

Board Members Present: Lafe Ball, Cecelia Borland, Glenn Borland, Robert Carlyle, Mary Ellen Harshberger (alternate), Elizabeth Getzoff, Michael Pique, Rigel Rafto, Yvonne Vaucher, Michael Walsh.

Board Members Absent: Mike Appelman, Rosemary Johnston, John Lesac, Elizabeth Tainer (alternate), Linda Thorne, Jack Weisgerber.

The PMPO Board Meeting was called to order at 10:02 AM at the Palomar Mountain Fire Department, by Glenn Borland, chair. A quorum of Board members was present. It was noted that the Board has one vacancy at this time. Also present were Burt Hulbert, Keith Ronchetti, Alan Serry, Mike Wilson, Dave Robarts, Katie Michelmore, Bill Leininger, Joelene Tamm, and CalFire Battalion Chief Robert Reynolds

Treasurer Rigel Rafto reported our current combined checking and savings account balance is \$50,992.04, up \$756.15 since January 1, 2020. Deposits from sale of resident placards, \$755 in report plus \$105 received February 14; total sales \$860, profits so far \$147.45. Reimbursement to Lafe Ball for placard manufacturing \$712.55, January 28, 2020. The report was approved.

Secretary Michael Pique presented the minutes of the November 16, 2019 meeting, which were approved with corrections.

Old Business

Palomar Mountain Fire Department (PMFD):

Cliff Kellogg, PMVFD President and former Fire Chief, reported that the county has selected a contractor for our new fire station, with groundbreaking in May and to be framed, wrapped, and roofed by fall. Chief Reynolds says CalFire will get a crew up here next week to remove the rest of the Live Oak tree.

Palomar Mountain Fire Safe Council (PMFSC):

PMFSC Board President Yvonne Vaucher reported that the Council has about \$2700 unrestricted funds in the bank. We received donations of \$3760 including \$3000 from the Yoga Center. Realtor John Cooper mailed out our defensible space work pledge solicitations, from which we received 1176 hours of pledged effort. Linda Thorne is creating a donation solicitation packet to sent to local businesses, casinos, and tribal councils.

We have closed out our Neighborhood Reinvestment Program (NRP) grant. That funded six dumpster days (plus two funded by PMVFD) and 7 1/2 chipping days serving 42 home owners. We will apply for a 4-year CalFire grant for roadside clearing; it is our responsibility to clear and widen the private easement roads. We appeal to new landowners to do this clearing. If you have non-compliant neighbors, please tell CalFire. The San Diego county community resilience plan is still trying to develop an evacuation pamphlet for each community. For Palomar, it looks like East Grade will be primary route, South Grade secondary, with temporary refuge area designations still undecided. Chief Reynolds says that Doane Pond and the Observatory parking lot are listed in the current Community Wildfire Preparation Plan (CWPP), which was recently approved by Chief Mecham. The USFS has done some pile burning.

Neighborhood Watch:

Katie Michelmore says we get good cooperation with local agencies and law enforcement. Both the Sheriff's office and the California Highway Patrol (CHP) have volunteer auxiliary teams which could be sent up on snow days. Heather Mitchell is our new crime-prevention specialist, working out of the Valley Center sheriff's substation. Having your 602 form on file with the sheriff's office is also helpful. It appears these forms are valid for one year for residents but only 30 days for non-residents. How these are distinguished is not clear. You can fax or mail the 602 forms to: San Diego County Sheriff's Valley Center Substation, 28201 N. Lake Wohlford Rd., Valley Center, CA 92082-6742, Station fax number: 760-751-4430.

Traffic Safety:

Burt Hulbert says he observes greatly reduced racing on the South Grade. He notes someone is stealing rocks from the retaining walls; a black truck with a trailer. Be aware. He says police presence here will never be what we wish, but do call in and report violations: Sheriff 858.565.5200; CHP 858.637.3800.

Alan Serry says we have a good snow emergency group we're meeting with, but despite the planning, the two snow days did not go well. We will try getting help from the volunteer "Senior Patrols". We're thinking how we can help the 12-hour-shift chain-check crews. We're now planning snacks and a porta-potty.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT):

CERT program manager Bill Leininger says reflective address signs, arrows, easement numbers are all available for sale to residents at cost. Next public CERT event is in May, a community education on fire preparedness, defensible space, possible SDG&E power shutoffs, and having CalFire-compatible water tank fittings.

