



AGENDA Special Meeting

Subcommittee: Cloverdale Fire Protection District/City of Cloverdale
Special Meeting Date: Thursday, October 15, 2020
Meeting Time: 5:30 p.m.
Meeting Location: Virtual Meeting by Teleconference

IMPORTANT

THIS MEETING WILL NOT BE PHYSICALLY OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, THE MEETING WILL BE BROADCASTED VIA TELECONFERENCING OR OTHER ELECTRONIC MEANS

In order to minimize the spread of the COVID 19 virus, this Regular Meeting will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20, which suspended certain requirements of the Brown Act.

All Members of the subcommittee will be participating in the meeting remotely via teleconferencing or other electronic means consistent with Executive Order N-29-20. If you would like to provide public comment, we encourage you to submit them via email to the City Clerk: iwerby@ci.cloverdale.ca.us.

Please refer to the end of the agenda for instructions on how to view the meeting and provide public comment using Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84484745240>

Subcommittee Members – City Staff – CFD Board Members:

Councilmember Mary Ann Brigham, Chair	Fire District Board Member Nancy Avansino
Vice Mayor Jason Turner, Vice Chair	Fire District Board Member Carol Giovanatto
Police Chief Jason Ferguson	Fire Chief Jason Jenkins
City Manager David Kelley	

1. **Call to Order:**
2. **Communications:**
 - a. Wayne Diggs - Open Space Wildfire concerns (09/14/2020)
3. **Public Comment:** Members of the public may comment on any matter not on this agenda. Please limit comments to three minutes. Members of the public may comment on items on the agenda when the subcommittee considers that item. To make a public comment, use the “raise hand” 🙋 icon on your smart device or desktop computer, or dial *9 if you are using just your telephone.
4. **Approval of Minutes:** (June 8, 2020)
5. **Current Items for Discussion**
 - a. File of Life
 - b. Update on Vegetation Management Activities in the City and District
 - c. Defining areas of responsibilities of the Fire District and City Public Works as applied to areas such as yearly business fire inspections, fire hydrant maintenance on private property, etc.
 - d. Update on Fire Season
 - e. Discuss Future Meeting Schedule

6. **Information Only Memos**
7. **Future Agenda Items (subject to change):**
8. **Pending Items**
9. **Good of the Order**
10. **Adjournment:** Adjourn to Monday, February 8, 2021, at 5:30 p.m., or alternate date as requested.

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THIS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

This Meeting will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the Governor’s Executive Order N-29-20, which suspended certain requirements of the Brown Act.

In order to minimize the spread of the COVID 19 virus, please do the following:

- Attendees may join the meeting through the use of Zoom at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84484745240>
Webinar ID: 844 8474 5240, or by calling US: +1 669 900 6833
- Attendees will be muted until they are called upon for Public Comment. To make a public comment, use the “raise hand” 🙋 icon on your smart device or desktop computer, or dial *9 if you are using just your telephone. Please listen carefully for the Chair or City Clerk to address you by name (or phone number) and for the audible Zoom notification that you have been unmuted. Once you begin your public comment, your three (3) minutes will begin.
- If you would prefer to submit public comment in writing, please email your comments to iwerby@ci.cloverdale.ca.us. If you are commenting on a specific agenda item or items, please state the agenda item number(s) in the subject line of the email. All comments received via email will be provided to the Subcommittee in writing and included as a part of the record of the meeting.
- The City of Cloverdale thanks you in advance for taking all precautions to prevent spreading the COVID 19 virus.

CERTIFICATION – Pursuant to Government Code § 54954.2, the agenda for this meeting was properly posted on or before 5:30 p.m., 10/08/2020

From: [Melanie Bagby](#)
To: [Irene Camacho-Werby](#)
Cc: [Wayne Diggs](#); [David Kelley](#)
Subject: Re: Open Space Wildfire concerns
Date: Monday, September 14, 2020 9:24:06 AM

Please add this to correspondence received for the next City Council meeting.

