

Firewise Group Meeting
April 27, 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, Doug Lane, Melissa Lane, Jim Romine, Aggie Gladwin, Duane Murray (P&G liaison), Edwill Butler (N71), Bob Kirtley

Welcome & Chair Comments:

David Hubbell

Approve Minutes from March 23, 2022 Meeting:

David Hubbell

- All approved with no changes.

Safety Moment:

- With the arrival of spring weather, many naturally occurring dangers are present. Be aware that snakes, scorpions, and centipedes are out and about. Now is a good time to remove any dead fallen leaves from against your house foundation – live oak and lantana leaves may be dry and crispy.

Liaisons:

- **Landscape Supervisor –**

Carlton Mathis

Carlton reported that debris piles along the hiking trails continue to be chipped and the resulting mulch is spread in needed areas.

- **EMC –**

Brian Richard

Brian reported on the recent roundtable held with area agencies. The tabletop scenario was a good opportunity to impress the Georgetown Fire Department with Firewise and EMC prevention methods and to better understand the decision making process between the EMC and Community Association.

EMC will continue to work with the GFD and GPD through a once per month meeting.

A brief discussion of the “Warn Central Texas” app occurred, in light of the app being used to warn SC residents of the need for water conservation. (Since rescinded) David Hubbell acknowledged the organization and planning of the Tabletop Exercise.

Reports from Work Groups:

Education/Training Work Group:

Dan Dodson

Paul Ohlenbusch

- Firewise Wildfire Preparedness Day will be May 6th. Work is underway on this event. Sign up will begin April 29th. Paul outlined the set-up of the CC pavilion and Petra shared news of volunteer assistance that has been recruited. Information was shared with Jim Romine about details requiring CA assistance.

- Donations have been received from three organizations, totaling \$ 550.00. Russell Glass Co, Bartlett Tree Co, and State Farm Insurance were generous contributors.
- A review and practice set-up will occur on Thursday May 5th at 1:30 PM
- Volunteers and the Firewise administrative team will meet at 8:00 AM on Friday May 6th.
- A discussion of the Firewise website and needed updates occurred. Melissa Lane volunteered to assist with this upkeep.
- The next major event is the SC Town Hall on October 4th.

HIZ Work Group:

Doug Lane

- Doug Lane reported that there have been 1061 requests received and 1059 completed, with 2 requests open, but assigned to an evaluator.
- Four newer evaluators are working on their “in the field” training – the completion of 5 evaluations. These individuals have 5, 4, 5, and 1 evaluations completed.

Renewal Work Group:

Paul Ohlenbusch

- The Firewise renewal application must be completed by November 15, 2022. Firewise USA requires that the size of the SC community be divided into 5 areas of no more than 2500 homes. Discussion occurred about the difficulties of this requirement versus the benefits of being able to claim the Firewise endorsement. Jim Romine offered to contact the national organization for clarification about this requirement and if there could be any impact for the Firewise Group.

Firewise Clearing Crew:

Petra Garren

- Petra reported they have most recently worked in N58. They had a good size crew of 13 volunteers and great support from the residents in the area. Because of high temperatures, clearing crew work could take an early summer break starting in about mid-June.

Other Topics:

- From the audience – Aggie, a Firewise evaluator, asked about the availability of Firewise stickers, and a suggested plant list to share with HIZ evaluations and visits. These items are no longer available.

Upcoming Events:

Firewise Community Preparedness Day: May 6, 2022, 9:00 a.m.
Cowan Creek Amenity Center Pavilion

Next Meetings: **Education:** May 19, 2022. Mesquite Room, The Oaks, 1 p.m.

Firewise Group: May 25, 2022, The Oaks, Mesquite Room, 1 p.m.

Firewise Town Hall will be October 5th, SCB.

Adjourned: at 2:03 PM