

# Gold Ridge Forest Fire Safe Council

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## Meeting Minutes

December 17, 2019 @ 7:06 pm

Gold Ridge Forest Club House

### 1. Roll Call & Sign In:

*Pat Schoggins - Treasurer*

*Rich Wade - Secretary*

*Sherry Hawk - Chairman*

*Dominique Smith - GRF POA Greenbelt Director*

**2. Approval of Agenda:** Pat Schoggins motioned to approve agenda; Rich Wade seconded. Motion approved.

**3. Consent Minutes:** Rich Wade motioned to approve agenda; Pat Schoggins seconded. Motion approved.

### 4. Chairman Report: Sherry Hawk

- Survey responses - Sherry continues to respond to comments from the survey.
- FIREWISE assessment - Still working on the assessment. Great for our fire safety as well as insurance rates. Currently we do fall under the Pollock Pines - Camino FIREWISE and can get a discount from the California fair plan.
- Secretary needed - We are still in need of a secretary. Rich Wade is our temporary Secretary.

### 5. Treasurer' Report: Pat Schoggins (*Financials are recorded up to date per Financial Report 11/3/19*)

- Donations - \$620
- Reflective sign fundraiser - \$515 income \$364.41 Supplies
- Other Expenses - Printing \$75.07 Office Supplies \$46.31
- Additional Expenses reimbursed by EDCFSC Grant \$276.63 - Remaining Grant balance \$223.37
- Balance \$ 649.21

Sherry mentioned that her company will be donating \$200 in lieu of her volunteer hours. Check should be coming soon.

### 6. C-20 Greenbelt project: Sherry Hawk & Rich Wade

C-20 greenbelt is a 55-acre area next to Pearl and a section of Garnet. Mark Egbert of RCD has come up with a plan to include our area in their VMP (Vegetation Management Plan) Cal Fire grant. He has expressed that they will be clearing the understory through mastication, up to 12" trees, to reduce ladder fuels. Mark and the FSC board presented the plan to the POA and they voted unanimously to have this project completed. The FSC will now need to reach out to residents in that area to gain signed Right of Entry forms. The contract will be awarded the first week of January and we will then be notified the of the timeline. This project is estimated to be a \$80,000 savings to Gold Ridge Forest.

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## **7. Greenbelt Report:** Dominique Smith

Dominique spoke with Joe Garrett and they plan on walking a few of the greenbelts hopefully by the end of the year. Zinc, Amber and Zircon areas, and Joe is reserving sometime in the spring (pending weather) to complete the projects. Rick is willing to walk with Dominique and Joe to help access the area.

## **8. Special Guest: Alan Thompson - *The Camp Fire ~ Phones, Fires and Failures***

**Alan Thompson** presented on the Internet and Cell phone communications problems during the Camp Fire and what is being done in El Dorado County to better prepare for such an incident. The presentation went through the timeline of the fire, emergency warnings, mandatory evacuations, traffic, cell phone and land line failures. Discussion regarding helping the elderly and disabled in an emergency situation and communications plans we can have to reach out to our neighbors.

Many members from the El Dorado County Amateur Radio Club (EDCARC) attended the meeting including, Bob Hess. They are all concerned about the communication problems we could encounter in an emergency and are coming up with solution, "Radio for the Rest of Us". General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) is a cheap and easy way to communicate and the EDCARC is willing to assist out neighborhood by erecting GMRS repeaters in our area. GMRS communications does not require a user to pass an exam to attain a license. A license can be applied for about \$70 (per family) for ten years and radios are as cheap as \$20. They have introduced this program to Coloma, Lotus and Oak Hill and will be starting with a program in Log Town.

The EDCARC will be working with Gold Ridge Forest Fire Safe Council to install repeaters in our area. We will hold a special event in the Spring to introduce this program to our community. They are also happy to assist with training on how use, what to purchase and so on. They ask for, but do not require \$15-20 donations.

Alan will send us today's presentation to distribute to others. Sherry suggested webinar presentations to get out to our community. Alan will be working on that as it has been requested by others.

Repeaters 805 and 825 (ran by radio club) are available on the west slope for those that have HAM radios. Emergency announcements can be heard on these repeaters.

## **9. Good of the Order:** The next meeting will be announced at a later date, pending weather.