

Aspen Fire Protection District

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Board of Directors Regular Meeting June 13th, 2023

The Board of Directors of the Aspen Fire Protection District met for their regular meeting. The meeting was open to the public in person and virtually via Zoom.

Meeting called to order by John at 5:04pm

Roll Call:

- Board of Directors Present: John Ward, Parker Lathrop (via zoom), Emily Taylor, Dave "Wabs" Walbert, Charles Cunniffe
- Board of Directors Absent:
- Staff/Volunteers Present: Rick Balentine, Jake Andersen, Nikki Lapin, Jan Schubert, Jan Legersky, Amanda Perusse, Scott Arthur. Those joining via Zoom: Ben Smith, Ken Josselyn
- Public/Others: Richard Peterson

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION: Motion by Wabs to approve minutes from regular meeting held on May 09, 2023. Emily second.

Discussion: None

Vote: All approved.

Public Comment: None

AVFD Inc.: None as Ryan Warren was at a training.

Financials

- Monthly Financial Review: Included in the board packet.
 - Jan has received a draft of the 2022 audited financials, currently working on corrections and edits. Board members will receive it in advance of the July meeting. Paul Backes will be at that meeting to answer questions.

Board Comments & Action Items:

- Board Comments:
 - Wabs - none
 - John - Excited to have new board member on board.
 - Emily - none
 - Charles - Happy to be here and welcomed.
 - Parker - none
- Action items:
 - Board Seat appointments
 - Emily nominated Wabs for Treasurer. John second. All approved
 - Parker nominated Emily as secretary. John second. All approved
 - Emily nominated John to be president. Wabs second. All approved
 - John nominated parker for Vice President. Emily second. All approved

- New Board Seat Appointments
 - President – John Ward
 - Vice President – Parker Lathrop
 - Treasurer – David (Wabs) Walbert
 - Secretary – Emily Taylor
- **Staff Handbook** – The approval was voted at last month’s meeting of 5-9-23. It was put into today’s meeting (6-11-23) for all to view the amended changes. Amended changes were reviewed.
 - Discussion about Honor Guard, finalizing their own handbook and looking into a 501c3 for them.
 - Handbook has been sent out to entire member team for review and signature. So far, only 20 have signed. Due date for return is June 30th. Handbook and 2023 benefits guide are always available to members via Aladtec.
- There were no further comments on the staff handbook.

5:26pm – John Ward had to leave the meeting. Parker Lathrop continued meeting.

Staff Report:

- Fire Marshal and Prevention: Fire Marshal - Jan Legersky
 - Report in packet if you have any questions. No further discussion.
 - They are very busy with Food and Wine, will be completing inspections on Thursday morning, 6/15/23.
- Operations Overview: Deputy Chief Andersen
 - Notable incidents – photos were included in board packet
 - Swift water rescues and assisting neighboring departments with it.
 - Incident management help in Snowmass with the failure of a culvert that cut off portion of SMV. They did a great job mitigating.
 - Events: All 3 shifts did walk throughs of all Aspen schools.
 - Projects/Collaborations:
 - Several curbside assessments completed this last month. Trying to do 20% per year, so that we have a 5-year cycle of refresh for entire district.
 - New application - First Arriving – will start next month on TV’s around the station It consolidates all different data streams (schedules, apparatus status, current calls and locations etc). Should revolve through around 2 minutes to give all members an idea of all upcoming events and current issues.
 - Spotlights:
 - 3 FF specializing in prevention and helping Jan and Ben with large workload. This year alone they have done over 300 preplans for buildings. (hydrants, stairwells, Knox box locations etc)
 - Fitness committee – continued weekly yoga classes as well as the new Trainerize app. Helping to keep all members who sign up accountable with personal programs to meet personal goals. This is Firefighter and floor driven.
 - Engineers – 3 FF who specialize in apparatus to keep them up to date, checking software and better tracking to interface with First Arriving.
 - Recent Car seat installation class – 40-hour class. Our 4 attendees represented Aspen Fire well. Excited that we will be able to offer this service on a more regular basis.
 - Fire Life Safety Educator 1. All 3 have done this class. An intro class to teaching fire education at appropriate age levels.
 - Community Risk Assessment – hopefully it will be updated and ready next month or month after.

