



WSNA Meeting Minutes

Aug 17, 2022

Meeting started at 7:01 PM via Zoom

Additions to agenda:

Street art project was added to the agenda

Approval of agenda:

Motion was made by Micki, seconded by Linda, and approved

Approval of minutes:

Motion was made by E.M and seconded by Linda and approved

Warehouse Renovation:

Brandi was unable to attend the meeting, so this agenda was pushed to the following meeting

Travel Salem:

The West Salem Neighborhood Association has received a grant for street painting. In our meeting we discussed the intersection at 2nd street and Kingwood, but welcome community input on the location that we should use for this project. We are very early in the process and are looking for people who would like to be on a committee to work on this project. We are also looking for an artist or artist that can help with the project. If you are interested in volunteering for this committee, please send an email to WestSalemNA@gmail.com.

The Grant Neighborhood has already completed this entire process and their mural is at the intersection of Cottage and Belmont. They have a webpage <https://www.grantneighborhood.org/about-us/street-painting> that has wonderful photos of the entire process.

Funding for this project goes through the end of June 2023

Salem Fire:

Ruth Snyder was in attendance and provide information on defensible space around your home when it comes to wildfire. Attached are several check list for reference,

Councilors Report:

Councilor Stapleton had to attend another meeting and had to excuse herself.

Councilor Varney discussed the work being done on the Marion bridge, she also mentioned the Civic Center open house on Aug 18th.

Councilor Varney wanted everyone to know that in are next meeting she will be discussing the upcoming bond.

Salem Police Dept:

Sgt. Kofoid provide some updates:

- Nosie complaints if there is not a criminal component to the call there will not be an office dispatched to the call. Dispatch will record this information for tracking purposes. If there is a criminal component to the call officer will be dispatched
- Car Care Program, Salem PD is joining an existing OSP program. This is a shift from ticketing lower-level violations but will not impact moving injury violations (like speeding or running a red light). Vouchers are for a 20% off the cost to fix the problem.

By-Laws:

There was a recommendation to make a change to the by-laws (below):

Nominations for officers will began 60 days prior to the October annual meeting and close 30 days prior to the annual meeting,

The September general meeting should be scheduled close to 30 days prior to the annual meeting and at that meeting nominations can be taken for officers.

After the request for nominations from the floor at the September meeting, all nominations will be closed. The Vice Chair will then vet each nominee to see if they meet the qualifications listed previously in our by-laws (Article VII Section 1. After appropriately vetting each nominee, the Vice Chair will then create the ballot for the October annual meeting.

Nominees who have indicated their willingness to accept an officer position do not need to be present at the Annual Meeting. Candidates not able to attend may submit a written statement regarding their interest in serving, which shall be read aloud by the Vice-Chair prior to voting for the position for which they are a candidate.

A motion was made BY E.M and seconded by Linda and the motion passed to change the by-laws and this is an immediate change.

General Meeting:

There was discussion around changing our general meeting to the first Wednesday of the month to provide opportunity to the community to attend the city council meetings on Mondays.

There was a motion made by E.M. and seconded by Steve and the motion passed and our general meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of the month.

Meeting was adjourned:

HOME HARDENING FOR WILDFIRE



Burning embers and firebrands overwhelmingly cause the most structure fires during a wildfire. Direct flames and heat also contribute. Most structural losses from wildfires can be minimized with proper materials and maintenance. In addition, home hardening and defensible space can buy you and your family precious time to evacuate to safety in an emergency.



MAKING YOUR HOME MORE WILDFIRE RESISTANT

The following steps can help your home better resist a wildfire, or at the least buy more time to allow an evacuation. Protection from embers, heat and flames should be every home owner's top priority!

ZONE 0 DEFENSIBLE SPACE

The Noncombustible Zone 0'- 5' (Zone 0) around your house is the most critical area to ensure that there are no combustible materials present.

Remove/reduce fire hazards in this space!

- ❖ No flammable vegetation recommended within 5' of a structure.
- ❖ Replace jute or natural fiber doormats with heavy rubber or metal grates.
- ❖ Apply non-combustible mulch such as crushed stones or gravel next to the house.
- ❖ Remove flammable materials on and underneath decks, patios or porches.



DURING A WILDFIRE

- ❖ Remove and safely store ignitable materials such as door mats, propane tank, patio furniture cushions, wicker furniture, etc.
- ❖ Remove combustible items like curtains away from windows, which may crack or break from the heat of a wildfire.

