

**FALLS CREEK RANCH ASSOCIATION, INC.  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Falls Creek Ranch Association, Inc. Board of Directors occurred on January 4, 2017 at the home of Larry Hansen. Present were President, Jim McCarthy; Vice President, Michael McQuinn (by telephone); Treasurer, Larry Hansen; At Large, Peggy Yotti and Secretary, Deirdre Heine. Also present were Eb Redford, Joe Scarpino and Bob Strachan.

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion, duly made to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2016 Board of Directors meeting, was seconded and unanimously approved.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was approved.

**3. LIAISON REPORT**

Mike McQuinn reported:

Our Ranch Manager, Ray Smith, performed the following tasks during the last work period:

- Updated all computer files due to change in State requirements
- Snow removal plans and timing of plowing discussed

**4. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Larry Hansen, Treasurer reported:

The 2<sup>nd</sup> half notices for association fees will be sent out. The fees are due February 1, 2017.

**5. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**FireWise Ambassador**

Paulette Church, Firewise Ambassador reported via email:

1. As a member of the FireWise of SW Colorado Steering Committee, I was asked to participate in interviews of four great candidates for the position of La Plata County

Coordinator. We hired Charlie Landsman who will stay with Clyde and I until he finds housing here in Durango. He is from the Seattle area originally and graduated from Colorado College with a BA in Environmental Policy in 2014. We will have a welcome party for him in early January.

2. I am not done preparing the final reimbursement request for the Stephens Grant for \$4,010. This amount is covering \$2,000+ of our labor costs through November 15, 2016, up to the \$4,010 total. This isn't due until June 2017 but I want to close it out soon.
3. We had more than 20 Christmas trees harvested this year on two different Saturdays in December. Doing two dates keep down the congestion on Falls Creek Main during the harvest and gave access to trees to more residents, both full time and part time. I again provided hot chocolate and homemade apple cider – both were a hit. The Colorado State Forest Service harvested a tree again this year for their office at FLC – just their second year to have one there.
4. I attended the FireWise Steering Committee December meeting and will attend the FireWise Ambassador meeting in January. It is getting more difficult to find funds for mitigation but we have three programs that can help us next year:
  - a. Chipper rebate program – FCR rents the chipper we need and then files for reimbursement – grant funds are in place with FireWise of SW Colorado. This could really help with the CR 205 project in May.
  - b. The Share program for individual homeowners continues. Each homeowner can apply for a matching grant up to \$7,500, which they must match with cash spent. Money is in place and the application is simple.
  - c. Colorado tax credit up to \$2,500 per homeowner – This continues for several years and is a credit on the Colorado income tax form. Documentation of expenses must be included and can include money spent matching the Share program described above.
5. We will have the planning meeting with La Plata County Roads and Bridges, San Juan National Forest, Southwest Conservation Corp, and our lead project volunteers in January or February for the Safe Passage grant to trim back 25 feet on either side of CR 205 south of our entrance will begin on or about May 15, 2017.
6. The ACB and new dump trailer are now under the new shed roof for the winter. The RTV and brush mower are stored in the Ranch Maintenance Shed by Ray.

7. I plan to apply again for an additional Safe Passage Grant from the Regional Allocation Committee to continue to work south of the trimming back to be done along CR205 this spring.
8. I have set the date of Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup> for the Firewise educational meeting and have a wonderful, engaging speaker lined up. He will speak about the social aspects of building a healthy forest and put mitigation work in perspective as it impacts our neighborhood, our neighbors, and the surrounding county and USFS lands. Other educational information will be added to the agenda. Area Firewise Ambassadors will be invited to attend. Of course, we will end with a wonderful potluck.
9. The spring workday for Firewise will be Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>. We will do work in preparation for the Safe Passage grant to begin on May 15<sup>th</sup>. I will apply for a \$500 grant to cover expenses for materials. Again, a potluck will conclude the workday.

Paulette requested gravel to be put down on the drive into the slash yard. The drive will first be graded to take advantage of the existing road bed and reassessed in the Spring. She also inquired about liability insurance for the Chairs of the Common Property, Firewise and Dam Committees. Mike McQuinn will look into the costs.

### **Architectural Control Committee**

No new business.

### **Beautification Committee**

No new business.

### **Common Property**

No new business.

### **Water and Dam Committee**

No new business

### **Horse Committee**

No new business

### **Lake Recreation and Beach Committee**

No new business

### **Road Committee**

No new business

### **Utilities Committee**

Eb Redford, Chairman, reported:

#### **AWC/FCR Water Systems Connection Project**

An AWC project team meeting was held December 21st at the home of Eb Redford to review RFP proposals submitted by three engineering firms. Attending were Tom Allen, Barry Bryant, Chris Heine and Eb Redford. Mike Hicks was away for the holidays. He voted via phone.

- The engineering firm SGM, Inc was selected by the Utility Committee to conduct the feasibility study.
- The selection decision and bid proposals were discussed with the President and several members of the FCR Board. They approved the SGM selection.
- SGM was notified of their winning bid. The others were notified of their losing bids.
- A project kickoff meeting with SGM is scheduled for 11 Jan 2017. The project deliverables are due by 30 March 2017.

## **6. OLD BUSINESS**

Mike McQuinn presented a summary of proposed Rules and Guidelines for FCR Rentals for discussion. The proposal will be attached to the minutes and distributed to the membership for their perusal. Any comments will be addressed at the February Board meeting prior to voting.

Joe Scarpino updated the Board stating he has contacted the neighbors surrounding the proposed lot for their input and approval.

## **7. NEW BUSINESS**

No new business

## **8. NEXT MEETING**

The next Board of Directors meeting will be held on February 15, 2017 at the home of Deirdre Heine.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

The Board, by motion duly made, seconded and unanimously approved, adjourned the regular meeting at 7:25 p.m.

This document constitutes a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of the Falls Creeks Ranch Association, Inc.

Respectively submitted,

Deirdre Heine  
Secretary  
January 4, 2017