



The Mission of the Grizzly Flats Fire Safe Council is to preserve Grizzly Flats' natural and manmade resources by informing, educating and mobilizing all residents and landowners to make their homes, properties, neighborhoods and the community fire safe, and to provide area-wide cooperation, innovation and action in an effort to buffer the Grizzly Flats Fire Safe Council's Sphere of Recognition from catastrophic wildfire

Minutes – November 4, 2023, 9:30 a.m.

Meeting Location:

Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86044253680?pwd=T2lyK0tzb2Z2bllmS0paSGxGT1Rldz09>

Meeting ID: 860 4425 3680

Passcode: 728166

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1. **Call to Order** - The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am by Chairman Mark Almer.
2. **Flag Salute** - The flag salute was conducted by Deputy Kris Kersmarki.
3. **Roll Call** - The attendance was taken by Chairperson Almer
4. **Timekeeper Volunteer** - The time keeping volunteer was David Manske
5. **Approval of the November 4, 2023 Agenda** - A motion was made by David Manske to approve the agenda as submitted. A second was made by Matt Nunley. The motion passed unanimously.
6. **Approval of the September 9, 2023 Minutes** - A motion was made by David Manske to approve the minutes as submitted. A second was made by Manual Lopez. The motion passed unanimously.
7. **Approval of the October 7, 2023 Minutes** - A motion was made by David Manske to approve the minutes as submitted. A second was made by Ernie Lory. The motion passed unanimously.
8. **Treasurer's Report – Robin Kelley** - not present
9. **Special Presentation –**
 - a. Update on RCD's Recovery/Reforestation Program – Mark Egbert -
 - i. Pile burning soon - more information coming after meeting with RCD team in the coming week.

- ii. Phase 1 reflection: First round was 2.5 and 2.5 million dollars from CalFire and USFS of which 80% has been spent. Recently, RCD was awarded a grant of \$6.5 million from CalFire. The major priority of these grants is to restore forest cover.
- iii. Phase 2: First goal is to ensure Phase 1 is complete. Mark Egbert is waiting for USFS to release funds to begin the planning process. He did share that the plan will be based on priorities. RCD currently has more money than ROEs currently. Mark Egbert shared maps that show current progress. RCD would like to include in Phase 2 the “donut hole”- the residential area. RCD currently has bids for this area. In areas not in the donut hole, the schedule is to eliminate all dead trees, burn, masticate if not burned, dozer in some cases for site preparation, and apply herbicides. The donut hole will not get the density of treatment similar to that of the larger properties but enough to promote tree cover. All of these treatment areas will be part of a three year plan for maintenance. Mark Egbert shared an RCD spreadsheet that keeps track of the cost allocated for each property owner. Mark Egbert shared that they project to have enough funds to treat all of these properties and possibly other areas including Omo Ranch, ect.; but GF is the priority.
- iv. Ernie Lory asked about other projects including the USFS Stevens Authority Grant (also known as GF39C that encompasses the “Common Area” west of Pine Ridge Drive and south of Grizzly Flat Road) and the Big Canyon watershed. Mark Egbert shared that there are plans to begin these projects which will begin after the NEPA is approved in the first part of 2024.
- v. Mark Egbert responded to questions about particular properties.
- vi. Mark Egbert is working with the CSD and Eagle Ditch to help with clearing.
- vii. Mark Egbert emphasized that RCD wants to make sure to be clear in communication and he appreciates property owners contacting his team if they have questions.
- viii. Mark Egbert gave an update on RCD staffing. His goal is to have regular communications with all involved in the projects.
- ix. Mark Egbert shared that the new funding will help bring in new contractors.

10. Agency Reports

- a. Pioneer Fire Protection District – PFPD Chief Dave Whitt/Fire Marshal Ken Earle - not present
- b. Report of Information from Pioneer FPD meeting/GFFSC Information to be shared at PFPD Board Meeting – David Manske/Robin Kelley - Robin Kelley attended the meeting. She was not present to report out.
- c. El Dorado County Sheriff's Office / OES – Deputy Scott Bare/Deputy Greg Almos/Deputy Kris Kersmarki - Deputy Kersmarki updated on particular issues

with abandoned vehicle removals. He has requested extra patrol due to a recent incident.

- d. El Dorado County Fire Safe Council – Ernie Lory gave an update. 1) Nov 11 free breakfast for Veterans and Families at the Diamond Springs Memorial Hall followed by the ceremony at the monument. RSVP will be required. 2) BLM developed a permitting process for land owners who border BLM will be allowed to remove excessive fuel up to 200 feet onto BLM land. The application for the permit is online. 3) CalFire grant submission time is open and EDFSC will be submitting a grant to fund the planning of the GF34 project. Ernie Lory will provide more information at the January meeting. 4) EDFSC will be doing more training
- e. California Highway Patrol – Public Information Officer Andrew Brown - not present
- f. El Dorado Resource Conservation District – Mark Egbert - see item 9a.
- g. U.S. Forest Service – Placerville Dist. Ranger Travis Thane (acting) - not present
- h. CAL FIRE, Amador-El Dorado Unit – Battalion Chief Josh Vickers / Public Information Officer Wendy Oaks - not present

