



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

July 22, 2019 Board Meeting
Claremont Hotel, Berkeley Room

Present: Carolyn Burgess
Hillary Conlon
Steve Hanson
Chris Johnson
Dave McGuinness
Sue Piper
Brenda Roberts
Elizabeth Stage

Excused: Ken Cohen
Nancy Mueller
Julie Nachtwey

Guest: Alicia Johnson, Kaiser PTA
Gordon Piper, NHCA Garden Committee/Oakland Landscape
Committee

Meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by Chair Steve Hanson

1. **Minutes of June 17, 2019** were approved as mailed.
2. Chris Johnson invited Board members to a fund raising event at his house on behalf of the Friends of Oakland Parks set for Saturday, September
3. **Communication**
 - a) **NHCA Website**—Chris Johnson reported progress has been made on the revamped website, and that the committee is waiting to meet with the consultant to move toward Round 2 in the next week or so. Following that, the new site will be share with the Board for feedback and assignments for revising the content. The goal is to go live by the end of August.
 - b) **Written Communication**—Steve Hanson wrote a letter on behalf of NHCA concerning the City’s overlooking the top priorities for funds from the 4th Bore Mitigation. The Board unanimously approved a motion that NHCA write to state elected officials, the state auditor and other pertinent individuals concerning the misuse of 4th Bore

funds, and that the letters be posted to NHCA members through our Announcements and our upgraded website.

- c) **School Closure Report**—Board members discussed Elizabeth Stage’s comprehensive report on the School District’s plans to close Kaiser Elementary School in the Fall of 2020. She noted that it is not fiscally prudent nor academically prudent, and that Kaiser has been targeted as the “sacrificial lamb” in the hills. It would leave the 13Y neighborhood without a neighborhood school and no playground. Kaiser PTA representative Alicia Johnson, who lives in the neighborhood, noted that the 20% of the schools 260 students actually live in the neighborhood. What makes Kaiser School special is that it is closing the achievement gap for African American boys, has a reputable reputation in the LGBTQ communities and among Foster and adopted children. Its 11 classes are fully enrolled and is the 10th least expensive school in the district. It is one of the most integrated schools in the District as well. The Board unanimously agreed to oppose the closure of Kaiser elementary, and agreed to send a letter to the entire School Board, the OUSD Superintendent, the Mayor and entire City Council, the State Superintendent of Instruction and our state elected officials stating our opposition and why. The Board also agreed to participate in a canvassing effort on the weekend of August 16 and 17 to walk door to door in the NHCA neighborhoods and ask residents to contact the School Board (all members), City Council, State School Superintendent, County Superintendent and County Board of Education, and our state elected officials to oppose the closure of Kaiser Elementary School.
2. **Public Safety Committee Meeting-** The next meeting is August 22. Steve Hanson has not head back from his seismologist contact at UC Berkeley. Sue Piper said she would reach out to her contact at the California Earthquake Authority to see if they could provide a speaker. It was also suggested that we reach out to the USGS. Doug Mosher, chair of Oakland Community Preparedness and Readiness (OCPR), will talk about evacuation planning and the Oakland Firesafe Council’s effort to organize neighborhoods for emergency preparedness (CORE/Neighborhood Watch/Firewise.)
 3. **Treasurer’s Report**—Treasurer Brenda Roberts reviewed her draft Budget report which provides a summary and specific budgets for
 - a) Public Safety
 - b) Garden
 - c) Communication, advocacy and education
 - d) Administration

It was agreed that NHCA Committees are responsible for determining their own budgets that would be folded into the overall budget. Brenda Roberts reminded committee chairs that they will be asked to do this again in October in preparation for the new fiscal year. She will revise the budget document based on tonight's input and present it at the next Board meeting.

4. **Garden Committee**—Chair Hillary Conlon reported that the World Mission Church of God of Hayward again came out to Gateway on July 7, and that the garden is looking much improved. There has been a problem with water in the garden—Gordon Piper noted that the water is on, but the automatic controller doesn't seem to be working, so water has to be manually turned on until the irrigation consultant can fix or replace the controller. The next workday with the Church and its 90 volunteers is Sunday, July 29. Volunteers will continue to weed, mulch and will prune succulents for replanting in Gateway and the city property (park, part of Gateway) just to the west of the exhibit center. Workdays are scheduled in the fall with volunteers from Chevron and the Insurance Charitable Trust. Hillary Conlon and Gordon Piper reported that the City is still deliberating our request to create an expansion garden on the city lot across from Gateway and that Dan Kalb's Office is taking the lead on working this through City departments.
5. **Letter re CalTrans Maintenance**—the Board unanimously approved NHCA writing a letter to our state elected officials including Governor Newsom with copies to our Mayor and our County Supervisor seeking funding for additional maintenance crews for CalTrans. CalTrans currently has only 6 people responsible for maintenance throughout Alameda County. Our concern has to do with the massive fuel load on Caltrans property beyond Highway 13 and 24 which jeopardizes local residents.
6. **Next Meeting**—The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 19 at 7 pm.
7. **Meeting Adjourned at 9:01 pm.**