

Firewise Group Meeting

January 28th, 2015 – 1:00 pm

Attendees:

Barry W. Harding (N46) – acting chair; Jim Mills (N15); Fred Hill (N6);
Randy Rinker (N56) & Catrin Dubois (CA staff)

Meeting Time / Place: Activity Center, rooms 3 & 4. 1:05 pm to 2:15 pm

Safety Moment: Take extra care during cold weather with ‘golf cart’ use when the flaps are down & zipped. Both sign lines and hearing are lessened, so it is imperative that while operating golf cart, extra time & caution be taken.

- ❖ Minutes from the October meeting were passed unanimously without any additions or corrections.
- ❖ Mention was made of the following upcoming meetings or events in which Firewise was involved:
 - New Residents Orientation – Thursday February 19th at 8:30 am in the SCB. 2-3 volunteers required to help at the Firewise table & answer questions.
 - 2015 Firewise Landscaper Training on Friday January 30th at 2 pm in the Atrium. Invitations were sent to +/- 50 businesses & individuals.
 - The Firewise Recertification material was submitted on December 19th to the Texas A&M Forest Service.
 - The Firewise group is seeking the services of a person to act as the website manager for the group. Fred Hill is going to talk to Paul about filling this position, but he needs some more information as he has questions.
- ❖ HIZA updated figures were presented by Jim Mills:
 - Total received --- 707
 - Total completed – 686
 - Open ----- 21 all are more than 60 days.
 - In progress ----- 6
 - On hold ----- 0
- ❖ Report on volunteer clearing from Catrin:
 - No volunteer work days have taken place since July 2014
 - Catrin’s crew has been short 1 person but that is now corrected.

- Catrin would like to have the Firewise volunteer clearings done on Wednesdays starting in March with March 11th being the initial date. Clearing of dead limbs, trees and small cedars will be done weekly until about the end of June when the weather gets too hot. Catrin would like to start the 2015 clearing near the bridge across Berry Creek on March 11, 2015 by gathering & stacking dead limbs & branches for mulching.
- April 2nd, 2015 is the appreciation banquet for Sun City volunteers. Catrin will check and make sure that all Firewise members are included on the invitation list.
- Catrin will check on whether 'red shirts' are available for Firewise members from the CA budget.

❖ Open Forum concerning 'IDEAS for Promoting Firewise in Sun City'

- New resident orientations
 - N.R.'s & NRO bulletins to neighborhoods
 - Advertising campaign
 - Better communication amongst Sun City clubs & groups (Fred)
 - Firewise 'Tip of the Week' in the weekly CA Communicator (Catrin)
 - Email each of the +/- 700 HIZA homes and get them to talk to each neighbor on both sides of them.
 - Buttons saying "Ask me about my HIZA"
 - Forwarding 'Firewise Trumpet' out to each Neighborhood Rep.
 - Encouraging landscapers to 'tout' Firewise to their Sun City clients
 - Do a real FIRE demonstration of Junipers, Rosemary, Yupon Holly with the S.C. fire dept. on hand to show combustibility of various shrubs / plants.
 - Demonstration of 'Fire Extinguisher' use for residents
- ❖ Fred Hill mentioned that in his older neighborhood (N6) that many residents were leery of Firewise as being too much of a Dictatorial Group, and are not willing to participate because they view Firewise negatively.
- ❖ Last item brought forward was combining the HIZA group meetings with the Firewise Group meeting so that they occurred 'Back-to-Back' on the same day. Better use of volunteers time and will promote greater attendance, see only 4 attendees today.
- ❖ The meeting adjourned at 2:15 pm.

sSubmitted by: _____ Barry W. Harding

Date: _____