

TULARCITOS RIDGE FIRE SAFETY GROUP MEETING
August 10, 2021/ 6:00PM

PRESENT: Meredith May, Jenn Jackson, Betsy Vobach, Ron Hanik, Laura Anderson, Ian Smith (POA President), Amy Wells, Jason Campbell, Rachel Sherman, Greg Sharek (Tira Nanza), Craig Bua

Meeting Began: 6:10 PM

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Introductions

2. Establish monthly meeting

Meredith May asked group what day worked for regular meeting. Meetings will be *second Thursday of each month at 6PM.*

3. Firewise Zoom hosted by Fire Safe Council of Monterey County

Meredith May recapped some of the discussion. She spoke about the Council's role as a mentor and grant writer for neighborhoods that want to join the Firewise program. She also mentioned the county's chipper program. The Fire Safe Council has a \$1 million grant for six areas and Cachagua is on the list, and qualifies for some of this money.

Laura Anderson noted that everyone on the Zoom meeting that already lives in a Firewise neighborhood was incredibly helpful in sending their Firewise materials to our group.

The next Fire Safe Council of Monterey Zoom meeting will be held on 11/3/2021 at 6pm.

Being a Firewise community is desirable because it assures firefighters we are helping them defend our properties during a wildfire. It also acts as a shield to prevent insurance companies from dropping policyholders, and in some cases insurance companies have re-instated policyholders after their neighborhood becomes Firewise.

The Firewise volunteer sheet was given to group, so property owners can record the hours they spend hardening their home and creating defensible space. The volunteer hours will be recorded for the Firewise application.

4. Proposed Activity List

A fire safety activity idea list was handed out by Laura Anderson. The list is a compilation of all the ideas for neighborhood events that have been collected. Figuring out who will be responsible for tasks will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

The POA has spoken to Cachagua Fire and CALFIRE about what was good and bad during the fire. One thing that was discussed is hardening the water system and mapping it out. A second was better house number signage that is uniform and easy to see/reflective in the dark.

Meredith has put Tularcitos Ridge's name in the hat for the Monterey County chipper program grant. She is waiting to hear back from Richard Bates of the Fire Safe Council of Monterey, who said on the Aug. 3 Zoom that he would contact her as the Tularcitos Ridge representative.

Rachel Sherman spoke to Jessie Reimer (Cachagua Fire Chief). Chief Reimer stated we need *better address placards* on Sky Ranch and Via Cielo. Meredith suggested that the Chief show us some examples of good address placards. Rachel stated that she will have Don take some address placards to the next fire meeting to see what the firefighters like best.

Ian recommended making standard address placards part of the CC&Rs. These standard placards would be what the fire experts say is best practice.

5. Evacuation drill

Plans for this community event was discussed. Jenn Jackson said she has contacts at CHP and the Sheriff's Department who can attend and assist with a mock evacuation drill through Tira Nanza and Rob Officer's property. Greg said he would open up his property to a drill. Jenn said she will reach out to the Officers to see if they will do the same.

Meredith plans to video the evacuation routes and post them on the Tularcitos Ridge website for those who cannot attend the drill. Ian offered to use his drone for footage.

6. Ron's map/ Betsy's swag

The group discussed how big the initial Firewise boundary should be. The group decided to keep the boundary small for now and measure future interest and decide later to expand. Ron is designing the map, and in response to Laura's suggestion, said he can make layers on the map indicating where fire hydrants and water wells are. The group discussed Ron's map as the basis for a permanent map that can be posted on Sky Ranch to help firefighters and first responders find our homes. Similar maps can be posted at Via Cielo.

Betsy brought clothing items from Chews Ridge Lookout and discussed details and cost of items. FashionStreaks.com is a possible source for hats, sweatshirts, etc. The group will need to come up with a logo.

7. Outreach- mailings, Annual POA meeting

USPS mailing to community with Firewise poster. The POA will cover the cost of this mailing. The mailing will be sent out to the community in about two weeks.

8. Questions

Craig Bua stated that he picks up trash alongside Cachagua Road and finds a lot of cigarette butts. He wondered if we could get grant money for County Road clearing.

Supervisor Mary Adams as a resource.

Ventana Engineering may be contracted by Monterey County for road clearing.

Ian offered to record next meeting and recording will be posted on TRFG website.

- Schedule next meeting Thursday, September 9, 2021 at 6 p.m., at Meredith & Jenn's house: 35050 Sky Ranch.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:12 pm