

Minutes of September 17, 2018 Board Meeting
Claremont Hotel, Berkeley Room

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

Guest: Gordon Piper
Jerry Skomer

Meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm

1. Discussion of loitering & fire risk at Malborough Terrace and Grizzly Peak:

Resident Jerry Skomer raised the issue because he isn't getting traction from the OPD, OFD or EBRP—who say it isn't their property, although Vince Crudele says it is. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided that Sue Piper would draft a letter for NHCA President Steve Hanson to send to EBRP asking them to install signs noting an evening curfew and a gate and a request for who to call when see inappropriate/illegal activity. Carolyn has already contacted our EBRP Board Representative Dee Rosario to see if he can weigh in.

There are similar issues at Gateway and other overlooks in Oakland where there are not jurisdictional issues. Sue will also draft a letter to all City Council Members, OFD, OPD, the Mayor and City Administrator asking the City to establish protocols for dealing with the after-hours loitering and smoking that leads to high fire danger at these sites. We know that OPD can arrest, but we believe they will only do so if there is signage, so we need to reiterate our request for No smoking and park closes at sunset signs where they can be seen. We also want to know what alternative enforcement process could be employed, since OPD patrols are stretched thin and these kinds of requests end up at the bottom of the list. Perhaps OFD staff could be deputized to give tickets. Our goal is to have the Public Safety Committee put this on their agenda and ask the City to respond.

2. Minutes August 17, 2018 Board meeting approved as mailed.

3. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Dave McGinnis reported that we have \$1,300 in the account, of which \$1,230 is reserved for a future CORE program.

4. **Communications Committee: PG&E Wildfire Prevention Program and Potential Electrical Shut Offs**—Sue and Elizabeth with revise Elizabeth’s draft Fact Sheet, with Chris’ input; send to the full Board before asking PG&E to review. We will then post on the website and including in the end of year mailer. NHCA’s approach is to provide factual information but not to take a position. Goal is to complete the Fact Sheet by October 2. We will link the Video of our July 25 Public Safety Committee meeting with PG&E on the website.
5. **Public Safety Committee**
 - a. **Draft Vegetation Management Plan**—Sue explained that at it’s last meeting in July the Public Safety Committee asked OFD to return with a final draft at the first Public Safety Committee meeting in December with more specific plans for each park/open space and costs, based on another community meeting and outreach with the park stewards (OWLs). The Committee also said they would ask for additional funding since this was not part of the original funding. To date, Sue has not gotten confirmation that additional funding was approved. She will continue to follow up. Meanwhile, she asked NHCA members to be prepared to review the final document for the specifics and costs estimates we requested. If we are not satisfied, she said we should ask the Council not to accept the report until it is up to par.
 - b. **Parking in the Hills**—Carolyn shared a list of additional streets from May 2018 that are supposed to have new No Parking signs. She said she would drive around the area to see if they have been installed yet. Members wondered what kind of outreach the City has done or plans to do to inform nearby residents, much less the general public, before they enforce.
6. **Garden Committee**
 - a. **Resource Garden Proposal**—Sue and Gordon Piper shared that the City is generally behind the project and that it does not have to go before the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission for approval. He noted that the 2 Eagle Scouts are on board and ready to go, and that he has collected \$5,000 worth of inkind services in terms of irrigation equipment, wood and other supplies so that there should be little cash required. He noted that we are waiting to hear back from Weyerhaeuser Corp. about their \$15,000 donation of composite decking and fasteners for the pathway. Work is anticipated to start in late fall and over Christmas break.

- b. **Firestorm Memorial Garden** – A 3rd Eagle Scout is working on installing an arch at the entrance to the seating area and upgrading irrigation lines on the Tunnel Side of the hill. He has a \$400 grant to help pay for the cost of an irrigation specialist who will work with the scouts.
- c. **Fund Raising Letter**—The Board approved Edgar’s draft of a fund raising letter with a few edits (EIN number, remove Silvio’s name and fix up formatting.) The goal is to distribute the letter and remit envelopes by mail and by hand in Hiller Highlands by October 15. Sue will coordinate with Edgar.
- d. **Garden Committee Recruitment**—Sue reminded the committee that Edgar plans to move away from the community next year and that we need to be vigilant about finding a replacement chair.
- e. **Volunteer Activities**—Gordon noted that he worked with 50 Chevron volunteers this week in both Gateway and the Firestorm Garden. Over the weekend, the committee filled up a 20 cubic yard dumpster with the green waste for all that weeding. We have another group of volunteers from the Insurance Industry coming in October. He noted that in seeking donations he spoke to the new manager at the Emeryville Home Depot Store, who seemed interested in partnering with NHCA on a Team Depot project, where a squad of employees from the East Bay come to work on a project.
- f. **Diablo Firesafe Council Grant Proposal**—Gordon asked NHCA to be the sponsor of a \$5,000 Diablo Firesafe Council grant to remove vegetation in the area from the Paul Vincent Property by the light at Hiller Drive all the way up to behind Kaiser School and the homes between 610 and 690 Hiller. He’s gotten 11 signatures from neighbors and the School Principal so far. The goal is to do a joint project with CALTrans, OUSD and neighbors to make the area more fire safe. The Board approved and asked Gordon to coordinate the application and project, should we receive the grant.

7. Old Business

- a. **New Neighbor Welcome Card**—The Board approved Julie’s proposed card with a few changes. She and Chris will finalize the card in the next two weeks. Julie will get a bid from her source for printing the card, 3000 end of year letters, copies of the PG&E FAQ; stuffing everything with a remit envelope into a 5x 8 envelope, labeling and mailing. The goal is to get this out before Thanksgiving.
- b. **Modification of the Mission Statement**—Steve and Ken Cohen will finalize this before the end of year letter goes out.

8. Meeting Adjourned at 8:53 pm.



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