

March 26, 2011 CCA Meeting Minutes

Present: 29 Carson residents & 2 guests in CCA Community Center, 3:00-4:45pm. (1h, 45m)

August 1, 2010 Meeting minutes read and approved.

Treasurer's report: Elisabeth Maier, Treasurer, reported that we have \$1782.82 in account, \$500 of which is earmarked for the FD. She looked into creating a separate checking acc't for the FD, but that would be too complex for our current needs. Money donated specifically for the FD will be notated in the bookkeeping. Annual dues for 2011 of \$10 per household need to be paid. Please pay with cash or check to the "CCA", PO Box 101, Carson, NM 87517. Attn: E. Maier, Treasurer.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Jerry Boxberger reported that Taos County needs a letter from the Ojo Caliente Fire Dept stating that they will help support us. Jerry invited their fire chief, Nick Sena, and his assistant/trainer, Craig Borner, to this meeting. They have agreed to help us start our fire department and to train us to meet the necessary requirements. The large number of Carsonites who were present at this meeting impressed them.

The importance of establishing a Fire Dept in Carson: Eric Bissell brought up the need for timeliness in arriving at a fire, based on a recent experience he had in Pilar. Mr. Border explained how it takes approximately 15 minutes from when a 911 call is placed from Carson until the Ojo firefighters are driving the trucks out their door. Then, the trucks must stay under the speed limit to avoid rolling over. Thus, it would take Ojo at least 40 minutes to reach a fire here. Mr. Border said we should get trained in fighting structure fires, and explained that structure fires were generally safer to fight than brush fires. Mr. Sena said that there are a lot of aspects to fire fighting, and that while getting established is a difficult task, it is attainable.

Type of service & training: Mr. Borner helped us establish that the type of service we want to provide initially is "First Responder for fires" until we can get our own equipment. One of the main things we want to prepare for is brushfires as well as structure fires. The first thing we need to do to get recognized by Taos County as a viable FD is to establish a training record: the county requires a minimum of 24 hours of training per year. Ojo Caliente Fire Dept trains the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month at 4pm. Mr. Sena stated that although Ojo FD does not have certification for fighting wildland fires they can help prepare us for fighting them. We should also have someone in a 1st Responder capacity for medical, as the biggest risk for volunteer firefighters is heart attacks and vehicular accidents while rushing to a fire. Although we have nurses in our community, we should have several people in Carson get EMS training. Roy Smith plans to do so in the fall. Ideally, Ojo FD wants any patient prepped and packaged to be moved to a hospital. Ojo FD can set up a 1st Responder EMS training- they need a minimum of 10 people to do the course.

Type of people needed to fight fires: Alice Morrison brought up the fact that a number of people in Carson are older, and/or not very strong. Mr. Sena explained that the *best way to have a solid firefighting team is to have a lot of people who can do small jobs*. All jobs in the FD are important. The average age of Ojo firefighters is 57. Smaller, older people tend to be best. In the event of a fire, there should be someone providing food and water to people who are fighting the fire. Someone else should be appointed to look out for the firefighters to make sure they do not get to

the point of collapsing. There should be numerous people posted from the Post Office along South Carson Road to direct Ojo trucks to the fire, which is a great job for those who are not very strong or ambulatory. Also, the fact that we have a phone tree is very good. Staying in touch with one another is key. We should consider buying walkie-talkie radios.

Some firefighting equipment we already have here in Carson: a backhoe, (Ken Drake), and a blader, (Bob Logue). We have 3 wells we can use for water, plus the West Rim well, plus the Wolffs' 9000-gallon cistern. Thanks to the Wilburs, we now have 2 new high decibel sirens that cost \$58. We need to buy a small solar panel for each, and then put up the sirens and test them. One possibility is at the Busicks. Another is the Wilburs.

