



Steering Committee Meeting Minutes December 6, 2021 on Zoom at 7pm

Attendees: Patricia Fuenzalida, Eve Collins, Joy Elson, Gregg Dwight, Joanne Browne, Eileen Jorgensen, Brian Waag, Susan Wiesner, Jeff Coleman-Hunt, Annette Seabury, Christy Barden, Ellen Hagan, and Spencer LeGate - a quorum

Introductions were made. The agenda and minutes were approved.

Treasurer's report

Susan reported a balance of \$10,482 with only 1 major expense left to be paid - officer's liability insurance.

Neighborhood Reports

Brian reported that there had been a leak in the NID canal on his property since July. A supervisor finally came out to inspect the situation. The canal will need to be closed down to make the repair. Brian was frustrated by what he sees as NID's lack of engagement. It was suggested he contact Ricky Heck who is our NID district rep.

Neighbors on Mt. Auburn Circle have mentioned to Gregg about smoke created during burning and its impact on air quality. Patricia explained that it's a dilemma because burning is an established way of getting rid of brush, but it needs to be done properly. An article in the newsletter could address the correct way to burn brush.

Welcome Folders

Joanne reminded us that she has Welcome to the Neighborhood folders - 8-10 left. How many should be on hand? The material is available on the website, but it was agreed that having something to hand deliver to a neighbor is preferable. It would be nice to have a GCHNA label on the folder. Annette explained that she's talked with Laura Waag who is a graphic designer about redesigning our logo. We might provide a car sticker to each member.

Spring Firewise Event

Each year per our action plan GCHNA must work to identify high risk areas in our community and organize a fuels reduction event to improve fire-safe road clearance. We have also committed to reducing fire risk in the Open Space areas. Where should we put our energy this year?

Joy Elson reported on a conversation with Donna Rossi from Indian Trail who's concerned about land owned by Nevada City which she believes to be a fire hazard. Annette explained that it might be eligible for the Nevada City Slivers program in which people adopt a sliver of land and clean it up. Erin Minett is the person to contact.

An area of private land on Indian Flat with remnants of old mining activity had also been mentioned. The FireSafe Council may be able to help in this case.

Ferrellgas contract

Brian and Susan met with reps from Ferrellgas and we have renewed our contract for 3 years. Brian presented the highlights. This year our cost per gallon will be Ferrellgas' cost plus \$.58. Next year it will be the same and the third year will be cost plus \$.60. This represents the 2nd lowest rate given to groups like ours. Tank rental will still be \$35. There is a discrepancy in the number of GCHNA members (200ish) and the number of people receiving the discount (400ish). Brian will look into why this is so. Using the automatic fill program allows for most efficient delivery. In the future there may be a device on the tank that sends fill data to Ferrellgas.

In-Person Spring Social

There is enthusiasm for a social gathering. Patricia and Richard Katz have offered to host a gathering in May. Chris Owens has offered his property. Annette suggested we use a questionnaire and ask people what they'd like. Eileen, Eve, and Patricia will work on the event.

Hirschman's Pond Plaque

The pedestal has been set. Patricia will find out where. A public ceremony will be planned for the spring.

Nisenan Follow Up

Possible ways we could support the Nisenan were discussed. Annette spoke with Shelley Covert and relayed that the tribe's energy is being put into lobbying for legislation to gain Federal tribal recognition. An on-going donation, a one time donation, a general donation fund, could be considered. Should we solicit the approval of the membership before proceeding?

Newsletter

The winter edition should be mailed in Jan. Ellen would like articles to be submitted ideally in mid Dec. Articles would include: Patricia's message, the Ferrellgas update, Firewise information including mitigation numbers from the annual report, the waste bin program, effective burning strategies, an update by Joy about what's new on the website, and the membership renewal with a return envelope. Spencer LeGate who spent time on Cement Hill as a youth will write about his remembrances. Joy suggested we ask members to submit photos.

New Neighborhood Rep

Jan Hart has been officially elected to the Steering Committee. She along with Eve Collins will be the area rep for Daisy Blue Mine, Augustine, and Excelsior Ditch Camp roads.

Firewise Committee update

The annual report required to maintain our Firewise Community designation has been submitted. Joanne reported that 70 households submitted data to determine the amount of money our community has contributed to mitigate fire danger. \$412,000 was gained by hours spent on defensible space. \$401,000 was gained in other categories. Our total is \$814,000! We agreed that we can see a difference along Cement Hill Road.

Officer Election

An election of Steering Committee officers and members needs to be done. A replacement for Susan as Treasurer has yet to materialize. Patricia and Joy will work on making the election happen.

2022 Calendar

The next meeting will be in Monday, Feb. 7, 2022. Continuing the Monday meeting schedule of the past, the 2022 dates would be: Feb. 7, April 4, June 6, Aug. 1, Oct. 3, and Dec. 5.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Hagan, Secretary