

**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
of
THE WEST CONTRA COSTA FIRE SAFE COUNCIL**

The board of directors of The West Contra Costa Fire Safe Council (WCCFSC) held a videoconference meeting via Zoom on **April 1, 2024 at 7:00PM.**

The following directors were in attendance at the meeting and constituted the entire board:

Soheila Bana	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Marilyn Saarni	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Ra Criscitiello	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Rebecca Orona	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Angel Montoya	<input type="checkbox"/> Present	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Absent

Present: Soheila, Ra, Marilyn, Rebecca, Michelle Rinehart, Jim Hanson, Stewart Winchester, Joyce

AGENDA

Announcements and Updates

- Richmond Dumpster Days in the WUI neighborhoods
 - April 13, Marilyn confirming that vegetation will be composted and not thrown away
- [Measure X “Low Income” assistance](#) for fire mitigation now open
 - Pre-season town halls will be held one per district, Pinole is the closest one to our area, no RSVP needed
 - See <https://www.cccfpd.org/> for up to \$1,500 for Zone 0 vegetation removal, last year’s tax filing is required (with SSN redacted) for application, resident match of \$2,000
 - Marilyn suggested that \$1,500 is not much money given the cost of rock and the fact that many of our senior low-income residents can’t do any of the work themselves
 - [CA FireSafe Council regional meetings](#) held throughout the state, opportunity for various FireSafe Councils to engage with each other and share information and strategize. See other events [here](#).
- Fire Ordinances - updates for local jurisdictions, based on CalFire 2023 and 2024 fire ordinance updates
 - Difficult to find the language of the actual regulations, Richmond is not currently up to date
 - Folks are having insurance renewal problems in the high severity zone

- County fire ordinance: https://www.cccfpd.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/2022-11-08-D.6-Ord-2022-34_Certified-Copy_Ordinance-2022-34_.pdf
- Fuel mitigation and weed abatement ordinance: <https://www.cccfpd.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Fuel-Mitigation-and-Exterior-Hazard-Abatement.pdf>
- Ra has a Lexis-Nexis account and can likely pull up any ordinances we'd like to see as long as we have a citation
- Update on Wildfire Science Seminar proposal
 - Marilyn updated that there just isn't the bandwidth, proposes that we start thinking about early Feb. 2025. Would be nice to get UC Berkeley grad students to take this on as a project.
- Treasurer's summary
 - Want to discuss how to spend the money we've raised
 - Soheila said we should continue to send donation request letters to corporations
 - Still hoping to find a second treasurer, it's such an important role that we need redundancy
 - Rebecca reported bank account balance as of 3/31/2024 of \$24,420.90
 - Balances: PG&E for charity works, \$10K; \$2,085 balance for unrestricted donations; \$10,331 Cal Grant Donation, these funds are already committed
 - Soheila suggested spending \$500 for FireWise community vent mesh, community members can hire contractors together to install it
 - Joyce will follow up with Fire Station 63 about a possible education event

For Discussion

- How to spend the money we raised
- Start fundraising
- Invitation to join a Wildfire Science Reading group (Marilyn)
- Evacuation drill in the city this year? Or virtual evacuation?
 - Organizing in Erica's neighborhood since there's only one way out
 - We're at the mercy of the sheriff's office for emergency announcements
 - Soheila was told that they can't do anything before 2025
 - We need our own community warning system (police department oddly doesn't have anything to do with CWS)
- SOS and creekside encampments
 - Darcy told Soheila that all the encampments are back in place, we really need a shelter for people (being planned for El Portal), should have meeting with John Gioia
- Proposing grant sources to city
 - Soheila suggested the talking sirens idea to the Mayor

- Joyce suggested that Oakland missing out on resources should teach Richmond a lesson
- Joyce explained that the first FireWise step is having the fire marshall come out and do a walkthrough
- Michelle explained that there can be 8-25 residences in a FireWise community. Once you have the minimum of 8, you can engage the fire district. When the inspector comes to walk around, they're not there in an enforcement role but rather an education capacity (so folks shouldn't be fearful).
- Recruiting more people to make things happen (great ideas, not enough hands)