

D R A F T



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October 19, 2020 Board Meeting
Via Zoom

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

Excused: Ken Cohen
Nancy Mueller

Guest: Carolyn Burgess, former Board Member
Gordon Piper, Oakland Landscape Committee
Nick Vigilante, Montclair Neighborhood Council
Prasad Thammimeni, Safer Highlands

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Chair Steve Hanson

1. **Minutes** of August 17, 2020 and September 21, 2020 were approved as mailed
2. **Treasurer's Report**—Brenda Roberts shared her report for the month ending on September 30, 2020. All of our RS1 filings with the state of California are up to date from 2014 to 2019. NHCA has received \$9,752 in donations to date; generated \$4,632 in expenses, leaving an ending balance as of 9/30 of \$12,374.90 with \$7,603.53 in the savings account, with \$3,000 in reserve. Brenda raised the question of how having \$20,000 in the bank will impact our ability to raise funds—if people feel we already have sufficient funds. During the discussion, it was pointed out that during this year's pandemic, we would anticipate raising less funds than in the past. Given that the 30th Anniversary of the Fire Storm and the possibility of a live Annual Meeting occurring in 2021, it would be prudent to keep these funds on hand for anticipated expenses in 2021. Brenda will follow up with Amazon Smile to see if and how NHCA can receive funds raised on that website.

3. **Communications Committee-** Chris Johnson

- a. **Fundraising:** It was suggested to add to the start of the letter something about hoping people are staying safe during these unusual times. The Board decided to focus on sending a mailer to previous donors and not to the **larger group of residents living in NHCA's area to keep** down expenses at this time.. Steve Hanson will update the Excel spread sheet with names and addresses of recent donors and will print the envelopes with the NHCA return address and logo. Chris will revise the letter and print them using mail merge. Elizabeth will count how many remit envelopes we have left and let us know if we need to print new ones. Sue will print the labels and host a mailing party at her house on Thursday, October 29 at 1 pm. Carolyn will buy the 300 stamps.
- b. **2021 Election**—Chris set up pages for the City Attorney responses to our questions and will upload the School Board candidates as well. Once that is up, we will send out a message to Open Forum

4. Public Safety- Elizabeth Stage

- a. **Grizzly Peak update**—People from North Hills are very happy with Grizzly Peak—the City responded to our letter; since then, they have swept the area on red flag nights, shooed people away, put logs to make barriers for the outlook, and chained them. Steve sent a thank you note. Then Montclair Neighborhood Council (MNC) is also happy, because we have persistently been in the chorus supporting the idea that it the no parking effort has to include Skyline, as well. Cross departmental working group has said they will extend to Skyline, but they area still evaluating the efficacy of what they have done so far. There is no time table nor budget, but a commitment. Grizzly Peak Fire Watch (Berkeley) patrol from Centennial to past Marlboro Terrace—report every night how many cars on look out on road, how many cops—and they yell at OPD. We are working with Captain Bolton. He suggested we have a Public Safety Meeting on this subject. We have tentatively set aside this Wednesday at 7 pm to join Grizzly Peak Firewatch Group.
- b. Our **Zoom town halls** on Fire Safety with MNC have been very successful.
- c. Don't know more about **vegetation management plan**.
- d. **Evacuation:** working on trying to get a complete map for the entire hills—Nick Luby thinks every street should be a firesafe street and

needs to have 14 feet clear. If it's 20 feet on one side, then parking on wide side only. Sent memo to Joe DeVries, given what Fire department thinks about fire safe street, they should all be treated as evacuation routes.

- e. **Homeless:** Murmurs on Open Forum about homeless people gathering at Hiller Caltrans Property; 13 underpass, and a fire on Stonehill on EBRP property. City Council is going to have a homeless policy review—they think all the unhoused people treated the same way—where it is appropriate and where it is inappropriate. The board approved Elizabeth speaking to the Council at their October 20 meeting to advocate for prohibiting encampments near schools, not too close to residences, and not in dry brush.

5. **Garden Committee**—Sue Piper

- a. **Gateway Extension:** Agreement with City of Oakland for Gateway Extension – Sue reported that she, Steve and Elizabeth met with Ed Reiskin and asked him to correct the City's error and add the lot to the Gateway Park , as well as allow us to use water. Will follow up next week.
- b. **4th Bore Construction Impact on Firestorm Memorial Garden:** there have been a series of miscommunications resulting in the lost of some established plants at the Firestorm Memorial Garden. The Garden Committee is in ongoing negotiations about repayment, and erosion measure appropriate to firesafe best practices.
- c. **Lack of water at North Oakland Sports Field:** The Board approved Sue drafting a letter to the City, EBMUD and the California Public Utilities Commission about the stalemate on resolving the landslide fix and restitution of water at the North Oakland Sports Field. It's going on 3 years since the land slide—and there has been no water except to the ball field in these very dry, high fire situations. NOSOL said they would also endorse a letter, and Nick Vigilante agreed to ask MNC to support the effort, since the Sports Field is the buffer between the ridge and Montclair, Rockridge and Hiller Highlands.

6. **New Business:**

- a. **Capital Improvement Projects**—the city is soliciting ideas for capital improvement projects for next year. We should provide our input before the end of October.
- b. **General Plan input**—Sue will forward to the board the invitation to participate in community input on updating the General Plan.

c. **Chris Johnson to take a 3 month leave from the Board.**

7. Next Meeting will be Monday, November 16, 2020 at 7 pm via Zoom
8. **Adjournment**—the meeting was adjourned at 8:16 pm.