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## EMIGRATION CANYON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes for April 12, 2022

Held as an in-person meeting at Unified Fire Authority Station 119 and as a virtual meeting via Zoom

Members Present: Bill Tobey, Greg Rudowski, Zach Posner, Matt Velinder, Mike Jimenez, Claire Clark, Paul Brown, Bryan Johansen

Members Excused/Absent: Dan Anderson, Steve Borst

Also present: Tyler Tippetts, Karen Mowrer, Renee Plant, Joe Smolka, Bryan Case, Michael Conn, Stephanie Harpst

### **7:00pm Meeting**

The meeting was called to order at 7:08pm by Bill Tobey with a quorum present. Matt Velinder noted a small typo in the March 2022 minutes. Paul Brown moved to accept the March 2022 meeting minutes as corrected. Zach Posner seconded the motion and the minutes were accepted.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Paul Brown gave the Treasurer's Report to the committee. There was a discussion about house signs and payments coordinated by Stephanie Harpst. There was discussion about setting ECCC up with more modern payment systems such as Venmo and PayPal. This would help in numerous areas including house sign purchases.

### **UPD Report, Detective Jake Elsasser**

Detective Elsasser was not present but provided a written report to the council.

### **UFA Report, Captain Michael Conn and Chief Bryan Case**

Captain Conn was present and introduced Chief Bryan Case who will replace Captain Conn as the Unified Fire liaison for Emigration Canyon. Chief Case introduced himself to the community council and gave a brief background about his background and previous work in rescue and disaster work. There was a discussion about wildland fire preparedness and wildfire risk mitigation. Chief Case will distribute his notes and news virtually to the group.

### **Metro Township Council, Mayor Joe Smolka**

Mayor Smolka was present and gave some brief updates, including:

- MSD secured a bond for slope stabilization and possibly widening the road in specific areas

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- Final paving section of Pinecrest will go out to bid soon
- Addressing some outstanding issues with the main canyon road paving project, expected to be completed this summer
- Power line project in Pinecrest is approaching completion
- Hydrology report expects 40-50% of normal range in terms of runoff, soil saturation is higher than last year
- New ECMT council member Robert Pinon is exploring higher speed internet, CenturyLink has given some enthusiasm for improving speeds
- There was discussion about clearing about rock barricades that are full, regular clearing out of storm drains, culvers in Pinecrest
- Restroom at Pinecrest is progressing

## Other Council Business

- Renee Plant, administrative manager at Wasatch Front Waste and Recycling joined and introduced herself to the council. She is planning on joining the council meetings a few times throughout the year and updating the council when needed.
- Bill Tobey gave an update on the Parleys canyon mine and the SL county council decision to remove mining and mineral extraction - effectively killing the Parleys canyon mine.
- Bill Tobey gave a description of the upcoming, May 7, Fire Day event at Unified Fire Authority Station 119. Community council members volunteered to help at the event. Other notable canyon groups such as the Sustainability Alliance may want to have booths.
- Bryan Johansen volunteered to take over house sign purchasing responsibilities for the council - relieving Stephanie Harpst of the duty.
- Bill Tobey gave an update on fire risk mitigation efforts beyond the Fire Day event. These efforts should be able to include a chipping service (same as previous years), a shaded fuel break (similar to Acorn Hills) and fuel reduction along the main road. Bill gave a general goal of roughly doubling the participation in the annual chipping service - financial resources will likely be secured for this additional effort.
- Bill Tobey gave a summary of his draft proposal for fire risk reduction and fuel reduction in the canyon. Initial funding sources and grants 10+ years ago were promising, but new growth has made many of these efforts obsolete now. An emerging and key challenge now appears to be protection of individual homes. A large scale remote defensive perimeter was previously proposed but was deemed unfeasible for a number of reasons including most importantly cost and maintenance. Instead, the proposal focuses on identifying key areas and neighborhoods in the canyon for individual and small group efforts to reduce wildfire risk. The proposal has been endorsed by a number of individuals and relevant organizations. Bill will continue to adapt this plan based on

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feedback and potentially use it as leverage for funding opportunities. There was a discussion about individual, community and state/federal level based fire risk reduction.

**Community Comment Period**

No community comments were made.

A motion to adjourn was made at 9:03 pm by Paul Brown. The motion was seconded by Zach Posner. The committee voted unanimously to adjourn. The next meeting will be May 10, 2022.