



September 21, 2020 Board Meeting
Via Zoom

Present: Steve Hanson
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 7:09 pm by Chair Steve Hanson

1. **Minutes of August 17, 2020** were tabled until the next meeting.
2. **Treasurer's Report**—Brenda Roberts shared her report for the month ending August 31, 2020: A total of \$9,752.72 in revenue and \$4,569.10 in expenses year to date. \$240 in expenses (Garden reimbursement) for August.
3. **Communications Committee—Chris Johnson**
 - a. **Open Forum Hacker**- Following up on suspicious postings on Open Forum, Chris learned that an individual somehow got a hold of old emails and sent spoofed postings, making it appear that the malicious emails were coming from Open Forum. Our Pair host company reported that the breach had nothing to do with them. One of our Open Forum members who works with Sales Force was able to figure out the host email service that was generating the malicious emails. They, in turn, banned the person sending the emails from their service. People on Open Forum were patient and understanding. Chris will send out an explanation and thank

you on Open Forum shortly, with information on what to do if you see something suspicious.

- b. **District 1 Candidates' Forum**—former City Councilmember Marge Gibson suggested on Open Forum that NHCA host a candidates' forum for D1 candidates. Upon discussion, the Board decided that since ballots go out next week, there was insufficient time to schedule such a forum. However, a subcommittee of Chris, Sue and Elizabeth agreed to put together a short list of common questions to all D1 and At Large Candidates for City Council and all D1 candidates for School Board with a short deadline. Their responses and links to their websites will be posted on the NHCA website and promoted through Open Forum and Next Door.
- c. **Fund Raising Letter**—Steve Hanson will draft a fund raising letter; Nancy Mueller will provide a mailing list in Excel for the greater NHCA community; Sue, Steve and Brenda will review our donor's list to provide a targeted mailing list. Elizabeth will double check how many remits she has—we will need about 3300 remits for the annual mailing. Chris will find out the cost of printing, collating and mailing out the fund raising letter to the general NHCA population, with the goal of all of this being done before the end of October. It was noted that October 20, 2021 will be the 30th anniversary of the Firestorm, and should be mentioned in the annual appeal.

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

- a. **Grizzly Peak Update**—Elizabeth noted that since the City and other jurisdictions posted signs, it is easier for the police to make their educational outreach pitch. Additional signs indicate no parking at all on Red Flag Days. UC Berkeley, EBRP, and police from Orinda, Berkeley and Oakland have patrolled the area between the Steam trains and Marlboro Terrace and now have biweekly meetings with Susan Wengraf from Berkeley City Council focused just on the Grizzly Peak situation. Steve Hanson will write a thank you letter.
- b. **Park Like Somebody's Life Depends on It-** Nancy Lane had suggest that we schedule a day to canvass the narrow streets with a leaflet to raise awareness. Elizabeth will coordinate with Joe Devries at the City to focus on declared evacuation routes that have signage and to develop an appropriate message. More information to come.

5. **Garden Committee- Sue Piper**

- a. **Gateway Extension Garden**—Sue Piper outlined the options for NHCA’s response to the City’s proposed use agreement, noting that it was the wrong template for what NHCA was proposing. The Board rejected the proposed use agreement and agreed that she should reach out to City Administrator Ed Reiskin about having the city rezone the area as part of the Gateway Park, as it was originally slated to be back in 1998 when Gateway was under development.
- b. **Firestorm Memorial Garden and 4th Bore improvements**—Gordon Piper reported that Rays Electric, the contractor implementing the new sidewalks and curb at the Firestorm Memorial Garden, removed several thousand dollars’ worth of plants without prior notification. The NHCA Garden Committee will be meeting with the City to discuss restitution once the contractor’s work is finished.
- c. **Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust**—Sue reported that the committee is awaiting word on the \$20,000 grant application for upgrades to both gardens. We should hear in November.
- d. **Eagle Scout Projects**—there are three projects on the table—one to repair damaged steps at Gateway; and two to work on other Gateway and Firestorm Memorial planting projects. Efforts are underway to seek donation of materials to complete the projects.

6. Other Administrative Business

- a. **Conflict of Interest Policy**—Steve will double check who has not yet filed the form and will follow up.

7. **Next Meeting** will be Monday, October 20, 2020

8. The meeting was adjourned at 8:29pm.