Melanie Bagby
Councilmember, City of Cloverdale
707-893-7170 • mbagby@ci.cloverdale.ca.us
www.facebook.com/cccmbagby/

From: Wayne Diggs <diggsmail44@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 12, 2020 11:25:56 AM
To: Doug (trails) Newton <cdfig1@att.net>
Cc: Mary Ann Brigham <maryannbrigham@comcast.net>; Bob Casebeer <rmcasebeer@ymail.com>; Jim Neighbors <Greatlife54321@comcast.net>; Michael Cooper <cooperm@comcast.net>; Tom Clark <tandjclark61@gmail.com>; Wayne <diggsmail44@gmail.com>; David Ankrom <dankrom46@comcast.net>; Hal & Vicky <halnelson@sbcglobal.net>; Jan Reid <Jancr114@yahoo.com>; John Niehaus <jlniehaus@sonic.net>; Kay L. <klanier@mchsi.com>; muriel niehaus <maniehaus@sbcglobal.net>; Vicky Groom <groomskis@comcast.net>; Jason Turner <jturner@ci.cloverdale.ca.us>; Melanie Bagby <mbagby@ci.cloverdale.ca.us>; Susan Wat.. <manager@clover-springs.org>; Jack + Walter Gendell Fitzsimmons <wgendell@msn.com>; David Kelley <dkelley@ci.cloverdale.ca.us>
Subject: Open Space Wildfire concerns

Good Day Doug et-al:

I am writing on behalf of the residents of Sonoma Drive specifically and the entire Clover Springs community.

I have noticed a large increase in fallen trees lately in the open space. Specifically, on the creek side trail (aka "Preserve Trail") above the wooden bridge is a very large oak tree (now dry as tender) that has come down in the past year. Further up, almost to the mine (cave) there is another large tree down. These are both on the north-west side of the trail.

As you know, fallen trees provide fuel for any fire that might start. I know that there most likely are not resources to clean up the forest floor throughout the park, but I think it would be an excellent idea to clean up newly fallen trees and branches below 15 feet, alongside the major trails. 100 feet on both sides would be ideal.

We certainly know that forest fires are going to be more prevalent in the coming years and anything we can do to protect the open space would be beneficial, not only to the open space but to the community as a whole.

I am not sure who would be the ones to undertake this job. As the park is owned by the city, I will copy the city council. Doug, would your organization have access to any funds or volunteers to do some clean up work to help fireproof the open space. If you can think of anyone who might be helpful in this, please feel free to forward my email to them. With the increase in wildfires, those of us living adjacent to the openspace have a heightened awareness of fire prevention and taking proactive action.

Thanks, any assistance you can provide is appreciated.

Wayne Diggs



DRAFT MINUTES

Subcommittee: Cloverdale Fire Protection District/City of Cloverdale
Meeting Date: Monday, June 8, 2020
Meeting Time: 5:30 p.m.
Meeting Location: Teleconference

Subcommittee Members – City Staff – CFD Board Members:

Councilmember Mary Ann Brigham, Chair	Fire District Board Member Nancy Avansino
Vice Mayor Jason Turner, Vice Chair	Fire District Board Member Carol Giovanatto
Police Chief Jason Ferguson	Fire Chief Jason Jenkins
City Manager David Kelley	

1. **Call to Order** Vice Mayor Turner called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. He explained the COVID19 protocol for meetings and explained the procedure for participating and submitting comments. Present: Fire District Board Member Carol Giovanotti, Fire Chief Jason Jenkins, Police Chief Jason Ferguson, Chair Turner, David Kelley. Councilmember Cruz sat in for Councilmember Brigham. Introductions were made. Fire District Board Member Nancy Avansino joined later in the meeting.
2. **Communications:**
 - a. Letters of Support for Permanent Bridge on Russian River at Asti City Manager Kelley noted that City Council unanimously approved to send this letter to Supervisor Gore. The goal is to find a permanent solution to access in the area to provide effective ingress and egress for residents in case of fire or emergencies.
3. **Public Comment:** Leland Yates, local resident, grazes sheep and goats at Sea Ranch to provide vegetation management and recommended the same practice for the Cloverdale area. Grazing reduces fuel, is environmentally safe, and is an effective tool to manage grasslands. It links communities and is good for the landscape. Fire Chief Jenkins stated it could be a good practice for grassland areas that border residential areas. Mr. Yates offered to extend his services to the Cloverdale area.
Public comment: None.
Recommendation: Assistant City Manager/CDD Thompson will meet with Parks & Maintenance Lead Galvan and bring something back for discussion. Cost analysis will also need to be done.
4. **Minutes Approved:** August 18, 2018
5. **Current Items for Discussion**
 - a. Update on Vegetation Management Activities in the City and District City Manager Kelley reviewed the vegetation management maintained by the City (cemetery, river park, airport area, Porterfield Creek open space) and is working to develop of a fire management plan for the City and surrounding areas that will include collaboration with the Fire District and the County. Best management practices could include goats and sheep to manage vegetation as a valuable way to manage weeds. The plan needs to include environmental consideration and good fire management practice and regional planning. Fire Chief Jenkins stated it is a good idea, and updated the subcommittee about weed abatement inspections, letters sent for non-compliance, and upcoming inspections. Compliance has been good. The Fire District also inspects parcels outside the City limits and will continue to partner with CalFire to target high fire areas further out.

