

Board Meeting Agenda (draft)
November 16, 2020
7:00 PM
Via ZOOM

Attendees:

Steve Hanson - Chair
Dave McGuinness
Nancy Mueller
Sue Piper – Secretary
Brenda Roberts – Treasurer
Elizabeth Stage - V. Chair, Interim Public Safety Chair

Excused:

Ken Cohen
Chris Johnson

Guest: Gordon Piper

1. Meeting called to order at 7:10 pm
2. Minutes of October 24, 2020 meeting approved with a change to the budget report, noting that \$3,000 in reserves is part of the total amount on hand, not additional.
3. **Treasurer's Report** – Brenda Roberts reported that there was no activity this past month—no expenditures, no donations as of October 31, 2020, leaving a balance of \$12,347.90 in the checking account and \$7,693.65 in the Savings Account.
 - a. **Annual Campaign:** So far close to \$3,000 has come in as a result of the annual fundraising letter, with \$225 donated through PayPal. Nancy Mueller agreed to personally contact local residents who expressed concerns about issues on Grizzly Peak earlier this year, to see if they will support NHCA since we took the lead in getting the city to respond. Elizabeth Stage will provide her with the list of names and Brenda will cross check with who has donated to date, so we don't duplicate.
 - b. **Additional Fund Raising**
 1. **A broader campaign**—Brenda, Steve, and Sue will come up with a new letter and proposal for a campaign to the

broader NHCA “membership focusing on the 30th anniversary of the Firestorm, for later this year.

2. **Garden Committee**—Sue Piper and the Committee will draft a letter that could be walked around Hiller Highlands and Tunnel Road residents to see if we can raise additional funds for Gateway and the Firestorm Memorial Garden—this letter to be distributed after the new year.

4. **Communications Committee** – Steve Hanson

- Concerns about PG&E PSPS and impact on homes that are undergrounded— Steve Hanson will draft a proposed letter that would be sent to PG&E and the CPUC expressing concerns that homes that have paid to be undergrounded are so heavily impacted by PPS.
- Cell phone tower backups: Elizabeth Stage noted that the Montclair Neighborhood Association is focused on cell phone towers not having enough back up power—The Board decided to follow this but not weigh in at this time.

5. **Public Safety Committee** – Elizabeth Stage

- Wildfire Resolution Implementation Update: The Public Safety Committee received a report from the City Administrator as follow up to the Wildfire Prevention Resolution approved last November.
 - The City has formed an internal interdepartmental working group led by Joe Devries. They focused on issues along Grizzly Peak this summer and fall, and will expand their scope in the coming months. She noted that a group of non-Oakland residents along Grizzly Peak got fired up this summer and fall, and she and Sue Piper, representing the Oakland Firesafe Council, have steered them to like-minded wildfire prevention advocacy groups so that they can network.
 - The Internal Group is now working on promoting the Firesafe Streets Program, and are in the process of reposting signs that have been torn down, educating citizens, and enforcing where there are signs. However, the program is still fairly small and they are working on expanding the number of streets that will be brought into the program. She added that the City has contracted with ZoneHaven, an app that will provide real time information about evacuation routes. It is first being tested with fire fighters, and then will be made available to the public.

The Board approved nominating NHCA as an early public participant in Zonehaven.

- CORE has been reconstituted as a full CERT program. The City is looking for trainers, and the new staff are enthusiastic.
- Upcoming Public Safety Committee meetings: As an NCPC, we are required by the City to host at least 4 quarterly NCPC meetings. Elizabeth suggested we offer focused topics such as Generator 101 as a backup to PSPS, CPR co-sponsored by the Red Cross, and perhaps something about Firescaping and the drought. Because they would be Zoom presentations, they could be recorded and added to our program library on our website. Elizabeth will write up a concept for feedback. Sue offered to look at Firesafe Marin's website to see what they say about generators,

