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MINUTES of the 2019 WILDFIRE MITIGATION CHAMPIONS WORKSHOP – 16 Mar 2019

The meeting began at 8:30 on 16 March 2019 at the Colorado Springs Fire Department (CSFD) Complex, 375 Printers Parkway, Colorado Springs, CO 80910.

Steve Paradis and Sandy Gallof were present, representing the CCHOA.

- a. Brett Lacey, Colorado Springs Fire Marshall, started the meeting by recognizing USAA as an advocate of Firewise Fire Mitigation.
 - 1) Brett stated CSFD currently has 22 Fire Stations, but will soon grow to 23 stations.
 - 2) In 1993, the first Colorado Springs fire mitigation ordinance was passed.
 - 3) Experience gained from the Waldo Canyon fire led to changes in the existing ordinance.
 - 4) The keys to fire mitigation are hardening structures and mitigating fuel. This leads to sharing the responsibility between the CSFD and homeowners.
 - 5) Brett stated the CSFD is working to enforce the codes.
 - 6) The CSFD will, beginning in Spring 2019, start to go through neighborhoods and pointing out ordinance violations.
 - 7) Since most of our homes were built in the 50s to the early 70s, they are not covered by the current codes (unless the homes are remodeled-in which case they must meet current codes).
- b. Jeremy Taylor, CSFD Presentation
 - 1) The 2018 Chipping Program saw a decrease, from 2017, in homes participating, tons collected, loads, and cubic yards collected.
 - 2) Jeremy stated he was not sure if the decrease was due homes running out of material to be chipped or just losing participation.
 - 3) He reminded us that the chipping is only for woody limbs/branches up to nine inches in diameter.
 - 4) Ashley Whitworth, CSFD, is the Point of Contact for the free on-site consultations. Her number is 719 385-7342.
 - 5) Jeremy stated the CSFD is recommending people sign up for the chipping program via the Web (coloradosprings.gov/wildfiremitigation). Those who sign up online will receive email reminders both a week before and the weekend before the chipping starts in their neighborhood.
 - 6) The CSFD is looking at developing an app for chipping program signups but it is not yet available.
 - 7) Jeremy pointed out that the CSFD tracks chipping program participation by homes signed up, not by piles.
 - 8) Jeremy stated the CSFD worked with FEMA to produce a 15-minute best practices video. This video, once completed, will be posted on the CSFD web page.

- 9) Jeremy told Steve that, before we can get any funding for Palmer Park, we need to show more community involvement. To aid this, the CSFD is looking at combining neighborhood Fire Mitigation presentations to address more communities surrounding Palmer Park at one meeting.
- c. Sherry Storey Presentation
- 1) Sherry presented the status of the Ute Valley Park project. This project has three areas, 72 acres, 80 acres, and here acres.
 - 2) Sherry stated the Denman Project, in Broadmoor Bluffs, is almost completed.
 - 3) Another project in the Broadmoor area will cover 128 acres. This project will start in 2019
 - 4) In 2019-2020, work will also start in the Bear Creek Park area, covering 34 acres.
- d. Eric Howell, Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU), Presentation
- 1) The Colorado Springs water supply system is spread over 11 counties and covers three million acres.
 - 2) The CSU fire behavior triangle is Fuel, Weather, and Topography.
 - 3) The CSU is reporting no bug infestation currently in the forest area under their supervision
 - 4) Most of Colorado Springs water comes from the Arkansas River.
 - 5) CSU is partnering with the US Forestry Service.
 - 6) A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Forestry Service was developed after the Waldo Canyon fire.
 - 7) Together, they have developed a 2018-2025 Action Plan and a 2019-2023 MOU Action Plan.
 - 8) The Colorado Springs Forestry Service and CSU ave teamed for some projects, primarily in open spaces.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Sanford Gallof, Secretary
CCHOA BOARD