

**Fire Safe Marin
Minutes of Regular Meeting of the Board
Wednesday, June 28, 2023**

Board of Directors Member Attendance:

Jim Chayka	FSM Admin – President + Large Landowners
Todd Lando	FSM Admin – Vice-President + Fire Agencies
Roger Meagor	FSM Admin – Treasurer + Fire Chief, retired
Eva Denegri Baker	FSM Admin – Secretary + OES, retired
Jordan Reeser	Fire Agencies – County Fire
Larry Pasero	Fire Agencies – Fire Prevention Officers
Quinn Gardner	Fire Agencies - Operations
Catherine Way	Elected Officials – Cities / Towns
Shaun Horne	Large Landowners – Water District
John Hansen	HOAs – Marin Valley Mobile Country Club
Stephen Quarles	At Large – Home Hardening Expert, retired
Adriana Rabkin	Marin VOAD
Romeo Arrieta	Marin Association of Realtors
Andrew Johnson	Calif Landscape Contractors Assn

Excused:

Pete Martin	At Large – Founding Member & MCFD, retired
Jason Weber	Fire Agencies – Fire Chiefs
Jerry Meral	At Large – Inverness Assn & FDN, Firewise

1. **Call to Order:** 0900 hours by the President, **Jim Chayka**, via the web conferencing software, *Zoom*. A quorum was present. Note that the public was made part of this Zoom call, and the meeting was recorded.
2. **Review and Approve Agenda (CHAYKA):** no changes
M/S Quarles / Pasero
AYES: ALL
3. **Review and Approve Minutes from the April 26, 2023 Regular Board Meeting (CHAYKA):** no changes
M/S Hansen / Rabkin
AYES: ALL
4. **Treasurer's Report with Handouts for June 28, 2023 (MEAGOR):**
Treasurer Roger Meagor shared a Treasurer's Report with the Board, and it included the Balance Sheet, Income Statement, MWPA Budget vs Actuals (01/01/2023 – 05/31/2023), Expenditure Report (01/01/2023 – 05/31/2023), and Bank Reconciliation (as of 05/31/2023). As of 05/31/2023, total equity equaled **\$356,358** with a cash balance of **\$251,102**. The Board acknowledged and filed the Treasurer's Report and Financials. *This Report in its entirety is available by request to **Eva D. Baker** at evadbaker@outlook.com.* **President Chayka** complimented and thanked

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Treasurer Meagor for his hard work as the Treasurer. Meagor added that he receives much support from FSM's **CFO Brendan Devlin** and FSM's CPA, Liz.

5. Updates with Handout (STAFF)

📎 **MWPA 2022-23 Projects**

📎 **Ember Stomp Wrap up**

📎 **MWPA 2023-24 Projects**

MWPA 2022-23 Projects (STAFF)

Rich Shortall and **FSM staff** presented the June 2023 report on Fire Safe Marin Projects, which was delivered to the MWPA at their June 21, 2023 board meeting.

The eleven-page report is very detailed and will not be summarized here.

*However, this report is available to the public on the **FSM Projects** webpage at <https://firesafemarin.org/about/reports>. Alternatively, the public may request a full copy by emailing Secretary **Eva D. Baker** at evadbaker@outlook.com.*

Ember Stomp Wrap up (STAFF)

FSM Executive Coordinator, **Rich Shortall**, gave the FSM Board of Directors a wrap up of the FSM's 2nd Annual Ember Stomp event, held on May 20, 2023. The festival drew nearly 5,000 residents and participants, which doubled the 2022 event, due in part to its new location at the Civic Center Fairgrounds that allowed expanded space for exhibition and participation. Goals were met, and costs were covered through rigorous fundraising efforts and community partnerships, donations and in-kind contributions, and generous recurring support from Silicon Valley Community Foundation. Exhibitions included 55 community partners, 31 industry and professional organizations, three live-burn demonstrations, a full-scale Fire Smart Yard Expo, an Art Exhibit, Family Stage, Kids Zone, five live bands, New Ideas Stage, and goats, therapy dogs, and the Marin Humane Society HALTER Project. Fire Safe Marin invested in a substantial publicity campaign in English and Spanish to promote attendance.

Staff is reviewing the event with an eye towards improvement, especially in the areas of music, food vendors, labor and materials for the Live Burn, signage, and storage of back drops. The biggest expense by far were the staff requirements mandated by the Marin Civic Center. Staff will explore how to save next year, and possibly move the 2024 date to the fall. Staff is also seeking feedback from **Mark Brown** from the MWPA and the exhibitors.

Romeo Arrieta thanked staff for the "community good-will" that the event generated. **Quinn Gardner** suggested that the location be relocated to wherever direct sunlight would not fall on the exhibits.

MWPA 2023-24 Projects (STAFF)

Rich Shortall updated the board about FSM's MWPA projects planned for the next fiscal year of 2023 – 2024. FSM has renewed its contract with the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority (MWPA), which was expiring this year. Shortall said, "Basically [FSM] is the public education arm of the MWPA." New this coming year is the Ambassador Program, which brings together people from the Firewise sites, the Home Evaluation Program, and the Fire Foundry. Those interested are trained by Fire Safe Marin in FSM program basics and "how to engage attendees" so that they can staff tables at local events on evenings and weekends (e.g., the Marin County Fair, Food Banks, Farmers Markets, etc.). They will be paid a stipend. Shortall reported that there has been much engagement in this program, adding that eighteen people were trained, six of those Spanish speaking. On the calendar for this summer already are 35 events. There will be opportunities to share Best Practices, as well.

6. Call for Future Agenda Items:

These ideas for future agenda topics were shared by both board members and guests:

- ✓ Fire Insurance (**John Hansen**)
- ✓ Zone Zero Legislation (**Quinn Gardner**)
- ✓ United Policyholders and Insurance Institute (**Stephen Quarles**)
- ✓ Combustibility of Mulch Project in West Marin (**Jim Chayka**)

Board members and guests also provided brief updates from their jurisdictions:

- ✓ Fairfax adopted a town ordinance requiring blowers and other equipment be electric powered only (and not gas). The ordinance is aimed at homeowners, and not landscapers. (**Steven Kees**)
- ✓ *Combustibility of Mulch Project* has launched in West Marin with a burn planned in October. Ten mulches are being studied. U.C. Berkeley is doing studies on ember ignition, and Cal State Humboldt is studying compost and mulch, and non-compost and mulch. Berkeley has calibration instruments in their lab and in the field. (**Stephen Quarles**)
- ✓ Shout out to **Rich Shortall** and the Sleepy Hollow Fire Protection District for work done at San Domenico School. (**Jordan Reeser**)
- ✓ **Supervisor Katie Rice** announced her retirement from the Marin Board of Supervisors, District 2, and from Fire Safe Marin as the Chair. **Catherine Way** has spoken to candidates for her replacement about Fire Safe Marin projects in the Ross Valley.

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Please send agenda requests to **President Chayka** or to FSM staff for the next regular meeting of the Board, to be held on Wednesday, August 23, 2023.

7. ADJOURN:

Next meeting will be held on *Wednesday, August 23, 2023*. Being no further business, the Chair called for a motion to adjourn this meeting at 1013 hours.

M/S Hansen / Horne

AYES: ALL

8. SECRETARY'S CERTIFICATE:

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of Fire Safe Marin's Regular Board of Director's meeting, held on June 28, 2023.



Eva Denegri Baker, Secretary, Fire Safe Marin

August 23, 2023

Date