

VILLAGE OF ANGEL FIRE
Wildfire Protection Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, July 21, 2014 at 1:00pm at Village Hall

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Rick Sprott called the meeting to order at 1:02

II. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge was called by Chairperson Rick Sprott

III. Roll Call

Voting members Present: Mike Clemmons, Arnie Friedt, David Hartson, Scott Jones, Dan Rakes, and Rick Sprott

Members Excused: John Goodson and Brinn Colenda

Staff Members: Jay Mitchell and Burl Smith

Guests: Chuck Howe and Christie Germscheid

A quorum of voting members was declared.

IV. Approval of Agenda

Rakes moved to approve agenda, Jones seconded, passed unanimously.

V. Approval of Minutes

McCarty spelling to be corrected. Hartson moved to approve with correction, Rakes seconded, passed unanimously.

VI. Old Business

A) Approve Recommendation for Action by Council on Proposed Ordinance 9-7-13

Jones moved to approve the recommendation of the Ordinance Amending Section 4 of Chapter 3 of Title Nine and Sections 13, 14, & 15 of Chapter 7 of Title Nine of the Village Code to the Council, Hartson seconded.

Discussion:

- Some foresters (specially Jack Cohen) have said clearing Zones 1 and 2 is the measure needed to save structures and thinning beyond Zone 2 can actually make wildfires worse. Cohen's research focused on structure ignition and advocates owner responsibility treating Zones 1 & 2 as more effective protecting structures than major thinning away from structures and multimillion-dollar fire suppression. Cohen did not address other forest values critical to Angel Fire such as watershed, wildlife, recreational activities, and natural beauty that constitute Zone 3 in Ordinance revision. Major wildfire protection programs address some level of treatment beyond 100-150 feet to maintain healthy forest conditions and slow the spread of a fire.
- Who has final authority for prescription authority? Current draft states Village Forester and Chief Building Official responsible.
- Do the standards or the Forester's prescription apply for a property? The prescription.
- Are the definition changes in the ordinance? Will be introduced for the first and second reading at the time of the revision to ordinance 9-7-13, and will reside in 9-1 and 9-2 with other Village definitions. Presentation to the public can include definitions.
- Monthly fees for wildfire protection 9-7-13 B2. Is there a cap? Placing fixed price structures in ordinances is very expensive for the village for revision and maintenance. Fees are now established by Council resolution annually.
- Will noncompliance fines go into the general fund or back into Wildfire Protection? Into the general fund. However, we're at least 3-5 years away from fines.

- Will enforcement on vacant lots come in to effect by ordinance? Will fee increases go to Wildfire Protection? It's a 20-year plan based on risk assessment area by area. Council stipulates timing by area annually. Implementation will be based first on notification, then on fee increases. Fines and legal action are not a desirable outcome. Any fee increases due to noncompliance will stay in the Wildfire Protection Fund.
- Yeas: Committee members Clemmons, Friedt, Hartson, Jones
- Nays: Committee member Rakes

Motion Passes.

- Comments on Voting:
- Rakes: Concur with need to save structures using Zone 1 & 2, but not convinced of the science. Could we make a catastrophic fire worse? Worried about economic real estate impact on the Village. Rakes to provide data to Committee.
- Hartson: We have to start somewhere.
- Clemmons: Worried about zone 3. Accelerate Zone 1 and 2 implementation timetable.
- Mitchell: County tax data provided at meeting suggests that property owners are not bailing out. Expectation of land values going up, and our tax income (94%) for 3 years going excellently.

B) Review Open House Comments and Process

Clemmons suggested procedures –

- Panel seated up front
- Panel moderator controlling time, etc.
- Staggered rows in seating for better visibility
- Education segment before detail discussion
- Provide food
- Acronyms either controlled or provided in handout
- Better PA system
- Better (saturation) marketing

C) Chronicle Insert Update – Deferred to the spring, awaiting Chronicle reorganization and best market timing.

D) Additional Old and New Business - Rakes moved to table all other agenda items, Clemmons seconded, passed unanimously.

VII. New Business – Tabled for future agenda

VIII. Questions / Comments from Audience Members

A) Slash Collection: Clemmons notes that quality of slash pickup has improved substantially with almost no debris remaining.

B) Ordinance:

- 1) Howe: Most critical issue he's seen in 8 years on council and Committee has been fundamental at bringing to table.
- 2) Germscheid: Some of her constituents object to the punitive (penalties, etc.) references in the ordinance. Concerns about tree removal around decks that provide shade. Further, we need to address the delays in slash pickup and how it will be solved; creates doubt about ability to implement the rest of the Wildfire Protection program. Our explanation of the slash fee program changing to the wildfire protection fee could be better. Significant negative feedback that we all need to address if possible.

IX. Next Meeting Date and Adjournment

Chairperson Sprott will call next meeting.

X. Adjournment

With no further business, Rakes moved to adjourn, Hartson seconded, passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 2:55.

Passed, Approved and Adopted on this ²⁸~~XX~~^{July} day of ~~XX~~ 2014.

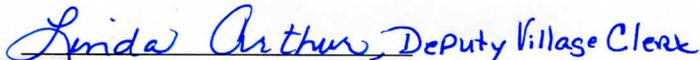


Scott Jones, Secretary



Rick Sprott, Chairman

ATTEST:


Terry Cordova, Village Clerk