6. **Garden Committee**—Sue Piper

- **Gateway Extension**—Sue, Steve and Elizabeth spoke with City Administrator Ed Reiskin about NHCA's desire to have this third lot rezoned back to part of the Gateway Park, or to have an agreement that is the same as an adopt a spot agreement, not the land use agreement the City proposed. That discussion is now lodged with the City Attorney; we hope to hear back soon.
- **Gateway**—Sue and Gordon continue to make cuttings of succulents and removing overgrown plants within the first 5-10 feet of the deck to replant with low growing succulents, per the new defensible space requirements. We have been weeding and removing plants within 48 inches of the curb along Caldecott Lane to create a walking path. Gordon reported that Howard Mattis and a leader from Parkwoods have requested that the City add the sidewalk from the Firestorm Memorial to Parkwoods in the upcoming Capital Improvements Program budget, since 4th Bore Mitigation Funds ran out before they could move forward with this phase of the plan.
- **Firestorm Memorial Garden**—Ray's Electric and the City removed more plants than anticipated, due to a snafu in communications. The Garden Committee has hired Jennifer DeGraaf, a local landscape designer, to work with us and the City to ensure that the hillside is restored in a manner that is fire safe, drought tolerant, low maintenance and stable. The contractor will limb the Oaks; Bentley School will limb the Monterey Pines and rake up the pine needles on their property for fire safety.

- **Eagle Scout Projects:**
 - Mason Chen, an Eagle Scout candidate, is making progress on repairing the damaged steps in Gateway. We've secured donations for landscaping timbers (Ashby Lumber, valued at \$700), Rebar (Economy Lumber), 3 gallons of paint (Oakland PWA Paint Department), and step toppers from Weyerhaeuser Corporation for all of the steps. Mason has drilled holes in the landscaping timbers and will organize workdays with scouts, to paint the timbers, remove and replace approximately 70 damaged timbers, add the step toppers, weed the pathway and add gravel. Fund raising for actual dollars and in-kind donations continues.
 - Nicholas Laub-Sabater will be presenting his proposal to add a lattice screen behind the bench by the water fountain and to organize a workday in Firestorm Memorial Garden with scouts—sometime during the winter break.
 - Nate Catalano, has proposed organizing a workday at Gateway—we are waiting for details.
- **Lack of Water at North Oakland Sports Field**—Steve sent letters to the City, EBMUD and the CPUC. We heard back from the Oakland City Administrator that he was aware of the situation and will look into it further. We heard back from the CPUC and learned that they did not have jurisdiction over EBMUD.
- **Volunteer Recruitment:** Have requested a volunteer coordinator from Salesforce to help us recruit volunteers.
- **Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust Grant**—we should hear about our application for a \$20,000 grant this month.

7. **New Business**

- **Trash at Kaiser**—Elizabeth Stage reported that Alicia Johnson asked NHCA to write to OUSD about overflowing dumpsters and trash on the Kaiser Campus. Sue Piper said she checked with neighbors, who corroborated the problem. Sue said she would write to OUSD to see if they would clean the area up and to find out what their ongoing plans were to keep the property clean. The Board decided to wait to see what that response was before a letter was written.
- **CalTrans clearing its properties:** Gordon Piper raised the issue of Caltrans not managing vegetation on the slope between the Firestorm Memorial Garden and Gateway. Elizabeth noted that Joe Devries stated at the last OFSC meeting that this is an issue all along Caltrans properties in the Oakland WUI and that he meets with them regularly. She recommended that Gordon contact Joe Devries directly.

- **Compliance of the Paul Vincent Property at the bottom of Hiller Drive (across from the Firestorm Memorial Garden):** Gordon Piper was concerned that nothing seems to have been done to bring this property into compliance. It was suggested he email Travis Hansen to see whether or not the property is in compliance, and if not, where it is in the compliance process.
8. **New Business:** The board will meet again on December 21, 2020
 9. **The Meeting was adjourned at 8:29 pm.**