

**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 **October 23, 2023 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: Joyce, Kate Rauch, Orrine, Steve Bischoff, Valkyrie Holmes (Faura), Chris Hilliard, Susan

AGENDA

- Announcements
 - Update on Firewise Demonstration Garden—MOU - Marilyn Saarni
 - Garden will mostly be managed by UC Master Gardeners, and some WCCFSC volunteers. ¼ acre site that runs along Fire Station #63. The MOU covers who is handling/maintaining what, and who is liable for what. Also spells out what Public Works and the Fire Department need to do to support the effort.
 - The new Succulent Garden Bed at Fire Station #63—firewise! - Marilyn
 - Marilyn gave a presentation on how the beautiful new succulent gardens were built
 - Update on Firewise Communities - Joyce Forte
 - Third firewise community, Greenbriar West, submitted their application. Have until Nov. 17th for Firewise communities to renew.
 - Other announcements- *none*
- SPEAKER: Valkyrie Holmes, from startup Faura (<https://www.faura.us/>).
 - Valkyrie will discuss Faura's home assessment tool, originally developed for the insurance agencies. You can play with this tool at <https://assessment.faura.us/> Bring your questions. This startup plans to focus on building climate resiliency tools to prepare for the future. Valkyrie gave a presentation that walked through the online assessment tools, which was recorded. This will be \$10 per assessment. They work with an HOA of 35 homes in Napa which is paying for the tool and using it to inform the county for insurance purposes. The version open to the public is free and Fauna doesn't collect the data. If we want to use it for data collection or grant reporting or other purposes that require data collection processing, we would need to pay.

- Kate raised a concern that this tool could be used to kick someone off insurance.
- Request more support from City of Richmond to support WCCFSC/Fire Dept open houses (Soheila Bana)
 - Hercules open house was awesome, all done by the firefighters. Had reptile zoo, had hotdogs, highway patrol and police dept were there, had rescue demonstration. We could have a similar one if we had funds from our city. Soheila will ask the City of Richmond to support our open house.
 - If we want firefighters to help out, we need to ask the battalion chiefs
- Report on Fire Station #63 Open House
 - We raised \$19,000
 - About 300 people attended, got great feedback on the event
- Treasurer's Report - Rebecca Orona, Treasurer
 - We spent \$6,079 on the firesafe garden. Fundraiser cost \$3,029 which was well worth it given the attendance and participation level.
- \$500 for Scott Miller's fuel reduction matching grant (under PG&E lines) - Soheila Bana
 - Private homeowner (Scott Miller) kept pushing for PG&E to remove dead tree under PG&E lines. After a couple years, PG&E agreed. He got a \$1k quote and has requested \$500 from WCCFSC to remove the tree. Soheila asked the city to have Rubicon students do fuel reduction in El Sobrante valley.
 - *Vote to approve \$500 to Scott Miller for tree removal - board approved unanimously*

NEXT MEETING is Monday Nov. 27, 7-8pm—after Thanksgiving Weekend. WCCFSC meetings are usually the 4th Monday of the month.