

**Firewise Working Group Meeting Notes**  
**April 26, 2023**  
**Mesquite Room at The Oaks, 301 Del Webb Blvd**

**This meeting is an unofficial working meeting with the objective of discussing the upcoming Firewise Volunteer Appreciate Day scheduled for May 5, 2023.**

**Also discussed was the content and organization of the new display panels for events which advertise Firewise.**

**Attendees:** Paul Ohlenbusch, Petra Garren, Doug Lane, David Hubbell, Judy Whitmore, Carlton Mathis (Liaison), Brian Richard (EMC), Mark Marino (FWCC), Rich Theis (N68), Aggie Gladwin.

1. Paul discussed the FW roster which has been updated, although a couple emails are wrong or not working. Petra will investigate one of those.
2. May 5, 2023: Firewise Volunteer Appreciation: Paul reported that the event will be held from 10:30 – 12, with lunch about 11 a.m. due to the need to allow the next group to take over the space by 12:30. Paul will make welcome comments: Firewise was founded in 2009 so this is our 15<sup>th</sup> year of operation, a milestone!
  - The CA will set up the room from 9:30 to 10:30 and 3 volunteers are needed to assist. Three people volunteered, Petra, Doug, and Rich.
  - The CA is handling the catering.
  - Tables will be reserved for the Fire Department, Georgetown Office of Emergency Management, outside groups and sponsors. Petra will make signs for those tables.
  - A check-in table will be set up at the entrance. Aggie and Judy volunteered to staff it.
  - Doors will open at 10:30. Lunch will be served approximately 11:00 – 11:30 or earlier.
  - Program will start at 11:30. See Paul's Program attached.
  - So far 32 people are coming. Another reminder goes out tomorrow.
  - People will be needed for clean-up and to make sure the space is ready for the next group.
  - Petra will take pictures of the event.
3. Paul also reported that training for the new FW Neighborhood Partners is being planned. Education will be their main function. Training will focus on the organization of FW, embers and homes, fuel breaks, plants including Ashe Juniper. He anticipates 2 trainings during the year, one in summer and one later in the year.
4. Petra brought the new display board in with proposed content and pictures in draft form. A good discussion ensued and changes proposed. Paul has pictures he will look for, HIZ and vendor training, etc. Petra would like the board to be completed by May 5<sup>th</sup> so it can be at the FW Appreciation Day event.

**Next Meetings:**

**Education:** May 18, 2023- 1:00 PM - Mesquite Room at The Oaks

**Group:** May 24, 2023 - 1:00 PM - Mesquite Room at The Oaks

## **Firewise Group Appreciation Day Program** (Updated April 28, 2023)

### **Welcome comments**

Welcome the first Firewise Appreciation Day! Our purpose is to maintain Sun City Texas as a Firewise Community in good standing to protect people, property and natural resources from wildfires BEFORE THEY START!

The Firewise Group was founded in January 2009. By early November, we will file our required information to maintain Sun City as a Firewise Community in good standing with Firewise USA for the 15<sup>th</sup> year!

### **Sun City Staff**

The Firewise Group works with several CA Staff. These include

Jim Romine, Executive Director

Katie Newnam, Director of Administration & H. R.

Carlton Mathis, Common Area & Irrigation Superintendent

Charles Moore, Water Control & Conservation - L3 - L4

Staff comments - Jim Romine

### **Recognize Liaisons**

Emergency Management Committee - Brain Richards

NRO - Don Shawhan

Property & Grounds - Duane Murrey

### **The Firewise Group**

Recognize Neighborhood Firewise Partners

The Neighborhood Firewise Partners were developed with the NRO in 2022. Both organizations were dividing Sun City into 5 areas. The Firewise Group uses the NRO areas to meet the Firewise USA community requirements.

Recognize Leadership

Chair - Dan Dodson

Vice-Chair - vacant

Recorder - Judy Whitmore

Webmaster - Melissa Lane

Recognize Work Groups

Clearing Crew - Petra Garren, Coordinator

The Firewise Clearing Crew was started and managed by Catrin DuBois, Landscape Superintendent, to assist in maintaining the common areas. The management was later moved to the Firewise Group. The first Coordinator was Tom Kissinger.

Home Ignition Zone Work Group - Doug Lane, Coordinator

The Home Ignition Zone Evaluator Group started in 2010. An evaluation process was developed for Sun City's houses and their environment. It is updated as needed. Currently there are 17 trained Evaluators with 1 awaiting training. The total requests to date are almost 1,100.

Education-Training Work Group - Dan Dodson, Education Coordinator

Paul Ohlenbusch, Training Coordinator

The Education-Training Work Group develops and distributes publications plus the Firewise Trumpet Newsletter. It provides the Sun Rays, Communicator and NRO Bulletin with articles. It develops training for the Home Ignition Zone Evaluators, Neighborhood Firewise Partners, and Landscape Vendors. Town Halls, New Resident Orientation, and other events are ways of providing residents with information.

Renewal Work Group - Paul Ohlenbusch, Coordinator

The Renewal Work Group develops and manages the information needed to annually file for maintaining Sun City as a community in good standing with Firewise USA.

### **Recognize Community Firewise Preparedness Day donors**

Bartlett Tree Experts - Matt Tabola

Brightview - Garrett Williams

Hoymer State Farm Insurance - Bill Mateja

Russell Glass Company - Bill Mateja

TCB Quality Landscaping, Inc. -

### **Recognize Outside Groups**

Georgetown

Fire Department - Clay Shell

Office of Emergency Management - Christy Rogers

Texas A&M Forest Service - Walter Flocke

### **Closing comments**

The Firewise Group thanks you for helping us recognize our volunteers and the groups that support the Sun City Texas Firewise Group. Thank you for coming.