

Minutes of May 20, 2019 Board Meeting
Claremont Hotel, Berkeley Room

Present: Carolyn Burgess
Ken Cohen
Hillary Conlon
Chris Johnson
Dave McGuinness
Nancy Mueller
Sue Piper
Brenda Roberts
Elizabeth Stage

Excused: Steve Hanson
Julie Nachtwey

Guest: Gordon Piper

Meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Vice Chair Elizabeth State

1. **Minutes of April 15, 2019** were approved as mailed.
2. **NHCA Website**—After an in depth review of the proposed wire frames that will create the foundation of an updated NHCA website, the Board unanimously approved the Website subcommittee moving forward with our website consultant with the following recommendations:
 - Assure that NHCA Logo pops at the top
 - Bottom box listing of links follows same sequence as the menu at topChris Johnson, Communications Committee Chair, will report back at the next meeting with progress—next step will be a working version of the website with dummy content.
3. **May 23, 2019 Public Safety Committee Meeting-** Carolyn Burgess asked Board members to help promote the meeting focused on the upcoming defensible space inspections for a larger turnout than normally. Elizabeth Stage noted that we need to expand our cache of photos and videos for use on the website and in the annual meeting power point report. Sue Piper agreed to set up a Google Drive that board members can upload photos

(provided they are labeled and dated). She will provide easy to follow instructions. Set up is at 6 pm. Meeting starts at 7 pm.

4. **Treasurer's Report**—Outgoing Treasurer Dave McGuinness reviewed the Income & Expense Report and Account Balances that he had emailed to the Board prior to the meeting. As of March 31, 2019, we have a total of \$13,621.58. Incoming Treasurer Brenda Roberts will meet with Dave, Hillary Conlon (Chair of Garden Committee) and Ken Cohen and will provide recommendations for how to present financial reports at the next meeting. Brenda suggested doing a retroactive budget so that we can track variance between budget and actual expenditures. The Board unanimously approved replacing outgoing Treasurer Dave McGuinness with incoming Treasurer Brenda Roberts on the bank signatory cards.
5. **Garden Committee**—Chair Hillary Conlon presented plans and budget for the coming year:
 - The Board unanimously approved for NHCA to work with the World Mission Society of God, Hayward on applying for a President's Citation – involves 1000 volunteer hours with each volunteer putting in 25 hours.
 - The Board unanimously approved for the Garden Committee to proceed with 3 weeks of volunteers (instead of 1 week) between mid September and early October, 2019 with Chevron. Chevron will also bring volunteers on October 5, 2019 as part of a field experience for staff from around the country.
 - The Board unanimously approved setting up two NHCA Garden Weed Pulls during the year—2 hours on a Saturday morning with Board members and their friends and neighbors.
 - These three efforts meet the Garden Committee's goal of having one corporate volunteer event each month to help maintain the Firestorm Memorial Garden and the Gateway Exhibit Center /Garden.
 - The Board approved, with one abstention, to proceed with efforts to expand the Gateway Fire Resistant Garden to the lot across the street.
 - The Board unanimously approved seeking a \$1000 grant from the Pollination Project to support the garden expansion at Gateway. Brenda Roberts suggested that committee talk to Tora Rocha, a former City Public Works Supervisor who is an expert on pollination.
 - It was recommended that NHCA recognize vendors who give discounts on materials by sending thank yous for their in kind donations.
 - The Board unanimously approved the Garden Committee Proposed budget, giving the chair the authority to move amounts around within the budget.

6. **Cal Trans Letter re Fuel Load Reduction**—NHCA’s second letter generated results rather quickly. Cal Trans has been removing broom and other flammable fuels from either side of Highway 24 and 13 in the interchange.
7. **Community Member Use of NHCA Logo on neighborhood parking flyer**—The Board agreed that we would encourage neighborhoods to use the Park Like Someone’s Life Depends On It Flyer on the Oakland Firesafe Council website, rather than permit the use of the NHCA logo on neighborhood flyers.
8. **City Budget Status**—Elizabeth Stage reported that Councilmembers Dan Kalb and Sheng Thao have heard our concerns and that the proposed Budget includes funds for a combined inspection unit, and \$1.1 million for annual vegetation management. However, that only covers 2/3 of the property and NHCA, along with other wildfire prevention advocates, are asking the Council to consider increasing that to \$2 million a year. She noted that we could easily make up that difference if the City actually collected the \$500,000 + a year in uncollected fines for noncompliant properties. The next important budget meeting is June 10, when Council President Rebecca Kaplan present’s the Council’s version of a budget. Board members are encouraged to write Council members and attend the meeting as speakers to show our support. We know that Alvarado Road is on the list.
9. **Street Paving Plan**—the 3 Year Street Paving Plan has been approved. Council Member Dan Kalb was able to get the Council to approve \$1 million in discretionary funds per district. His office is taking input for where to spend that extra money.
10. **Wildfire Prevention Update**—Sue Piper reported
 - Council President and D4 Councilmember Sheng Thao will present a revised resolution to Council that makes Wildfire Prevention a stated priority city-wide; asks all departments to report back in 90 days with how wildfire prevention will be incorporated into their planning and programs; asks City Administrator to set up internal team to do pre fire planning city-wide including updating the General and Specific Plans. It is supposed to go to Rules Committee in early June.
 - Oakland Fire Department will be creating a new strategic plan over the next few months. She suggested to Fire Chief Darin White that it be considered a strategic fire plan for the City, not just OFD. The new Fire Marshal said the process would be inclusive of the community.

- She noted that AB38—the resolution NHCA supported to establish Regional Wildfire Prevention Districts got gutted during the appropriation process and the content concerning Regional Districts was eliminated. The bill was sent back to the Natural Resources Committee for review over the next two years. The team from the Claremont Canyon Conservancy and Oakland Firesafe Council are working with Assemblymember Jim Wood’s staff to figure out next steps.
 - Oakland Firesafe Council released today the first statewide best practices study on defensible space. It documented that the most successful inspection programs had strong education/outreach programs and strong enforcement efforts.
11. **Diablo Fire Safe Council Grant for Fuel Load Reduction Below Kaiser School**—Gordon Piper noted that after 5 workdays and more than 100 cubic yards of broom removed on 4.5 acres of property below Kaiser School, a contract was signed with DFSC to have Elite Tree Services complete the work. The Grant was previously endorsed by NHCA. He added that he plans to work on the areas above the school, contacting OUSD and CalTrans as well as the private property owners.
12. **Meeting Adjourned at 8:58 pm.**