11. Neighboring Fire Safe Councils

- a. Aukum/Fairplay - not present
- b. Omo Ranch - Shiela Triebull gave an update on the wine signage.
- c. Sand Ridge - not present

12. Old Business

- a. GFFSC Vacancies – Mark Almer – Discussion/Action - Mark Almer reported there are vacancies and to tell friends and neighbors.
- b. Time Sheet Submittal – David Manske – Discussion/Action - David Manske gave an update on the timesheets and reminded everyone to turn in their time sheets.
- c. Routes Out of the Community Signage – Mark Almer - Discussion/Action - Mark Almer shared that Placerville Dist. Ranger Travis Thane (acting) has agreed to have the signs posted as well as have signs made and installed. They will pay for the cost of these.

13. New Business

- a. GFFSC 20th Anniversary Committee – Ernie Lory – Discussion/Action - Ernie Lory requested volunteers to work on organizing the pictures taken over the past years into an anniversary project. Ernie Lory shared that this could be shared at next year's Firewise event and/or on the GFFSC website main page; he stated that he is not sure it would be made into a print version. Mark Almer requested that any council members who are interested in leading this committee to contact him.
- b. GFFSC Phone/Number - Mark Almer - Discussion/Action - Mark Almer presented the need for the council to establish a designated GFFSC phone number. Mark Almer shared two options: 1) Verizon One Talk plan for \$15/month which could

be debited from the GFFSC checking account monthly - no contract required, or 2) Walmart TracFone which is 29.88 and the monthly service is \$15/month but requires the phone to be loaded in store monthly and the reimbursement would have to be done monthly from treasurer. Mark Almer requested the council to approve the executive aboard moving forward with Verizon One Talk plan. A motion was made by Ernie Lory to approve the agenda as submitted. A second was made by David Manske. The motion passed unanimously.

- c. Blue Mountain Drive/USFS Hazard issue - Mark Almer - Discussion/Action - Mark Almer provided an overview of the issue. The USFS will give landowners permits to fall trees that are within striking distance of the surrounding property owners. USFS will not be able to do anything until a NEPA is filed and approved which will be in spring of 2024.
- d. Firewise Communities Renewal Status Update - Mark Almer - Discussion item. Mark Almer shared that the renewal process has changed. GFFSC was required to do a risk assessment this year instead of the following year. To do this, the team divided the region into three areas: Burn area, non burn area, West End including Boo Bear, GF road, and Cosumnes Mine Road. The risk assessment was completed and the renewal was submitted. Currently, the renewal will be reviewed by the upcoming deadline.
- e. Representing the GFFSC In Public - Mark Almer - Discussion/Action - Mark Almer shared how we need to be aware of our role as FSC representatives and the mission statement of the GFFSC. He cautioned members to be careful of conflict of interest if council members are involved in other community projects and activities.
- f. 2024-2025 GFFSC Meeting Dates and Locations - Mark Almer - Discussion/Action - The dates have been sent out at the November call-to-meeting email. These dates were established with the input of the members via the previous survey about zoom versus in-person. Mark Almer reminded everyone about the need for all to prioritize attendance of these meetings. A motion was made by Scott Edwards to approve the agenda as submitted. A second was made by Manual Lopez. The motion passed unanimously.

14. Committee Reports

- a. Public Education - Mark Almer - Mark Almer has posted relevant topics on social media.
- b. Defensible Space – David Manske /Robin Kelley / Liz Lawless / Matt Nunley - David Manske has not had any requests for evaluations up to this point. Mark Almer shared that the defensible space advisory training will be in early 2024 for committee members who have not been trained yet. Others who are interested will be added as space allows.
- c. Grants – Ernie Lory / David Manske - Ernie Lory shared that the proposed grant will be ready by January for review.
- d. Fundraising – Robin Kelley / David Manske - David Manske has not had any requests for reflective signs.

- e. Website – Deirdre Girardi / Kelly Krohn / Robin Kelley - Deirdre Girardi gave an update.

15. **Public Comment** – Limited to 3 minutes for items not already on the agenda. none

16. **Council Member Comments** – Limited to 3 minutes for items not already on the agenda.

- a. Manual Lopez shared information about the CA Fairplan giving discounts based on home hardening actions and property defensible space.
- b. David Manske stated that the GFFSC should give out informational packets to new homeowners. Olivia Moreno shared that outreach really made them feel embraced by the community. Oliva Moreno asked about RCD's ROE plan according to the grantee's requirements and landowner's requests.
- c. Scott Edwards requested clarification of the EDFSC project that includes Camino and Pollock Pines. Ernie Lory provided information about this.

17. **Public Announcements** - none

18. **For the Good of the Order** - none

19. **Adjourn** - Manual Lopez motioned and David Manske seconded to adjourn the meeting at 11:28. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Deirdre Marsh-Girardi

Deirdre Girardi

Secretary