – new members?
 - a. Subcommittee members will bring recommendations of new members to the November meeting.
- D. Chamber Wildfire Task Force (Smoke/Evac/Business) – Alison
 - a. There will be a presentation about Evacuation at the December 3rd Study Session at the Council Chambers at 5:30pm.
- E. Farmer's Market – Doug
 - a. October 16th will be the last day at the Farmers Market. Doug will be there from 8:30am-11:00am. Alison will provide Doug with copies of the Alarm Box Insurance article.
- F. FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant
 - a. The Benefit Cost Analysis will be contracted out. Wood shake roofs will be a part of the grant. The deadline for submission is mid-December and the final grant is due January 31st.
 - b. The city is working on making a clause where fixed income/low income residents will be able to participate in the grant and the city will assist with the 25% match.
 - c. Keep reimbursements in the same month. Is there a financing option? Solar panels companies have a way to finance this type of transaction. Is there a direct mechanism where the contractor is the first recipient of the check.
 - d. If there was a document that the homeowner signed that the payment goes to the contractor, and that the check actually goes to the contractor. The mechanism of reimbursing a landowner if they don't have the funding.
 - e. Leyland cypress is not a tree but we can put in the application that we can remove Non

- Native trees over 12 inches in diameter but we will not cut native trees over 12 inches.
- G. Firewise USA/Annual Gathering – Alison
 - a. November 13th at the Community Center from 5-7pm. Doug has lined up an HVAC Specialist to do a presentation.
 - H. WMC members attending other committees- anything pertinent to report?

VII. OLD BUSINESS

- A. City Attorney report on fire proof building materials
 - a. Move to November meeting or have Chris send an email before the November meeting.
- B. Firewise Demonstration Trailer – Doug
 - a. Move to November meeting.
- C. Rock Bark Sample, other mulch information
 - a. A-1 Rental only carries the non-flammable mulch.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Presentation from Code Compliance Officer – deferred to a future meeting
- B. Brainstorm framework for process/structure of the Retreat (Tonya)
 - a. The Commission’s role is to support the City’s Strategic Plan, and to identify the role of. Identify the Current Conditions, and what is the Future Condition. This Commission is added capacity for the staff that are working on this.
- C. Wildfire Mitigation Commission Retreat Processing (60 minutes)
 - a. Brainstorm framework for process/structure of the retreat (Tonya)
 - i. Tonya described a framework to help the commission understand current conditions and how to get to future desired conditions with subsets in-between including education, incentive programs (e.g. FEMA grant), regulations and planning.
 - b. Overview of Wildfire Mitigation (Alison)
 - i. Alison gave a presentation overviewing the numerous wildfire mitigation activities. Alison will send The Ordinance
 - c. What are your hot topics?
 - i. Commissioners will bring their hot topics to the November scheduled meeting for discussion.
 - d. What do you want to see change or stay the same?
 - e. Dietary restrictions – None with current attendees

IX. REVIEW AND SET COMMISSION CALENDAR / NEXT MEETING

- A. Tree Commission: October 11, 2018, 6-8pm (Siskiyou Room, COMDEV)
- B. Next WMC Meeting: November 14, 2018, 11:00am (Station 1)
- C. Evacuation Study Session: November 19, 2018, 5:30-7:30pm (Council Chambers or online)
- D. Wildfire Commission Retreat: November 14, 2018 4pm-8pm (Station 2)

X. AGENDA ITEMS FOR November 14, 2018

- A. Presentation about in what ways the WMC can be useful for Wildfire Risk Reduction in the city of Ashland. What are the challenges that WMC will likely be involved in and how do we get there? What are the essential components that Ashland Fire & Rescue wants the commission to be involved in? (Alison/Chris)
- B. Tree Commission Process update
- C. **December 2018:**
 - a. Report from Hazel about Fire Season, road blocks (Hazel)
 - b. Appendix W (Ralph Sartain)
 - c. Presentation on Rogue Valley Wildland Fire Resources (Chris)
 - d. Code Compliance Process (Andrew Barrow)

XI. ADJOURN:

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).