EMBER PROTECTION

Prevent blowing and burning embers from entering your house and from igniting objects on or near your house.

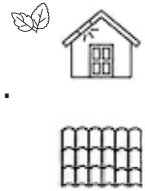


- ❖ Prevent embers from entering your home by installing ember-resistant vents designed for fire and ember safety. A less expensive but nearly as effective alternative is to cover vents with 1/8 or 1/16-inch corrosion resistant metal mesh screen.
- ❖ Keep rain gutters clean and free of leaves and needles. Metal rain gutters with flashing and a metal cover provides the best protection. Be sure to clean under any gutter covers regularly.
- ❖ Remove all combustible items away from the vents located in your attic and crawl space.
- ❖ A roof/eave foam or water sprinkler system may help douse embers and protect your house during a wildfire. However, these are significantly less effective during a major, high-wind driven wildfire with extreme heat.

ROOF/SIDING

With its large, flat surface, the roof is the most vulnerable part of a house.

- ❖ Regularly clean the roof to keep it free of leaves, needles and debris, including the corners between the roof and any siding such as dormers or a split-level.
- ❖ Ensure that the roof covering has a Class A fire rating, such as with steel, tile or asphalt composition shingles.
- ❖ Siding, including fiber cement, stucco and masonry, are much more fire-resistant compared with wood or vinyl.
- ❖ Have at least 6" vertical of non-combustible material/concrete along foundation (between the ground and lower course of siding)



ATTACHMENTS

Attachments to the house, such as a fence or deck, can become a fuel bridge into the structure.

- ❖ Wood fences should not be attached directly to the house; separate the fence from the house with a brick, masonry or metal gate barrier.
- ❖ Remove all flammable vegetation and other combustibles within 5' of all attachments.
- ❖ With connected decks, have non-combustible/ignition-resistant materials like metal flashing in-between the house and deck (minimum 6" vertical between deck and lower course of siding)



WINDOWS/SKYLIGHTS

Windows and skylights can become entry points to embers and flame.

- ❖ Multi-pane or tempered glass provides the best protection and is less likely to break when exposed to heat.
- ❖ Vinyl windows and plastic skylights can fail when exposed to extreme heat.
- ❖ Ensure leaves and needles don't build up on top of or around skylights.



GARAGE

Garages typically contain flammables including gasoline in vehicles and stored for small engines.

- ❖ Install weatherproof stripping around and under the garage door. Ensure door is regularly adjusted for a tight seal.
- ❖ Keep combustibles elevated off the floor in case an ember gets in.
- ❖ Store gasoline and other flammable liquids in approved containers and away from sources of heat or flame.



RESOURCES

There are many resources to further help you harden your home against a wildfire, including:

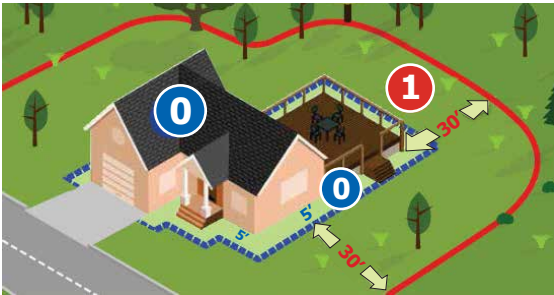
- ❖ National Fire Protection Association: www.nfpa.org
- ❖ CAL FIRE: www.fire.ca.gov
- ❖ Firesafe Marin: www.firesafemarin.org
- ❖ Ready.gov: www.ready.gov

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Thanking Firesafe Marin for their contribution to this content. Version 1.4 9/13/21

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DEFENSIBLE SPACE & LANDSCAPING FOR FIRE SAFETY



In addition to implementing home hardening measures (see OCP&R Guide #09), creating defensible space and following fire-smart landscaping (firescaping) principles will greatly improve your home’s chance of surviving a wildfire. The overall approach is aimed at the **reduction and separation of combustibles** in order to protect structures from **three types of ignitions**: embers, radiant heat, and direct flames.

Defensible space strategy **creates a buffer** between buildings and surrounding grass, shrub, trees or wildland area. In addition to helping slow or stop the spread of wildfire, it also provides a **safer place for firefighters** to defend the property and enables **safe evacuation routes**.

