



**Greater Cement Hill Neighborhood Association
Minutes of the Steering Committee Meeting
August 1, 2022, Madelyn Helling Library Amphitheater**

Attendees:

Steering Committee Members: Ellen Hagen (meeting chair), Eve Collins, Joanne Brown, Joy Elson, Uli Paulin, Jan Wood-Hart, Annette Seabury, Christy Barden, Greg Dwight, Bill Holman, Jeff Coleman-Hunt, Eileen Jorgensen, Marlena Widmann. Others: Ginger Konvalin, Dan Bibelheimer, Jacquie Weills, Molly Breen, Dick Mooney, Karalyn Buchner, Janet Johnson, Jonathan Robinson, Sue Thompson, Donna Darling, Jim Darling, Gary Brown, Margaret Brown, Chuck Coovert, Paul Trethewey, Ray Barri, Diane Rossi, Rip Martin, Will Hart, Jim Keem, Kristy Cortright, Elizabeth Dieter, Rebecca Sonu, Sheldon Dean

Introductions were made. The agenda and minutes from the last meeting were approved.

Treasurer's report:

Joy reported a bank balance of \$9,923 with only one major expense left to be paid (officer's liability insurance). Membership dues = \$4,710. Y-T-D expenses = \$4,194.44. Gathering expenses = approximately \$1,800.

Neighborhood Reports

- Eve reported seeing a large bear in her yard at 9:00 a.m. and encouraged others to be mindful
- Annette said a mountain lion has been visiting her property and recently took a chicken. This happened at 3:00 p.m., which is an unusual time for lions to be out-and-about. She called Fish and Game but did not receive a call back.
- Several people have been seeing rattle snakes near their homes. We were reminded the young rattle snakes are the most dangerous.

Firewise Community Committee Report

- Committee members were introduced: Ellen Hagen, Joy Elson, Joanne Brown and Annette Seabury.
- The committee met, organized and agreed on task assignments. We are in year two of a three year Action Plan. The education and information goals have been met; however, we did not succeed in holding an annual fuel reduction event. The intention to assist a member living on Crystal View did not materialize due to the inability to obtain event insurance covering volunteers working with chain saws and a chipper. We need to have plans in place by February, 2023, for a Scotch Broom Pull event in March.
- The Nevada County Board of Supervisors accepted \$100,000 from the League of California Community Foundation's "Disaster Relief, Recovery and Resilience fund." Twenty-six \$3,600 micro-grants will be awarded to Firewise communities to reduce hazardous vegetation from the December 27, 2021 storm. The Sierra Business Council will administer the application process. August 15th will be the deadline for submissions. Focus and details of the program were discussed.
- Two Fire Safe Council programs were explained. The council is actively seeking 600 qualified low-income and/or disabled residents for their Access and Functional Needs program which helps create defensible spaces. The Low Cost Defensible Space Clearing Service provides similar assistance but is a paid service with no income, age or disability requirements. Details are available at www.areyoufiresafe.com.
- Joy explained that as a Fire Resilient Member of the Nevada County Firesafe Council, GCHNA can take advantage of a priority chipping service where our neighborhood can arrange for an up to eight hour day of chipping. The charge is still \$75/hour, but their equipment will travel throughout the neighborhood and chip all piles ready. The materials will be blown back onto the property or left in a pile. Information about the program can

be found on their website, and is also posted on gchna.com. We will coordinate with everyone to schedule a date for this service.

- Attendees were reminded to submit completed mitigation forms no later than October 1st. Road reps were encouraged to contact their neighbors and nudge them to fill-out forms; possibly to even deliver forms in person. Several people said they had difficulty completing the form online. One person said the system wouldn't allow him to enter a total amount spent. Another person said the form was not user-friendly and she gave up. Joy will look into the situation.

New/Old Business

- Marlina Widmann received a unanimous vote to become the new Sunrock Road Representative.
- Ellen made a plea for new volunteers. GCHNA still needs someone to step up and become the president.
- Janet Johnson was introduced as a potential candidate for the position of Treasurer. She talked about her experience in bookkeeping and accounting since the 1970s and said she still works for various small businesses. Janet received a unanimous vote in favor of taking over as Treasurer.
- Spencer LeGate previously voiced concern over speeding on Cement Hill Road. In response to that concern, Annette posted "Try Slow" signs that appear to be helping.
- Annette agreed to chair the next Steering Committee meeting.

Committee Reports

- Ferrellgas will fill small propane tanks (BBQ size) for the same price/gallon as our large household tanks. You may leave the small tanks by your large tank when a fill has been scheduled and the driver will fill them even if you are not home. If you have a second home with a propane tank, Ferrell will honor the GCHNA rate at that location, too. One member said he had Ferrell install a second tank on his property which he keeps "capped" but will be able to use should he ever run out of propane again as he did during the December storm.
- Ellen asked that articles and photos for the summer newsletter be submitted by September 1st.
- Membership: 232 paid as of 8-1-22. Twenty-seven of those were received since the May 22nd gathering.
- Fifty responses to the survey regarding the May gathering were received. Suggestions for future gatherings:
 - GCHNA might avail itself of open spaces like Sugar Loaf and the Old Airport
 - A native plant walk-and-talk on BLM land
 - An Office of Emergency Services employee could attend an event to explain the County's Dashboard

Community Input

- The Hirschman plaque has been vandalized. Repair/replacement is a complicated process involving both the City and the Landmark organization.
- Squirrels, gophers and moles have been creating serious yard problems this year. Perhaps a speaker familiar with humane ways to deter them could address a meeting.
- By Googling UCIPM (University of California Integrated Pest Management) you can access a Master Gardener website that addresses garden pest issues.
- Two Go-Bags GCHNA received for supporting the Fire Safe Council were raffled off. The winners were Diane Rossi and Christy Barden.

The next meeting will be held on October 3rd in the Madelyn Helling Library Community Room from 7:00 pm until 8:30 pm

The meeting was adjourned "before 8:30."

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Brown, Substitute Secretary