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Emigration Canyon Community Council (ECCC)

Emigration Canyon Community Council Minutes

March 8, 2016

Emigration Canyon Fire Station

7:00 PM

Officers Present: Rick Raile; Chair, Steve Borst; Co-chair, Lincoln Nehring; Treasurer, Jessica Steed; Secretary.

Members Present: Joe Smolka, Tyler Tippetts, Kathy Christensen, Pat Struhs, Gary Bowen.

Community Representatives Present: Officer Rusty Wright; UPD, Michael Conn; UFD, Rita Lund; SLCo.

Welcome. Rick Raile.

Approval of the Minutes: Yes

Presentations:

Michael Conn, UFA liason to ECCC

Wildfire Prevention, Ready-Set-Go and Evacuation panel discussion. Introduction, members of the panel introduced themselves: Officer Rusty Wright (UPD), Lee Acarte (UFA Battalion Chief), Duane Woolsey (UFA Battalion Chief), Brad Larson (UFA Fire Marshall), Bri Binnebose (UT State Department of Forestry), Dave Vickers (UT State Department of Forestry). Michael introduced Kathy Christensen and Steve (??) on the Wildfire Committee, CWPP Working Group.

Lee Acarte: changes made in the response models. Relocated some wildlife apparatus, realized that the east bench was lacking apparatus, so they moved some into Emigration Canyon. They put a water tender and a "Type 6" here in the canyon, which are more applicable to servicing the canyon. This will help them get a quicker response. Question about getting trucks up Pinecrest—they said that there are trucks that they can get up there, the problem will be getting residents out while they are trying to get in.

Comment from the audience: There are a number of spickets, and can they get water out of them? Michael Conn said they would need to inspect the tanks. There are 3 4,000 tanks up there, and the question is can they get water from them.

Duane Woolsey instructed Michael Conn to try to draft and make sure the connections are good and make sure they can fix those connections (before April 1). The residents want to help identify the tanks, there are cisterns that are used by residents for culinary purposes, the UFA should know where these are in case they need to know about it. Pinecrest had a neighborhood calling tree, but she's looking for a commitment for getting calls in case of a fire. Duane Woolsey said that's a mixed bag because the neighbors would all go to help, but then they would end up blocking the fire trucks coming in. For wildland fires, they want a phone call going out to everyone to get evacuated, because they need everyone to move out of the way. The fire guys should have the phone number of the guy with plow and blower, in case of a fire on a very snowy night. This resident said she feels that we should not allow open fires in the canyon. The state laws permit a recreation open fire; Brad Larson said they can go to the county council to get a temporary ban. It's very difficult to change these laws. She said all the big fires up here have started with campfires. Lee Acarte suggested that we call UFA and they'll go out to chat with the people having open fires, and they can tell people to put out the fire if it doesn't meet the criteria. Rick Raile asked if the fire marshal could ban it based on circumstances. He said any fire ban comes from the county council (although he makes recommendations to them). Suggestion (from resident) to put this in the newsletter and on the website—what is an approved fire pit? What size of fires are approved? Educate residents. Put this information in the welcome packet. Bri Binnebose said to look at the

whole property and maintain the defensible space even for firepits. She highly encouraged every resident to do defensible space and emphasized how that saves homes: sealing your vents, swap out plants next to your home, and clear 30-45 ft around your home, you reduce the odds of your home burning by 60%. Question from Duane Woolsey about goat breaks, to which Bri Binnebose replied that funding ran out. We're spending \$3200 with Conservation Corps—they'll be here for a week and clear out tons of deadfall.

Officer Rusty Wright mentioned that there are campfires along the trails, that we should educate the people who are using the trails and building fires along these trails. Steve Borst suggested a fire danger sign at the front of the canyon. Duane Woolsey said that Michael Conn has requested these signs, but he said it's a matter of funding. We would need two. Duane Woolsey asked for the specs of these signs to put these in, and Dave Vickers said he'd get those specs to him. Duane Woolsey said they would get these. Gary Bowen said he thinks these trail campfires are the most dangerous issue. Gary Bowen would like to organize a canyon fire patrol to go out and look for fires. Officer Wright hikes a trail every other day. Salt Lake City is removing transient camps out of the city, but it's driving these transients up here into the canyon.

Questions on where residents could gather for refuge in case of evacuation. The terrain to build one up Pinecrest isn't there (because of laws in the state). But Duane Woolsey said that in the history of the canyon, the fires really aren't in Pinecrest of Kilyons. It's always lower in the canyon. Not to say there's not concern, but it's not as great as lower in the canyon. Emigration Place is much more of a danger, but a fire in that area would be called in very quickly.

Duane Woolsey suggested that we focus on educating people. Education, defensible space, and awareness are more helpful than anything else.

Suggestion to show a video of what a fire could be like at Fire Days. There is a Ted Talk on "margin." Creating a margin of safety for ourselves gives us a buffer for when things go wrong. Suggestion to watch it. Michael Conn mentioned that he has a sign up sheet at Fire Days to do a walk through resident's properties to give suggestions for how they can improve their property. Bri Binnebose and Dave Vickers put on a workshop last year for landscapers. Residents can hire some of these landscapers that are aware of defensible space components and fire prevention. Emphasis to residents to **take advantage of the lot assessments.**

Evacuation plan for Kilyons and Pinecrest is to leave early. That's really all you've got for an evacuation plan. The quicker that residents can get out, the better. The life safety factor is the most important. To figure out the technology—becc-9-1-1.com is the website to register (voice over internet registration) cell phone so if they do reverse 911. Note to put that in the newsletter. Pat Struhs asked about traditional air raid sirens. In Weber County they have them, follow up with them. It would be something to take to the county council to have them see about funding it. Especially because cell phones don't work very well up the canyon. It's something Bri Binnebose and Dave Vickers said that they can put funding requests into grants. Officer Wright said that it's very helpful to have one person to take the lead on identifying houses that need assistance being evacuated—due to handicap or age. The community needs to document all of that. If there is time, they will send units up to notify people—they need to be efficient in that.

Chief Wolsey offered to bring a fire simulator to fire days to simulate various scenario plugging in various location of the canyon to see the outcome. Michael Conn - Brought up that CERT (Citizens Emergency Response Team) could be helpful for collecting and providing neighbor information during an evacuation event. Signage recap - chief Duane Wolsey will lead the follow up for the fire danger signs for Emigration Lee Ascarte (UFA) - stated that the response model for a wild fire in Emigration canyon will be to send 8 station coming up canyon on red flag day not mention forest service Wild land protection plan was made available to the group as Michael Conn solicited volunteers to be involved. Bri Binnebose asked the group to come to CWPP group meeting and help mark up their maps to point out concern Question was ask about a volunteer fire team for the canyon which UFA is a professional only organization since it take a one hundred plus hours of yearly training

Adjourn: 9:00

Next meeting: April 2016

Minutes prepared by: Jessica Steed and Tyler Tippetts