



Greater Cement Hill Neighborhood Association Steering Committee Minutes

December 5, 2022, 7 pm at the Madelyn Helling Library Amphitheater

ATTENDEES: Steering Committee Members (6 – not a quorum): Joanne Brown, Christy Barden, Jeff Coleman-Hunt, Joy Elson, Uli Paulin, and Elena Rayo. **Members/Neighbors:** Spencer Le Gate, Ray Barri, Will Hart, Tom Elson, Meghan Coolbaugh, Willie Brusin, Sue Brusin, Amanda Ringnald, and Stan Hooper.

First Business: The meeting was called to order by Joanne Brown. Introductions were made. Since there wasn't a quorum, approval of the previous meeting minutes was not done.

Status of GCHNA:

Joanne quoted the mission statement. GCHNA has been a Firewise community since 2012. We have three vacant road rep positions, and no president. She shared a recently developed list of road rep responsibilities. There was a discussion of how to get more neighbors involved to keep GCHNA alive, which included Uli Paulin referring to a survey done in the past which showed that neighbors are most interested in GCHNA's role publishing the newsletter, coordinating the discount with Ferrellgas, our Firewise Community status, and the yearly social picnics.

Willie Brusin brought up the challenge of having good internet access in our area. He said that communicating with members and neighbors mostly by email may be part of the problem, and suggested more communication via regular mail, phone calls, and knocking on doors.

Elena Rayo said that events bring people together, and the suggestion of a new events coordinator steering committee position was made. Uli suggested that being a road rep or on the steering committee be a one year commitment. Joanne asked everyone in attendance to think about who we each know, and if there is someone we think may like to get involved, let her know.

New Road Rep for the Airport Road area: Uli Paulin volunteered to replace Annette Seabury.

2023 Firewise Needs:

- A Fire Risk Assessment Report by GCHNA is required in 2023. This will involve working with the local OES, Cal Fire, and the Fire Safe Council to identify any changes to the previous assessment (done in 2011), and what is needed to comply with current requirements. This assessment is required to maintain our certification as a Firewise Community and we will need the help of GCHNA members.
- A fuel reduction activity is required for our Firewise standing. Joanne suggested a scotch broom pull, and asked for locations where this is needed. She suggested the city-owned property on Indian Trail. Stuart Le Gate suggested an area along Diamond Oaks.
- It was pointed out by Ray Barri that a 25% savings with home insurance is possible, by providing insurance company with our Firewise Community certificate, which is available on our website.

Neighborhood Chipping Day for members by the Fire Safe Council:

Joy said that about a dozen members had signed up to participate, and that it would take place sometime in December. A couple of attendees had not seen the email sent to all members about this service, which again brought up the idea of not relying solely on emails to communicate with members. Joy said she would send them each the information about the chipping requirements and they could ask to be added to list of participants. An informal vote by the meeting attendees was in favor of the suggested donation of \$600 to the Fire Safe Council after the chipping was completed.

Home Insurance: There was a discussion about challenges getting affordable fire insurance. It was suggested that we have an article about current issues with fire insurance in our next newsletter. Ray Barri and Willie Brusin said they'd be willing to be interviewed about what they know.

General Comments:

- Given the challenge of having enough steering committee members at a meeting to have a quorum for voting, the question was raised if we should change it to a lower percentage?
- Joanne talked about the OES Priority Project. One priority area the GCHNA Firewise Committee has identified is Hirschman's Pond with 80 acres and 20 private properties bordering it. She asked for other suggestions. The BLM land uphill from Hirschman's Pond, Sugarloaf Mountain, and the Old Airport Property were all mentioned. Amy Traugot had sent an email to Joy suggesting that we need to deal with the acres and acres of dead manzanita on the ditch trail at left spur down to Excelsior Ditch Camp Road. Joanne has the suggestion form to fill out, and she will do it for the Hirschman's Pond area. She suggested that others volunteer to submit the form for the other suggested areas.
- Joanne said that she had asked the city how much money they had spent for fire mitigation in our area (to include in the Firewise Community application), and the city reported that they had spent \$6,600.
- A member had brought up the idea with Joy about considering changing the name of Cement Hill to an appropriate Nisenan related title. Stuart Le Gate, whose family has been here for generations, felt that Cement Hill is an important historic name, and was not in favor of any change. Joy said she'd find the article written by Susan Wiesner about the naming of Cement Hill.
- Joy reminded everyone that the next Nevada County Firewise Communities Meeting, in person or by Zoom, was December 6 at 5:30pm, with the topic being "Where's the Money for Firewise Community Projects?"

Communications from GCHNA:

Joanne talked about the idea of doing weekly short email blasts, citing the example that the Lake Wildwood Firewise Community is doing this, focusing on fire safety issues to members. She suggested that this could take the place of the time consuming newsletter. Topics could include a map of the fire evacuation routes available to our neighborhood. Uli Paulin advised not publishing the map to everyone, but that it could be ok if it was sent out to members by each neighborhood rep. It seemed the short email blasts could be welcome if sent out by the road reps, but not as a replacement for the newsletter.

Another benefit of GCHNA:

Willie Brusin talked about how the water service for our neighborhood came about, pointing out that it helped a lot that the GCHNA was behind and supported the request.

GCHNA Donations:

Joy shared list of donations and fees to pay on behalf of GCHNA before the end of the year. They included: Bear Yuba Land Trust (\$100), Yubanet (\$240), Uba Seo/Nisenan (\$100), Fire Safe Council yearly membership (\$249), and the fee for the meeting room at the library for the six 2023 meetings (\$120). We didn't have a quorum for formal approval, but took a vote from all in attendance and all had a unanimous Yes vote. Joy will send out an email to all steering committee members to get a formal vote.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be February 6, 2023, 7pm at the Madelyn Helling Library Community Room. Elena Rayo suggested we offer Zoom access to those who can't attend in person. GCHNA is looking for a Steering Committee Member to volunteer to run the next meeting. Please volunteer. You will have support!

Respectfully submitted,

Joy Elson (standing in for Ellen Hagan)