- Training Update: Scott Arthur reviewed the report in the packet. Photos in packet.
 - New breathing apparatus (SCBA)– training has been completed and they are in use. Donating the old ones, which is a 6-month project that is finally coming to completion. 20 went to CMC for the academy, 10 to sister city in Bariloche in South America, 12 are going to Ukraine to help their FF program there during the war and 10 masks were requested and sent to Ohio City, CO.
 - No further discussion.

Wildfire Community Action Fund: Ali Hammond

- Wildfire Collaborative update: They have hired a program manager, Angie Davelan, who started in mid-May and doing a wonderful job so far.
- Panel by pedestrian fountain is now specifically for Wildfire, by scanning the QR code, patrons can learn about fire and evacuation plans for our area.
- Outreach:
 - Tuesday 6/20/23, at 7:30pm, showing the movie “Elemental: Reimagining Wildfire” at the Wheeler. Ads are starting on 6/14/23 with newspapers, social media and flyers.
 - Presented at the Elks on 6/6/23, great presentation with lots of engaged folks.
 - Continuing to work with the City of Aspen on evacuation route planning software that the City recently purchased. This will be really informative and helpful for this summer season and planning for emergency evacuations.
- Attended and participated in the Roaring Fork outdoor volunteers chainsaw training. See photos.
- Projects:
 - Starting this week, Beetle kill treatments on both sides of AJAX mountain.
 - Chipper program – have 4 neighborhoods signed up (only had 3 last year). These will take place in July and August. Program will run through October, still have a solid handful of others who are interested.
 - Phase 1 of the fuel break in Willoughby Way is complete. This will help us with a possible fire hold. Photos in packet.
- Visited with State Forrest representative who recommended all the things we are already doing with large scale and small scale outreach for Wildfire education and mitigation.
- Ali has completed her pack test, she is now a certified Wildland Firefighter with a Red Card.
- Discussion around the Director of Wildfire Community Action Fund position
 - Originally this was a 2 year temporary full-time position. Ali has been very successful in this position, as well as in solidifying a grant that will fund 25% of the position’s salary over the next 4 years. We can reapply for this grant after it has expired, over and over.

MOTION: Motion by Wabs to proceed with a permanent fully staffed Director of Wildfire Community Action Fund. Charles Second.

Discussion: None

Vote: All Approved.

CEO/Fire Chief and Good of the District:

- North 40 Fire Place: Will be completing a walk through the week of 6/19/23 as well as a discussion with Romero Group in the next few weeks to discuss the 2024 budge on Aspen Fire Place Housing.
 - Discussion on gym access at Fire Place. All members have access, we will make sure they have the correct codes for entry. Reach out to HR/Nikki with any issues.
 - Housing advisory committee is meeting 6/14/23 at 11am to review current tenants and current applications/potential tenants, leases are coming due for some as of 7/1/23. We will get back to the board on all recommendations the committee makes to the Chief.
- Housing Other
 - Looking for additional property at North 40 for more housing.

- Wildfire camera
 - Same update as last month.
 - Pano will also be performing a study on Crown Mountain Park
 - Pano will also be a part of the panel on 6/20 to discuss AI after the movie at the Wheeler.
- Roaring Fork Wildfire Collaborative - none
- Food and Wine
 - Terra Mana will be serving free tacos at Station 61 from 6p-9p on Thursday, 6/15/23.
- Aspen Institute- We will help the Aspen Ideas Festival on 6/29/23 to lead a hike in the Hunter Creek Area. In exchange, they will make a donation to the WCAF, amount to be determined.
- Theater Aspen Collaboration- 9/11 play on 9/10/2023 and 9/11/2023.
- Aspen Science Center Camp – week of July 17th.
 - Discussion on expectations for camp and Aspen Fire
- July 4th event – City of Aspen asked for us to request the planes to come back to do the air show. City will pay for event. 5 planes with 5 pilots will come. Currently in discussion; there might be a meet and greet at ASE, maybe a raffle for people to do ride alongs? Maybe raise funds for a kids pilot program?
- Mill levy coming down the pike soon and will need further discussion.

Old Business: none

New Business: none

MOTION: Motion by Wabs to adjourn at 6:28pm
 Emily second.
Discussion: None
Vote: All approved.

***** A full recording of this meeting can be requested by contacting the District Administrator at nikki.lapin@aspenfire.com or by calling 970-925-5532.**