

**COWELL HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION**  
**SAFETY & SECURITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

4498 LAWSON CT, CONCORD, CA 94521

October 16, 2018

**Minutes**

**Present:** B. Collins-Chair, H. Trost, D. Stelter, M. Hendershot, J. Earthy

**Also Present:** S. Sulyma, of Collins Management

1. Call to Order – 6:29pm: It was moved and seconded (B. Collins/H.Trost) to adopt the 10/16/18 agenda. Motion carried.
  
2. Homeowners Forum:
  - Bill Agnew: Enjoyed and appreciated the seminar, mentioned how juniper bushes are a big fire hazard and suggested limiting or outright banning junipers as an allowed plant for front yards.
  - Steve Cellini: Wanted to know about getting trees removed from common area adjacent to his house on 4474 Leatherwood Court. Said that he has sent multiple emails to management over several months about the issue with no response.
  - John Earthy: Told story about neighbors throwing loud party late into night and not being able to reach Concord PD, or the security company to help with the issue.
  
3. Approval of minutes from 9/18/18 with amendments. It was moved and seconded (M.Hendershot/D.Stelter) to adopt the meeting minutes. Motion carried.
  
4. Seminar Notes/Takeaways:
  - Overwhelmingly positive response, only one negative response was from homeowner who wanted more information on individual home protection
  - Dave: acknowledging that the board/HOA has a hand in ownership of the Firewise process and is taking positive steps.
  - Hadas: appreciated learning what she could do as an individual as well as a committee member
  - Barry: Noted that there was a lot of work ahead of us, proposed ways to get het community more involved such as a Firewise house of the month
  - Stephen: Making more fire protection or Firewise information available on our website for homeowners who might not know where to begin looking
  - Mike: Residents liked being able to ask questions and have them answered at the seminar, maybe next time change location of speakers so they're not looking into the sun as it sets.

## 5. Firewise USA Application Process:

- Barry expected some pushback on the application process, but confident that the board will do what they need to do.
- Committee would like Rhi to start the Firewise application process.
- John Earthy passed out contact information for some people in Firewise.
- John suggested we invite Kathy Woolfer to join our Firewise committee.
- John volunteered to work with management on starting the Firewise application.
- A request for more aerial shots of the association to better understand what areas are ours vs city of concord vs CCC parks.
- A mention of expanding the Safety and Security committee to include Firewise as a part of it.
- John Would like more people to be included on the landscape walks including himself and possible a member of the Architecture committee.
- John has been speaking with other communities and has a resource for what they do as “Best practice communities”.
- John claims we would qualify for Firewise just based on the work we do as a HOA in regards to landscaping and fire prevention.
- Recommendation of providing the Firewise fire prevention checklist to homeowners so they can see what they have already done and need to do.
- Recommendation to invite Steve Cellini to the Firewise committee.
- Barry and possible John to walk the regional hiking trail along north edge of community, and email Justin at the City of Concord to for maps detailing ownership of spaces in regional trail area.
- Suggestion to talk to Sloat garden center and bring them out to either a seminar or the safety and security expo to talk about fire resistant plants.
- John would like the names and contact information of potential Firewise committee members.

## 6. First Security Issues:

- The committee is not happy with the performance of First security and wants to meet with James Hartly to establish what their expectations are.
- Want to make a point about security company not doing what was asked and still taking pictures and checking in at checkpoints still in vehicles and not inspecting surrounding areas.
- Hadas requested notes from the meeting between Barry, Rhi with James and Rich from first security.

## 7. Signal Articles:

- Barry will write an article about homeowners contacting business office for fallen, low hanging, or problematic branches overhanging homes/properties from common area trees.
- Would like an article on recruiting homeowners to join the Firewise committee.
- Would like an article detailing what to do for noise complaints.
- Talks about an insert that discusses defensible space in regards to home fire protection.

## 8. Committee Comments:

- Mike: Thought it was a productive meeting.
- Barry: Wanted to know status of fireplace valve repair, was informed that it would be completed on Wednesday, October 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Hadas: No comment
- John: Thanked Barry and Dave for pushing Firewise application to board.

- Dave: Had concerns about the amount of mulch on south slope, and wanted to know about more actions taken against eucalyptus trees.
9. Adjourn meeting. It was moved and seconded (B. Collins/M.Hendershot) to adjourn meeting at 8:39 pm.