

Firewise Resource Committee Minutes

Meeting: July 8th 2024 at 11 A.M. on Zoom

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

Meeting ID: 895 2817 6980 Passcode: 569804

Voting Members: Dave Watts, Pat Parson, Mary Rychly, Lesli Lee, Iris Harrell

Non-Voting Members: Jeff Neuman, Jerry Gladstone, Steve Spillman, Katy Carell, Ali Pulido, Danielle Hannigan, Christel Antone

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 June 10th, 2024: Approved as submitted
4. Continuing discussion of "Where do we go from here? What should be our priorities going forward?"
 - A. Changes to our broad and primary messaging.
(Add to broad that "wildland-urban fires are primarily a structure-ignition and community-fire-spread problem and not a wildfire control problem."): Wildfires are going to continue, and they will get worse over time. The only thing we can do is focus on improving and protecting our community.

(Change the wording of one of the primary's to "The majority home losses in a wildfire are the result of ember ignitions that occur within five feet of a home.");
 - B. Events, speakers and other activities for next year: Katy Carell has been with Oakmont's "Meet Your Neighbor" MYN preparedness leaders since the 2017 fire and evacuation. MYN has increased its coverage of Oakmont homes participating from 20% to 50%. There are 37 Sub-HOA's in Oakmont, of which 10 Sub-HOA'S are involved and 27 are either partially involved or not involved at all. MYN includes planning evacuation routes and how to get out safely during emergencies.
(i.e. work more closely with Meet Your Neighbor by promoting their work and by meeting with MYN groups.)
 - D. Keep firewise issues on the minds of residents by doing articles in the Oakmont News and blurbs in Inside Oakmont: Between July 27 and October 28 the articles will show you how simple and inexpensive measures can make a big difference in protecting and improving your home.
5. **Reports:**
 - A. Assessment updates: Mary: Nothing to report. All caught up.

- B. Review of protocol for making clear to residents in an assessment report what is a **required** action and what is only a **recommended** action.

- E. Main points of June 11th United Policyholders webinar with Amy Bach.
Fair Plan, Difference in coverage DIC, replacement cost for home, risk score, admitted vs non-admitted insurance companies etc.

- F. Main points of City of Berkeley's Zoom meeting on home fire insurance:
A very complex and confusing situation, bottom line is that the State is at the present working on the **availability** of home fire insurance and will work on the **affordability** of it after insurance companies come back to writing more policies for residents.

The most important actions for residents to take is to create firewise communities and make home hardening actions, contact government officials for help, raise policy deductibles, work with one or several good brokers, do not wait if dropped but start looking immediately and work with neighbors to reduce community risks.

6. **New Business:**

- A. Review of OVA's committee restructuring and how it effects the FWRC.: The Firewise Resource Committee will now be called the Firewise Task Force. The committee does not need to report to the board; instead, it should report directly to Christel. This will help the board focus on policies and other things.

- B. Future report on home mitigation requirements based on IBHS certification standards and the direction that home landscape design is headed based on a UC Berkeley, IBHS and CSAA Landscape Design contest that Reduces Wildfire Risks.: Dave to share information.

7. Next Meeting: September 23, 2024 at 1PM