

Board Members Present:

Glenn Borland, Robert Carlyle, James Ewen, Michael Pique, Alan Serry, Yvonne Vaucher. Elizabeth Getzoff and her alternate Betsy Tainer arrived about noon.

Board Members Absent: Terri Bailey, Heather Beer, Donna Dose, George Evangelou (injury), Brenda Fromlath, Sue Hanson, Rosemary Johnston, Michael Walsh.

The PMPO Board Meeting was called to order at 10:37 AM at the Palomar Mountain Fire Department, by Glenn Borland, chair. A quorum of Board members was present.

No treasurer's report was available because Treasurer George Evangelou is hurt and in bed for three weeks. Secretary Michael Pique presented the minutes of the December 3, 2016, board meeting, which were approved as submitted.

Old Business

Traffic Safety:

Alan Serry said that even after two months designing the "snow emergency plan" there was terrible gridlock on Christmas day. The sheriff came up but the CHP didn't get control of the roads. On Tuesday January 17, we had a community meeting at the Lodge with lots of discussion and focus on CHP's non-response: "chains aren't the problem, it's the thousands of cars up here". Now there will be two CHP cars at the bottom of each grade, with help from the US Forest Service and the sheriff. The Forest Service opened the Crestline Group Camp to visitors, reducing parking pressure on the main roads - in previous years they had CLOSED the camp circle road. The county road department reminds us that "residents only" signs are not enforceable but help nevertheless. Alan says be sure to call the sheriff dispatch if roads are nearing gridlock.

Neighborhood Watch:

Alan Serry says their January 17 meeting was well attended. Brandy Contreras from the Valley Center Sheriff office tells residents "Do not confront trespassers - there's too much risk and danger. Let us take care of it." Alan has copies of the "Form 602 Trespassing arrest authorization" form you should file with the sheriff's office every six months.

Sheriff's Community Action Group:

Alan Serry says the Valley Center Sheriff's station is trying to combat inaccurate internet information. There were four murders in Pala recently, apparently drug-related. A big thing on the Sheriff's list is new marijuana laws to take effect; it's hard to measure impaired driving. Marijuana theft is likely to be worse than avocado theft.

Palomar Mountain Fire Safe Council (PMFSC):

PMFSC Board President Yvonne Vaucher reported that the Council now has both its Federal and California not-for-profit registrations current, and has \$1500 in the bank. The PMFSC has mailed residents information on signing up for free chipping and for 50% cost-sharing brush and dead-tree removal. There will likely be another Wildland-Urban Interface fire workshop this summer, and perhaps workshops on chain saw safety and the gold-spotted oak borer. The PMFSC is looking at improving emergency exit routes from Crestline and Birch Hill, in particular the 32J easement road that leads north from Birch Hill, connecting with Conifer Road. Cecelia Borland has talked to owner Morey Jameson about improving this route where it passes through his property. Mike Pique suggests recording an easement for such use, including road widening, as soon as possible. Bonnie Phelps says that, in general, access to existing houses has to be improved. Many locations now can't be reached by either propane or septic cleaning trucks, much less fire engines. People need to know that not just branches and limbs, but entire tree trunks, need to be cut.

For PMFSC info, see <http://www.mypalomarmountain.com/firesafecouncil> . Notices and information are also regularly placed on the community bulletin board outside the Palomar Post Office.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT):

James Ewen, CERT program manager, says the next CERT meeting, open to the public, "First Aid Basics", will be held on March 11. Cecelia Borland requests a CPR refresher course be scheduled.

Community Center of Palomar Mountain (CCPM):

Terri Sproul presented their 2017 event schedule; almost all of the events are free. They are struggling to find board members and all help is welcome. The CCPM has permission from Cal Fire Captain Mike Good to install a porta-potty on the Fire Station grounds for events. Small meetings, like the Mothers' Day tea, can use the station bathrooms. The new CCPM sign and bulletin board, next to the Post Office, is soon to get a roof and landscaping.

Easement Project:

Bonnie Phelps reported the good news that the county has recognized Road Survey 453A as a legal link between the Lodge and Assessor Map 19. This lifts the "landlocked" title clause for most of Birch Hill. About 6 parcels are still not covered though; could the PMPO fund work on this missing piece, which would benefit the rest of Birch Hill? Glenn Borland asked for a written proposal and budget to consider. Bonnie says that Pedley Valley is the next area she will be working on.

Palomar Mountain State Park:

Rosemary Johnston's written report by the "Friends of the Palomar Mountain State Park" was read by Glenn Borland. A new electronic campsite reservation system is coming in August. The park hopes to convert the Boucher Hill radio vault room into a visitor center, to supplement the visitor center that might be made from the current ranger's residence.

Park Ranger Jessica Murany said they have had 39 inches of rain so far this winter - expect a good year for fishing, and she's ordering trout now. The park has no major law enforcement or medical issues, but ice on the roads has been a problem. James Ewen said CERT can help when cars get stuck or slip off the road. Apple Festival is in October; by then they hope to hire an additional, part-time, ranger.

Palomar Mountain Fire Department (PMFD):

Cliff Kellogg, PMVFD President and former Fire Chief, said our station will have full-time paramedic staffing by summer. No update on the new fire station building yet. The PMVFD will have a yard sale in April to sell off surplus furniture and equipment. The station has been staffed around the clock every day.

LJIR/Yale Property Well Project:

Richard Gant, long-time business partner of William Yale, talked to Glenn Borland and former PMPO Board Member Rob Hawk about three weeks ago to discuss the Gant/LJIR proposed project to pump well water from Palomar Mountain down to the Reservation. Glenn says the discussion suggests it would be a long and expensive process, whether a pipeline is built down to the reservation or a truck loading station is built on the East Grade road. Rob says a hydrogeology analysis of the well and a pump test would cost tens of thousands of dollars, and it appears the LJIR isn't willing to put up the money. Cliff Kellogg asked about the September 1993 well drawdown test. Rob said that only the Bureau of Indian Affairs liked the result.

Palomar Mountain Mutual Water Company (PMMWC):

No formal report, but Yvonne Vaucher understands the Pedley Valley well levels are up about ten feet.

New Business:

2017 Annual Meeting, newsletter, and Pancake Breakfast:

Bonnie Phelps agreed to send out prompts for articles, drafts to be done by mid-March. Glenn Borland will collect the articles and Cecelia Borland will gather the advertisements with a focus on vacation rentals.

Palomar Mountain Planning Organization Board Meeting

February 25, 2017

May 27 will be the next annual general PMPO meeting. We again hope the Fire Department will be able to host us; Cliff Kellogg will talk to Captain Good about us using the kitchen. The PMPO and the PMVFD will share the \$120 monthly rental of a porta-potty for the summer; the PMPO Board authorized \$600 for this.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 PM.

Next board meeting is on May 27, immediately following the Annual General Meeting.

Michael Pique, Secretary (email: secretary@pmpoinfo.com)

Minutes approved by PMPO board September 9, 2017.