

Minutes of the Palomar Mountain Planning Organization 2016 Annual Meeting

Saturday, May 28, 2016 at the Palomar Mountain Volunteer Fire Department

Board Members Present: Terri Bailey, Glenn Borland, Robert Carlyle, Steve Clark, Donna Dose, George Evangelou, Brenda Fromlath, Elizabeth Getzoff, Bruce Graves, Sue Hanson, Rosemary Johnston, Michael Pique, Yvonne Vaucher, Michael Walsh.

Board Members Absent: Heather Beer

The annual general PMPO meeting was convened at the Palomar Mountain Volunteer Fire Department 10:09 A.M. Saturday May 28, 2016. In addition to the Board, about 56 members and 10 uniformed firefighters were present. The Chair, Glenn Borland, thanked the Palomar Mountain Volunteer Fire Department for hosting the Pancake Breakfast and Annual Meeting, Brenda Fromlath and Susan Humason for organizing and producing the newsletter, Donna Dose and her sister Pat for organizing the breakfast, George Evangelou and Cecelia Borland for being chefs, and Terri Bailey and Yvonne Vaucher for meeting setup.

Secretary's Report (Michael Pique):

The minutes of the May 23, 2015, annual general meeting were distributed and approved with corrections.

Treasurer's Report (George Evangelou):

As reported in the PMPO spring 2016 annual newsletter, our balance carried forward from December 31, 2014, was \$42,090.95 (checking: \$8,752.28, savings: \$33,338.67). We received \$1,565 in donations from 15 donors. Our ending balance (Dec 31, 2016) was \$42,864.75 (checking: \$9,503.91, savings: \$33,360.84). The treasurer's report was approved unanimously.

Palomar Observatory (Steve Flanders): Palomar Observatory is very much relevant to modern astronomy and astrophysics; we have done sky surveys since the 1950s, back when we could take 8 photographs a night on plate glass film negatives. We now take 300 digital photos a night, soon to be 3000 a night by the Zwicky Transient Factory. We will photograph the whole visible sky all night, every night, looking for any changes. A new quantum detector looking for planets outside our solar system will be operating soon, and it is very sensitive to interference from radio signals. In November, we learned a media group had put in an FCC petition for TV towers on the mountain - that would cause problems for our cameras and light sensors. Also, the increasing brightness of the sky above the mountain is a problem; we've been providing more data of higher quality than ever before, so we are more harmed by sky brightness than ever before. We're working with Oceanside and western Riverside County cities to abate the problem. For example, as more efficient LED lamps replace old streetlights, they need to be set up correctly not to spill light straight up. In the discussions, we learned that many officials simply didn't realize that the Palomar Observatory was still active and contributing highly to science.

Traffic Safety (Alan Serry):

As residents, we need to travel the "Palomar Raceway" every day for groceries. Our Snow Emergency Planning meetings were stymied in 2015 by all the El Nino preparation meetings. Every year we get new people at the California Highway Patrol, U.S. Forest Service, Sheriff, and County Roads Department so every year we need a new meeting. The new CHP sergeant for Palomar, Brad Denham, says he's willing to close the roads if it gets bad - a new policy. He has a grant for additional patrols on the South Grade two weekends per month until the end of summer; we'll see how that works out. Just be careful - as commuters we get lazy and go too fast, watch out for bicycles at 5 MPH and motorcycles at 80 MPH. Alan is looking to step down (once again) as Traffic Safety Officer and needs someone else to step up.

Palomar Mountain Volunteer Fire Department (PMVFD) (Cliff Kellogg and Keith Ronchetti): Former Chief Cliff Kellogg is now on the PMVFD Board of Directors ("Fire Board"). The Fire Board has signed the 50-year lease of the station grounds to San Diego County; the agreement is posted on the web site, <http://www.palomar-fire.org>. The county has plans to build a new station with housing and a kitchen for the firefighters, probably replacing the trailers

Minutes of the Palomar Mountain Planning Organization 2016 Annual Meeting

in the back. This would let them return the house to the community, through the CCPM. We just finished up an SRA-funded community chipping grant - 36 properties were chipped, work done by Ron Bowen and scheduled by Mike Pique.

The Fire Board has a big concern with station staffing because the San Diego County Fire Authority (CFA) lacks drivers and personnel to keep all of their stations open. CFA had paid Cal Fire, a state agency, to keep an engine and crew up here this past winter, but the money for that ended in April and we have not been reliably staffed since. We have an offer by CFA to get Cal Fire up here for 10 hours a day, four days a week, but that isn't enough. Residents need to contact Supervisor Horn to ask for more coverage. Liz Zerbe says the whole Board of Supervisors is responsible, not just Horn, and we should ask Diane Jacobsen, who's a powerful force in the back country. Cliff says several changes have caused the problem: standards for being a firefighter have toughened, training required for driving the trucks has been greatly increased, the firefighters have more choice in where they work and Palomar is a long drive, and even though Cal Fire can be paid to come here the CFA needs the money to do so.

Each fire engine, rescue vehicle, and water tender is supposed to have a Palomar road map book and a cross-reference index from names to addresses. Some discussion ensued on the location and completeness of the books and index lists. It appears that the books are in the vehicles but not the index lists.

Deeded Easement Project (Bonnie Phelps): The goal of the project is to have banks and other mortgage lenders be satisfied with the legal access to all Palomar properties: the emphasis is on the Crestline/Birch Hill area as that is where most of the problems are.

