

**Fire Mitigation Advisory Committee meeting minutes
Monday, October 30, 2023**

Committee Members Present

David Douglas, chair
Paul Yingling, vice chair
Kelly Hunter, member
Lisa Huizenga, member

Trustee Members Present

None

Town Staff Present

Bo Ayad

Recording Secretary

None. (Minutes taken from Zoom video)

1. ROLL CALL AND CALL TO ORDER Chair Douglas called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm

2. ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA None

3. PUBLIC COMMENT None

4. OLD BUSINESS

a. Grants administered by CUSP (FRWRM, SFA) Douglas will present FMAC's request for \$40,600 to meet GMF's obligations for the grants' cost-sharing requirements to trustees Nov. 14. Until the board decides how much to approve, and the Kirkpatrick Family Fund confirms it will help pay GMF's obligation, plans for mitigating the rest of town-owned property are pretty much on hold.

b. CSU's responsibility for removing threats to high voltage power lines. Douglas reported what he learned about Colorado Springs Utilities' responsibility for removing trees/limbs that threaten high-voltage lines from a meeting with CSU forest program manager Doug Lyons. CSU is required to remove limbs that are only within 10 feet of high voltage lines (7200 kilivolts). Even if the tree is dead, if it is not within 10 feet of the line, CSU is not responsible for removing it. The landowner is.

If a tree or limb is within 20 feet of a lower voltage line (230 kv), CSU must remove it.

Douglas said he will put CSU's Lyons in touch with CUSP forester Adrian Knight for clarification on what trees/limbs close to the utilities' power lines CUSP can remove.

The committee discussed the need for educating the public and mitigation contractors about CSU's obligation to remove hazardous limbs and trees near power lines. Douglas said talking points should be created and Ayad agreed to do this.

Douglas moved the committee withdraw its recommendation to the Board of Trustees that it send a letter to CSU calling for removal of trees close to power lines. Hunter seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

5. EDUCATION

a. Hunter reported that she and Huizenga agreed that there is no time to put together an education plan for implementation during the holidays. Douglas said he wants to see a long-range plan, stretching over 12 months, that contains topics and education formats.

b. November Tip of the Month. Yingling said November's tip deals with home fire awareness. It is a reminder for people to prepare for winter safety such as making sure furnaces are properly maintained and installed. Douglas moved to adopt the tip. Hunter seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

c. Yingling reported the base continues to grow. It has 74 members.

(Huizenga joined the meeting.)

6. NEW BUSINESS

The committee was asked to recommend members' assignments for terms of office beginning in 2024 to the board of trustees. Recommendations are:

Hunter, Huizenga, Yingling Two-year terms beginning Jan. 1, 2024; ending Dec. 31, 2026
Douglas and one committee vacancy One-year term beginning Jan. 1, 2024; ending Dec. 31, 2025.

Committee members want Douglas to remain as chair and Yingling to stay on as vice chair.

Douglas moved that he accept the assignment to write a memo with these recommendations. Hunter seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

The committee will vote to adopt the recommendation at its next meeting.

7. NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting is Monday, Nov. 27, 2023. Meeting adjourned at 7:17 pm.