

Firewise Resource Committee Minutes

Meeting: March 11, 2024 at 12 PM on Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89528176980?pwd=eVc4NWd4U1RiMTY5M2dEcnFUOVp3UT09>

Meeting ID: 89528176980 Passcode: 569804

Voting members: Dave Watts, Lesli Lee, Mary Rychly, Pat Parson, Chris Nota, Burt Schraga

Non-Voting Members: Jeff Neuman, Iris Harell, Ali Pulido, Dani Hannigan

1. Call to Order and Determination of a Quorum: Quorum met
2. Adoption of Agenda- Additions or Deletions: Meeting Agenda adopted
3. Approval of Minutes for Meeting on February 12, 2024
4. **Firewise Events for 2024:**
 - A. Town Hall on March 25th at 1 PM at the Berger on Home Fire Insurance. The speakers will be Annie Barbour of United Policyholders and Stuart Mitchell of Wildfire Mitigation Advisors.
 - B. Fire and Earthquake Fair April 5th from 3-6 P.M.: We need volunteers to help set up, tear down and staff the Firewise Resource Committee table Dave is maintaining.
5. **Reports:**
 - A. Assessment updates: Dani, Pat and Dave: Two new Sub-HOA requests assessments have been submitted: one was withdrawn, and the other one was postponed to April.
 - B. Publicity for Oakmont home that qualified for IBHS's Basic "Wildfire Prepared Home" program. Iris: Iris will speak with Christel to determine if they should reach out to the Press Democrat about publicity.
 - C. Communicating our message for 2024: We shouldn't say that 80-90% of homes are lost from embers during a wildfire but only that the majority of homes are lost due to embers. This majority statement is in alignment with the position of IBHS.

We can comfortably recommend that residents use 1/8th inch mesh screening for all vents. IBHS states that 1/16th inch screening can become clogged by debris and paint reducing home ventilation needs. It is still advisable that we recommend that residents do not have sawdust, small wood debris, paper or cardboard in crawl or attic spaces.
 - D. Review of the Comparison Chart between the new City Vegetation Ordinance and the OVA Firewise Landscape Policy. Dave.: Dave will send the chart to the team.
6. **New Business:**
 - A. A fix for obtaining 6 inch gap of non-combustibility at the base of wooden siding. Iris: Using non-flammable materials for siding can reduce the fire ember danger to a house.

- B. Short summary of Dave's personal response (not representing the FWRC, the A.C. or the OVA) on two questions asked of him by residents: the use of Mighty Fire Breaker and the use of "compost" in the 0-5 foot zone. Dave will send comments to the team.
- C. Committee restructuring: The OVA Board and the G.M are developing ideas to restructure OVA's sub committees. They will seek sub-committee inputs. The committee chairs attended a meeting with the OVA board to discuss restructuring committees. No changes will occur without prior input from the committee.
- D. Fire Safe Sonoma is having a Leadership Conference on 3/23/24. Dave, Jeff, Iris, and Dani will attend.

7. Next Meeting: April 8th, 2024 at 12 PM