

**Fire Mitigation Advisory Committee meeting minutes  
Monday, December 18, 2023**

**Committee Members Present**

David Douglas, chair  
Paul Yingling, vice chair  
Kelly Hunter, member  
Lisa Huizenga, member  
(All members on Zoom)

**Trustee Members Present**

None

**Town Staff Present**

Bo Ayad

**Recording Secretary**

Carolyn Bowers (on Zoom)

- 1. ROLL CALL AND CALL TO ORDER** Chair Douglas called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm
- 2. ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
  - a. Hunter moved to adopt the agenda with no changes. Yingling seconded. Motion passed on voice vote.
  - b. Douglas asked to correct the date on the minutes as presented on the agenda. The correct date is Nov. 27, 2023. Ayad will make the change.
    - a. Huizenga moved the committee approve the Nov. 27, 2023, minutes. Yingling seconded. Motion passed on voice vote.
- 3. PUBLIC COMMENT** None
- 4. OLD BUSINESS**
  - a. Education program update

Huizenga gave a summary of proposed topics for community forums. She reported that Paul Thies, the Red Cross coordinator in Woodland Park, has agreed to help with organizing education programs and community forums for Green Mountain Falls. Among the 20-minute units the Red Cross has prepared for the public are ones on home fire, wildland fire, and disaster preparation. Thies suggested a “family night” focusing on preparedness. While adults attend a unit entitled “Be Red Cross Ready,” children K-third grade would take part in a fire safety program aimed at them. Thies may also work with Ute Pass Elementary School.

The committee also discussed using three videos by the National Fire Protection Association dealing with defensible space, hardening structures and inexpensive, easy things homeowners can do that go a long way in reducing risk. The committee agreed these are useful. Someone will check to see if there is a defensible space video tailored to Colorado is available.

- b. David LaRivee, chief sawyer for Team Rubicon (Wyoming, Colorado), shared information about the organization, stressing that it provides free mitigation assistance (outside only) for home or property owners most in need of it. It also trains people to do assessments. The volunteer organization assessed and mitigated 58 properties and assessed eight in Colorado in 2023.

LaRivee wants all those who signed up for a previous Red Cross home mitigation program to attend a meeting with Team Rubicon to learn about the team and what it can do for them, plus begin work on scheduling. Douglas said the committee will contact the initial signees first about the meeting, then open it up to others who may want to apply. The forum is open to entire community. Team Rubicon does not expect to begin the work until May, but more likely it will be June.

LaRivee said the team has participated in mitigation efforts with the Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP) and is willing to work on projects with them.

- c. The committee resumed discussion on a calendar of events for 2024. These will be quarterly, although the schedule is flexible. The Team Rubicon meeting will be the first, probably on a Wednesday in February at 6:30 pm. Hunter will contact Church in the Wildwood about dates for reserving space there. If Wildwood cannot hold it, she will explore Town Hall, Joyland and other venues.

The second community event will take place in mid-May. There will be two events in July: Green Box (early July) and Bronc Day (last weekend). Douglas will confer with Green Box director Scott Levi. The committee was urged to consider a Bronc Day parade entry.

- d. Tip of the Month Yingling proposed a fact sheet by the National Fire Protection Association outlining winter fire safety in the home. Douglas moved to approve the tip; Huizenga seconded. Motion passed by voice vote.
- e. Yingling said there has been no movement on recruitment of block captains.
- f. Yingling said no new names were added to the database. Douglas said the committee should make every community event an opportunity to recruit block captains and names on the database.

## **5. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Douglas reported GMF has received two new grants for fire mitigation. Under one, the Mile High Youth Corps will work for 23 weeks. The second grant is from the Kirkpatrick Family Fund. The amount of the Kirkpatrick grant (\$64,000) should enable GMF to have enough matching funds to fully utilize the remaining CUSP grant.

Douglas added that the Mile High and Kirkpatrick funding should cover the remaining mitigation needed on public lands by the end of summer.

- b. Douglas reported the GMF trustees approved \$20,000 for FMAC's 2024 budget. This is about half the amount the committee requested. Trustees approved a lump sum, with no breakouts stating how or where the money should be spent. Yingling noted this is a departure from the board's past requests for breakout sums.
- c. The committee discussed Lorrie Worthey's application to join FMAC. Hunter moved the committee recommend the board approve Worthey's membership. Yingling seconded. Motion passed by voice vote.

**6. REPORTS** There were no reports.

**7. CORRESPONDENCE** There was no correspondence.

## **8. NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT**

The next meeting is Monday, Jan. 29, 2024, 6 pm. Meeting adjourned at 7:59 pm.