



County of Placer
Foresthill Forum

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REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – Approved 7/10/23

Monday, June 5, 2023

1. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance: 7:03pm

2. Welcome & Introduction of Members:

Chase Dowling - Chair, Stephen Smith – Vice-chair, Larry Jordan, Gail McCafferty, Sharon Page, Debbie Sanchez, Joshua Miller

3. Approval of June 5, 2023, Agenda:

MOTION: Jordan/McCafferty 7/0 to approve Agenda as amended to move minutes approval to next month and add 10 minutes to section 7. B2.

AYES: Dowling, McCafferty, Sanchez, Miller, Smith, Page, Jordan, Miller

ABSENT:

4. Approval of May 1, 2023, Minutes: Moved to next month.

5. Public Comment:

1. Paula Bertoncin – Spoke regarding the Placer Food Bank and some issues that she is seeing as a volunteer. She requested that County Health look into what is being donated. Also requested information or assistance for recently graduated or graduating students who may not have internships on their resumes as many are applying to jobs and being automatically denied.

6. Forum Member Comments:

1. Gail McCafferty – Spoke regarding a community member who was heavily involved in many Foresthill clubs and associations having passed away for those who may have known her. Thanked the Foresthill Divide School on behalf of the Foresthill Fabric Friends for allowing the use of space in the old Elementary School after their space was destroyed.

7. Reports:

A. Public Safety:

1. **Placer County Sheriff's Department (PCSO):** Sergeant Griffiths – Showed off and explained some of the features, technologies, and requirements of the new uniform vests that Deputies will be starting to wear. The campaign for being river-wise is much different this year. The river is different and very dangerous. Tell your friends, tell people who are not from around here. Do Not get in the water it is very dangerous.





2. **CHP:** Officer Kelly – Went over stats for the month. Memorial Day weekend was very busy. Their new focus is on Trucks and Motorcycles for enforcement.
3. **Cal-FIRE / Placer County Fire Department:** Assistant Division Chief Counts – Gave report stats for the month. June 12th station 11 will be open and then fully staffed with two engines on June 26th. A new vegetation management project will be starting soon. Also spoke regarding a training that happened the week prior and what that training covered.
4. **Foresthill Fire Protection District:** Chief Matcham – **Special Presentation** – A Special recognition was given to Chief Matcham by the County and Forum members for his dedication and excellence in Protecting our community during his time as Chief. Chief Matcham will be leaving in June. Chief Matcham then gave his report for the month. Thanked the community for allowing him to serve them. We are fully staffed at this point minus one Captain position and the departments have been able to stay fully open all of May. Thank our firefighters when you see them out and about, they are putting in crazy hours and working hard to keep us open staffed and safe. Thank you, forum members and community. Chief Matcham then presented the Forum members and the County supervisor and Director with special Challenge Coins as thanks for all they do for the community and explained the significance of them.
5. **U.S. Forest Service:** Michelle Barry – Reported that there are about 5 million dead or dying trees in the Tahoe national forest area that were noticed in the last year. Sugar pine and the OHV area are open, other areas are slowly opening. A readiness drill was completed by USFS staff in the last few weeks. Because of the current weather, possible fire starts are expected and being actively monitored. The USFS is in partnership with the County for post mosquito fire recovery projects. Placer county is the 3rd highest county in terms of dead trees. There is a meeting set for July regarding the slide on Ralston Rd and potential plans for repair as that is a severe slide. USFS is also in partnership to get Mosquito ridge road repaired. There has been an Engineer out to assess and they are hoping to get that completed by the end of the year.
6. **Foresthill Fire Safe Council:** Chase Dowling – Our Wildfire preparedness day had about 15 people attend due to the weather, but it was a good event. The green waste day filled four thirty-yard bins and had lots of volunteers. Hoping to see more people take advantage of the program next year. The Ridgeview and Sequoia areas should have received a letter regarding a fuels reduction project, still looking for a few more responses on that project from homeowners.
7. **Placer County Fish & Game Commission:** Not in Attendance

B. Committees & Community:



1. **Foresthill Union School District:** Not in Attendance
 2. **Placer Union High School District:** Gary Jackson – Presented on the Internet and what the school is up to in regard to classes and technology development and access for students and continuing education students. Please take the Placer County Broadband survey. Asked that the community enroll your students in the classes, volunteer to be an assistant in the classes, and ask Placer school for adults to add the classes to their schedule.
 3. **Parks & Trails Subcommittee:** Gail McCafferty – Nothing new to report
 4. **Foresthill Chamber of Commerce/Economic Development Council:** Debbie Guidi – The June 14th Chamber Mixer is cancelled. The 4th of July is coming up. She spoke regarding some of what is planned for that so far. The Heritage Festival is also coming up and she went over some of what is planned for that event. If anyone is in need of food, there is leftover food available from the Lord Sabaoth food ministry at the Chamber during business hours 10-2pm. The cement pads for the park are supposed to start being poured on the 6th. Volunteers are needed to help. An office person is still needed for Mondays if anyone is interested please contact the Chamber.
 5. **Foresthill PUD:** Not in Attendance
8. **County Report:** Supervisor Gustafson – Showed Pictures of Mosquito Ridge Road and some of the damage as requested by Forum members. Answered the question regarding where the reforestation trees will be planted and spoke a bit about what is being done to prepare for that. The Ponderosa Bridge is on target for mid-July completion. The cell towers near the high school were just upgraded to 4g broadband as permitted. Please take the county Broadband survey and urge others to do so as well so that they can get an accurate picture of the County's needs in this area. Spoke regarding some of the upcoming items on the Board of Supervisors agendas. Cal-trans will be working on an 180 repaving project to hopefully cut down on the big fires along the 174 separation in Colfax.
9. **Action Item(s):** None
10. **Information/Non-Action Item(s):**

A. Placer County General Plan Update

In November, The Board of Supervisors directed County staff to initiate an update to the Placer County General Plan. The updated General Plan would look ahead to the year 2050 and is expected to propose adjustments based on current issues and emerging trends, positioning Placer County to create balanced physical and economic growth for approximately the next 25 years. Staff provided an overview



of the scope of the update, plans for public outreach, opportunities for citizen involvement, ways the Municipal Advisory Council will be involved, and next steps.

Presenter: Placer County Community Development Resource Agency staff

B. French Meadows Forest Restoration Project Update

Representatives from Placer County and Placer County Water Agency provided an update on the French Meadows Forest Restoration Project as it relates to tree removal, forest thinning and biomass removal.

Presenter: Kerri Timmer, Placer County Forest Health Coordinator, Darrin Reintjes, Placer County Water Agency

11. Future Agenda Items: Can El Dorado Forest service come present.

12. Adjournment: 9:36pm to next tentative meeting on July 10, 2023.