

NHCA Board meeting **revised version** November 21, 2022

Present: Carolyn Burgess, Dan Conolly, Shivani Grover, Steve Hanson, Chris Johnson, Donna Karch, Nancy Mueller, Vicki Oliveira, Elizabeth Stage.

Guest: Howard Matis.

1. Steve called to order. Approval of Minutes. at 7:05pm. He mentioned the board would review the minutes and then have an “Open Forum”. Elizabeth moved to accept the October 17, 2022 minutes. Carolyn seconded and the board voted unanimous approval.

2. “Open Forum” Guest Howard Matis wanted to present a proposal regarding the as yet, unfinished sidewalk, from Caldecott to Tunnel Road. Howard explained that when the 4th bore was proposed, many years ago, he was on the board of the NHCA. Several neighborhood groups including the NHCA, Caldecott Properties, the cities of Berkeley and Oakland, Rockridge and Frog Park, joined together to create the Fourth Bore Coalition and they all donated money to the coalition. They negotiated various demands of CalTrans for the approval of the 4th bore. One high priority for mitigation was a sidewalk from Caldecott Lane to the Hiller Rd. traffic signal. However, monies were spent on lower priority projects. Per Steve, \$600,000 was spent on design of this sidewalk. It has not yet been built. Howard stated there was still \$20,000 left in the 4th bore account and he proposed to dissolve the coalition and disperse the funds to the aforementioned stakeholders. NHCA would get \$4,000. Ann Smulka who was chair of the coalition, does not want to disperse the funds. Howard wanted to board to move that the 4th bore coalition demand CalTrans take action to complete the sidewalk project within 60 days or “take the appropriate legal action”. This “action” was not defined. Rather than vote on Howard’s proposal Chris wants to talk to Ann Smulka to see what her objections are to dissolving the 4th bore Coalition. There was also mention of the fact that \$250,000 was set aside from the City of Oakland for the Caldecott sidewalk project but this money is not funded. Shivani was concerned that others, such as Marie Lanigan, who has approached the Board about the Caldecott sidewalk, be consulted prior to taking any action. Is Marie aware of this proposal? This item will be moved to the next Board business meeting.

3. Treasury Report. Chris. Chris created a financial report from 1/1/2022 to 11/21/22. He mentioned the board will need to take monies from the savings account to cover the deficit in spending. The closing combined balance of checking and savings is \$14,994.98. Chris will prepare a shortened version of the treasury to post with the November minutes for the NHCA.

4. Communications Report. Chris has finished his fabulous fundraising letter. Various board members helped with edits. The mailing list for all of NHCA was supplied by the title company in September. However, the board decided to do a pared down mailing to previous contributors. Approximately 300 letters will be sent. Steve volunteered to get an estimate from East Bay Blueprint and pay for 500 of them. He will distribute them to board members. Nancy asked for 50. She will give half of those to a friend who lives in HHV who will hand deliver, staple a remittance envelope and write a handwritten note. Other board members may want to hand deliver and do the same.

Chris will work with Dora to post the letter as a web page. It should be sent to announcements and placed on Open Forum as well. (What about posting on NextDoor? *Ed.*)

Vicki asked about logistics. Envelopes? (NHCA should have blanks with return address and logo. *Ed.*) Mailing labels? Chris has the list? Stamps, we each buy our own.) Mailing party? Prob not.

Steve will clarify when he gets the fundraising letters.

Chris was available for a mailing party after Dec 12. Board felt that was too late.

The communications committee was going to have a recommendation on Google Docs and getting the Board up to speed. (to replace Drop Box). This was not discussed.

5. Public Safety. Carolyn. Carolyn noted the “No Smoking” signs are still not up, after more than 300 days on See,Click,Fix. (See if Janani can get them! *Ed.*)

Kyle gave a report on Zonehaven. It is dependent on people having signed up for AC Alert. There are 430,000 residents in Oakland. 10,000 are signed up for AC Alert.

Carolyn was wondering if the Public Safety Meetings are worth it. She works hard to set them up with speakers etc. At the last meeting, only 15 people were there including all the speakers and Carolyn. When held live there used to be between 25-100 people who would show up.

6. Garden committee including Events. Dan. All '22 projects/programs were successfully **completed** and event summaries **posted** to the NHCA web site with pictures which can be viewed at www.northhillscommunity.org - **News + Notes - Gardens & Community**. Great year!

This **season's** garden program involved 1,500+ volunteer and non-volunteer man hours, removal of 20 truckloads of

green waste and the addition **for** 10 truckloads of mulch. The year started with the April 16th Berkeley Project Day

w/35+ volunteers and resulted in 50 bags of green waste which barely made a dent in what was needed by years end.

