

Town of Green Mountain Falls
Fire Mitigation Advisory Committee meeting minutes
Monday, April 17, 2023, 6 pm Mountain time
All members participated on Zoom

Committee Members Present

Chair David Douglas
Vice Chair Paul Yingling
Member John Bell
Member Kelly Hunter

Trustee Members

None

Town Staff

None

Recording Secretary

Carolyn Bowers

1. ROLL CALL AND CALL TO ORDER Chair Douglas called the meeting to order at 6:09 pm Mountain time

2. ADDITIONS, DELETIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

Yingling moved to accept the agenda as posted. Douglas seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Bowers said the Bronc Day Committee is encouraging committees to participate in the Bronc Day parade Saturday, July 29. She also said the Bronc Day committee discussed using a block captain system to communicate with residents about it, much like the block captain idea FMAC is considering using. Yingling will write a job description for FMAC block captains. Bell will discuss possible coordination with Bronc Day chair Lisa Bonwell.

4. STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE

Yingling facilitated a 2024 Capital Improvement Plan workshop. Committee members prioritized actions to be taken.

Top Five recommended Additions to Capital Improvement Plan

Enforcement of code
Improve downtown aesthetics, notably by improving sidewalks
Cell service improvements
Address downtown sewer system
Address spillover parking

Other high priority items are 1) conducting hazard assessments for homeowners; 2) replacement of the Gazebo Park-Island bridge; 3) Gazebo Park-pavilion stage

Priorities for the town government

HIGH PRIORITY

If GMF does not receive a forestry grant, it must finance (10k-15k) to train and equip a resident-run fire mitigation team.

Hire an intern dedicated to coordinating fire mitigation volunteers, including training, work days and work sites.

MEDIUM PRIORITY

Evaluate and increase width of roads critical for emergency egress

Enforce nuisance tree ordinance.

Also discussed: safe spaces for firefighters/ residents

Recommended deletions from Capital Improvement Plan

Recycling program (redundant)

Supplemental water storage (impractical)

Breakaway gates (impractical)

Bicycle infrastructure (not needed)

Shuttle bus (impractical)

5. OLD BUSINESS

Updates on Liability Release response Response is low so far. Town Clerk sent releases for 192 properties but has received releases for about 48 of them.

Bell will consult with CUSP forester Adrian Knight about which rights-of-way are most in need of mitigation. If releases are still needed for them, the committee could target its door-to-door campaign at those owners.

Bell suggested the releases are not necessary, stating that FMAC has done due diligence and language in the letter indicating if owners don't respond, work will begin. Douglas said that is not the position of the town's leaders or its lawyers. 100 per cent of owners affected by a ROW mitigation must sign the release.

Douglas also said the town cannot afford to hire surveyors to establish boundaries and there isn't time to schedule and hire them anyway.

Yingling said property owners may not want to sign because there is no upside for them. They are waiving a small part their liability protection.

Education Program Bell reported "positive response" from school officials he met with

Douglas cited the need to start developing volunteers who can perform mitigation tasks like helping residents stack wood to prepare for Chipper Days.

A central database that contains contact information and volunteers' interests/abilities is key.

Yingling, Hunter and Bell praised the NoFloCo Fire Mitigation Posse's model that encourages neighbors to help their neighbors "pick up sticks" and perform other simple mitigation tasks that require no training.

May Tip of the Month This is a second announcement of Chipper Days, June 10 and June 11. It will be two pages. The first announces the date; the second includes guidelines.

Bell moved to accept May's Tip of the Month. Hunter seconded. It was unanimously approved.

6. NEW BUSINESS

American Red Cross Wildfire Mitigation Program Pilot The Red Cross wants to conduct a pilot program for home wildfire mitigation using 25 homes in GMF beginning in June. This will involve creating defensible spaces around the homes. Hunter will convene a meeting with FMAC members, town staff and Cori Tanner, Red Cross, to inform them about the pilot and get their approval.

Bronc Day Booth Bell said the Trails Committee says FMAC's booth can be in front of Church of the Wildwood during the pancake breakfast. No charge for the booth.

7. REPORTS

Chipper Days Chief Murphy needs two volunteers for each morning and afternoon shift. Each shift is four hours. Murphy is expected to let the committee know the skills volunteers will need.

The committee may also seek volunteers to help residents prepare for Chipper Days.

Block Captains Yingling is working on a job description.

Database No update The committee will not add people who sent back release forms to the database because we did not ask them for consent to share it.

NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT Monday, May 29 NEW START TIME 6 pm

Meeting adjourned at 8:41 pm Mountain time