Public comment: Bob Cox, Cloverdale resident, mentioned that the convict crew did not provide vegetation management across from Ranch House Road this year, and would like the weeds cut. He supported Mr. Yate's proposal.

Leland Yates indicated he would need property identified and acreage quantified to establish the grazable area and built a plan. Ingress and egress also need to be mapped out for trailer access. They utilize transportable electric fencing, and all is removed when grazing is complete. Councilmember Cruz indicated that an estimate of cost per acre would be needed.

Recommendation: No action taken update only.

- b. Update on preparation for the upcoming Fire Season City Manager Kelley noted that this year, lacking the convict crew, less vegetation management was done. Fire Chief Jenkins indicated that the Fire District is staffed and ready for a normal fire season and have been doing inspections and public outreach. Wind is the primary dominant factor in fire spread. There are no further vegetation burns scheduled for this year.

Public Comment: None

Recommendation: Remain as a standing item on the agenda.

- c. Planning for 4th of July Activities and Fireworks City Manager Kelley stated that TNT Fireworks had submitted a management plan for fireworks use and distribution that includes education about safe use and COVID19 protocol. Police Chief Ferguson stated the Police Department will use NIXLE 360 to provide community updates to the community and the departmental priority is public safety. Designated times and places for sale and discharge of fireworks will be placed in NIXLE, as well as park rules. Since the 4th is on a weekend this year, people may come in from other areas. The department will be fully staffed. Chief Jenkins indicated that the Fire District plans to have extra fire patrol and the launch area at the baseball field will be cordoned off. Plans are subject to change by the County. Vice Chair Turner was pleased at the collaborative effort and the effort to ensure safe practices, which could be a benchmark in the future decision whether to continue or stop safe and sane fireworks. Councilmember Cruz asked to keep Council informed as plans develop.

Public comment: None

Recommendation: A meeting will take place with the City Manager and stakeholders to get the message out to the community.

- d. Debrief on March 2020 Fire Tax Ballot Measure City Manager Kelley, referring to the measure that failed to pass, noted that there is critical need for additional revenue for citywide functions. Discussion ensued that the measure did not provide governance structure to support tax measure of that magnitude. Other ways need to be found to increase revenue for the District. The City may bring back the utility user tax, however, the voters are the ultimate decision makers. Fire Chief Jenkins added that the ballot measure had challenges and hurdles and did not allow Cloverdale to have a voice in how the funds were used. The money could be used outside the community. Local control is needed for effective local fire protection, and our elected officials need to decide what is best. There are plans in place for the District to partner with Geyserville in a Joint Protection Agreement, and a Sphere of Influence study is taking place to annex the Geysers Area. Currently all that revenue goes to the south. If successful, the ½ cent sales tax increase will not be needed. The Northern Sonoma Fire District will have name branding and imaging and the focus will be on how to

best serve the north county. If the JPA fails, Cloverdale could consider increasing assessments, which are the lowest in the County.

Public comment: None

Recommendation: Keep collaborating, possibly put something on ballot, avoid tax fatigue. Encourage partnership. Keep collaborative communication regarding tax measures as a standing item on the agenda.

- e. Discuss Future Meeting Schedule Discussion ensued that quarterly meetings would continue to be scheduled.
6. **Information Only Memos** - None.
7. **Future Agenda Items (subject to change):** Councilmember Cruz would like to establish children youth activities that involved the fire district.
8. **Pending Items** - None.
9. **Good of the Order** - None.
10. **Adjournment:** Chair Turner adjourned the meeting at 6:33 p.m. to Monday, October 12, 2020, at 5:30 p.m., or alternate date as requested.