



Greater Cement Hill Neighborhood Association Steering Committee Minutes

October 3, 2022, 7 pm at the Madelyn Helling Library Amphitheater

ATTENDEES: Steering Committee Members (10): Joanne Brown, Christy Barden, Joy Elson, Ellen Hagan, Uli Paulin, Elena Rayo, Bill Holman, Gregg Dwight, Eileen Jorgensen, Debbie Wandro. **Members/Neighbors:** Amanda Ringnaldo, Brad Reynolds, Mollie & Alan Feeney, Karalynn Buchner and Stan Hooper. **Guests:** Susan Rogers from the Coalition of Firewise Communities, Heidi Hall County Supervisor, and County Assistant Executive Officer Caleb Dardick .

First Business: The meeting was called to order by Joanne Brown, who had generously agreed to run this month's meeting in place of Annette Seabury. Introductions were made. The minutes from the last meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Joy reported a bank balance of \$10,096. 2022 membership revenue to date - \$4,751. Year to date expenses - \$4,453. Liability insurance of \$1,000 still to be paid.

Neighborhood Reports

- Waste Management hasn't been picking up trash and recyclables as promised. It is a county-wide problem due to a shortage of personnel. Gregg explained that he'd tried to contact a local rep to voice his concerns, but had not been successful. Heidi Hall suggested he contact David Garcia at the county at david.garcia@co.nevada.ca.us.
- Uli reported that he and three neighbors using W. Airport Road met with the Nevada City Manager to discuss the status of maintenance of the road. It is not owned by the city and the city won't take responsibility for its maintenance, but it has been accommodating in the past in some ways. It was a positive meeting.
- The Feeneys, who live on Wet Hill Rd, are concerned that people are smoking near Marsh Pond in Tobiassen Park. The no smoking sign that had been there was taken down and not replaced. Also the landslide is still creeping into the road. Heidi Hall responded to these two concerns and said she would follow up on them. The landslide issue is being addressed, but stabilizing the bank has proven difficult.

Measure V Presentation

- Caleb Dardick is the County's Assistant Executive Officer. His department was directed by the County Supervisors to address their concerns about emergency preparedness, particularly wildfire. Measure V is the result. If passed in Nov. it would add 1/2 cent to our sales tax for fire mitigation which would include hazardous tree removal and brush clearing, encouraging property owners to create defensible space, shaded fuel break projects, free green waste drop off, providing grants for Firewise Communities, equipment, and brush clearing help for low income seniors. A fact sheet can be found in the latest GCHNA newsletter. Having a locally controlled source of revenue would enable our county to be more competitive when it comes to applying for grants. The tax would raise \$12 million - 2/3 spent on fuel mitigation and the rest on communication. There will be accountability. The budget will be developed by a technical advisory committee with community volunteers. There will be a community oversight committee, which will audit expenditures.
- Susan Rogers from the Coalition of Firewise Communities explained the benefits of Measure V and recommended we support its passage.

Firesafe Mitigation Forms: Joanne had tabulated the mitigation forms that have come in. 86 people responded with data on the money they spent and/or the hours they worked to improve their defensible space. That's about the same number as last year. Last year the total was about \$800,000. This year 18,903 man-hours of work were submitted and multiplied by \$28.54 (which is what an hour is worth) equals about \$540,000. That's how much our effort is worth. \$1,449,564 was spent outright by our members. Our community's total efforts toward mitigating fire danger this year was \$1,909,056! Almost two million dollars! What an awesome job we're doing! Thank you to all who contributed data.

Areas of Concern for Fire Hazard

- Joanne explained that the County Office of Emergency Services would like to know what the areas of concern are in our neighborhood.
- The Old Airport property has been an issue in the past.
- Hirschman's Trail is owned by Nevada City and is littered with dead trees and brush that's overgrown and it is a threat to the neighboring properties.
- A shaded fuel break along Hwy 49 has been suggested by the Greater Champion Firewise Community as a project to be explored.
- Joanne invited members to suggest other areas of concern.
- Elena mentioned a 17 acre parcel near Applewood Lane privately owned by the Orzali family that is in need of clearing.

Fire Safe Council Membership Benefit: Joy explained that as members of the FireSafe Council we qualify for one priority full day of chipping. It was to cost \$600, but now the Fire Safe Council might accept a lower donation. She recommended that we call week of October 16 to schedule a day before the end of the year. Joy will send an email explaining the program and asking people who have piles of brush to be chipped to sign up.

Membership: Joy reported we have 236 members, which is two more than this time last year. 48 members are new. 46 members in 2021 did not renew (several of them have moved out of the neighborhood).

Neighborhood Road Rep: A new road rep for North Bloomfield/Wet Hill is needed.

General Comments

- One of the members mentioned that an area along the ditch nearby needs weed-whacking and asked if he could simply do it. Heidi Hall responded that it's a liability issue and depends on the jurisdiction. It could be CalTrans' responsibility.
- First District Supervisor Heidi Hall has asked that we provide her contact information. She can help find the right staff to answer our questions. We can also sign up for a newsletter. Her contact info is heidi.hall@co.nevada.ca.us or <http://www.mynevadacounty.com/nc/bos/district1>
- To subscribe to Supervisor Hall's quarterly newsletter, which is issued digitally (via email), you have to sign yourself up here: <https://www.nevadacountyca.gov/2517/District-I-Quarterly-Newsletter>

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be Dec. 5, 2022, 7pm at the Madelyn Helling Library Community Room. GCHNA will need a Steering Committee Member to volunteer to run the next meeting. Please volunteer. You will have support!

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Hagan, Secretary