# Spires Fire Awareness Committee Meeting Minutes July 2, 2013

Mrs. Gilliam called the meeting of the Spires Fire Awareness Committee (FAC) to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were as follows:

Sandie Gilliam, Larry Gilliam, Roland Harris, Bob Thompson, Tom Speed, Janice Speed Absent: Ben DeMeter, Joelle DeMeter, Blaine Miller

The Board of Directors of The Spires Drainage Homeowners Association (HOA) voted to officially recognize the FAC at their June 28, 2013 meeting.

#### Committee Charter:

- The purpose of the Spires Fire Awareness Committee is to gather information and raise awareness in regard to fire and mitigation activities.
- It shall be the responsibility of this committee to:
  - Report any findings and provide recommendations to the HOA Board of Directors. Such items should be submitted to the Property Manager at one (1) week prior to the regularly scheduled Board meeting.
  - 2. Perform surveillance of areas with potential for wildfire.
  - 3. Act as liaison with CSFD, CSPD, other groups and adjacent neighbors.
- The Committee shall be composed of at least five (5) but no more than ten (10) homeowners in good standing.
- The Committee shall meet as required.
- A Committee member shall record the minutes of each meeting.
- The Chair will coordinate activities with the Board and the Property Manager and will not expense any funds without prior approval.

## The following topics were discussed:

The HOA is composed of 365 homes. Of those, an estimated 90 homes have been mitigated and 75 participated in the June HOA-sponsored mitigation event. The question of how much is left in the budget for mitigation was raised.

Adjacent properties were defined as Cheyenne Mountain State Park, Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Base (NORAD), and Mr. Dale Beggs as agent of Cheyenne Mountain Bluffs (CMB), LLC (aka Mtn. Preserve development project). Contact is needed between the HOA and these entities.

Lines of Communication are as follows:

Urgent matters, dial 9-1-1.

Routine matters, advise the Board.

In emergency, individuals alert neighbors in close proximity.

Current Committee contacts for CSFD and CSPD are Ben DeMeter.

Sandie Gilliam and Blaine Miller.

For the Neighborhood News e-newsletter the contact is Janice Speed.

For the HOA newsletter the contact is Derek Patterson.

Recommendation was made to locate an Emergency Plan and customize it.

Note: The link for the Emergency Preparedness Guide (76-page .pdf document) is on the Spires HOA website.

### Old Business:

Patrol Report: Many bear trails were seen, along with numerous old lean-tos and fire rings in the area of the debris basins. No activity was seen at the former tiki torch campsite.

Motorcycles/dirt bikes with riders wearing full helmets and no or non-visible plates are still trespassing on a Wellfleet homeowner's property to gain access to Mtn. Preserve property. This occurs during the day and is of short duration, not allowing sufficient time to alert CSPD. Of concern is whether or not the vehicles are equipped with spark arrestors. The debris basins are one destination for this activity. The No Trespass signs are having no affect. Mr. Dale Beggs has a No Trespassing Letter on file with CSPD.

CSPD has followed up with parents of tiki torch campers, Adam Doyle and the owners of vehicles parked illegally at the entrance to the property, either by in-person contact or by letter. Content of a conversation with Officer Judd Tyson and an email from Sgt. Mark DeVorss was discussed. CSPD will utilize O/T for additional patrols on July 4 looking for suspicious activity.

Bob Thompson asked CSFD to review an alternate fire-fighting access to the CMB property since there is a fire hydrant at the bottom of his driveway at 5640 Jarman St and his lot at 5630 Jarman St. CSFD approved the access and homeowners built a path with steps, nearly completed, to the desired location. Home Depot donated the wood for the steps. Bob Thompson also requested Christina Randall, the Wildfire Mitigation Administrator, to view the access and 200 foot conservation easement behind Bob's and several other homeowners' homes which is on CMB property. Ms. Randall brought along a contractor to provide an estimate for mitigation. She was very concerned about the state of the easement property, which in the event of a wildfire could end up trapping a fire crew with no retreat route available. Mitigation of a portion of the CMB property would be very costly (estimated at \$2,000-\$3,000 per acre), but Ms. Randall is willing to

attend a meeting between the HOA and Dale Beggs to express concerns and costs to remedy the condition of the property adjacent to several HOA homes.

Roland Harris, as Vice President of the HOA Board of Directors, stated that the HOA letter to Dale Beggs is not yet finalized but he will discuss it with Derek Patterson. The removal of the "attractive nuisance" should be included in the letter. Roland will also discuss the need for a meeting with Dale Beggs, an HOA representative and CSFD. The need for a map of the bordering properties was discussed.

#### **New Business:**

A review of the draft of the HOA Summer 2013 newsletter, which includes another HOA-sponsored mitigation event on August 12, yielded the following recommendations:

- Include personal testimony from Ben DeMeter's experience regarding the Black Forest fire.
- Email addresses are needed for emergency HOA-to-homeowner contact.
- Something catchy is needed in the newsletter to get homeowners' attention, such as
  Fire is at Your Back Door Now!
- The HOA newsletters need to be posted quickly on the HOA website.

Mitigation \$ were discussed including the current grant available to 100 homeowners for a dollar-for-dollar match up to \$500, the new grant coming in July and a proposal being written by Christina Randall to the Governor.

## Assignments:

Sandie Gilliam: Provide an addition to the HOA newsletter and notify Derek Patterson of Committee changes (membership and Committee name).

Larry Gilliam: Request map of HOA/CMB properties from Derek Patterson.

Roland Harris: Contact Derek Patterson with changes for the letter to Dale Beggs.

Tom Speed: Continue patrols.

Bob Thompson: Complete steps for CSFD access to CMB property.

Janice Speed: Prepare meeting minutes. Email CSFD form and agreement documents for current

mitigation grant to Committee members. Update Committee contact list as needed.

Next Committee meeting will be scheduled following the distribution of the HOA newsletter and the meeting with Dale Beggs.

Janice Speed