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June 15, 2020 Board Meeting  
Via Zoom

Present: Steve Hanson  
Alicia Johnson  
Chris Johnson  
Dave McGuinness  
Nancy Mueller  
Sue Piper  
Brenda Roberts  
Elizabeth Stage

Excused: Ken Cohen

Guest: Gordon Piper

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 pm by Chair Steve Hanson

1. **Minutes of May 18, 2020** were approved as revised and mailed.
2. **Minutes of May 28, 2020 Annual Meeting** were approved as revised and mailed.
3. **Election of Officers**—the Board elected the following officers:
  - a. **Chair**—Steven Hanson
  - b. **1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair**—Chris Johnson
  - c. **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair**—Elizabeth Stage
  - d. **Treasurer**—Brenda Roberts
  - e. **Secretary**—Alicia Johnson
  - f. **Public Safety Chair**—Elizabeth Stage
  - g. **Communications Chair**—Chris Johnson
  - h. **Garden Committee Chair**—Sue Piper
4. **Treasurer's Report**—Brenda Roberts shared that as of May 31, 2020, the association has total funds of \$22,299.76 (among the checking and savings account). Total activity year-to-date = donations / contributions of \$9,413.60 and expenses of \$2,060.96. (See attached.) Treasurer Roberts also noted in the Budget vs. Actual analysis, donations are below planned amounts, and expenses are less than budgeted for, due in great part to the shelter-in-place orders for the COVID pandemic. She noted to the Board that

although the volume of contributions tend to increase at year-end, that may not be likely for 2020, given the downturn in the economy over the past 3 months.

**5. Communications Committee—Chris Johnson**

- a. Members briefly reviewed the Annual Meeting via Zoom with the following comments for future reference:
  - i. We forgot to do the solicitation—it was suggested we send out a follow up email to those who attended, noting the election of officers and asking for their support.
  - ii. We need to be more specific on what NHCA advocated for last year. It was suggested that a statement to that effect be posted on the web site and included in the letter to Annual Meeting attendees.
  - iii. The letter should also note ways people can help--- volunteer in the garden, help with our website, donate.
- b. Alicia Johnson noted that many of her contemporaries in the neighborhood are unaware of NHCA. After a brief discussion Chris Johnson, Alicia Johnson and Nancy Mueller agreed to come up with a plan for a “Welcome Wagon” packet or letter for new residents, using information from realtor listings.

**6. Public Safety Committee - Elizabeth Stage**

- a. Next Public Safety Committee meeting is in August. Elizabeth had no real recommendations for a topic at this time, but asked that we think about the upcoming elections and maybe hosting a forum.
- b. Status of Effort to establish a Joint Powers Agreement for a Regional Vegetation Management District—Elizabeth noted that it was moving along with more groups signing on.
- c. Grizzly Peak Loitering issues—Elizabeth noted that NHCA has worked with OPD and Dan Kalb’s office on this issue for the past two years. Based on her conversation with Lisa Jacobs in Dan Kalb’s Office, she recommended that NHCA send a letter to our council members with copies to the Mayor, City Administrator, Fire Chief, Fire Marshal and Transportation Director, asking the City to close the scenic look outs at Marlboro Terrace and above the steam trains as soon as possible. Given the current behavior and the growing concern about fire risks as we edge closer to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and High Fire Season, closing these areas is the safest approach. Steven Hanson agreed to send a letter to the City as soon as possible. Once the letter has been sent, NHCA will post a

copy of the letter on the web page and announce our effort on Open Forum.

## 7. Garden Committee- Sue Piper

- a. Sue reported that major pruning had occurred at the Firestorm Memorial Garden and that work was needed at Gateway.
- b. Three new **volunteers** have joined Gordon and Sue—two adult WWOOFers and a father who met Gordon at Gateway. They are likely to return. There was discussion about whether or not NHCA should rely on WWOOFers. Brenda Roberts raised concerns about whether using WWOOFers for our public gardens was appropriate as she believes the gardens as public lands do not fit the mission of WWOOF.. Sue Piper noted that the WWOOF organization accepted the gardens as appropriate; that whenever we receive inquiries about volunteering, we provide an explanation about the purpose of the gardens and the duties. The WWOOFer chooses to volunteer, and that the Committee feels this is an appropriate source of volunteer support. Sue noted that moving forward, the committee will only accept WWOOFers who live locally and can provide their own transportation because of social distancing.
- c. Montclair Presbyterian Church has inquired if we could work with high school students needing to complete their community service hours. Sue has suggested two teams of 3 people each working once a week over a 10 week period, to allow for social distancing and to meet the community service requirements. We are waiting for confirmation. Chevron has reached out but it isn't clear that their volunteers will be available this fall – we will have to see what happens with the Pandemic.
- d. **Camera Surveillance Alternative**—Sue shared that we could purchase an Arlo Go camera through Verizon that provides high resolution, two way audio for under \$500 and only \$60 a year for the Verizon cell line (an addition to Sue's personal line for only \$5 a month). Brenda Roberts raised concerns about using camera surveillance equipment on public property, and was concerned about NHCA volunteers physically going to the Firestorm Memorial Garden when informed of suspicious activity. The Board agreed to give further consideration to the way that the alerts would be handled, noting that sending a person to scare people away might endanger the person. The Board approved moving

ahead with ordering the new equipment, with one no vote, noting Brenda Roberts voted no – not in favor.

**8. Other Administrative Business**

- a. Conflict of Interest Policy—now that the Bylaws have been updated at the Annual Meeting, Steve Hanson will send out a Conflict of Interest Statement that all Board Members will be required to sign.

9. **Next Meeting** will be Monday, July 20, 2020

10. The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 pm.