

PONDEROSA PARK ASSOCIATION
Picnic and Park Meeting
August 31, 2014, 4:30 PM

Bill Brady, President, welcomed everyone to the picnic area and said this was the largest crowd ever for a Ponderosa Park Meeting. He said he would be introducing a couple of guest speakers.

Our first speaker was Hugh Vallely, Deputy Manager of Yavapai County Emergency Management. He congratulated us on now being a FireWise Community and told how he works with community incident management teams. He said reverse 911 is not good on cell phones. Information sheets on the Code Red Emergency Notification System were distributed. You can sign up on the YC Sheriff's website (YCSOAZ.GOV) or contact the Sheriff's Department at 771-3620. Hugh stressed the importance of having everything ready to go in the event of fire. During an evacuation you can register with the Red Cross so that relatives and friends will know you're safe. You can contact him on his 24/7 cell phone at 925-4219. E-mail is hugh.vallely@yavapai.us.

Bill Brady also emphasized being prepared. He works for FEMA and has dealt with disasters many times. He stressed the importance of flood insurance; it's inexpensive, you might want to check it out.

Mike Brockert, Chairman of the FireWise Committee, introduced Arrow Fire Support Services speaker, Soren Fleming. Also present from Arrow was Bo Wilson. Our picnic area was cleaned out by Arrow; a lot of dead wood and slash has been removed. Soren stressed that you can fight fire on the ground (3 to 5 feet high), but it's hard in the trees. You want to clear your property now because if a fire crew does come through to save your home, they will cut everything down. Also when a homeowner makes his property FireWise, a fire crew will be more likely to save your home.

Hamburgers and hot dogs were ready, plus there were many side dishes, drinks and desserts so everyone took a break to eat. Following this, Bill introduced the present officers of PPA: Brad Bean, Vice-President; Mike Brockert, Treasurer; and Linda Scherfling, Secretary. Bill then acknowledged the great job that our FireWise Committee has done and introduced them: Chair - Mike Brockert, with Cindi Miner, Yvonne Brendecke, Brad Bean, Linda Scherfling, and Anne Sweetland. We have recently been recognized as a FireWise Community; there is a sign to this effect at the entrance to Ponderosa Park.

Dumpster and chipper day is September 13. This is solely for branches, trees, slash; NO pine needles. September 19 and 20 will be the Community Garage Sale. Contact Mary Meyers at 445-4885 (4808 S. Ponderosa) if you are interested. She needs at least 10 people to make it worthwhile to run the ads and make the maps. Six families indicated they wanted to participate. Mary will post a sign in the park this weekend. The next sale will be in 18 months, around May 2016.

Bill wanted everyone to know that our membership has increased from only 35 last year to presently having 140 members. This makes a big difference in County requests, for example, snow removal. And we now have social events. Our picnic area is available to groups – just request one of the Board members to unlock it. PPA maintains the bulletin board at the entrance to the park. We also have a Facebook page; just send a request to join. Also, today please list or update your e-mail address at the information table. PPA does have a website; however, we are in need of a volunteer to update and maintain this.

Mike Brockert, Treasurer, gave his report. Total income this year is \$2,925; expenses for past year,

including mailings, dumpsters, signs, cakes, water, bulletin board, stamps, etc. were \$2,489.88. Our present balance is \$2,856.36. \$500 of our \$8000 in our FireWise Grant money was spent for cleanup around the creek picnic area. Patricia Brockert moved to raise the annual membership dues to \$30, this was seconded and passed unanimously.

Yvonne Brendecke wanted to let everyone know how much Gary Roysdon helped the FireWise Committee. He was always there to answer questions and assisted in getting our program up and running. He passed away in August and will be missed. A number of Board and Committee members donated in his memory to further the signage program he promoted.

Cindi Miner spoke regarding the Title III grant. Flyers are available and give information on how to receive up to \$500 per parcel. To qualify you must have a FireWise Committee member do a pre and post inspection of your property, and get a bid(s) with itemized work to be done. If a property owner is doing the work himself, we will provide a form to track work and hours. Reimbursement rate is \$18/hour. Contact Cindi with questions at 928-277-4620 or miner.cynthia@gmail.com. She and Mike attend the Prescott Area Wildland/Urban Interface Commission (PAWUIC) meetings held for all pined communities in our area.

Yvonne said that her grant application is a 90/10 reimbursement. The grant is for ~ \$900/acre. It should be officially signed in September. If your property is over .5 acre, this may be more advantageous to you. Assessment is completed by a certified Fire Zone Inspector. After getting bids, the work is completed and payment is made. Expect 60 - 90 days for reimbursement check. A property may receive only one grant per lifetime. Yvonne's e-mail address is ybrendecke@yahoo.com.

Properties were inspected in the spring by Yvonne, Mike and Cindi. Emphasis was placed on those owners on the South and West side of Ponderosa Park, because the high seasonal spring winds come from that direction. Letters were sent out to some of the owners who needed to do cleanup. Bill said that PAWUIC also has other grant money, so apply for what benefits you most. Also, we do not have to pay for the chipper that will be here on Sept. 13. Please remember though, no garbage or pine needles in the dumpster. The County has information on where you can dump pine needles or just place them in your trash can.

Nominations for Officers for next year were opened and closed. All were passed.

President – Cindi Miner

Vice-President – Yvonne Brendecke

Treasurer – Mike Brockert

Secretary – Linda Scherfling

New Board Members nominated and passed are as follows:

Wayne Grossman

Brad Bean

Bob Hosso

Brad Bean asked for help in cleaning Ponderosa Road. He needs someone with a quad and a trailer. Dan Delk offered to assist him.

Bill Brady concluded the meeting with a special thanks to Patricia and Mike Brockert for getting the food for today and all the work they've done. Meeting was adjourned at 6:35.

Linda Scherfling, Secretary