ZONE 0 EMBER-RESISTANT

Zone 0 extends from 0' - 5' around your house and is the **most critical area** to ensure no combustible materials are present. Remove/reduce all fire hazards in this space!

- ❖ No vegetation is recommended within 5' of any structure
- ❖ Replace jute or natural fiber doormats with heavy rubber or metal grates. Remove/replace combustible outdoor furniture
- ❖ Apply non-combustible mulch such as crushed stones or gravel next to the house
- ❖ Remove flammable materials on and underneath decks, patios or porches
- ❖ Remove tree limbs that extend into this zone and that hang over the roof or chimney closer than 10'
- ❖ Remove dry leaves and debris from the roof and rain gutters

ZONE 1 LEAN, CLEAN, & GREEN

Zone 1 extends approximately 5' - 30' out from buildings, decks and other structures. Maintain this area to be as fire-resistant as possible **throughout the year!**

- ❖ Remove all dead plants, grass and weeds
- ❖ Remove fire-prone vegetation and landscape using firescaping guidelines (**OCP&R Guide #14 – Fire-Smart Planting**)
- ❖ Limb tree branches 6' or more up from ground level and 10' away from other trees and flammables
- ❖ Create a separation between vegetation and items that can catch fire, such as patio furniture, sheds and play areas
- ❖ Cut or mow grasses and weeds down to a maximum height of 4 inches

BEYOND ZONE 1 EXTENDED, REDUCED-FUEL

Many sources recommend creating a defensible zone 30' - 100' away from structures, but in urban and residential areas this may not be possible. **Do all you can** within the boundaries of your property.

- ❖ Space trees apart depending on the ground slope, from 10' minimum on flat ground to 30' minimum on steep slopes
- ❖ Remove fallen leaves, needles, cones and small branches that are deeper than 3 inches on the ground
- ❖ Ensure that vegetation adjacent to roads and driveways is maintained in the same manner as Zone 1, and **keep roads firesafe for evacuation and first responder access**
- ❖ Work with your neighbors to reduce combustibles along your property lines
- ❖ Maintain your property year-round

DESIGN YOUR LANDSCAPE FOR FIRE SAFETY

FIRESCAPING is landscape design that reduces house and property vulnerability to wildfire. Careful firescape design will **reduce the chance of ignition**, lower a fire's intensity and slow the spread of fire – all to help your home survive and to give you more time to safely escape if necessary.

DESIGN your landscaping plan with plants and elements that provide the best possible fire protection. Use non-flammable hardscaping such as rocks and bricks for walls and paths. Create open areas to provide a buffer to help prevent flames from spreading. Understand that fire-smart plant selection is influenced by multiple factors (**OCP&R Guide #14 – Fire-Smart Planting**). Simple landscaping features that protect from flying embers, heat and flames can significantly improve your home's ability to survive a wildfire.

OTHER FIRESCAPING TECHNIQUES that help increase fire safety on your property include:

- ❖ Create fuel breaks with walkways, driveways, patios, islands, etc.
- ❖ Construct fences with non-flammable materials such as brick, rocks, metal or concrete
- ❖ Use a drip irrigation system tailored to individual plant's needs to keep them healthy during the dry season and to save water
- ❖ Use a fire-resistant compost mulch or thick bark to maintain moisture in the soil



***PLANNING & MAINTENANCE** are the two key factors in creating a fire-smart landscape.

MAINTAIN YOUR PROPERTY THROUGHOUT THE YEAR



PRUNING – As vegetation grows, the spacing between plants, bushes and trees is reduced. Regular pruning helps maintain this spacing and removes the dead foliage that enables even a fire-resistant plant to burn. Larger bushes and shrubs should be pruned up to reduce the chance that they can become ladder-fuels for trees and structures.



RAKE & CLEAN – Many types of bushes and trees drop their leaves regularly, especially in the fall when the fire season is at its peak. Rake and clean the ground as often as needed, and pay special attention to the area around the foundation of your home to make sure that it is leaf-litter free.



WHEN USING POWER TOOLS such as weed-whackers, chain saws and lawn mowers, be very careful not to create sparks or spill fuel, which can start a wildfire. Make sure that these machines are maintained properly and that exhaust spark-arrestors are installed. Always use caution and **never use power tools during Red Flag Warning** days!

TACKLE VEGETATION ISSUES AS A COMMUNITY



REMEMBER
your community is only as firesafe as its least properly maintained area.

