

**Firewise Group Meeting  
May 25, 2022**

**Call to Order:** Meeting commenced at 1pm at the Mesquite Room

**David Hubbell**

Attendees- David Hubbell, Paul Ohlenbusch, Brian Richard (EMC), Dan Dodson, Carlton Mathis, Petra Garren, Judy Whitmore, Doug Lane, Melissa Lane, Duane Murray (P & G), Don Davidson, Don Shawhan, Jim Clarno (NRO), Jim Fleishman, Mark Marino, Therese Verdonk, Douglas Tyler.

**Welcome & Chair Comments:**

**David Hubbell**

David welcomed a large group of residents and volunteers to the meeting and thanked them for coming.

David also thanked everyone for their assistance with the Firewise Preparedness Day which took place May 6<sup>th</sup>. He thanked Petra, Dan and Paul in particular for all the work they did to promote and organize the event. In attendance were 6 members of the Georgetown Fire Department, 11 CA staff, 22 clearing crew volunteers, 37 residents.

**Approve Minutes from April 27, 2022 Meeting:**

**David Hubbell**

- All approved with no changes.

**Safety Moment:**

Watch for deer, particularly does with fawn(s) crossing roads. Also, if you see a fawn lying still in the yard/green belt, leave it alone. The mother will be coming back to care for it.

People are reminded not to throw yard waste into the green belt space. This creates additional fire hazard once dried. Georgetown will pick up yard waste on the first recycle day of each month when it is placed in the appropriate yard waste bags or other receptable so labeled.

Be aware of limbs and leaves around your house after wind/storms and pick them up.

**Resident & Neighborhood Firewise Rep Comments: none**

**Display Board**

A discussion took place regarding the current display board, which is heavy and which Paul would like someone else to store and be in charge of transporting to approximately 6 events during the year for which Firewise brings the display. Judy has looked into replacing the display with something lighter weight and will send members the results of her research. Paul says that 8' x 4' is the ideal size to get all the information and photos on the display, and he questions the strength of lighter-weight boards. Dan and Paul stressed the importance of having an attractive board that encourages people to stop. People then pick up fliers and express interest in more information, HIZ evaluations and volunteering. The tablecloth also needs replacing and should have the Firewise logo on it only. Discussion ensued about the text on the display and it was suggested that the verbiage be shortened to bullet points that are easily read quickly.

**Liaisons:**

- **Landscape Supervisor –**

**Carlton Mathis**

Carlton reported that they are working with Petra on trails and with Firewise Clearing Crew clean-up. They will be ramping up to start Level 3 clean-up in about 2-3 weeks.

- **EMC –**

**Brian Richard**

- Brian reported that the EMC had a successful joint meeting with the Georgetown Police, Fire, and Emergency Management departments on May 20, 2022. The next joint meeting with these organizations is scheduled for August 2, 2022. He also reported that the Radio Control Modelers Club of Sun City gave the EMC a presentation about their drone capabilities. They discussed the potential use of club drones to assist with emergency assessments, in collaboration with the Georgetown Fire Department.

- **Property and Grounds (P&G) -**

**Duane Murray**

The P&G representative asked to be copied on the agenda for the Firewise meeting.

**Reports from Work Groups:**

**Education/Training Work Group:**

**Dan Dodson  
Paul Ohlenbusch**

Firewise Town Hall will be October 5<sup>th</sup>.

The question was asked if the Education Work Group needs to meet monthly when, for example, there will not be any event until October. Paul and Dan said they do need to meet because the publicity for every event needs to be started 3-4 months before the event. Also, because room reservations are hard to come by for occasional meetings, having a regular meeting time reserves the room for the year.

Paul is thinking of a topic for education on Ashe Juniper and how it rarely explodes despite common rumors. Ashe Juniper's ignitability is very low, but one ignited, it is very flammable. It takes a very hot fire to ignite it. Also, Paul expressed the frustration that so many people seem uninterested the work of Firewise and that getting people to listen is a problem. It was suggested that when Firewise was new, people were more inclined to listen and participate. Now it is "old news" and it is not so easy to excite people on the subject. It was also suggested that until there is a real emergency in some situation, people are not concerned. Once a situation occurs, it gets peoples' attention. Paul pointed out that he estimates over 50% of homes in Sun City are "firewise", so it is clear education has worked. One person suggested using to the NRO and block captains to help get the word out.

HIZ training will be the last Friday in October, October 28<sup>th</sup>.

**HIZ Work Group:**

**Doug Lane**

Most of the outstanding HIZ evaluations have been completed. 3 are in process. People commended Doug and others for accomplishing the backlog of outstanding evaluations. Both David and Doug are working on finishing the required number of evaluations (5) with others to be able to work independently.

**Firewise Website:**

**Melissa Lane**

Melissa will take over the website work as many updates are needed. Melissa thanked Petra for helping to add updates that have taken place. Discussion was held on various aspects of the website and others that need fixing. Comments from everyone are welcome once you peruse the website; suggestions will be brought back to the group.

**Renewal Work Group:****Paul Ohlenbusch**

Work on the Renewal will begin in September. The division of the community into 5 areas is not required for this year's renewal but will be for next year. Paul will continue to work with the CA on the division into the 5 communities and subsequent adjustment of the data for the renewal application.

**Firewise Clearing Crew:****Petra Garren**

- Petra reported the Clearing Crew is working in N 84 off Cyprus Springs Way.

**Upcoming Events:**

**Firewise Town Hall** will be October 5<sup>th</sup>, SCB.

**HIZ Training** will be October 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Next Meetings:**

**Education:** June 16, 2022. Mesquite Room, The Oaks, 1 p.m.

**Firewise Group:** June 22, 2022, The Oaks, Mesquite Room, 1 p.m.

**Adjourned: at 2:00 pm**