

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 video conference meeting via Zoom on **September 9, 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 type="checkbox"/> Present	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Absent

Present: Sue N., Stewart Winchester, Michelle

AGENDA

1. Applying for the Richmond/Chevron [ECIA Community Grant Program](#) to benefit all Richmond high school age youth, the RYSE.
 - a. We can apply to ECIA for our activities directly. Last year, small grants like \$10k and under were awarded.
 - b. Soheila asked for a wildfire awareness presentation on Sept. 24th (in person or zoom), please attend the [CWPP meeting](#)
2. Michelle - ConFire update - County Coordination
 - a. ConFire was awarded the grant to continue the county coordination
 - b. Current FireWise count has broken 100, now at 105 active/pending groups in CC County
 - c. July-Sept, received 18 new applications and completed 13 additional projects
 - d. Save the Date coming soon for wildfire awareness event
 - e. There have been a few low-income applications, mostly in west county (\$1,500 is only to address Zone 0).
 - f. Marilyn suggested thinking about supplementing these funds since they aren't adequate for the types of projects folks are trying to complete
3. Open House—Sunday 10/06/2024, Noon to 3pm
 - a. Sue reported that we have made good progress, deciding on which caterer to select, there are about 10 vendors signed up with tables, DJ is booked
 - b. Meeting with folks from the fire dept needs to be arranged, Soheila will reach out and also ask about the banner
 - c. Youth Academy will be there, including for set-up and clean-up
4. Reports from Listos and Ember Stomp
 - a. Contacts made...

- b. Listos meeting, theme was building connections within wildfire preparedness community
 - c. Marilyn made two good contacts at the meeting, including someone who contracts with the counties to connect with seniors and disabled individuals about preparedness
 - d. Marilyn also attended [Ember Stomp](#), made good contacts there as well
 - e. Marilyn got wildfire mesh vendor contact (he also builds frames), they will also send an installer to demo how to build a cementboard fence
5. How to set up a wildfire-centered Disaster Preparedness event
- a. The folks Marilyn met in Marin offered to help
 - b. Given all these new great contacts that Marilyn has gotten, we should think about how to save all these contacts in a database of some sort
6. May is National Wildfire Awareness Month
7. Update on Firewise Demo Garden MOU
- a. Marilyn is hounding the Deputy Public Works rep for Richmond, he's the last person needed to approve
8. Alliances. Working on a map to propose where the new fire break will be
9. Property complaints
- a. Soheila gets lots of complaints about properties that need weed abatement. For public property– The city issues one notice, then a second, and then they enter the property. Soheila is trying to get the city to follow a similar process for private property. The City Manager says that public works is overworked. But this is a really important issue for everyone's safety. We need to join Soheila's voice and support so they can't keep ignoring us.
 - b. It's inconceivable that we have a city with no fire inspector