

Board Meeting Agenda (draft)
August 17, 2020
7:00 PM

Attendees:

Ken Cohen - Yes
Steve Hanson - Chair - Yes
Chris Johnson – 2 V. Chair/Public Safety Chair/Communications. - Yes
Dave McGuinness - No
Nancy Mueller -Yes
Sue Piper – Interim Secretary, Garden Committee Chair – Yes / arrived late.
Brenda Roberts – Treasurer (excused) - Excused
Elizabeth Stage - V. Chair, Interim Public Safety Chair - Yes

Guest: Nickolas (Nick) Vigilante

1. **Call to order 7:05**
2. **Introduction of guest**
3. **Minutes of July 20, 2020 meeting approved.**
4. **August 20 agenda approved.**
5. **Treasurer’s Report** – Brenda was absent, but the Board was able to bring up and review the treasurer’s report. The board had no comments or changes.
6. **Communications Committee – Chris Johnson**
 - The board discussed the status of the proposed fundraising letter. Sue had provided a paragraph to Chris to include. Chris said he would draft a letter for the next meeting. The letter needs to go out before Thanksgiving.
 - Chris reported having made website updates to make the content more current.
 - The board considered how to find a person to handle website updates. Carolyn had thought perhaps the web person handling the Claremont Canyon Conservancy’s site might do it, but that didn’t work. Chris said he send out an NHCA announcement seeking a person for web content maintenance.
7. **Public Safety Committee – Elizabeth Stage**
 - a. Several items were held over from last month, esp., topic of the turnout on Grizzly Peak.

- b. There was discussion on wildfire prevention efforts.
- There have been 2 joint D1 / D4 town halls on wildfire prevention and property maintenance. (one in May, one in July).
 - There will be a follow-up-town hall Monday, Aug 31 from 6 to 7 p.m.
 - The event will be sponsored jointly by the City, NHCA, Montclair Neighborhood Council and the Oakland Firesafe Council. Kalb and Tao will be there.
 - Focus of the town hall will go into Grizzly Peak town hall specifics, looking at the Wildfire Priority Resolution passed by Oakland City Council last November.
 - There have been discussions of how city departments would incorporate fire prevention in their work. Joe DeVries will present the plan as it stands now.
 - Some departments have been doing a lot (OFD); others not so much (ODOT).
 - This meeting will be to opportunity to hear what's going on and to provide feedback for sharing with the OCC.
 - We can use that as a launch pad for a town hall on evacuation. Our goal is not to complain but to talk about process, collaboration and cooperation between NHCA and the city on areas of concern.
 - Chris noted this is a great area for website content. Elizabeth and Sue will work on website content. We need to post comments from the community. Steve said we could use Open Forum. Elizabeth's idea is to have an ongoing dialog on the website for people to hold a conversation. Solicit input in advance. Chris will investigate whether that's possible.
- c. Discussion of Approved City Council Resolution on Wildfire Prevention Status on Joint Powers Agreement, East Bay Regional Wildfire? This is a top priority.
- Sue said at the last meeting, Elizabeth, Sue Jon Kaufmann, Ken Benson, Jerry Kent et al. all agreed it's important to get an earnest money commitment from the community.
 - Sue asked Board members to make \$100 donations in support. Checks should be made out to the Oakland Firesafe Council with a notation that it's for the JPA Seed Fund.
 - Sue said this effort has raised \$2,000 so far. It will give the OFC credibility and help them meet with Oakland officials and hammer out the details.

- Sue said they were in touch with Henry Gardner (former Oakland City Administrator) who recommended Ezra Rapport who should have the respect of the electorate in the two districts.

Sue moved / Chris seconded that we send a letter in support of this effort. The measure passed.

- d. Letter of support UC Environmental and Civil Engineering study of Community Resilience - fire safety, etc. including citizen input-simulations, etc.
 - Sue said “they” (Fire Safe Council?) met with researchers from Berkeley and other UC campuses. They are trying to use AI to design simulations for evacuations for fires and earthquakes. Elizabeth wants the NHCA to broaden our perspective to include disaster preparedness. The researchers are looking for real-life citizens to participate. This could generate helpful information.
- e. Other Public Safety Activity updates / complaints:
 - Elizabeth mentioned there were no more complaints about homeless encampments on Claremont Avenue.
 - Elizabeth mentioned that the piles of debris from Caltrans’ clearing efforts need to be addressed.
 - NHCA will send a letter to the fire chief.

8. **Garden Committee**—Sue Piper

1. Sue updated the board on the status of gardens, vegetation management, trash removal, etc.
 - Sue said she and Gordon have been going out and performing maintenance.
 - Gardens are looking better.
 - Sue said the OLC has applied for a \$20K grant from the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust to refresh both gardens and the extension garden in advance of the 30th anniversary of the fire. Sue and Gordon recruited several people to serve as advisors.
 - Sue said they have to renovate the succulents within 5 feet of the structure because they are out of compliance. They have volunteers.
 - Sue said they are making progress with respect to the extension garden. One issue was the unavailability of water on the site. Sue contacted

Melinda Drayton who committed to paying for a 15K gal water tank. Sue said they will get the document signed ASAP. Oakland CP&R will help if they get the grant. But they have to cut the succulents back either way, since there are safety issues.

2. Sue said they also need to fix the steps in the Gateway Garden - broken pressure-treated timbers. Sue said they are exploring possibilities, including labor and materials donations including Conservation Corps. Sue said their efforts are complicated because of the City's perennial insistence that Gateway is a city park. But overall, making great progress.
3. Sue reported that her daughter saw people at Gateway sitting in tents and a DJ there. Sue asked OPD to send units by if possible. Sue said volunteers are prohibited from using power tools, even a contractor.
4. Firestorm Memorial Gardens: The City is moving ahead with the pathways as part of its commitments on the 4th bore project

9. Other Administrative

- Regarding Conflict of Interest policy—Most statements have been received and place in Dropbox.
- Elizabeth spoke about getting DPW to make and post signs up on Grizzly to try to stop fire-starting behavior in the turnouts.

- 10. New Business:** The board will meet again on Sept 21.