



Greater Cement Hill Neighborhood Association
Steering Committee Meeting Minutes – October 7, 2024
7:00 pm at the Madelyn Helling Library Community Room

ATTENDEES

Steering Committee - Will Hart, Joy Elson, Christy Barden, Tom Dale Creighton, Ellen Hagan, Janet Johnson, Spencer LeGate, Elena Rayo, Debbie Wandro, Karen Wcislo, and Marlene Widmann (a quorum)
Members/Neighbors: Jane Graves

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

- Janet reported that income from dues was \$7,025. Party expenses were \$1,774 of the \$2,298 budgeted. Total expenses were \$3,360. The checking account balance is \$8,325.
- Director's insurance hasn't been purchased because there isn't a product available due to our status as a neighborhood association. rather than a more formal entity. The issue has been tabled. The next step would be to pay an attorney for a legal opinion regarding our liabilities. Elena mentioned that there is something called a private membership association, which exempts an organization from local code.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

- Joy recently sent out an email reminding people to renew their membership. There are 234 current households who are members, which is 11 less than last year.
- Jane suggested that more members might attend the Steering Committee Meetings if the name of the meeting was changed to just Neighborhood Meeting.

FIREWISE COMMITTEE REPORT

- Karen reported that mitigation forms are coming in with 74 received so far. Already, 11,000 hours have been reported and \$1,094,000 spent. Some members have done major home hardening projects like new roofs. It might be interesting to highlight these projects in the next newsletter.
- Will and Karen have followed up on roads that might meet the criteria for the County's Office of Emergency Services grant opportunity. \$20,000 grants will be awarded for brush clearing along evacuation roads. The entrances to Sun Shadow and Delphine are being considered. Karen will contact the two absentee owners of the properties on Sun Shadow.
- There is an ordinance that requires property owners to clear 10' on each side of private roads. Debbie explained that property owners along Cavanaugh had received letters requiring work to be done with penalties attached. She'll get the Firewise Committee more information on what agency sent the notice. Many roads have no turn arounds which is another concern that should be addressed.
- The Firewise Committee has been made aware of 10 acres of BLM land along Cement Hill Road that is densely overgrown close to the side of the road and is a concern for people near the old airport. Kevin Whitlock, a forester and GCHNA member, is willing to help us assess the level of threat. An aerial view

will influence our approach. It would be a long-term project, but may be worth exploring for a grant request.

- Jane Graves explained that the property on Crystal View Heights, which was a concern to neighbors in 2022 because of unsafe tree cover, is still a concern. The property owner is unable to do the needed work. The Access and Functional Needs program through the Fire Safe Council is currently unfunded, but its goal is to assist low-income senior residents or those with medical disabilities with defensible space clearing. If funding is restored, this program could help. The County OES may again offer grants for small projects and this could be an additional avenue for mitigating the problem.
- Prescribed burns are part of the shaded fuel break project being done on Excelsior Ditch. Cheryl Haines is in touch with the company doing the work. We hope to be informed about when these burns will take place as there will be smoke. We could then inform GCHNA members.

OTHER

Courthouse Update - Will reported that there's been no movement or new information. Nevada City is pushing for the Forest Service site. No meeting of the State group has yet taken place.

Ferrellgas Discount - The Ferrellgas contract is up for renewal. Will and Brian Waag will meet to negotiate the discount for GCHNA.

Newsletter

- The next newsletter will go out in early February. Ellen will request articles at the end of December. Included will be the usual reports. A new Event Chairperson is needed and we'll request a volunteer.
- Joy will send out future newsletters in a pdf format, as we have exceeded the number allowed for a free MailChimp account. The February 2025 edition will be printed and mailed with an addressed envelope included to the over 500 households in our area. Reaching everyone by mail once a year is important, as a significant number of members join or renew by mail. The cost will be approximately \$1200.

NEXT MEETING

The next Steering Committee meeting is on Monday, December 2, 2024, at 7:00 pm at the Madelyn Helling Library Community Room.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Hagan, Secretary