

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FOREST HEALTH COMMITTEE OF THE TOWN OF PINETOP-LAKESIDE, ARIZONA HELD MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2009 AT 9:00 A.M. IN THE EXECUTIVE MEETING ROOM.

PRESENT:

Herb Fortier, Town of Pinetop-Lakeside Code Enforcement Officer; Kirk Webb, Lakeside Fire Department Fire Marshal; Paul Esparza, Town of Pinetop-Lakeside Community Development Director; Lloyd Wilmes, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension; Norris Dodd, Pinetop-Lakeside Town Council; Steve Campbell, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension; Jan Mathis, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension; Kelly Wood, Pinetop Fire Department Inspector; and Cody Blake, Town of Pinetop-Lakeside Planning Technician.

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES:

Kelly Wood asked who represented the Pinetop Fire Department at the last meeting. Lisa Figueroa said he did. Steve Campbell suggested line 31 on page one of the October 26 minutes be clarified. Councilman Dodd recommended the change read, “the ball field is expanded to a regulation size ball field.”

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Herb Fortier said he contacted Gary Renfro at Blue Ridge School District, who said they have removed the electrical wiring between the scoreboard and the batting cages. He said Mr. Renfro stated they don't need the telephone poles near the batting cage. Mr. Campbell said it could be safer if they get a backhoe and pull out the telephone poles. Mr. Fortier said he talked to Tom Thomas, the Town of Pinetop-Lakeside Public Works Director, who said his crew could remove the fence. Mr. Fortier indicated he would like to schedule a day to begin work on the demonstration site before they leave. Paul Esparza said he would advise Kelly Udall, the Town Manager, of their progress once a date has been selected. Councilman Dodd asked if the school is okay with the removal of the fence because of the safety of the kids at the school. Mr. Fortier said they are only taking down about ten feet of the fence to bring in the chipper. He said he is not sure if the crew from the Town can do it. The Committee contemplated cost effective ways to remove or relocate the fence. Mr. Campbell suggested they talk to the school Athletic Director to coordinate where the posts would be located. They discussed a date to start on the site and listed who they would need to work with. Mr. Campbell said it would be good to have notices posted for the public. Mr. Wood said he has an electric sign. Mr. Fortier indicated the wood chips would be distributed at Mountain Meadow Recreation Complex. The Committee considered having some placed at the round-about in front of the middle and junior high schools. Councilman Dodd said the White Mountain Nature Center is applying for a RAC grant and asked if they should include some interpretive signage information into the grant for this site. The Committee said indicated they should. The Committee discussed using various signs for the site. The Committee debated closing Johnson Drive or just having someone direct traffic there. Mr. Esparza asked who would contact the media for the coverage. Kirk Webb said he is meeting with Mel West this week and can mention it to him. Mr. Esparza said staff could contact the newspaper.

The Committee said they have not heard anything regarding the transfer of the Wildland Urban Interface grant. Mr. Wilmes said he would follow up with the status of the transfer.

Mr. Fortier asked if the Committee decided how to identify the priority areas. The Committee indicated they could name them by the subdivision. Mr. Fortier said he and Jan Mathis prioritized lots in Sierra Pine Loop and stated they would be identifying some in the Summer Haven subdivision. He said Tom Lopez wanted many lots identified so they could go in one time to clear the area. Mr. Esparza said Mr. Wilmes gave him an example of a postcard to use to notify property owners. He said for now they could use letters and then include the cost of postcards into the grant. Jan. Mathis said it should already be included in the grant. Mr. Webb said more people would read the postcard because it is more convenient than opening a letter.

#### REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF POSSIBLE TEXT AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER 17.96, FOREST HEALTH AND FIRE PROTECTION:

The Committee reviewed Chapter 17.96, Forest Health and Fire Protection. They suggested omitting, "...less than four two acres" on the Section 17.96.070 listing at the beginning of the chapter. Mr. Campbell noted the basal area should be 42 inches or 3.5 feet above the ground, not 4.5 feet. He said it is in there twice. He said on the top of page two the word feet is hanging under the diagram. Mr. Esparza asked if the definition of canopy closure is accurate. The Committee indicated canopy closure should be in quotations. Councilman Dodd suggested they include a "sighting periscope" as another measuring tool.

Ms. Mathis asked if they should replace the term "defensible space" with "survivable space." Most of the Committee agreed. Mr. Webb said he is concerned homeowners would think they could stay even if they were instructed to evacuate. Mr. Campbell said the goal to being Fire Wise is to get a community to the point where they don't have to evacuate. Mr. Webb said that language could them give a false sense of security, but said if they were informed it meant structural survivable space it could be okay. Mr. Campbell suggested they include that in the definition. The Committee recommended substituting "building" with "structure." They suggested the last sentence on number three read, "...properties is referring strictly to structures and property." The Committee suggested striking 17.96.060(6), and 17.96.070(C)(1)(b) and replacing them with 17.96.070(B)(1)(c). Mr. Campbell suggested they include, "by the property owner" at the end of 17.96.070(B)(2)(a). The Committee decided to include it in all of the zones. Mr. Esparza asked if they should omit "four acres" from the title of Section 17.96.070 for consistency. The Committee agreed. They reviewed the zone plan charts. Councilman Dodd suggested Zone 3 read, "(30 to property line) and regularly maintained by property owner." He suggested the maximum density include basal area. Mr. Campbell suggested they remove maximum density. Mr. Wilmes suggested they keep the recommended actions column. Councilman Dodd noted all of the regularly maintained items should be located under the recommended actions. The Committee recommended the first paragraph under 17.96.080 read as, "The responsible person for undeveloped parcels for proposed development prepare a fuel modification plan. This section shall also apply to new subdivisions and parcels or voluntary groupings of parcels proposed for development." Mr. Wilmes said item 17.96.110(C) should be the International Society of Arboriculture. The Committee considered imposing criminal

offenses. Councilman Dodd said it is important to include criminal violations, and it carries more weight when the Town enforces the violations.

The Committee reviewed Chapter 17.92, Landscaping Regulations. Councilman Dodd noted the second word in the scientific names for the shrubs and trees should not be capitalized. He said the names should also be italicized.

They reviewed Chapter 16.20, Mountainside Development Forest Health and Fire Protection. Cody Blake said he would change 16.20.070(6) to reflect 17.96.070(B)(1)(c). He said he inserted fire-prone low vegetation to item 16.20.070(7). Ms. Figueroa noted 16.20.080(D) should be amended to reflect “survivable space” instead of “defensible space.” Mr. Esparza said staff will make the changes and the Committee would be able to review them at the next meeting.

Dated this 17<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2009.

**PINETOP-LAKESIDE FOREST HEALTH COMMITTEE**

*/s/ Lisa Figueroa, Community Development Secretary*