

Firewise Group Meeting Notes
September 27, 2023
Mesquite Room at The Oaks, 301 Del Webb Blvd

Call to Order: 1:00 pm

Attendees: Dan Dodson, Paul Ohlenbusch, Mark Marino, Judy Whitmore, Brian Richard, Rich Theis, Pat Garren, Mike Glackin, Vicki Alpher, Dave Alpher.

Welcome & Chair Comments:

Dan Dodson

Dan welcomed attendees and commented about the continuing drought conditions.

Approval of Meeting Notes from last meeting

Approval occurred online for the August meeting notes.

Safety Moments:

Open

Members commented on the fact that the deer rutting season has begun. Please beware of deer crossing the road, as often when you see one, another is following. Often they dart across the road while being chased. Paul commented that the deer are seeming to be more numerous, perhaps because they have been searching for water during this hot, very dry summer and can find it in Sun City.

Resident & Neighborhood Rep Firewise Rep Comments:

Dan Dodson

None received.

Liaisons:

- **Landscape Supervisor:**

Carlton Mathis

Carlton did not attend, no report.

- **EMC:**

Brian Richard

- Brian stated the EMC had a successful Preparedness Fair event this morning, and there was very positive feedback on the main presenter (Georgetown Emergency Management Coordinator). The event was well attended (about 350 people), and the Firewise Group saw good traffic at their information table.

- There will be a combined flu and Covid vaccination clinic on October 11th with the latest FDA-approved version of the Covid vaccine. One resident attending the meeting commented that his doctor friend recommends getting flu shots later in the year, due to the effects of the vaccine only lasting about 3 months, and flu cases peaking in January and February.

- There is comprehensive training scheduled on October 30th for the volunteers who will staff the First Aid centers that may be activated during emergencies.

Property and Grounds:**Duane Murray**

Duane was not present, no report.

- NRO:**Don Shawhan**

Don was not present, no report.

Reports from Work Groups:**HIZ Work Group:****Doug Lane**

Doug was not present, however Paul reported that there have been 1126 HIZ requests, 8 new and 5 remain open. The open requests are due largely to lack of response from those requesting.

Firewise Website:**Melissa Lane**

Melissa was not present, no report.

Education/Training Work Group:**Paul Ohlenbusch**Firewise Town Hall, October 10, 2023**Paul Ohlenbusch**

Paul stated that the topic for the Town Hall will be "Drought, Embers and 15 years of Firewise". Notices about the event will be in the Communicator and NRO bulletin shortly. The following have been invited to participate in the event: the Georgetown Fire Department, Texas A&M Forestry, Georgetown Emergency Management Director, SC Wildlife Management, COPS, and Property and Grounds. Because it will apparently still be hot and dry until the event, there should be a good turnout.

Partner Training

Partner Training was canceled due to low demand. Paul commented that about half of the current partners are HIZ trained, and they probably don't feel they need extra training. He will encourage those interested to attend the HIZ Training.

HIZ Training, October 27, 2023, 9-12

Announcements for HIZ Training will go out in the Communicator the 10th and 17th, NRO October 15th.

Renewal Work Group:**Paul Ohlenbusch**

Paul reported work on this typically starts in September, but it has been a busy month. It will be completed and filed after November 1st.

Firewise Clearing Crew:

Pat Garren

Pat attended for Petra. He reported that the Clearing Crew began working again after the summer break. On September 12th, 16 volunteers worked at N84 Cypress Spring to remove limbs and small junipers. On September 19th the CC provide flood control assistance to the CA at N50, Salado Creek. On September 26th the crew worked in N55, Bear Creek and partially finished removing the Willow Baccharis. Pat said it was a hot (“brutal”) muggy morning and the work was taxing.

Old Business: none

New Business: none

Upcoming Events:

<u>Firewise Town Hall:</u>	October 10, 2023	9:30 SC Ballroom
<u>New Resident Orientation:</u>	November 17, 2023	8:30 SC Ballroom
<u>Home Ignition Zone Evaluator Training/Review:</u>	October 27, 2023, 9:00 a.m.	
Cowan Creek, Andice Room		

Next Meetings:

Education and Training: October 19, 2023- 1:00 PM - Mesquite Room at The Oaks
Firewise Group: October 23, 2023, 1:00 PM - Mesquite Room at The Oaks

Adjourned: 1:20 pm