Resident tags for hanging from automobile mirrors:

Lafe Ball plans to order 500 serially-numbered custom hanging signs for about \$400.

Community Center of Palomar Mountain (CCPM):

The next CCPM event will be on Saturday, September 6 (Labor Day weekend), a community picnic and potluck from noon to 4 PM at the County Park.

Elizabeth Getzoff discussed the future of the 'little house' on the fire station property: after CalFire crews move into their own quarters, how will we insure, maintain, and use the house as a community center? For example, will we install a keycoded lock and sell memberships? Offer wifi, computer access, the kitchen for meetings? Charge for groups wanting to meet there, such as the Community Church used to do? Cliff Kellogg says costs will include insurance for property, liability, propane, electricity: the PMVFD board can't fund it all for very long. Rosie Lopresti and Jack Weisgerber say the CCPM can pay for a few years of insurance but not full maintenance and utilities. Yvonne Vaucher suggests various organizations like the Church and the State Park association could meet and contribute to maintenance.

Palomar Mountain State Park:

Michal Walsh says the "Friends of the Palomar Mountain State Park" raised \$19,600 last year to support the park activities. They are writing a commendation letter on behalf of long-time park ranger Jessica Murany, who is being transferred. The park has faced bureaucratic stumbles at every turn trying to clear Doane Pond and to build a visitors' center. Maybe 5-10 years until the visitors' center.

Gold-Spotted Oak Borer (GSOB):

Joelene Tamm, a college biology major who volunteers at the La Jolla Indian Reservation, said that it appears the beetle will keep spreading north. She discussed possible ways to contain and deal with the effects of the infestations. The GSOB infests canyon oaks, black oaks, and coastal live oaks, but seldom engelman oaks. The USFS and the BIA recommend only the pesticide 'carbaryl' to control it, but the treatment costs \$100 to \$1000 per tree. The only way to contain infested trees is by screening them at least 3-4 meters up. You will have to decide whether you want the trees removed, screened, or to use pesticides.

The University of California Riverside (UCR) site <http://www.gsob.org> has forms for local survey and reporting. If you see evidence of infestation, report to UCR or our local USFS forester Cheyenne Borello. Some treatment grants from CalFire are opening up on July and November. The more landowners go together, the better possibility for writing grant proposals for a US Forest Service grant too. Joelene's email is joeleneTamm@gmail.com, phone 951.473.9142.

County Planning Groups and Sponsor Groups:

Glenn Borland says the County Supervisors have approved a 7-member San Diego county “community sponsor group” for Palomar Mountain. The members serve staggered four-year terms. The initial membership is: Mike Appelman, Micah Beard, Curtis ‘Dutch’ Bergman, Robert Carlyle, Cliff Kellogg, Bill Leininger, and Teresa McCarthy.

PMPO Web Site:

Eric Franks from Burning Love Media offers to update and maintain our pmpoinfo.com web site. He figures \$1000–2000 to start, hosting costs \$150 per year, ongoing updates perhaps one hour per month at \$75. The board authorized \$2000 now and \$750 per year ongoing, to be contracted after review of formal proposal.

Highway to the Stars signs:

Alan Serry says the summit store has enough of the signs for now, as does the Palomar Observatory gift shop.

2020 Pancake Breakfast, Annual Meeting, Election of Officers, and newsletter:

The 2020 breakfast and Annual General Meeting will be on Saturday, May 23. We have one vacant board position, and five board members’ terms will expire in May 2020: Cecelia Borland, Glenn Borland, Robert Carlyle, Elizabeth Getzoff, and Michael Walsh.

Cecelia and Glenn Borland are coordinating newsletter article assignments; three articles are ready and the others will be ready by the end of March.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 AM.

Next meeting is the Annual General Meeting, Saturday May 23, 2020, 10:00 AM, following the Pancake Breakfast.

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

Minutes approved by PMPO board July 25, 2020.