

DRAFT



PO Box 5844 • Berkeley, CA 94705 • www.northhillscommunity.org

March 15, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes, Draft
Via Zoom

Present: Steve Hanson
Chris Johnson
Nancy Mueller
Sue Piper
Brenda Roberts
Elizabeth Stage

Excused: Ken Cohen
Dave McGinness
Allison Silverstein

Guest: Carolyn Burgess

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm by Chair Steve Hanson

1. **Minutes** February 15, 2021 were approved as mailed.
2. **Treasurer's Report—**
 - a. Brenda Roberts shared her report for the month ending on February 28, 2021: We raised \$2975 so far this year—most for the Garden and spent \$504. and currently have \$19,692.90 in the checking account, and \$8247.78 in the savings account, for a total of \$27,940
 - b. Upon her recommendation, the Board agreed that we should suggest the minimum donation be \$50 rather than \$25. Since our remit envelopes need to include the Tax ID #, making the change is a matter of reprinting the remits.
 - c. She will be submitting annual tax ID forms—Form 990 EZ Card and the annual registration renewal form. Payment for our insurance is due this coming week.
 - d. She reminded the board that the budget can be revised as necessary during the year.

3. Communications Committee

- a. The website is being updated. Steve Hanson and Chris Johnson will meet with Dora La Flora Czifra to go over changes. Committee chairs are asked to submit any updates to Steve.
- b. The Marketing/30th Anniversary Sub Committee has been meeting weekly to develop a marketing plan. Chris Johnson, Carolyn Burgess and Sue Piper will meet with several potential marketing consultants in the next week or so to develop marketing strategies that will enhance our general outreach as well as anything we plan for the 30th anniversary of the 1991 Tunnel Fire.
- c. Board members who wish to post information to announcements are asked to send them to President Steve Hanson, who will coordinate with Dora.
- d. Letter to the City Council re zoning issues was sent, thanks to assistance from Elizabeth Stage.
- e. An announcement of today's Board meeting was sent out on Board Announcements. Next month, it will go out 3 days before the meeting, as stated in our Bylaws.

4. Public Safety Committee—Elizabeth Stage

- a. **NHCA Survey**—So far 31 people have taken the survey. More outreach to a broader representation of our constituency will produce more telling results. Elizabeth hopes to post on Next Door once the link to the survey is posted on our website. Among the more interesting results so far is that 72% are aware of our advocacy work. Crime and emergency preparedness tied for first place under concerns. 71% have experienced a car break in. 95% have access to an alarm system, 100% want to learn more about speed detectors. More results as a more robust response comes in. The Board commended Elizabeth for taking on this laborious survey process, which is important to better understanding our constituency and will be helpful as we strengthen our marketing and outreach efforts.

5. Garden Committee- Sue Piper

- a. **Gateway Extension Garden agreement** is still stuck with the City.
- b. **Firestorm Memorial Garden**—On March 1, 2021 a Waste Management garbage truck lost its breaks and crashed into the Firestorm Memorial Garden, taking out a streetlight and the drinking fountain, along with some irrigation and plants. The driver was

critically injured. Waste Management’s insurance provider has reached out to the NHCA Garden Committee, which has provided bids for close to \$9000 in repairs, not including the cost of a permit or taxes. The issue has become more complex because in January, CalTrans cancelled the Adopt-a-Highway permit with NHCA. Sue Piper immediately contacted the Public Affairs Department at Caltrans, asking for details as to why it was cancelled and the need to reinstate the permit for this iconic garden, especially since October will be the 30th anniversary of the Firestorm, for which the garden commemorates. Chris Johnson asked for details to see if he can help us resolve the issue. Meanwhile, it isn’t clear if the insurance company will deal directly with the NHCA Garden Committee or through CalTrans, which owns the property. Sue noted that her contact at CalTrans’ Public Affairs Department has all the details for the repairs and that they are in close communication.

- c. **Gateway Gardens**—the Eagle Scout step repair project is moving along, with installation of replacement steps scheduled for March 27 and 28. Another Eagle Scout project to weed around the exhibit center and elsewhere in the garden will occur soon after. The Pipers have invited local residents to their 50th Anniversary Gateway Workday on Sunday, March 21 from 9 am to Noon.
- d. **The Eagle Scout Step Repair Project at Gateway is making progress.** We expect to begin repairing the steps in mid-March. So far, all expense have been covered through in-kind donations.

6. New Business

- a. **Completion of sidewalk to Parkwoods**—Steven Hanson is monitoring the situation with the group lobbying for completion and Councilmember Dan Kalb’s Office.
- b. **Water Tank Failure**—Steve is following up on this.

7. **Adjournment**—The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 pm.