

## Minutes of July 16, 2018 Board Meeting Claremont Hotel, Berkeley Room

Present: Edgar Antonio  
Carolyn Burgess  
Ken Cohen  
Steve Hanson  
Chris Johnson  
Dave McGuinness  
Julie Nachtwey  
Sue Piper  
Elizabeth Stage

Guest: Gordon Piper

Meeting was called to order at 7:05pm

1. Minutes of June 18, 2018 Board meeting approved as mailed.
2. General Comments: The Board celebrated Sue Piper's birthday.

Julie Nachtwey shared that the Vicente Hillside Foundation reported that their 2.5 acre open space was compliant with vegetation management requirements. The area was purchased by neighbors after the 1991 Firestorm to keep the property as open space.

3. Treasurer's Report—no report. Still working on gathering officers at Wells Fargo Bank to update the signatory card.
4. Board Retreat Update:
  - a. Mission Review—Ken Cohen has begun that process. He and Steve Hanson will draft a revised statement that more reflects NHCA as it now operates and will bring it to the Board at the August meeting. Any changes will need to be brought to the membership at the Annual Meeting.
5. Communications Committee
  - a. Moderators for Open Forum have been updated. Currently they are Chris Johnson and Kay Loughman.

- b. Communications Plan is still under development and Chris plans on presenting the plan at the August meeting. However, there are a few items that can be addressed sooner:
    - i. Replace current photos on the website with graphic blocks re upcoming events.
    - ii. Focus on posts that focus on our priorities of civic engagement/advocacy, public safety and garden sustainability.
  - c. Candidate Forum in September—Chris to contact League of Women Voters about scheduling the event – and then will contact CPS or Montclair Presbyterian Church as a venue.
  - d. Plan to send a newsletter out to the entire Beat 13Y residents in October. This means we need to start preparing it in August. Chris asked for Board members to provide articles or ideas for articles.
  - e. Fund raising letter should go out after the election but before Thanksgiving. The committee will begin to draft the letter for review by the Board. There followed a discussion about fund raising efforts, including targeted outreach to local businesses. Ken Cohen, Steve Hanson, Elizabeth Stage and Gordon Piper will meet to come up with a strategy to present at the August Board meeting.
  - f. Tag Line that will appear on letterhead, websites and under our names when we do emails to help brand NHCA. So far, the proposed tag line reads: **Advocating for a safe, vibrant, informed community.** A final proposal will be included in the Communications Plan and presented to the Board at the August meeting.
  - g. Julie Nachtwey will develop a Welcome card for new neighbors and will present it at the August Board meeting.
6. Public Safety Committee
- a. PG&E meeting is set for Wednesday, July 25 at 7 pm at Montclair Presbyterian Church. We decided to ask people to submit questions on 3 x 5 cards and will endeavor to provide the questions in advance to PG&E so that they can be ready with responses. Carolyn Burgess and Chris Johnson will send out another reminder on Open Forum this week. Chris will videotape the event. Sue Piper will take notes re the answers and will prepare a Q & A that can be posted on the website via U-Tube channel for those who didn't attend.
  - b. Next Public Safety Committee meeting is in August 23, 2018. A concern was raised about what PG&E is doing with its gas lines in case of an earthquake, as gas fires are a leading cause of fatalities and injuries following an earthquake.
  - c. Vegetation Management Plan—City's Public Safety Committee will hear a report from the Fire Department about the status of the Vegetation Management Plan.

- i. The joint opinion piece from NHCA, Oakland Firesafe Council, Montclair Neighborhood Council, Piedmont Pines Neighborhood Association, Claremont Canyon Conservancy, Friends of Sausal Creek, Friends of Garber Park, Friends of Beasconsfield Canyon, Friends of Montclair RR Trail appeared in the SF Chronicle on July 16. Speakers have been recruited to make our points that the plan doesn't go far enough and that we hope the Council members will urge the Fire Department and Consultants to strengthen the report so that it contains specific plans for each of the parks, in ranked priority order, over the next 10 years.
- ii. Steve Hanson, Sue Piper and Jon Kaufman of CCC met with Dan Kalb, Rebecca Kaplan and staff from Noel Gallo's and Abel Guillen's office prior to the Public Safety Committee meeting.
- d. Parking in the Hills—Carolyn shared a document from 1992 that delineates emergency evacuation routes and steps from the City to enforce them, even though the City says they can't find any documentation. Steve Hanson will draft a letter to the Transportation Department with copies to Council Members and the City Auditor raising our ongoing concerns that the City isn't moving forward on this, and attaching the 1992 document.

#### 7. Garden Committee

- a. Edgar Antonio reported that the committee is working on an inventory of plants in the Gateway Garden and hopes to have that complete by the August Board meeting..
- b. He noted that he sent a letter to OFD, OPD, the Parks Department and to Dan Kalb about needing more patrols and better signage at Gateway to deter drinking, smoking and loitering after dark, especially since we have already had two small fires near the Exhibit Center. He noted that the Fire Chief did acknowledge getting the letter.
- c. Volunteers from the Skyline Community Church worked in Gateway on Saturday, July 7 and focused on sheet mulching in the open space across from the Exhibit Center.
- d. Gordon Piper shared plans to work with 3 Eagle Scouts from the Piedmont Council—one to upgrade irrigation at the Firestorm Memorial Garden and two to work on a maintenance pathway in the open space across from Gateway. The proposal calls for planting cuttings of succulents from Gateway there and to make it a resource garden for other parks. The plan will require approval from the City's Parks & Recreation Commission. The proposal will be presented to the NHCA Board at the August meeting for approval as this will likely be a joint proposal from NHCA and the Eagle Scouts. It is due to the Parks

Department August 22 so that we can be scheduled for the November 21 PRAC meeting.

- e. Gordon Piper has signed up for 11 corporate work days in September and October where volunteers from Chevron and the Insurance Industry Trust will work in the Firestorm Memorial Garden, Gateway and the North Oakland Sports Field..

8. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.