The county is accepting old Assessor's Maps as showing "public roads, privately maintained". The big news this year is that all of Crestline Road is done. Assessor's Map 11, north of the Lodge, is totally fine. Map 19, east of the Lodge, still lacks an L-shaped gap east of the Fortneys'. We probably need to have that area surveyed and then we can connect eastern Birch Hill back to the Lodge.

Fire Safe Council (FSC) (Nick Spear):

Nick Spear says the FSC is here to help you reduce the fuel load around your house. On June 18, the FSC will conduct an all-day workshop on how to prepare your property to be fire-safe.

Neighborhood Watch (Alan Serry): The idea of Neighborhood Watch is to look out for each other; Terri Bailey is coordinating the west-siders (Bailey Meadows and State Park Road) and Alan Serry the east-siders (Crestline and East Grade Road). There will be meetings at the Lodge soon, with Brandy Contreras from the Valley Center Sheriff office helping.

Alan says you should file with the Sheriff a "602 letter" Trespass Arrest Authorization for your property. This puts on record that trespassers can be firmly removed even if you're not there; good for 30 days. Alan also suggest signing up for nextdoor.com - information-sharing specific to Palomar Mountain, to support the Neighborhood Watch. You can send messages like "I was broken into last night" or "I'm burning brush today, don't panic". Contact Alan to get an "invitation".

Sheriff Advisory Group (Alan Serry): Alan summarized his PMPO newsletter article: the Valley Center sheriff will be looking out for us if CHP isn't able to come up. Let Alan know your concerns before the next Advisory Group meeting in June. He noted that the antenna towers on Crestline and State Park are used by, among others, sheriff communications and might be targets for attack. Watch out for suspicious visitors of any kind.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) (James Ewen):

CERT is sponsored by the Palomar Mountain Fire Department, to prepare and train community members for emergencies. At the CERT booth outside the fire station this morning, go look at our CERT gear, food storage ideas, and our 72-hour emergency kits. And meet us every month on the second Saturday, 10 AM, here at the Fire Station. CERT is about learning to take care of yourself first; don't hesitate to join in.

Minutes of the Palomar Mountain Planning Organization 2016 Annual Meeting

The Crestline & Birch Hill side roads all have easement number signs - black on reflective white. Please, if you live in that area, *know your easement number* and also put a house number sign along the easement road near your house or where your driveway branches off from the numbered road. CERT is offering residents 4-inch tall house number signs for \$20. These personal signs are available in standard reflective green, or blue if your house has a water tank usable by fire engines in an emergency. At the CERT booth you can see sample signs, place your order, update your Fire Department emergency contact information, and see samples of freeze-dried food.

Rosemary Johnston asked if CERT will apply the Barricade fire-retardant gel. No, the equipment is no longer available on the CERT vehicle. Robert Carlyle has a mobile applicator and he can offer information on the gel and how to apply it.

Community Center of Palomar Mountain (CCPM) (John Lesac)

The CCPM is doing many kinds of events: a tamale class, movie nights, photography classes, a yard sale at the Crestline Group Camp, and birdhouse-making for children at the State Park Apple Festival. The CCPM want to set up a food bank for people in need on the mountain. Upcoming events are: June 25: movie night at the Fire Station (Disney/Pixar "Inside Out"); July 16: community potluck, probably at the County Park; a fall dance/potluck; a Christmas party. They would like to do movie nights more often but would need \$600 for an annual 'public performance' license. The CCPM Board is looking for members; come to the meetings the first Friday of each month, 6 PM, at the admin trailer behind the fire station.

Friends of Palomar Mountain State Park (Rosemary Johnston): Rosemary Johnston said the "Friends" have funded some urgently needed maintenance projects and may hope to turn an empty ranger residence into a visitor's center. They have funded a seasonal park aide for education and outreach, and are working to increase attendance by the local, especially low income, communities. She thanks her board members, especially Sharon Dahl and Michael Walsh, for their involvement. In early May, Rosemary went to Sacramento asking the legislature to budget for the parks, especially to cover deferred maintenance.

Relevant web sites are <http://palomarsp.org> and <http://www.parks.ca.gov>.

Special Presentation to Bruce and Lola Graves:

Bruce and Lola were honored for their years of enthusiastic service to the people of Palomar Mountain; in particular, for Bruce's long-time service as PMPO Chair.

Election of PMPO Board Members:

Bruce Graves and Steve Clark are leaving the board. Ballots were distributed with the three incumbents offering to serve again (Donna Dose, George Evangelou, Rosemary Johnston), and candidates Alan Serry and Kymberly McClary. Write-ins were Terri Sproul, James Ewen, and Nick Spear. The candidates present gave brief statements. 67 ballots were cast and counted. Donna Dose, George Evangelou, James Ewen, Rosemary Johnston, and Alan Serry were elected to terms expiring May 2019.

The 2016-17 Board roster is:

(terms expiring May 2017):

Heather Beer, Glenn Borland, Robert Carlyle, Elizabeth Getzoff, and Michael Walsh

(terms expiring May 2018):

Terri Bailey, Brenda Fromlath, Sue Hanson, Michael Pique, and Yvonne Vaucher

(terms expiring May 2019):

Donna Dose, George Evangelou, James Ewen, Rosemary Johnston, and Alan Serry

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 PM.

Michael E. Pique, Secretary. secretary@PMPOinfo.com Minutes approved by PMPO membership May 27, 2017.