

Minutes MVNA 2022-06-06

6-8pm Via Zoom

In Attendance: Jean Rasch, Ray Meyers, Pat Venza, Susan Nine, Nickie Bach, Bruce Zanetta, Marta Kraftzeck, Charles Martin

Approval of minutes. Attached. Secretary remains Marta during Kristin's maternity leave. Hans is away so Zoom Master is Ray.

- Minutes approved unanimously

Public Comment for any topic not on the agenda; no discussion.

- No public comment

Fire safety

Guest is Fire Chief Gaudenz Panholzer, Fire Chief,
MONTEREY FIRE DEPARTMENT

- 3 fire stations in Monterey, 3 additional stations staffed under contract at the airport, Pacific Grove and Carmel all under one umbrella from the City of Monterey
 - Depth of resources
- Wildfire Season
 - Fires now burning during all times of the year
 - Significant drought currently, driest January, February and March on record
 - 2020 over 4 million acres burned
- Mitigation efforts
 - Coordinate efforts with neighboring agencies/jurisdictions
 - Maintenance of greenbelts
 - City of Monterey budget commitment of ~\$500,000
 - Conduct annual defensible space inspections
 - Adding to City forestry staff
- Response preparedness
 - Annual training for all personnel
 - Increased response level for all potential wildfire incidents
 - Added a second wildland fire (Type 3) engine to fleet
 - CAL Fire placed new helicopter in service
- Emergency Preparedness Plans
 - Multi-jurisdictional hazard Mitigation Plan
 - County Evacuation Plan
 - Community Risk Assessment/Standards of Cover Study
 - Community Wildfire Protection Plan

- Defensible Space
 - Harden home
 - Fire resistive roofing and siding
 - Install a spark arrester on all chimneys
 - Cover all vent openings with 1/8" (max) mesh screen
 - Use fire resistive materials for decks and fences
 - Install dual pane windows with tempered glass
 - Use shutters or blinds in place of drapes
 - Box in eaves
 - Surrounding home
 - Close in spaces under low decks
 - Remove vegetation and items that could catch fire from around and under decks, balconies and stairs
 - Remove dead or dry leaves and pine needles from your roof and rain gutters
 - Remove branches that hang over your roof and keep dead branches 10 feet away from your chimney
 - Make sure your address is visible from the road
 - Immediate Zone – Ember Resistant zone
 - Science has proven it to be the most important
 - Use hardscape like gravel, paver, concrete, etc
 - Remove dead dying weeds
 - Only low growing non woody maintained plants
 - Limit combustible items
 - Replace combustible fencing and gates
 - Intermediate Zone – Lean, Clean and Green Zone
 - Extends out 30 feet from buildings, structures, decks
 - Remove all dead plants grass and weeds (vegetation)
 - Remove dead or dry leaves and pine needles from your yard
 - Trim trees regularly to keep branches a minimum of 10 feet from other trees and 6 feet above the ground
 - Relocate wood piles to Extended Zone
 - Extended Zone – Reduce Fuel Zone
 - Extends 30-100 feet from buildings, structures, decks
 - Mow annual grass down to a max height of 4 inches
 - Create horizontal space between shrubs and trees
 - Create vertical space between grass, shrubs and trees

- Keep fallen leaves, needles, twigs, bark, cones and small branches to a depth of 3 inches
 - All mitigation efforts stop at your property line and is a community effort
 - Defensible Space Inspections
 - Crews conduct annual inspections of all parcels
 - Recorded in GIS based app
 - Follow up done by Fire Prevention staff
 - Public access to info at www.monterey.org/fire
 - Have a Plan
 - Family meeting location outside of area
 - Friends or family to stay with
 - Prepare a “Go Kit”
 - Essential items, documents
 - Know multiple evacuation routes
 - Sign up to receive emergency notifications at AlertMontereyCounty.org
- Fire Wise
 - Grass roots community based supported by Monterey Fire
 - Requires investment by homeowners, hours or dollars
 - Possible reduction in insurance premiums
- Questions?
 - How is fire code enforced? Citations?
 - Code enforcement unless fire safety issues, complaints are inspected
 - Renters vs property owners an issue contact can be difficult need to notify
 - Need to give owners time to comply and cooperate with local fire
 - Fire complies like police, need a warrant to inspect but cannot trespass on private property
 - 9 of last 20 most devastating fires caused by electrical issues. Is PG& E working with local fire in our area?
 - Failures in power lines. High voltage lines have no insulation due to weight limitations. Nothing prevents it from shorting.
 - PG&E has cooperated with local fire agencies
 - Undergrounding initiative, PG&E wants to underground more at risk lines
 - Fires an issue in unhealthy forests
- Jean invites Monterey Fire to attend MVNA Picnic in September

- Is there an emergency notification system city wide?
 - Monterey does not. Systems need to be maintained and public educated. Most people rely on cell phones for information as opposed to more obsolete warning sirens

Small cell tower ordinance update- Susan. Review of Planning Commission April 26 meeting. Follow up? Priorities? Will it be on the PC June 14 agenda?

- Sample ordinance from Carmel attorney Campinelli, strong ordinance, strong wording
- No idea how staff will rewrite ordinance despite recommendations hopefully some suggestions will be incorporated to strengthen Monterey's cell tower ordinance
- Drive by standard needs to be enforced to see if gaps actually are there in service
- Needs to have the strongest language enforceable in the ordinance

Newsletter-congratulations to all

NCIP update. Jean. Voting night is June 16, 6 pm both in chambers and online viewing and participation.

- Previous supported projects that were funded by the city should have precedence over unfunded projects
- Some projects must need to wait as there are \$13 million dollars of projects for a budget of \$3-4 million
- NCIP gets 16% of the TOT monies in normal years
- NCIP funds should not be used by the city as a "slush fund"
- City wants these projects done but difficult to get projects to completion

Picnic. Sept 17. Veterans Park. What is essential to discuss now?

- Conversation about fire safety 10-15 minutes, meet and greet
- During pandemic MVNA stopped charging dues and our membership increased
- Possible discussion about charging for the picnic and have it be self-supporting instead of the need to charge for dues. Put it on agenda for next meeting.
- Still need a membership table to sign up new members but the only money will be for the meal. Possible donation jar for MVNA.

For future

1. CA ban on gas leaf blowers AB 1346. (Jean) Push City council further on use?
2. Parking- Bruce?
3. Citizen complaints follow up?

4. Recruit new board members?
5. Crime, Cat converter thefts (Bruce).