

GCHNA Steering Committee Meeting Minutes Monday, June 7, 2021, 7 pm (via Zoom)

Attendees: Patricia Fuenzalida, Susan Wiesner, Ellen Hagan, Christy Barden, Uli Paulin, Joy Elson, Gregg Dwight, Randy Newsome, Eileen Jorgensen, Elena Rayo, Justin Sternberg, Ray Gedney, Joanne Brown.

Informal Introductions made while waiting for attendees to arrive and to determine a quorum.

Patricia called the meeting to order. Approval of April 5th meeting minutes was overlooked as it was not on the agenda. The June 7th mtg agenda was approved with addition of the date.

Officer Reports:

The Secretary was not available early in the meeting so no report.

The Treasurer reported a current cash balance of \$10,264.

Paid Membership numbers not reported. Eve not in attendance.
(Subsequent checking on LGL shows 215 paid members for 2021).

Neighborhood Reports:

Uli Paulin reported on the April Airport cleanup and education event – a very successful firewise event. Kudos given to Annette Seabury, Eileen Jorgensen and Uli Paulin for their work on this gathering which might be considered a model for future neighborhood events.

Gregg Dwight reported on the annual Gochine/ Mt Auburn annual meeting during which John Paul presented information on the potential roll out of Fiber Optic service to the Cement Hill area. Gregg requested that we encourage neighbors to respond to the survey that has been distributed to the area. There is no commitment involved but rather a survey to learn if there is interest in obtaining faster service than the AT&T DSL service that has been available to residential customers. He recommended an email blast to our database.

Ray Gedney gave an overview of his experience in dealing with an absentee neighboring landowner to clear their 8 acre property on Bodie Ridge Road to meet firewise requirements. It took more than a year of navigating various agencies and initiating a lawsuit to encourage the owner to take action. Ultimately, the owner hired All Phase to clear 4 acres which were adjacent to Ray's property. He clarified that the county ordinance previously in place to deal with this situation has subsequently been replaced by Article #463. It was suggested that GCHNA representatives become more familiar with the steps required and include that in the "education" proposals of our firewise plan.

Elena Rayo voiced her concern about the extreme clear cutting that has been done on a property that straddles the Cement Hill canal near Augustine Road. While responsible clearing is encouraged to prevent the spread of wildfires, the recent work seemed to disregard possible environmental degradation of the area due to the clearing of almost all trees and undergrowth. Many of the trees on this property and an adjacent property were felled and rolled downhill below the ditch and never removed. It was theorized that this clearing might have been done to allow for Starlink Satellite internet access being constructed by SpaceX.

New Business:

When a quorum was achieved, Joy reported that she has volunteered to assume Membership responsibilities from Eve. Having worked with Eve for the past several months she feels comfortable with the job and is eager to bring her experience with LGL and Wordpress (our website software) to fully utilize these programs for our neighborhood's benefit. The Steering Committee fully supports her in this effort. We hope that Eve will continue to be involved with GCHNA as a newsletter editor, neighborhood rep or a member at large. Her service over the past 20 years should be recognized in the future when we may be gathering in person.

Joy's suggestion that we add a PayPal option to our website was approved. Members will be able to use it for membership dues, additional donations ie: toward the Hirschman's plaque if it is approved. Randy spoke about delays getting the plaque approved - a possible environmental study as well as concern of "plaque clutter".

The 3-year GCHNA Firewise Action Plan (drafted by Ellen Hagan and Susan Wiesner) was presented and discussed. Some Steering Committee member did not receive the attachment and it was recommended that it be re-sent before the August 2nd meeting. The plan must be submitted to the local Firesafe council and Cal Fire for their approval before submission online to the NFPA by early November. There was general concurrence with the concept that the various road reps become more active in communicating with their immediate neighbors in identifying local needs and evacuation plans. However, this does raise the issue of those road reps who do not have the internet access and have not been able to attend the zoom meetings or those neighborhoods that do not currently have an active rep. How should those neighbors be effectively reached?

Eileen spoke about an upcoming meeting she, Uli and Justin will be attending regarding annexation of homes around the Old Airport and Sugarloaf Mountain. (The meeting happened Tuesday and she's quite enthused.)

Eileen spoke about her brother and his commitment to using prescribed burns as an essential tool to keep communities safe from wildfire. She suggested he could write an article for the newsletter.

Other Business not finalized.

Spring Newsletter: Articles should be submitted by mid August

Next Steering Committee Meeting: It was agreed that the August 2nd meeting would be in person. Susan advised that the Library Community Room was not available as of this date and library staff was uncertain about when it would open to the public. Christie offered his Big Yellow Barn as a possible venue. The time of the meeting was also discussed and not finalized. It was agreed that several items need to be finalized and communicated via email.

Also, the content of an interim email blast to all database needs to be drafted. It might include

- A reminder to respond to the Fiber Optic Survey.
- Date, time and place of the August meeting.
- Information on Zonehaven.com and "Know your Zone". This should be sent to individual Reps. How will this be utilized by Red Alert or Emergency Services?

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Wiesner and Patricia Fuenzalida