

BEAR VALLEY RESIDENTS, INC.
Meeting Minutes for February 26, 2022
Steve Schwabauer presiding

Attending

Board Members: Steve Schwabauer, Ann Porteus, Sally Swanson, Curt Wozniak, Jill Wegenswtein, Ken Schultz, Randy Mancini, Tom Fraser, Ron Murphy, Rob Wiercinski, J.P. Derouin, Eric Jung

Guests: Supervisor Terry Woodrow, Undersheriff Tom Minder, John Boyle, Larry Johnson, Mike Mee, Stacey Stillman

Supervisor's Report

Woodrow said county offices are now open to the public, masks mandatory.

The Ebbetts Pass Scenic Highway will get new signs in Arnold, Markleeville, and the junction of Highways 4 and 89.

The Stanislaus National Forest Landscape Project is pursuing big fuel break projects, including in the Mokelumne watershed and around Bear Valley.

The county has \$175,000 to hire a coordinator on fire projects. We anticipate that this person will help us with our common area fuel reduction program. Wozniak, Fraser, and Woodrow met with county Economic Development person J.T. Chevalier who was helpful and encouraging about that project.

The BVRI/Firesafe Council common area fuel reduction project ends March 15. Woodrow will seek funds to continue the program.

SB156 seeks to expand broadband access in California. Bear Valley is on the map for inclusion.

Woodrow is running for another term as Supervisor. She is unopposed so far.

BV Music Festival

Mee said the Festival returns to its 3-weekend 2 week format, starting July 22. They are interviewing for a new Music Director. They have hired John and Amy Miles of Murphys as an Executive Director team. They need musician housing. Opening act is Tennessee River, an Alabama tribute band.

Sheriff's Report

Minder said Bear Valley sent a fire engine and crew to Stockton for the funeral of a Fire Captain who was killed.

He acknowledged concerns about snowmobile noise and speeding. He will use education and increased deputy patrols to address the problems.

He is researching a better way to dispose of dead snowmobiles. He is working with county Maintenance Worker Mitch Smith on having a burn pile again this summer. He is also looking into the possibility of buying a chipper for Bear Valley.

Beach

Derouin said when the snow goes away, he'll be working on the volleyball court and picnic tables. Brian Watson has been hired to provide food for the summer picnic.

Ways and Means

Wozniak presented a written report. Increased dues brought more revenue to be used for projects like trash cans at the beach and tree thinning. We gave a \$10,000 deposit to J Tree toward more fuel reduction at the beaches this summer.

The year net was \$1,481. We pay taxes on profit so we want to keep that number low. The Post Office broke even. It cost us \$882 for worker's comp for the post office person and the beach attendant for the year.

Forestry

A written report was submitted. We may be able to coattail on the Firesafe Council's 501(c)3 status for the common area donation program, with an MOU between the Council and Alpine County. We hope to start raising donation funds in April. There are 39 (or maybe 38) common areas we hope to address.

The VIP lot inspection program will proceed as normal. Volunteers will be welcome as inspectors. Forester Gary Whitson will conduct a training session for inspectors. We will put new emphasis on thinning.

Snowmobiles

There was discussion on controlling snowmobiles. Pres. Schwabauer pointed out that the subdivision roads are public. BVRI has no authority there.

Highway Crossing

There was discussion of hazardous conditions at the pedestrian crossing at Highway 4 and Bear Valley Road. Supervisor Woodrow will talk to Caltrans about a light or signage.

Nominating Committee

The election is going forward.

BVRI Minutes 2-26-22, p. 2

Membership

The dues increase did not result in a reduction of memberships. It is still possible to pay for membership by check, credit card, or PayPal.

Next Meeting

To be determined. Schwabauer will send out a survey.

Adjourned