

AGENDA FOR A MEETING OF THE WILDFIRE SAFETY COMMISSION

Wednesday, July 15th, 2020 11:00AM to 1:00PM Zoom

As the July 15th Wildfire Safety Commission (WSC) will be held electronically, any public forum testimony is to be submitted in writing by members of the public by 10AM the day before the scheduled meeting. Staff will compile all written testimony into one document and send the document to the Commission members and post the testimony on the agenda the day before the meeting after 10AM. The written testimony will also be included in the minutes.

Members of the public are welcome to listen or view the Wildfire Safety Commission meeting live. Please contact katie.gibble@ashland.or.us if you would like to listen to this meeting live.

Meeting protocol via Zoom: raise hand to chime in and Stephen or Katie will facilitate when you can begin speaking

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. INTRODUCTIONS

III. Approval of Minutes

- A. June Minutes

IV. PUBLIC AND GUEST FORUM

- A. See public testimony from Craig McDonald at end of Agenda

V. ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA

VI. CITY COUNCIL CHECK-IN

VII. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Working Group Check-ins *action items in **bold**
 - 1. Real Estate Engagement Program (SG, KG)
 - 2. Nuisance Ordinance Expansion (DD,CS,CC,KG)
 - 3. Home Inspector Capacity-building (Kent)
 - 4. FAC Expansion/integration (KG, KR, CS, DK)
 - 5. Spring Wildfire Preparedness Campaign (KG, KR, CS, DK)
 - 6. Intterra/WiRe Program rollout (DD, BM, KG, KR)
 - 7. Nursery/Landscaper Education (CS, KG)
 - 8. Fire-Safe Business License Program for Landscapers and Contractors (KG, SG)
 - 9. New Building Code Adoption advocacy (KG, SG)
 - 10. Consistent messaging by all departments (CS, KR)
 - 11. Identify Alternative Funding Sources (KR, KG)
 - 12. City Finances (SG)
 - 13. Electric Utility Risk Assessment (SA)
 - 14. Illegal Camping Ignition Sources (KG, CC)
- B. Farmer's Market
- C. State Farm Wildfire Insurance
- D. OLLI Disaster Preparedness Class 2/24/20

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VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Ember Storm Awareness
- B. Updates from Oregon Shakespeare Festival
- C. DEQ Grant
- D. Homeland Security Grant for evacuation planning
- E. Award for Commissioners – continued conversation

IX. REPORTS AS TIME ALLOWS

- A. Forest Lands Commission Report
- B. Tree Commission (Katie)
- C. Chamber Wildfire Task Force (Katie)
- D. Drone Detection Program (Chris)

X. NEXT MEETING

- A. Wednesday, August 19th, 11:00AM-1:00PM, Zoom

XI. ADJOURN

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PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Craig McDonald

Dear Commission Members. These comments were initially submitted via your website for consideration at the June 17th meeting. Technical issues prevented the comments from being forwarded to Katie Gible, with whom I have been emailing, and thus not included in the June agenda. Please consider them now and respond. Thank you, Craig McDonald

I have taken all the wildfire safety precautions recommended by the CITY: NIXLE, Firewise, Go Bag, 3 CERT meetings, etc. But the Evacuation Plan promised in the Fall of 2018, whose purpose was to prevent a repeat of the Paradise tragedy, has not been provided. I am advised by Emily Matlock, Administrative Analyst at Ashland Fire & Rescue, that several months ago the City used a grant from the State of Oregon to contract with a firm to do a study to develop the Plan. Ms. Matlock now advises that the Plan will not be completed until the end of August. Thus, Ashland will endure a 2nd fire season without a Paradise-prevention plan. I am requesting that the Commission investigate why this has taken so long, determine whether the taxpayers are getting their money's worth from these contractors holding themselves out to be experts, and report the status of the Plan to the public. The City did do a limited evacuation exercise last Fall, but that was a full year after the development of a Plan was announced and did not result in any new advice for citizens on how to evacuate quickly and safely. Thank you, Craig McDonald