If this Garden rejuvenation project was handled as a for-profit bid (e.g., abatement, detailing, disposal costs, mulching, site/

irrigation plans, etc.) the cost would exceed \$100,000 with an ongoing monthly maintenance contract of \$3-5,000 month.

We kicked off the '22 Garden program with an April luncheon and concluded the season with a November 16th luncheon.

In summary, though we had a dedicated group of Friday volunteers and a Summer Ice Cream Social fundraiser the end

result of this year's extraordinary effort is that the NHCA is not supporting the Gateway and Memorial Gardens physically

(local volunteers) and financially (monetary funding) to properly maintain the gardens. Both aspects need to be improved.

Please see the Nov '22 monthly Garden + Event report attached. Annual meeting update addressed by Vicki in Old Business.

7. Advocacy. Elizabeth, no report.

8. New Business. Steve CPUC proposed rate plan for solar customers. Chris was going to speak with Dora to put a link on the website about the CPUC proposed rate plan issues.

December Board Meeting. Typically, there has been a December Potluck. No plans yet.

9 Old Business. Vicki gave a written report of six venues. The board overwhelmingly prefers Hiller Highlands as its location is great and there is a big parking lot. May be too expensive. Steve will check with the Temescal Beach house and apply for a waiver. Nancy suggested a tip jar for donations for wine. Nancy can get a case of wine from Star Grocery; Carolyn said she still had wine in her cellar from the last annual meeting. The date is set for Thursday, March 23. Speakers? Elizabeth suggested Mayor Sheng Thao and Janani Ramachandran, our new District 4 city councilperson.

Vicki's reports as follows:

FACILITY OPTIONS (100 People)

Zoom

1. No health concerns (COVID, Flu, RSV)
2. No additional costs (facility rental, AV, food, beverages, raffle prizes)
3. No setup, takedown, cleanup
3. No personal physical interaction **In Person**

1. Berkeley Tennis Club (Tunnel Road)

- NA at this time
- Repairs/remodeling

2. Kaiser Early Childhood Center (Hill Court)

- NA at this time
- Auditorium set up as a child playground, tables and chairs removed.

3. Highlands Country Club (Hiller Drive)

- \$650 for 100 people Member Price (\$150 fee plus \$5/person). Shivani & Donna rechecked quote - No change.
- Good location, facility and parking (Best option if terms are beneficial)

4. Temescal Beach Club (Broadway Terrace)

- Tiered pricing (weekday afternoons or evenings, weekends - BOOKED)
- \$740 for weekday from 5-7pm (potential fee waiver TBD - see attached)
- \$150 Non-Catered Fee before 7pm / after 7pm must use their caterers (mandatory)
- \$50-150 Liability Insurance (mandatory)
- \$500 Refundable Cleaning & Damage Deposit before 7pm, \$1,000 after 7pm (mandatory)
- Good location, facility and parking

5. Dreyer's Grand Ice Cream - Conference Center (College Avenue)

- \$1,296 Normal 8-5pm only (4-hour min.)
- Non NHCA location, complete media center/personal facility support, good parking
- NA after February 1st

6. Claremont Club (Hillcrest Rd)

- \$600 w/Sponsor Member
- \$150 Table, chair, stage setup/takedown (optional)
- \$250 Post event cleaning (optional)
- \$50 Sound system setup and instructions (optional)
- Flexible evening scheduling, good facility (tables, chairs, kitchen)
- Non NHCA location (2 blocks off Tunnel Road above Chabot School), limited parking

Annual Meeting. Vicki will Focus on the **two** options noted below with the Thornhill Presbyterian Church as back up

- Hiller Country Club (terms as noted, obtain a better rental rate?)
- Temescal Beach House (Apply for fee/partial fee waiver - please see waiver conditions attached)

Steve will apply for the OP&R Temescal Beach House fee waiver

2. Event Plans (Finalize by Annual Meeting Committee)

- Meeting Location/Set Up, Announcement, Agenda
 - Guest Speaker(s)
 - Refreshments
 - Other (i.e., Raffle, Budget, etc.)
-

b. Nominations Committee, Shivani. She stated that David Kessler and Gwen Slack are interested in joining the board.

Action Items:

Dora: 1. Chris will speak with Dora to get the fundraising letter set up as a webpage for Announcements. Can it also be put on Open Forum and Next Door?

Dora, cont. 2. To post on NHCA website the CPUC rate plans for solar installations.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

s/Nancy Mueller, NHCA Secretary

