

Minutes of the Palomar Mountain Planning Organization 2017 Annual Meeting

Saturday, May 27, 2017 at the Palomar Mountain Volunteer Fire Department

Board Members Present: Glenn Borland, Robert Carlyle, Donna Dose, Elizabeth Getzoff, Sue Hanson, Rosemary Johnston, Michael Pique, Alan Serry, Yvonne Vaucher, Michael Walsh.

Board Members Absent: Terri Bailey, Heather Beer, George Evangelou (deceased), James Ewen, Brenda Fromlath.

The annual general PMPO meeting was convened at the Palomar Mountain Fire Department 10:15 A.M. Saturday May 27, 2017. In addition to the Board, about 42 members were present. The Chair, Glenn Borland, thanked the Palomar Mountain Volunteer Fire Department for hosting the Pancake Breakfast and Annual Meeting, Brenda Fromlath & Susan Humason for organizing and producing the newsletter, Donna Dose & her sister Pat for organizing the breakfast, Cecelia Borland & Yvonne Vaucher for being chefs, and Linda Fortney & Rigel Harshberger for meeting setup. He announced that board member George Evangelou had died May 2.

Secretary's Report (Michael Pique):

The minutes of the May 28, 2016, annual general meeting were distributed and approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report (Michael Walsh):

As reported in the PMPO spring 2017 annual newsletter, our balance carried forward from December 31, 2015, was \$42,864.75 (checking: \$9,503.91, savings: \$33,360.84). Expenses included printing new telephone number information cards and refrigerator magnets. We received \$4,171 in income from donations (from 21 donors) combined with 2016 pancake breakfast receipts. Our ending balance (Dec 31, 2016) was \$44,851.35 (checking: \$11,475.88, savings: \$33,375.47), a year-to-year change of +\$1,986.00. The treasurer's report was approved unanimously.

Traffic Safety (Alan Serry):

Our Snow Emergency Planning meeting every November seems to cover the same ground over and over, then (in December, say) the same lack of preparation yields dangerous road gridlock and massive trespassing. Every year we get new people at the California Highway Patrol (CHP), U.S. Forest Service, Sheriff, and County Roads Department so every year we need a new meeting. We've been promised two CHP officers and two tow trucks next snow day, but unless they get up here BEFORE the snow tourists block the roads, the promise does no good.

Alan has drafted a letter calling out the the CHP for lack of enforcement on the South Grade Road "public raceway". The motorcyclists who endanger us come here explicitly intending to break the law. The letter includes requests such as speed cameras and increased visible enforcement.

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 has been on the Crestline/Birch Hill area as that is where most of the problems are. Bonnie reports big progress last year, and now need only a short length to completely open up Crestline and Birch Hill - should be 100% done by next year. She will then turn to Bailey Meadows where the main road is itself land-locked.

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Palomar Mountain Volunteer Fire Department (PMVFD) (Cliff Kellogg and Dean Kowalski):

Cliff Kellogg, president of the PMVFD Board of Directors ("Fire Board"), said that last year's concern over station staffing has largely been resolved. We now have two CalFire firefighters here all the time, often supplemented by San Diego County Fire reserves. By July, one of the CalFire crew on duty will be a paramedic.

See the PMVFD web site at <http://www.palomar-fire.org>

Cliff introduced our new CalFire Captain, Dean Kowalski. Captain Kowalski says he's been a medic for 11 years and will be our paramedic once some paperwork and equipment is settled. He says the defensible space inspections this year will be on a computerized data base for each structure on the mountain. The crew expects to start on Birch Hill and work west. They do have problems connecting the structures on the ground to their physical (and mailing) addresses, but the biggest problem is access. "Look at that big fire engine behind you. See it? Can it possibly get down the roads to your house", he asks. If it can't, they have to come back to the station, drag the paramedic gear into the small patrol truck, and head back out. "Finding you is difficult enough - getting to you shouldn't be. We need to work toward a system to get the engine where it's supposed to go." Many roads have too low clearance - we need at least 10 feet; many roads have big trees grown up too close at the sides - we need at least 9 feet. Sue Hanson notes she's sandwiched in between unbuildable properties whose owners have no incentive to do such work. Bonnie Phelps suggests we need to find 'block captains' to measure & mark, then we can arrange for trimming and removal.

Fire Safe Council (FSC) (Yvonne Vaucher):

Founded in 2002, the FSC helps you prepare for wildfire. This year the FSC will again conduct an all-day Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) workshop on how to prepare your property to be fire-safe. We hope also to have a workshop on chainsaw use care, and safety and one on applying Barricade fire gel. A major FSC goal is to improve Crestline/Birch Hill emergency escape routes. We are working on a grant application to improve these roads, especially 32J that connects to Conifer Road, but need permission from owners as well as the money.

