

**Fire Safe Marin  
Minutes of Regular Meeting of the Board  
Wednesday, December 13, 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
Jason Weber	Fire Agencies – Fire Chiefs
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

**Excused:**

Pete Martin	At Large – Founding Member & MCFD, retired
Jerry Meral	At Large – Inverness Assn & FDN, Firewise
Andrew Johnson	Calif Landscape Contractors Assn

1. **Call to Order:** 0901 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 Hansen / Horne*  
**AYES: ALL**
3. **Review and Approve Minutes from the October 25, 2023 Regular Board Meeting (CHAYKA):** no changes  
*M/S Weber / Hansen*  
**AYES: ALL**
4. **Treasurer's Report with Handouts for December 13, 2023 Board Meeting (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 – 11/30/2023), Expenditure Report (01/01/2023 – 11/30/2023), and Bank Reconciliation (as of 11/30/2023). As of 11/30/2023, total equity equaled **\$293,905** with a cash balance of **\$361,982**. The Board acknowledged and filed the Treasurer's Report and

***Final Minutes Approved by Fire Safe Marin Board at February 28, 2024 Meeting***

Financials. *This Report in its entirety is available by request to **Eva D. Baker** at [evadbaker@outlook.com](mailto:evadbaker@outlook.com).*

**Treasurer Meagor** told the board that FSM received \$61,350 in big donations from The Donner Foundation and Schwab. Under Expenses, the Miscellaneous line item is a bit higher than it normally should be because it includes costs for the mulch testing project. **President Chayka** congratulated **Director Stephen Quarles** for the success of the Mulch study.

**5. Updates (with Handouts) (SHORTALL)**

**🚧 MWPA 2023-24 Projects**

FSM Executive Coordinator, **Rich Shortall**, presented the October 2023 Activity Report to the FSM Board, which had been delivered to the MWPA at their November 16, 2023 board meeting. ***The thirteen-page report is very detailed and will not be summarized here.*** However, this report is available to the public on Fire Safe Marin's website ([firesafemarin.org/about/reports/](https://firesafemarin.org/about/reports/)). Alternatively, the public may request a full copy by emailing Secretary **Eva D. Baker** at [evadbaker@outlook.com](mailto:evadbaker@outlook.com).

**6. 2024 Board Meeting Dates and Membership (CHAYKA)**

**President Chayka** reported to the board the recommendations made by the FSM sub-committee that was formed to evaluate and propose a slate of 2024 board members. All directors whose terms will expire in January 2024 have agreed to continue for a new term: **Todd Lando, Roger Meagor, Eva Denegri Baker, Larry Pasero, Shaun Horne, Adriana Rabkin, and Romeo Arrieta**. The subcommittee recommended the following slate of Directors for 2024:

- Todd Lando, Roger Meagor, Eva Denegri Baker, Larry Pasero, Shaune Horne, Adriana Rabkin, and Romeo Arrieta start a new term on the board in 2024;
- President **Jim Chayka** be appointed **Vice-President**;
- Vice-President **Todd Lando** assume the position of **President**; and,
- Director and FSM Founding Member, **Pete Martin**, be given the title, **Director Emeritus** and step down as a voting member. **Director Emeritus Martin** would take on an advisory role to the board.

**Motion to Approve the 2024 Board of Directors Slate as Recommended by the FSM Sub-committee.**

**M/S Hansen / Way**

**AYES: ALL**

There are currently no openings on the board; its membership totals seventeen directors. The bylaws call for a membership of sixteen directors. **Pete Martin** becoming Director Emeritus would place the board back into compliance. **Todd Lando** told the board a wonderful story about **Pete Martin** who is a Founding Member of Fire Safe Marin and has served continuously since 1992. [Secretary **Denegri Baker** is adding a note here that FSM's history can be viewed on the FSM website under "About Us".]



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Members of the board shared some suggestions for future membership on the FSM board. For example, finding a key player within the Marin Educational community (**Catherine Way**), and, adding someone from the law enforcement field for evacuation planning purposes (**Quinn Gardner**).

Finally, at this meeting, directors **Jason Weber** and **Todd Lando** thanked and commended **Jim Chayka** for his exceptional leadership as FSM President and his complete commitment to FSM's mission the last several years, even stepping up to serve longer than his term. "Jim really carried that seat as a role model of professionalism for future leaders." The directors agreed and expressed gratitude to Jim.

**7. Call for Future Agenda Items (LANDO)**

- ✓ Discuss the schedule of FSM General meetings in the 2024 calendar year (**LANDO**)
- ✓ Discuss holding a public seminar "because we are in for some challenging times" (**WEBER**)
- ✓ As a reminder, **Secretary Denegri Baker** noted suggestions for agenda items regarding these subjects:
  - Fire Insurance (bundled with United Policyholders and the Insurance Institute)
  - Zone Zero Legislation
  - Combustibility of Mulch

Please send agenda requests to **President Chayka** or to FSM staff for the next regular meeting of the Board, to be held on Wednesday, February 28, 2024.

**8. ADJOURN:**

Next meeting will be held on *Wednesday, February 28, 2024*. Being no further business, the President called for a motion to adjourn this meeting at 0935 hours.

**M/S Lando / Meagor**

**AYES: ALL**

**9. 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 December 13, 2023.

  
Eva Denegri Baker, Secretary, Fire Safe Marin

**February 28, 2024**  
Date