

Burland Civic Association Meeting

The Burland Civic Association met on Saturday, March 13, 2004. Bob Worley, Vice President and Acting President, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Mary Ellen Sawyer was appointed pro tem Secretary. Bob introduced John Pawlik, Wildland Mitigation Specialist with the Platte Canyon Fire Protection District. John presented information on what was done with regard to the recent mapping and survey program, and how this information will be used by the Fire Department in mapping roads, houses, vegetation, water supply, etc.

The Fire Department hired an outside company, Anchor Point from Boulder to complete Phase I that covered the area from Rim Rock to Kenosha and Harris Park to Burland, and beyond. They looked at the overall district, which consists of over 4,000 homes, and 275 square miles. Considering their ratings of high, moderate, and good, Burland was rated moderate. In evaluating the individual homes, consideration was given to driveway width, vegetation, spacing of trees, location of propane tanks, and these types of things. They did not mitigate, that is to say, what you should do to improve your property for fire danger. John then explained what fire could do with regard to being "slope driven" or "wind driven".

John also explained there may have been some misunderstanding by homeowners as to the extent of this Phase I survey i.e., that length of time spent at each home was approximately 10 minutes for mapping and/or surveying only, not mitigation. Actual mitigation can be performed by the Fire Department and is a free service upon request by calling 303-838-5853. John emphasized that certainly those homes that have been mitigated stand the best chance of being saved in the event of a wildland fire.

John further stated that apparently there was a rumor that there were letters available as a result of the mapping survey, which could possibly be used in obtaining a discount from your insurance company. If you request and receive a mitigation by the Fire Department, a letter can be provided that you have had the mitigation performed; however, they are not in a position to provide a letter to every homeowner as a result of the mapping survey by Anchor Point. John mentioned that insurance companies are becoming increasingly involved, and discussion followed concerning corporate offices located in larger cities seemingly making insurance decisions for rural areas.

John explained more in detail the importance of being "fire-wise" i.e., no trees within 15 ft. of the house; maybe one tree considered to be part of the house, then 15 ft. for other trees, and 15 ft. to 70 ft., branch to branch; trimmed up to at least 8 ft. Driveways should be 12 ft. wide and at least a 14-½ ft. high clearance. He further explained ladder fuel, and lower branch torching from grass; and trees that should be spaced so if fire goes up the tree, it hopefully, will not jump. He talked about flying embers, and explained progress of fires with grass to woodpiles, etc. Mitigation involves, trees, spacing, and grasses. John stated

that it is extremely important to break continuity of various threats to your house e.g., grass, fences, woodpiles, etc.

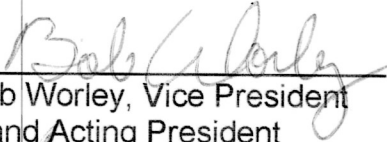
There was discussion on the availability of fire retardant paint. John said it is his understanding that fire retardant paint may be available in the future. Foam is currently available; however, keep in mind, you must have the capability for its use such as water and electricity. He stated not to get complacent with the use of foam because a generator may be required, water supply, etc., and this would not be cheap, nor is it a self-supporting system.

John demonstrated a computer program showing examples of the information gained from the mapping survey i.e., utilities, fire protection, access, topography, vegetation, construction, etc. The Fire Department used GPS in identifying all houses and water supply and John showed certain houses at the request of those attending the meeting, briefly assessing and making suggestions that might lessen fire danger.

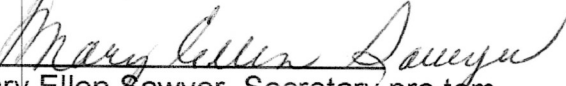
John stated the PCFD will be hosting "firewise community" information on April 24-25 and they would like to get homeowners involved by volunteering with this project. There is also a website with valuable information which is www.firewise.org.

Minutes of the last meeting and treasurers report will be available at the next meeting. Because a quorum was not available, other items of interest will be discussed at the next meeting as well.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.



Bob Worley, Vice President
and Acting President



Mary Ellen Sawyer, Secretary pro tem

AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BURLAND CIVIC ASSOCIATION
3/13/04

1. Determination of Quorum
2. Election of pro tem Secretary
3. Minutes of last regular meeting
4. Special Appearance: Platte Canyon Fire Department Representative
5. Reports of Officers
 - a. Treasurer's Report
 - b. President's Report (Bailey Mountain)
6. Reports of Committees
 - a. Mail Box Committee
 - b. Covenant and Zoning Committee
 - c. Grant Committee
7. Unfinished Business
8. New Business
9. Open Forum