



Greater Cement Hill Neighborhood Association
Minutes of the Steering Committee Meeting on February 5, 2024
(Met via Zoom)

Attendees

Steering Committee: Christy Barden, Joanne Brown, Eve Collins, Dale Creighton, Joy Elson, Ellen Hagan, Will Hart, Janet Johnson, Eileen Jorgensen, Spencer LeGate, Elena Rayo

New Steering Committee Members: Karen Wcislo, Amanda Ree Ringnald

Others: Victor Estrada-Hildebrand, Heather Campus, Cheryl Haines, Mike Betts, Richard Katz, Greg Dwight, Brad Reynolds, Alan Barbour

The meeting was called to order by Will Hart, President.

The minutes from the previous meeting in December were approved.

Treasurer's Report

- Janet reported that our income was \$2,730. Expenses included \$1,018 for the newsletter. This amount is significantly over the \$500 we'd budgeted. However, the \$500 budget didn't include mailing a full eight page newsletter to all members. There was a decision made that it was important to mail the full printed newsletter to all the members, which is why the expense was over the budgeted amount. Our bank balance is \$5,559.
- Directors and Officers Insurance: Janet had gathered more information on the policy we've bought in previous years. It protects our Steering Committee against suits that may occur regarding actions taken or not taken. It does not cover accidents that might happen at brush clearing events. Will and Joanne will form a committee to gain more specific information. Another insurance agent might be an additional resource. We might take advantage of the lawyer available at the library. A decision about whether to purchase the policy will be made at a later date.

Membership Report

- 2024 new or renewing members as of today: 106
- Total Members for 2023: 238
- We hope to surpass that number this year, but are less than half way at this date.

Firewise Committee Report

- Karen Wcislo is the new chairman of this committee, which also includes Ellen Hagan, Will Hart, Joy Elson and Cheryl Haines. Many thanks to Joanne Brown for her efforts over the years leading the Committee.
- The Committee met with Evan McLenithan, the new Risk Reduction Officer for the City of Nevada City and made him aware of our concern about fuels reduction needed on the Hirschman's Pond and the Old Airport properties. Since that meeting, Joanne and Karen reached out to Evan about a Scotch Broom pull on Indian Flat above Hirschman's Pond. He will arrange for the City to collect the debris and encouraged us to do the work.
- Committee members attended the County Community Wildfire workshop, which is gathering input and prioritizing needs. The County's report will be forthcoming.

- The Committee provided input for the County OES Evacuation Study. The Cement Hill neighborhood was not identified as a priority area.
- The Fire Safe Council chipping program is free for residents this year. GCHNA members can contact them and arrange for chipping. There will not be an organized chipping day for GCHNA members as was indicated in the January newsletter.
- The Committee had discussed a Scotch broom pull fuels reduction event, but Karen was informed that there is no place to dispose of the Scotch broom, so the event planning is on hold. (See note above.)
- Goals for the Firewise Committee in the coming year include the writing of a 3-Year Action Plan incorporating the recommendations from the Risk Assessment Survey last summer. Educating and motivating members to create defensible space, harden homes, and plan for evacuation are key provisions.
- An event with a speaker, either a Fire Chief or Sheriff, to address evacuation preparedness will be recommended. We could have several presenters at a 2-3 hour event. Details need to be coordinated with the GCHNA Events Committee.
- Fire Safe Council fundraiser on June 1 at Lake Wildwood - Joy reported on this event. The Firewise Committee will encourage GCHNA members to attend. The individual ticket price has been reduced until March 31.
- The Firewise sign at Cement Hill and Wet Hill needs to be replanted. Brad and Will will see to it.

AT&T

- AT&T wants to discontinue providing landline service.
- Will has contacted the Public Utilities Commission and will facilitate making them aware of the members in our neighborhood who rely on this service.

Election of Officers

- The Officers were elected unanimously as a block:
 - President - Will Hart
 - Treasurer - Janet Johnson
 - Secretary - Ellen Hagan
 - Membership - Joy Elson
- New Steering Committee Members were elected unanimously:
 - Karen Wcislo (Firewise Chair)
 - Amanda Ree Ringnalda (Event Committee Chair)

Idaho Maryland Mine

Will reported that there will be a Board of Supervisors meeting addressing this issue on Feb. 15th and 16th. GCHNA members are encouraged to attend.

Next Meeting

The next Steering Committee Meeting will be on Monday, April 1, 2024 at the Madelyn Helling Community Library.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Hagan, Secretary