

PALOMAR MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY SAFETY CENTER ACTION COMMITTEE MEETING

May 12, 2006

The Palomar Mountain Community Safety Center Action Committee meeting was held on the Phelps' patio on Friday, May 12, 2006 and was called to order at 4:03 p.m. by Chairman, Tom Burton. Earl Walls volunteered to serve as the gatekeeper. Present were Action Committee Board Members: Linda Thorne, Robert Carlyle and Tom Burton. Absent were: Bonnie Phelps and Scott Kardel. Also present were consultants to the Committee, Earl Walls and Chief George Lucia.

DEFREEZE, AGENDA AND PRIOR MINUTES

After a defreeze, approval of the prior minutes as presented and negotiation of an agenda, the meeting proceeded as follows:

DESIGN ISSUES

Tom shared background on call that he had with Jerry McLees earlier in the week whereby they had revised the design matrix. Copies of the revised matrix had been sent to Rob Hawk and Earl Walls. Earl agreed with the changes made. Tom will have a copy of it attached to these minutes for review and comment by the larger body of Action Committee members and interested parties.

The second design issue had to do with the acquisition of the Major Use Permit as had been discussed over the course of several meetings. Jerry supplied copies of documents that will be required to apply for a major use permit. These were discussed from the following perspectives:

Cost. In rough numbered terms, it appears that a pre-application meeting will cost around \$1800. Jerry has strongly recommended this. George has asked if there isn't some exemption for community-oriented non-profits. Tom thought he'd cleared that with Jerry, and that there is not, but he will raise the issue again. George will talk with some of his DPLU friends and find out if there are any special "perks" that might be obtained for our type of community organization.

Preparation. Prior to the pre-application meeting, and especially because of its cost and the different disciplines that the County will have present at such meeting, the group thought it wise to have the applications filled out as completely as we can. Jerry, too, suggested having photos and other information available at the pre-app meeting.

MUP Application. Earl indicated that it's \$12,225 to file for a major use permit. This horrified some of our members. Others indicated that often times the total of the processing fees does amount to about 1% of the cost of the structure – and, hence, were less sticker shocked.

Fee Savings. Other creative approaches to fee savings were discussed. It seems that we will be best served by waiting until after San Diego's June 7 election for Supervisors. At that time, we'll hopefully have together our MUP application, our pre-application meeting application, some funding for the fees and a clearer picture of our political support in moving forward.

LAND REPORT

In Bonnie's absence Tom and others made various comments on maps and alternate land use and parcel attributes that have been discussed over the last few months.

FUNDING AND GRANT COMMITTEE

Tom shared a two-page Internet story about how a 57¢ gift to a church from a poor girl who died at a young age turned into a medical center, as an example of positive thinking and commitment of goodwill, energies and resources toward the accomplishment of a project.

Tom also shared a story about a monk at the Self Realization Fellowship in Encinitas who had committed his energy toward raising \$50,000 needed to build a new dormitory by doing harmonium repairs (which at the time yielded just a few dollars each). The story of the "mad monk" attempting to raise \$50,000 in dollar or two increments prompted a hearer of the story to donate the \$50,000 dormitory.

George suggested that he has a number of people who have been practicing grant writing and studying various types of grants that might be available for the CSC and PMVFD.

He indicated that he sees two principal sources: one is governmental with FEMA and/or Homeland Security as the most likely based on our prior sensitive remote location. However, he indicated that he does not know that through that type of source we will be able to raise all of the funds necessary for the CSC. Instead he thinks it more likely that we will get numerous smaller grants that will simply help towards the CSC construction. George also recognized the downside that's occurring with the grant having been so popularized, that less monies are available now than once were, and with greater oversight for compelling stories needing to be told to be able to acquire them.

The other grant source is private donations, corporations and foundations not associated with the government. These George feels are a much more likely source of our ultimate success.

In this regard, he told the story of the ten AEDs (automatic electronic defibrulators) he wanted to buy for the Mountain. He said by keeping this issue in the forefront of his mind, he was led to connections with the manufacturer where he was able to buy the machines at half price and then found numerous people who were willing to sponsor purchasing one or more machines at this discounted rate as a donation for Mountain safety.

So, no matter which action is taken, George encourages us to go forward at full speed. He suggests that, though we may not know which path will work best, keeping as many horses in the race as possible and fully preparing and telling our story, he believes we will be successful.

George feels our short-term goal should be to develop presentations and sales tools that will assist with fund raising. Tom equated this to a "case for giving," a sample of which he offered to supply to the grant committee.

George reassured the Action Committee that he has a group together that will write the grants. He encouraged us, however, to work with them in developing a portfolio of materials that can support them in doing so. Those can include such things as artwork rendering, stories of need, stories of success, statistics on the nature of the need and our solution, etc.

Robert suggested that chief George talk with Jerry Fisher, who owns property down the South Grade Road. Robert indicated that Jerry is a well connected, retired investment consultant and also a former Marine who is very focused.

In brainstorm, Tom also suggested that PMVFD, and possibly the Action Committee, look into being listed on Guidestar – a resource for foundations that are interested in doing due diligence on charities over the Internet. Hopefully, Bonnie or Scott, neither of whom are present, will look into this on behalf of the CSC.

It was also suggested that someone do some research on the San Diego Community Foundation. Tom indicated that he is not sure that that is the name, but he suggested that there is probably one or more such “time share charities” in San Diego County which should be apprised of our existence, project and need. Tom explained that these “time share charities” are sometimes used as a private foundation for well-to-do people. Alternatively, the County foundations also make grants from their own general fund.

NEXT MEETING

Tom pointed out that the next meeting would be at the Phelps’ residence on Friday, June 2, 2006.

REFREEZE

Before concluding the meeting, the group engaged in a refreeze. Everyone felt good about the meeting, with the only potential improvement points being the idea of having visuals that could indicate what the various committees of the Action Committee’s goals are, what their composition is and what their status in the various projects might be. Tom suggested to Chief George he believes he has a software program that creates those types of bubble diagrams, which he is no longer using and which, if still available, he will supply to George.

ADJOURNMENT

After the refreeze, people headed off from the Phelps’ beautiful patio at 5:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas W. Burton, Acting Secretary