

**CAMBRIA FIRE SAFE FOCUS GROUP
GENERAL MEETING IN PERSON & ZOOM
CAMBRIA FIRE STATION
NOVEMBER 29, 2023**

ATTENDANCE: Taylor Hilden, Debbie Hori, Karin Argano, Greg Alex, Spencer Gordon, Baxter Boyington, Dan Turner, Tom Gray, Chief Mike Burkey, Dave Pierson, Kostoula Vallianos, Tony Safford, Jonathan Gee, Blake Fixler, Crosby Swartz, Laura Swartz, Roberta Vitols, Jeffrey

WELCOME: Dave Pierson called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM.

GRANTS UPDATE: Dan gave an update on the current work in the Cambria area and said the new grant application period is open and plans to request more grant money for work in the Cambria area.

EVACUATION ROUTE UPDATE: Dave reported that the committee has good relations with the property owners in question. They will get an MOU regarding plans going forward. Tom Gray is providing the leadership on this project. They will further discussions with the owners in the Spring of 2024.

POSTER CONTEST 2024: Roberta Vitols reported that the poster contest will be launched in January 2024 with the students at Coast Union. Suzette Morrow will introduce ideas in her art classes; hold an all-school fire safety event in early March with assistance from Emily Torlano and her team of fire fighters. Posters will be due April 5, 2024. Joyce Renshaw will organize a panel of judges to select winners. All posters will be on display at the Fire Safety Town Hall on May 4, 2024. Following discussion, it was decided to pursue the construction of another poster frame and to encourage posters to be in English and in Spanish.

INSURANCE INFORMATION UPDATE: Dave Pierson participated in a WRAP meeting via Zoom. The meeting featured work done by Firewise communities in Napa and Willets to assist residents with their homeowner insurance issues. Napa created reflective signs to post in front of homes displaying home Ids. Dave asked if we could do this in Cambria.

FIREMAN'S BALL: Dave opened up the discussion regarding the feasibility of holding a Fireman's Ball in Cambria. One suggestion was to target February 14, 2024. Dave would like to form a committee to develop ideas and create a plan.

HISPANIC EDUCATION EVENT: Dave reported that the Spanish Education event on fire safety and prevention was held at the Catholic Church. It lasted one hour and accommodated 75 adults and 25-30 children. It featured a firefighter presentation with Spanish translation. There is interest in doing this event again.

UPDATE ON CERT: Dave announced that Cambria continues to be a Firewise community and he thanked Bob Putney for his work on preparing the report. He noted that this designation may grant homeowners a 5% discount on their homeowners insurance.

Chief Burkey reported that talks are ongoing to restart Cambria CERT. It will continue to function under the auspices of the Cambria Fire Department. Members will complete applications followed by standard background checks and they will be covered by insurance. There will be designations for membership, e.g., active, support, etc. The education component will feature training for fire safety and prevention and will be open to all residents.

OTHER: Baxter Boyington distributed the Focus Group Formation and Operation Handbook published by the SLO County Fire Safe Council. Excellent and thorough job.

Greenspace has conducted understory clearance in Strawberry Canyon using sheep and goats.

Sunday, April 21, 2024 is Earth Day and Creekside Reserve will hold education workshops and open house from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Congressman Panetta will attend.

The Fire Safe Council has scholarships for high school students in SLO County who want to study environmental science and forestry. Dave has shared this information with the guidance counselor at Coast Union.

Dan Turner announced that Sarah Bisbane has returned to the Cambria area and is conducting studies in the Rancho Marino and Fscialini areas as part of long-term monitoring activities.

NEXT MEETING AGENDA: The next meeting is January 24, 2024 at 3:00 PM and the meeting will be focused on planning for our May 4th Wildfire Preparedness Event at the Vet's Hall.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 PM.