We currently have funds to pay for chipping of downed trees and brush- this money goes away after December so sign up and get your property ready before summer.

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). If you're in the Crestline/Birch Hill region, learn your easement number. Post it next to your PMPO fridge magnet and tell it to the dispatcher if you call 911.

Alan says you should file with the Sheriff a "602 letter" Trespass Arrest Authorization for your property, especially in the winter for snow days. 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, managed by Suzanne Leininger. You can send messages like "I was broken into last night" or "I'm burning brush today, don't panic".

Mutual Water Company (Sue Hanson, Treasurer):

We are doing OK on water but not overflowing. It's about time to read the meters: please pay on time when you get your bill. Remember - no irrigation systems, return your proxy cards, and update your emergency contact information.

Sheriff's Community Advisory Group (Alan Serry):

Alan says the Valley Center sheriff substation has two new deputies for "proactive work". The sheriffs are getting out the word to potential marijuana users that it will be treated like alcohol drinking: illegal to consume in vehicles.

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Highway to the Stars Signage (Alan Serry):

Valley Center is working on reviving the mid-20th century signage along county road S6. We will try to put up signs from their border at Rincon on up to the Palomar Observatory.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) (Bill Leininger):

James Ewen has passed the CERT Manager job to Bill. CERT is sponsored by the Palomar Mountain Fire Department, to prepare and train community members for emergencies. CERT meets every month on the second Saturday, 10 AM, here at the Fire Station. Bill notes two good mobile phone/tablet apps to have. The first notifies you about developing fires in your area; available from <http://www.readyforwildfire.org> . The second is a preparedness guide covering earthquakes, first aid, and highway safety; available from <https://sis.nlm.nih.gov/dimrc/disasterapps.html> .

Community Center of Palomar Mountain (CCPM) (Terri Sproul):

The CCPM is working hard to arrange events Palomar people will enjoy coming to. Upcoming events are: July 1: movie night at the Fire Station stage; August 12: movie night at Mother's Kitchen; September 2: Labor day weekend barbecue/picnic - location to be decided; a fall dance/potluck; a Christmas party. The CCPM Board needs help to keep doing this, and to secure funding. Come to the meetings the first Friday of each month, 6 PM, at the admin trailer behind the fire station, or come to next Saturday's special planning meeting at noon.

Friends of Palomar Mountain State Park (Rosemary Johnston):

Rosemary Johnston recognized her board members Sharon Dahl and Michael Walsh. The "Friends", organized five years ago, are now a full-fledged independent state park 'co-operative association'. They have funded the Doane Pond ramada reconstruction and hiring a seasonal park aide for education and outreach. Next, they hope to refurbish the amphitheater and hope to turn an empty ranger residence into a visitor's center. The 2016 Apple Festival attracted 1100 attendees. She invites everyone to come explore the park's 1800 acres, joining the 100,000 other visitors each year.

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

Election of PMPO Board Members:

Terri Bailey, Donna Dose, and Brenda Fromlath are leaving the board; with the death of George Evangelou, we have nine openings. Ballots were distributed with the five incumbents whose terms are expiring offering to serve again (Heather Beer, Glenn Borland, Robert Carlyle, Elizabeth Getzoff, Michael Walsh), and candidates Cecelia Borland, Lafe Ball, Don Grant, Katie Michelmore, Jack Weisgerber, and Mark Wisnosky. The candidates present gave brief statements. Ballots were cast and counted.

Cecelia Borland, Glenn Borland, Robert Carlyle, Elizabeth Getzoff, and Michael Walsh were elected to terms expiring May 2020. Katie Michelmore and Jack Weisgerber were elected to terms expiring May 2019. Mark Wisnosky was elected to the term expiring May 2018.

The 2017-18 Board roster is:

(terms expiring May 2018):

Don Grant, Sue Hanson, Michael Pique, Mark Wisnosky, and Yvonne Vaucher

(terms expiring May 2019):

James Ewen, Rosemary Johnston, Katie Michelmore, Alan Serry, and Jack Weisgerber

(terms expiring May 2020):

Cecelia Borland, Glenn Borland, Robert Carlyle, Elizabeth Getzoff, and Michael Walsh

The meeting was adjourned at 12:08 PM.

Michael E. Pique, Secretary. secretary@PMPOinfo.com Minutes approved by PMPO Board August 25, 2018.