The type of gear and tools necessary to attend a fire fight: heavy duty boots, cotton pants, layering cotton T-shirts underneath flannel shirts, leather gloves. NO decals, NO nylon, NO polyester because they all melt. Billed or rimmed hats to shade from sun, hard-hats if available, any clothing made of No-max. The most important tools are sharp shovels, Maddocs, and Pulaskis. Have these items easily accessible.

Mapping: Art Wilbur pointed out we need to create a map for those people in Carson who wish to be rescued. If you go to the Taos County Planning Dept they can establish a legal county street address for you that will be in the computer for 911 calls. Elisabeth Maier proposed we create a task force to do a map. We need a large map on which we locate homes, buildings, wells and cisterns. Art said the bottom line was to be able to reach people immediately to create a defensive fire strategy, which means keeping any fire from spreading. Typically, service for fires extends in a 4.5-mile radius around a fire station, but we could go larger as Ojo FD did.

Defensive fire strategies everyone should undertake: Rob Hughes brought up the concern of wind in a fire. Trimming dead branches from trees around your buildings and thinning trees around your buildings is a good defensive strategy and is barely visible. Mr. Sena suggested everyone check the southwest aspect of their buildings, (prevailing winds come from the SW here), and clear these defensible spaces. Make sure you always have a sharp shovel. Contrary to popular belief, tools are the most effective means of first response, not water. Mr. Sena said eventually we could consider using a foam system instead of water to put out fires. Meanwhile, we should continue step-by-step.

Liability: Art brought up the question of liability. Mr. Borner said that an untrained worker who gets hurt on a fire can sue the FD. Once we're recognized by Taos County, we should be able to get \$35,000 liability insurance as a Class 9 unit. Meanwhile, we can go to the county and tell them we are starting a FD and see if we can be covered right away under PERA insurance. We will need to provide names of the FD crew as well as the training they underwent in Ojo, etc. Both Mr. Sena and Mr. Borner encouraged us to work slowly and carefully, and to contact them any time with any questions.

Equipment to procure: Art and Sharon Wilbur did research on obtaining equipment: trucks, tools, clothing, etc. There are 7 different distribution centers nationwide, one of which is in Santa Fe. We need a brush truck, (a tanker would be difficult here as it would need to be empty in winter and would take too long to fill up, plus, Ojo has a 2000-gallon tanker). Santa Fe Distribution center also has all sorts of tools, Nomax fire suits, and even office furnishings. However, in order to procure these things, we need to obtain a 501(c)3 status for the CCA.

CCA Elections: We needed to hold elections for the President, Vice-President, and 1 board member. Bob Logue declined being nominated as President, as he's been so for over 20 years, and he also resigns as being co-signer of the CCA bank account at People's Bank. The election results were as follows:

President: Art Wilbur

Vice-President: Bob Logue

Board Member: Jerry Boxberger

Regarding the CCA bank account, a motion passed unanimously to have Art Wilbur replace Bob Logue as co-signer with Elisabeth Maier.

Plastic stools for auction: Deborah Perrin reported that the Wright Auction House declined putting the stools in their fall auction last year. Consequently, she is submitting the 3 pairs to a Los Angeles-based auction company. A motion passed that if they are accepted, she will set the reserve price at 30%-50% below the auction house's estimated sale price. We will know if they are accepted around mid-April. The 3 miscellaneous stools are posted on E-Bay by Gisele Botani at \$225-\$300 per stool.

Trash on Highway 567: Bob Logue said typically there used to be an annual spring clean up of that road, as the state will probably not do it. Jerry Boxberger will head up a committee to do this. Please contact him to help. Also, Bob said that if you ever need to speak to the county about South Carson Road, refer to it as "Post Office Road", despite signage.

History Book Club in Carson: Elisabeth Maier and Deborah Perrin proposed having a history book club, (not necessarily NM history), which would meet bimonthly here at the CCA Community Center on specific Sunday afternoons. This would be open to all interested. Details tba.

The next CCA meeting, which will be to organize the July 4th Summer Fair and to vote as a community on obtaining a 501(c)3 status, is **Sunday, April 17, 3pm, Quonset.** Please come!