

D R A F T



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April 19, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes
Via Zoom

Present: Ken Cohen
Steve Hanson
Chris Johnson
Dave McGinness
Sue Piper
Brenda Roberts
Elizabeth Stage

Excused: Nancy Mueller

Guest: Carolyn Burgess

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm by Chair Steve Hanson

1. **Minutes** March 15, 2021 were approved as mailed.
2. **Treasurer's Report—**
 - a. Brenda Roberts reported that we received \$130 in donations for the Garden and spent \$210 for website support in March. Total donations year to date are \$2,800 and expenses are \$420. We have \$27,885.75 in the checking and savings account. Almost all of the donations year to date are earmarked for the garden.
 - b. The Board discussed presenting a summary financial report to be posted on the website, either now or as part of an annual report.
3. **Communications Committee**
 - a. Chris Johnson noted that developing and implementing a comprehensive marketing plan is critical to the survival of NHCA—that we need to encourage more local residents to engage and participate as volunteers and board members. A subcommittee consisting of Steve Hanson, Brenda Roberts, Sue Piper, Carolyn Burgess and himself have been working on focusing our efforts. Hiring a marketing consultant with professional expertise will enable NHCA to achieve its goals. A proposal has been

received but not yet discussed by the subcommittee, which will bring back to the board a full plan and a budget for approval.

- b. Central to marketing NHCA this year is the 30th Anniversary of the Firestorm. The subcommittee has fleshed out a number of ideas, including a special event in October to celebrate the (hopefully) slowdown of COVID-19, and a series of video interviews of local residents' reflections on the 1991 Firestorm and how it impacted their lives. The videos will be posted on a special Firestorm 30 webpage. The subcommittee will present its plans to the Board for the 30th Anniversary after discussing with the marketing consultant—by the May meeting.

4. Public Safety Committee—

- a. **NHCA Survey**—Elizabeth Stage summarized the results of the 2021 survey, noting that 1/3 of the respondents didn't know much about NHCA and the biggest take away was that people are scared about the risk of another wildfire. Respondents who were aware of NHCA appreciated our advocacy and education efforts. She will send out a summary on Open Forum.
- b. **May 11, 2021 Public Safety Committee Meeting**—will cover upcoming OFD property inspections, a public safety report from OPD and hopefully, someone from the Post Office to talk about the uptick in stolen mail.

5. Garden Committee-

- a. **Firestorm Memorial Garden:**
 - Resolved issue with CalTrans—no permit, but we can “guerilla garden” under the wire, as it is a public space.
 - Working with Bentley School to deal with the damage from the Waste Management Garbage Truck accident
 - Capping the line to the drinking fountain
 - Turning on the irrigation
 - Replacing drinking fountain with a matching granite bench, etched with a tribute to OFD Battalion Chief James. M. Riley, who died in the fire, for whom the fountain was dedicated.
 - Installing boards along the side to keep debris from spilling on the sidewalk
 - Awaiting compensation from WM's insurance company—sought a letter from CalTrans naming NHCA with the right of recovery so we can get the check—expect close to \$9,000 in reimbursements

- Getting bids for the bench
 - Working with the City of Oakland to finalize erosion control and replacement planting. Getting prices for the plants recommended by Jennifer DeGraff—Have a budget up to \$4800 that Ray’s Electric will use to pay for the plants; we will install.
 - 32 CY aged compost to be donated by WM—awaiting finalization—volunteers to spread the mulch
 - Working with an Eagle Scout to install the boards along the sidewalk using left over “Trex” from Gateway; looking for black lava rock to install 2 feet behind the boards—either from Craig’s list or from insurance funds. Hoping Eagle Scouts can help with the spreading of the compost and plantings.
 - Working with Salesforce for a team of 5 volunteers to help with spreading the compost and planting—seeking a \$5,000 grant for plants.
- b. Gateway Exhibit Center and Fire-Resistant Garden**
- Completing one Eagle Scout project—weeding, spreading lava rock and planting around the Exhibit Center.
 - Second Eagle Scout project to repair the steps should occur at the end of April or Early May—Raised more than \$6,000 in in kind services to date.
 - Awaiting arrival of spreading sedum in June that will be planted in front of the Exhibit Center.
 - Working with Salesforce for the same team of 5 volunteers and a grant of \$5,000 to pay for the 200 plant identification signs, which they would install.
 - Working with Oakland Community Preparedness & Response (OCP&R), a program of the Oakland Firesafe Council for additional funding to cover the cost of the plant identification signs.
- c. Gateway Extension**
- Met with a team from the City to negotiate a new land use agreement that will allow NHCA to maintain the extension area.
 - Need to keep in mind that the City needs to reclassify the 3 lots correctly when the City updates its General Plan in the next year or so.
 - Meanwhile, Gordon (and Sue for a little bit) removed several thousand gallons of weeds and grass by hand from the Extension Garden—This eliminates the spread of seeds, which occurs when using a weed eater.

- Will hold an EarthDay workday on Saturday, April 24 from 9-noon—need to fill a 30 CY dumpster in 2 days—so all hands on deck.

6. New Business

- a. **Completion of sidewalk to Parkwoods**—Steven Hanson is monitoring the situation with the group lobbying for completion and Councilmember Dan Kalb’s Office.
- b. **Water Tank Failure**—Steve is following up on this.

7. **Adjournment**—The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 pm.