

Minutes of the Palomar Mountain Planning Organization 2020 Annual Meeting

Saturday, September 11, 2020, by WebEx Teleconference

DRAFT 2021-05-26

Board Members Present: Lafe Ball, Cecelia Borland, Glenn Borland, Elizabeth Gettys (alternate), Elizabeth Getzoff, Mary Ellen Harshberger (alternate), Rosemary Johnston, Michael Pique, Linda Thorne, Yvonne Vaucher, Michael Walsh, Jack Weisgerber.

Board Members Absent:

Mike Appelman, Robert Carlyle, John Lesac, Rigel Rafto,

The PMPO 2020 Annual General meeting was convened by WebEx teleconference 10:20 A.M. Saturday September 12, 2020. In addition to the Board, two CAL FIRE firefighters (Captain Kowalski and paramedic Jose Lopez) were present along with about 14 members, including Bill Leininger, Mike Hopper, Alan Serry, Sharon Dahl, Cliff Kellogg, Hiroshi McDonald, Josephine Marcelino, Ryan Flohr, Walt Johnston, Karen Fraser, Diana Serry, Rosie Lopresti, and Bruce Graves.

Chair Glenn Borland said we need 30 members (including Board members) to achieve a quorum.

Secretary's Report (Michael Pique):

The minutes of the May 25, 2019 annual general meeting were distributed with approval deferred to await quorum.

Treasurer's Report (Rigel Rafto):

As reported in the PMPO spring 2020 annual newsletter, our balance carried forward from December 31, 2018, was \$49,538.92 (checking: \$16,133.02, savings: \$33,405.90).

We received \$1,585 in income from donations in 2019 (from 19 donors) some income from Highway to the Stars signs, and had only small expenses, chiefly for newsletter printing. Our January 2020 balance was \$50,235.89 (checking: \$16,366.40, savings: \$33,869.49), a year-to-year change of +\$696.97. Approval of the treasurer's report was deferred to await quorum.

Palomar Mountain Volunteer Fire Department (PMVFD) (Cliff Kellogg): We have installed two new water tanks near the Lodge dedicated to fire-fighting. The PMVFD has filed a 'Doing Business As' (DBA) the "Palomar Mountain Community Fire Association". This clarifies that fire protection is now the job of the San Diego County Fire District and CAL FIRE, not the PMVFD volunteers. Construction of the bunk house behind the station has slipped again, to start sometime this winter. Fire Board meetings are open to the public and being held on-line by Zoom; see the web site at <http://www.palomar-fire.org>

CAL FIRE (Captain Kowalski):

Staffing coverage at our station has been good despite the state-wide fire conditions. All days off have been cancelled for a while.

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

CERT is sponsored by the Palomar Mountain Fire Department, to prepare and train community members for emergencies. We hope to resume some in-person training but for now, is on-line only. The California Office of Emergency Services bought us a CERT trailer for rapid deployment of supplies and equipment. It is now being fitted out with lights, radios, and basic emergency equipment. Be sure your family is signed up with Alert San Diego: <http://www.readysandiego.org> to receive emergency notifications, and with SDG&E to be warned of public safety electrical shut-offs. For information about CERT, email palomar.mountain.cert@gmail.com

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Fire Safe Council (FSC) (Yvonne Vaucher):

A grant from the county supervisors' Neighborhood Reinvestment Program brought \$25,000 for community preparedness. We used these funds this past year to offer eight free dumpster days for residents to get rid of their broken outdoor wooden chairs and other fire hazards, with 116 residents taking advantage of the opportunity. We conducted nine days of on-site chipping of downed trees and brush, serving 42 residents. We still have some funds to pay for chipping of downed trees and brush - sign up and get your property ready before winter. Finally, we have 16 Barricade Fire Gel home kits available - ask.

A major FSC goal is to improve Crestline/Birch Hill evacuation. We have received a CAL FIRE grant for \$165,525 to improve these roads, including 32J that connects northern Birch Hill to Conifer Road, and now need permission from owners. To get grants, we often need to promise "matching funds" in the form of residents' and owners' personal time pledged for brush clearing and maintaining defensible space. This can be counted at \$28/hour, so two hours per week of leaf-raking and preparing chipping piles adds up to \$2500 per year; please fill out a pledge card.

