



Greater Cement Hill Neighborhood Association
Steering Committee Meeting Minutes – April 7, 2025
7:00 pm at the home of Will Hart

Attendees: Will Hart, Joy Elson, Ellen Hagan, Sierra Buryn, Tom Creighton, Eileen Jorgensen, Spencer LeGate, Debbie Wandro, Marlene Widmann, Karen Wcislo - quorum (*Note: only steering committee members were invited to this meeting*)

Will called the meeting to order. The minutes were approved.

Membership Report

Joy reported that we have 258 current members.

Scenic Corridor Committee Report

A Scenic Corridor Committee was officially approved. Eileen reported that they had met and she outlined a proposal to highlight the guidelines of the Scenic Corridor Ordinance, which has been in place since 1968 and states the goal to “protect the existing essential character of Nevada City...” Our focus is the two mile stretch of Hwy 49 from the 20/49 intersection to Newtown Road. The committee is proposing that GCHNA help finance a professional study of the corridor, which would be presented to the City, County, and CalTrans with the hope that the landscape design recommendations would be adopted and guide future development.

Will made a motion that we budget \$1,000 to cover part of the cost of this study, which would be \$5,485. The motion did not pass. It was suggested that the Committee reach out to the City and Heidi Hall to make them aware of our concerns, remind them of the Scenic Corridor guidelines, and ask that they require future development projects to landscape accordingly.

(Just a note - not in the official minutes. The day after our meeting, landscaping work was done in front of the Ranch House building.)

Budget Proposal for 2025

Joy presented the proposed budget (attached here) compiled by Treasurer Janet Johnson for discussion. We were provided with information showing actual revenue and expenses for 2024 and projected revenue and expenses for 2025 along with a history of our year-end bank balances from 2020 to 2024. The total membership revenue seems down from last year, but that is because of the change in the way member dues are now collected. After discussion of the annual picnic, that allocation was lowered to \$2,500. Under General Expenses, membership dues to the FireSafe Council will not be made. Dues will be made to YubaNet. The allocation for a spring or other firewise educational event was lowered to \$1,000. The expense we'd budgeted to provide green waste bins for our members will not be needed, as the County will be providing them to us for free. The budget as amended was approved.

Firewise Committee Report

- Karen reported that Spencer LeGate and Mark Ball have joined the Firewise Committee.
- GCHNA is helping to sponsor a presentation May 1 at the Helling Library by Ms. Fites-Kauffman on fuel management options including prescribed burning. Mark suggested we collect names of people interested in doing these burns in order to follow up and build on this idea.
- Will reported that PG&E has responded to his request that the logs stacked on Augustine be taken away. OMS Field Services is a new subcontractor and seems to be cooperative.
- Will will contact Adam Aucella regarding the emergency access road at the far end of Cement Hill. He'll ask for a day to be organized when GCHNA members can walk to the road.
- Karen summarized the OES projects that have begun or have been proposed using the 60 million dollar grant that they received. The CWPP document that is now in place guides these allocations.
- The County will be providing GCHNA members with bins for green waste. Joy and Spencer have compiled a list of interested residents and are working with the Steven Renz from OES on dates and placement.
- At a meeting Karen attended, OES shared lessons learned from the LA fires, which included the danger from wooden fences and climbing vines. People need to be encouraged to evacuate early.
- The Hoyt Purdon prescribed burn project is going well.
- The Firewise Committee is asking Road Reps to reach out to neighbors. "Find your 5" is an idea to be encouraged. Neighbors working together to assess and improve private roads in regard to meeting 4291 requirements will be encouraged.

Oasis Broadband vs. Race Update

Both companies are active in our neighborhood. Karen reported that they now have internet with Oasis Broadband and are well satisfied.

Newsletter

Ellen reported that the spring newsletter should go out this month. She'll send out a notice asking for articles. She'd like to highlight members doing exceptional firewise work on their properties.

Announcements

The next Steering Committee Meeting will be on June 2, 2025 at 7 pm at the Madelyn Helling Library Community Room

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Hagan, Secretary