- ❖ Consider engaging Oakland's Adopt a Spot program to work on City lots that aren't being tended to.
- ❖ If a resident is unable to maintain their own property, you can come together as neighbors to create a **Firewise USA® Community** (**OCP&R Guide #12 – Firewise USA**) to help them and your community.
- ❖ If funds are needed to tackle large vegetation issues or to haul away debris, contact the Diablo Firesafe Council (www.diablofiresafe.org) to inquire about possible matching grants.



IN-DEPTH RESOURCE

"Reducing the Vulnerability of buildings to Wildfire: Vegetation & Landscaping Guidance" publication by UC ANR: anrcatalog.ucanr.edu/pdf/8695.pdf

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ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST HOME HARDENING FOR WILDFIRE

Take a walk around the outside of your home and answer all of the questions below that apply. Determine what needs work and prioritize projects around preparing your home to be more fire-resistant. **“Remember the Ember” – top priorities should be near-home vegetation, roof, vents and gutters.**

NEAR-HOME VEGETATION and combustible mulch immediately around your home and under windows, eaves, and vents can ignite and provide a way for fire to enter the home

- Is the 5-foot zone around your home and deck free of flammable vegetation and all combustibles such as mulch, jute/natural fiber door mats, dry leaves/pine needles, firewood, etc? good needs work
- In order to break up fuel, is there recommended space between plants and between the ground and the lower branches of trees? good needs work
- Are grasses kept to a height of 4 inches or less? good needs work

THE ROOF has the greatest exposure to embers and is the most vulnerable part of a home

- Is the roof covering composed of approved fire-rated material, such as metal, tile or asphalt composition shingles? good needs work
- Are there any damaged areas needing repair/replacement? good needs work
- Is the rooftop, especially crevices around chimneys, skylights and architectural elements, clear of flammable debris? good needs work
- Are there any gaps at the edges of the roofing that can be filled? good needs work
- Are end tiles blocked (with metal mesh or steel wool, for example) to prevent bird nesting? good needs work

VENTS can allow embers to enter a crawlspace or the attic

- Are all vents covered with 1/8-inch metal mesh, or are special vents designed to resist embers and flames installed? good needs work

RAIN GUTTERS should be cleared of leaves and needles that embers can easily ignite

- Are the gutters clear of all flammable debris? good needs work
- Do the gutters have metal screens/covers in good condition? good needs work

EAVES & SOFFITS with open-eave construction should be inspected

- Wherever possible, are open eaves enclosed? good needs work
- Have gaps around exposed rafters and blocking been caulked and plugged? good needs work

CHIMNEY

- Are all chimney and stovepipe outlets covered with non-combustible mesh screen/spark arresters in good condition? good needs work

WINDOWS can break from heat, even before a home ignites, allowing embers or flames to enter

- Are all windows multi-pane, tempered glass? good needs work
- Is outside flammable vegetation or other combustible materials cleared from within 5 feet of windows and glass doors? good needs work

SIDING is vulnerable if exposed to flames or radiant heat for periods of time

- Have all gaps and joints been caulked and plugged? good needs work
- Is there 6 inches or more of vertical noncombustible material maintained between the ground and the start of the siding? good needs work
- Has wood shingle or shake siding been replaced with ignition-resistant materials such as fiber cement or stucco? good needs work
- Is the dryer vent cover noncombustible and either louvered or self-closing? good needs work

DECKS are vulnerable to fires from embers igniting nearby vegetation or materials above/below

- Are all combustible items removed from underneath, on top of and next to all decks and porches? good needs work
- Is there a noncombustible layer between wood decks and siding? good needs work
- Are under-deck and porch areas screened-in with wire mesh? good needs work

GARAGES are especially vulnerable to embers as they can enter through large gaps around the door, and attached garages can potentially ignite a house from the inside

- Is there weather stripping or gaskets around and under the garage door to limit ember entry? good needs work
- Are all combustible and flammable liquids stored in approved containers and away from ignition sources? good needs work
- Can you easily open the garage door when there's no power? good needs work

FENCES can burn right up to a structure and quickly ignite it

- Do fences or gates that connect to structures have noncombustible materials such as brick or metal within 5 feet of the building? good needs work
- As specified in Oakland's Fire Code, is all hazardous vegetation maintained within 10 feet from any combustible fence? good needs work

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