MINUTES

Monday, October 21, 2019 – 4:00 to 6:30 pm
Barnes and Sawyer Meeting Rooms – 1300 NW Wall Street, Bend

Call to order and summary of October 14 meeting (Nick Lelack)

Nick Lelack went over the agenda and provided a summary of last meeting. He introduced Doug Green, City of Bend and City of Sisters Fire.

Members Present:
Brent Landels – Remax Realtor
Brian Braddock – Farmers Insurance (Retired)
Geoffrey Reynolds – Home Owner
Jim Figurski – Landscape Architect
Jodie (Joe) Foran – Fuels Management (BLM Retired)
Ken Kehmna – Redmond Fire and Rescue
Martha Meeker – Home Owner
Matt Van Coutren – Hayden Homes
Roger Johnson – Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire District
Patrick Davenport – City of Sisters
Karna Gustafson – Central Oregon Builders Association

Staff Present:
Nick Lelack, Community Development Director
Chris Gracia, Assistant Building Official
Peter Gutowsky, Planning Manager
Zechariah Heck, Associate Planner
Ed Keith, County Forester
Tim Berg, Applications Systems Analyst III
Ines Curland, Applications Systems Analyst I
Ashley Williams, Administrative Assistant

Discuss Wildfire Hazard Maps/Zones concepts (Ed Keith, Tim Berg)

Tim Berg discussed how GIS works and how it can be used as a tool for decision-making. He provided examples about how data is compiled and manipulated on the backside. Ed Keith described how fire polygons are interpreted and how the amount and type of vegetation is scored. For instance, a specific type of foliage will receive a score from 0-3 and also how much of that foliage is present will get a score from 0-3. There was a discussion about the low decimal count due to limiting the study area. There was an additional discussion about weighted averages.
Staff went over each map and the data composition of each one. There were requests to break these maps into smaller territories for easier viewing and to remove the schools map. There was discussion about fire behavior including ember travel distances, evacuation models and procedures, fuel types, defensible space, slope, wildfire protection plans and fuel scoring before and after construction buildout. The evaluation of these items was intended to lead to a conclusion about an appropriate fire-hardening radius. Ed Keith offered to review and bring fire behavior journals for the Committee to the next meeting.

Break

Nick Lelack brought the committee back together. Commissioner Henderson of the Board of County Commissioners briefly joined the meeting to thank members for their work on this endeavor. There was further discussion on the maps based on staffs follow up questions from the prior discussion. The Committee requested that population be a parameter in developing maps as well as explanations of why the design of the maps should not be lot by lot. It was requested that a list be provided at the next meeting of homes built within the last year that would need to have fire standards applied had they been adopted.

There was consensus that the maps would probably evolve throughout this process. In closing, Nick provided a summary of the outcomes of the discussions so far this evening.

Resume Wildfire Hazard Maps / Zones discussion (All)

Chris went over the questions that had originally been slated for discussion this meeting. It was decided that those questions were premature at this point. There was discussion about the perception of risk versus the probability of risk. There were also discussions about what would be considered catastrophic, and how to define that term. It was decided not to attempt to define the term. There were discussions about the end results achieved by these discussions and what level the preparedness was trying to achieve. For instance, is the end goal to prevent house fires, or prevent losing a City, similar to the Paradise California fire? Ultimately it was decided that these decisions will have to be made and likely the choice will be between choosing safety or costs.

The discussion closed with noting that cost is a topic for an entire meeting, and that any people with supplemental information should prepare it for that meeting.
Identify and discuss R327.4 decision points (Chris Gracia, Ed Keith)

This topic was discussed with the prior discussion item.

Preparation for November 4 meeting (Project Management Team)

Zechariah went over the agenda for November 4th. Nick said that staff would also be checking in with the Board of County Commissioners that week. It was requested that materials be provided to staff by Monday October 28th to include in the packet. Chris Gracia offered to read the legal language at the next meeting.

Adjournment

Next meeting:
Monday, November 4, 2019 – 4:00 to 6:30 pm
Barnes and Sawyer Meeting Rooms – 1300 NW Wall Street, Bend