

**Portal Rescue Board Meeting
(04/14/09)**

1.0 The meeting convened at 6:00 p.m.: All nine Board members were present (Rick Beno, Tom Davidson, Dinah Davidson, Susanne Dyal, Jeff Gee, Cheri Greenwade, Jackie Lewis, David Newton, and Bill Wilbur). Community members attending from Portal (P) and Rodeo (R) included Alicia Davidson (P), Maya Decker (P), Mary Evans (P), David Johnson (P), Barbara Miller (P), Reed Peters (P), Bonnie Sites (R), and Phil Stewart (P).

2.0 Agenda: The agenda for the meeting was accepted after amended to add two items: discussion of new letterhead, and a proposal for a new fundraiser (Jackie Lewis). Dinah moved to accept the agenda as amended and Bill seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

3.0 Acceptance of the Minutes: Dinah summarized Rick Beno's minutes for the March meeting, and Jackie's motion to accept was seconded by Rick and passed unanimously.

4.0 Reports:

4.1 President's Report: Tom Davidson: Tom announced that the required annual AZ Corporation report had been submitted on time (11 Apr 09), and that he had paid the \$10 filing fee from his own account.

4.2 Treasurer's Report (Rick Beno):

4.2.1. Rick thanked the Jan Gee family for proposing donations to Portal Rescue as an alternative to flowers. The Jan Gee Memorial Fund has so far accumulated \$3600. Jeff has additional checks to give to Rick.

4.2.2. Net income from the three fires fought so far this year will be about \$9,330. Gross income was \$15,000. Firefighters are paid once funds have been paid to Portal Rescue.

4.2.3. The PR Rainy Day Fund currently includes \$27,162, and both this and \$15,000 in the Muma endowment are available for investment (discussion deferred until later in the meeting). At the current interest rate with Edward Jones (0.01515%), the combined \$42,162 would be expected to earn us just \$6.39 for the year. We can do better (discussion deferred to later in the meeting).

4.2.4. Currently, all categories of assets (including the RD Fund) total \$61,699. Donations year-to-date equal \$7,557 (good, considering the newsletter just went out), and fundraisers have contributed \$8,206 so far this year. The budget is appended for Board members.

4.4 EMT Chief's Report: Jeff Gee:

4.4.1. Since the March meeting, EMTs have responded to four calls: 2 Portal residents, 1 visitor, and 1 UDA. The request for EMT support for the UDA was passed from fire site commander to USBP, which then requested PR EMT support. PR EMT support (firefighters and EMTs) were on site.

4.4.2. The new dispatch system appears to be coming together well (but see below).

4.4.3. The joint EMT, FF, and Search & Rescue meeting has been moved to May, but RCOs should attend a session on radio communication on Saturday, April 18, at 1:00 pm.

4.3 Fire Chief's Report: David Newton

4.3.1. Since the March meeting, PR FFs have responded to two fires and one false alarm (refuse burning by Portal resident). We netted \$3750 from Pothole and Mayday fires.

4.3.2. At the monthly meeting, a training calendar was established. Six FFs recently attended a refresher course.

4.3.3. Three fire radios were stolen from David Newton's house. Jeff recommended that we consider the deductible in the context of radio costs before reporting the theft to our insurer, and he Gee pointed out that we often get radios at little cost on grants (e.g., 10/90 grants).

4.3.4. Barbara Miller asked whom Portal residents should notify when they plan to burn yard refuse. Bill Wilbur and fire chief David Newton will devise a new plan that won't require toning out all firefighters. However, in the interim, residents should phone Dave or another firefighter who can tone

out all on the fire bar. Any new system must take into account the fact that refuse fires can sometimes later get out of control.

5.0. Old Business:

5.1. The new PR office remains in the planning stage until materials (single-pane windows, drywall, etc.), are picked up in Tucson (probably next week by Jeff Gee). Estimated total cost is \$700.

6.0 New Business

6.1. Tom Davidson asked Board members to present themselves and their goals for terms on the Board. He directed Dinah Davidson to summarize these goals in a form that will permit their prioritization at the May Board meeting. (See the summary attached to these minutes.)

6.2. *Per diem* meal rates (B,L, D) of \$8, \$10, and \$12 were reaffirmed. (These rates had already been approved; the circulated document with lower rates was an older version and in error.) The *per diem* lodging rate of \$70 remains unchanged. Jeff Gee pointed out that EMTs and FFs can usually get good rates on lodging if they identify themselves as such, and favorable conference rates are usually worked out in advance. A discussion of fuel/mileage rates followed, and it was decided by unanimous vote (David moved, Cheri seconded) that actual mileage be determined from online maps and be reimbursed at \$0.20/mile, a figure that should increase proportionately in relation to changes in the \$0.14/mile charity rate as fuel costs escalate. Rick asked that any donations of expenses be submitted to him with receipts so that he may properly account for costs and donations in the budget and provide donation receipts to those who request them.

6.3. Dinah noted that, in light of recent experiences and the imminent seasonal departure of a very active RCO, PR should seek out and train additional RCOs, preferable including people living near the PR base. Tom Davidson suggested that this be added to the list of goals (above and attachment). Bill Wilbur will contact George May about continuing problems with the phone bar.

6.4. Rick Beno proposed changing our investment strategy for a portion of the Rainy Day Fund and for the Muma Fund, in order to capitalize on somewhat higher available interest rates available from GMAC online banking, compared to those we currently get by investing with Edward Jones (see above). The Muma endowment of \$15,000 would be invested in a single CD, returning 2.65% on an annual basis. Rainy Day Funds in the amount of \$15,000 would be invested at the same rate in 3 separate \$5,000 CDs, possibly made at successive 3-month intervals, with funds held in a savings account (at a rate of 2.25%) prior to investing. Rick's motion to this effect was seconded by Suzanne and passed unanimously by the Board. Jeff expressed the desirability of continuing to try to maintain a year's operating expenses in our 'available monies' account.

6.5. Rick Beno announced that, in view of our goal of increased community outreach and accessibility of PR resources to active members, it was highly desirable to establish an interactive website. Rick volunteered to confer with Chris Talbot and cost this out.

6.6. Tom provided a thank-you card to acknowledge Sew What's contributions to PR. Board members will be asked to sign after a note is written in the card.

7.0. Addenda

7.1. A short discussion of new PR letterhead was undertaken, and a vote postponed until an exemplar could be designed and exhibited at the May meeting.

7.2. Jackie Lewis asked the Board's permission to explore the possibility of a June 18th fundraiser (Luau) to benefit PR. The Board unanimously granted that permission.

7.3. Bill Wilbur moved that we formally thank Bill Walters of Umphries Propane for his regular contributions of propane to PR. Bill moved that he have permission to investigate obtaining a donation receipt for Bill Walter's costs. Dinah seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

8.0. For the Good of the Order: A May 9 bird count will also serve as a PR fundraiser. This is run by Dave Jasper, and people can pledge money for nos. of species counted.

9.0 Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

