Greater Cement Hill Neighborhood Association
Steering Committee Meeting Minutes – August 3, 2026
7:00 pm at the Madelyn Helling Library Community Room

Attendees
Steering Committee: Will Hart, Joy Elson, Christy Barden, Joanne Brown, Sierra Buryn, Tom Dale Creighton, Eileen Jorgensen, Todd Krein, Laura Pappani, Brad Reynolds, Laurie Segal, Erin Smith, Karen Wcislo, and Susan Zdarko (a quorum). *Member:* Patricia Graves

Meeting called to order by Will Hart. Introductions around the circle were made.

Minutes from the previous meeting on April 6 were approved.

Treasurer's Report by Joy Elson on behalf of Janet Johnson
- Joy shared Janet's report numbers. Revenue year to date is $6,484.67. Expenses year to date total $1,490.56. Current bank balance is $19,699.26 which includes donations made to the Pello Property Project.
- Janet provided a proposed budget for 2026, which we haven't approved formally yet. Joy will share with the Steering Committee and ask for yay or nay vote by email. Since the projected bank balance at the end of the year will be $14,705, Janet suggested that GCHNA considers spending more money this year for a good cause, since we do not need such a large cushion of funds in the bank account.
- The budget amount of $2,500 was approved for the annual gathering in October.
- There is one member in our neighborhood who was potentially interested in becoming our bookkeeper, but who is not interested in attending meetings or taking on the title of Treasurer. Joy and Janet both talked to her, but they would prefer that Janet continue to serve as Treasurer until someone new is found who will participate on the Steering Committee and attend our meetings.

Membership Report by Joy Elson
- There are 244 current member households, with 55 lapsed members who have been reminded via email to renew.

Firewise Committee Report by Karen Wcislo
- We now have two Cal-Fire trained Defensible Space Advisors available for our neighborhood – Josh Miller and Molly Breen. Cal-Fire will also do advising, and they did that recently for more than one property in the Indian Trails area. If there is a complaint in a neighborhood, Cal-Fire will come out and review the whole neighborhood area. Their findings are recorded in a database that is not accessible by insurance companies, but all Cal-Fire truck personnel have access to it.
- The new recommendation for non-combustible material at the base of the walls of a house is two feet, instead of six inches.
- There are two Watch Duty cameras out on Bodie Ridge, and the Chute Fire smoke was visible by the cameras.
- The email to neighbors in the proposed expanded controlled burn area resulted in several neighbors responding to Julie Fair with American Rivers, and Julie was happy about that.
- Karen attended a You Bet Fire Committee event recently. She talked to someone about BLM land in their area being included in a grant request. The grant writer might be interested in writing a grant related to the BLM land in our neighborhood.

- The Wildfire Ready Coalition of Nevada County (WRCNC) post their zoom workshop on their website. Karen recommends watching the Evacuation Plan A, What's Plan B presentation, and will send an email to everyone about it.
- Fire truck turn around signs are recommended.
- For the recent round of free chipping and the green waste bin – Joy will send an email to all who participated and provide Steve Renz' email address, encouraging people to send a thank you for the service.
- Brad Reynolds reported that the Old Airport Property is looking really good after the recent clearing/cleaning. Someone else mentioned that the first five feet of the Indian Flat/Indian Trail city property is also looking good.

NID Report by Laurie Segal

- Laurie was welcomed by the meeting attendees to the Steering Committee as our new NID Representative.
- Laurie reported on the 7/22/26 NID Board workshop meeting, about the proposed NID rate increases. On 7/23/26, the Nevada City Council approved moving forward with a proposed five-year rate adjustment for Nevada City water and wastewater (sewer) customers, which will include a 9% rate increase in 2027, and cannot exceed 12.5% per year over the next five-year period. There has not been a rate increase since 2020. Laurie said that 90% of the water goes to 5,000 irrigation customers, with the remaining 10% going to 20,000 customers.
- Laurie talked about grant funding for Spaulding spillway project - $25 million is possible as a matching fund. NID will have to provide the first $25 million. Letters of support from the community are welcome as they help support the grant request. Laurie will write a summary letter example to share with everyone to encourage writing letters. GCHNA will also write one from our neighborhood association.

Neighborhood Garage Sale by Erin Smith

- Erin spoke about this event, to take place the weekend of August 29-39. It will by a DIY, each neighbor hosts their own, and a sign will be placed at Hwy 49 and Cement Hill, as well as a post announcing the neighborhood event on Facebook's NC Peeps and on Nextdoor Neighborhood. (*NOTE: the garage sale weekend has been rescheduled for September 26-27*)

Annual Neighborhood Gathering by Joy Elson

- The party is scheduled for Saturday, October 17. There was one planning meeting in April, and there will be another this month. Save the date messages have been included in recent emails.

General Comments

- Joanne Brown reported that her neighbor had contacted her about a problem with people with a nasty dog parking along Indian Flat above Hirschman's Pond, spending the night, adding a bench, leaving garbage behind, and making noise. She asked what can be done about it. It was suggested to send an email from GCHNA on behalf of the Indian Flat neighbors to Heidi Hall, Sheriff Moon, the Nevada City Mayor, and Patrick Mason, to ask if they would meet at the site to brainstorm ideas. There is a similar problem in the park near the library.
- Christy Barden reported that there was a dead baby deer near his property. He left messages with the County, and the deer was removed.
- Joanne Brown reported that there is a big uptick in the local coyote population.
- Erin Smith said that the large property on Golden Oaks, which includes the trail from Cement Hill to the ditch trail, will be on the market soon. She's concerned about future access, and advocated for requesting an easement. No action was planned.

Next Meeting

The next Neighborhood Meeting will be held on October 5, 2026 at 7:00 pm at the Madelyn Helling Library Community Room.

Respectfully submitted,
Joy Elson (subbing for Ellen Hagan, Secretary)