Clearing tree limbs and brush around the roads is your responsibility. Consider purchasing a Knox Box to hold gate & house keys for firefighting and medical crews to use in an emergency. Replace old eave vents with new cinder-blocking ones. Note the Palomar FSC meets the fourth Saturday of every month, over Zoom for this past year, and all are welcome to join in.

Friends of Palomar Mountain State Park (Michael Walsh): The State Park is open whereas the US Forest Service campgrounds are closed. The Friends offered a written report:

While the COVID crisis has limited the ability of Palomar Mountain State Park staff to lead hikes, narrate talks, and conduct other group activities, nonetheless the public has ongoing access to information about park resources and programs. Will Meyst, the park interpreter whose position is funded by the Friends of PMSP, reports he has been meeting monthly since May with the Interpretation Team of the Colorado Desert District. Our primary focus, he said, is now to engage hikers, campers, and virtual visitors as much as possible on digital platforms like Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

Will is working collaboratively with interpreters at Cuyamaca Rancho State Park and Anza-Borrego Desert State Park as well as a State Park Interpreter to develop a district wide interpretation effort. This allows us to pool our resources and help create content at each park, he said. The team created eight weeks of programming starting in May include a Junior Ranger series designed for children and their parents, nature journaling tips and tricks, meditations, wildflower tours and drawing tutorials. They have also developed two virtual campfire programs, one for Labor Day and one for the Fourth of July. All are available on the PMSP and CRSP Facebook pages.

In addition, the interpreter team has conducted interviews with Colorado Desert District staff to describe our state's immense catalog of plants and animals. September 7-14 is Biodiversity Week, and there is a great collection of video interviews with the Environmental Scientists of the Colorado Desert District now available on the two parks' Facebook pages.

There are still plans to renovate the entrance kiosk, but the start of work is awaiting a review of the kiosk's historical structure status. Efforts are also being made to address the cattails blocking access to Doane Pond, and the hazards created by fishing line tangled in the cattails and nearby trees. Recently a great blue heron drowned as a result of becoming tangled in fishing line at the pond. Plans are to install fishing line recycling stations at the pond. Friends of PMSP has listed elimination of the cattails as a major priority for the past several years.

Don't forget that the park is open and hiking, fishing, and limited camping and day use is available! We look forward to working with our new CAL representative Terry Gerson to improve and enhance the public's experience and access to Palomar Mountain State Park. We are grateful to our longtime CAL representative Kevin Best who now serves as state park superintendent for the public safety office of the Colorado Desert District. We also welcomed our new media coordinator Bonnie Beckman to our FPMSP team. Visit us at

<http://palomarsp.org> and <http://www.parks.ca.gov>

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Community Center of Palomar Mountain (CCPM) (Rosie Lopresti):

The CCPM is pretty much in limbo because of the COVID-19 restrictions but hope to resume our events and gatherings as conditions improve. We have \$5110.86 cash on hand. August 31, the Labor day weekend potluck/picnic at the Crestline Picnic Grounds,

Palomar Mountain Sponsor Group

Elizabeth Getzoff noted that the Sponsor Group, that represents Palomar Mountain in dealings with the county and Board of Supervisors, has been formed but there seems to be little information on its meetings or activities

Election of PMPO Board Members:

One incumbent whose term is ending is leaving the board: Cecelia Borland. Four incumbents whose terms are expiring are offering to serve again: Glenn Borland, Robert Carlyle, Elizabeth Getzoff, and Michael Walsh. Ryan Flohr will replace Cecelia Borland, with alternate Josephine Marcelino. Mike Hopper will fill the vacancy left by Katie Michelmore's 2019 retirement.

The 2020-21 Board roster is:

(terms expiring May 2021): John Lesac, Michael Pique, Rigel Rafto, Linda Thorne, and Yvonne Vaucher

(terms expiring May 2022): Mike Appelman, Lafe Ball, Mike Hopper, Rosemary Johnston, and Jack Weisgerber

(terms expiring May 2023): Glenn Borland, Robert Carlyle, Ryan Flohr, Elizabeth Getzoff, and Michael Walsh

The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 AM.

Michael E. Pique, Secretary. secretary@PMPOinfo.com

Minutes approved by PMPO membership NOT YET