

DRAFT



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December 21, 2020 Board Meeting
Via Zoom

Present: Ken Cohen
Steve Hanson
Dave McGuinness
Nancy Mueller
Sue Piper
Brenda Roberts
Elizabeth Stage

Excused: Chris Johnson

Guest: Gordon Piper, Oakland Landscape Committee
Allison Silverstein

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

1. Allison Silverstein introduced herself—she lives on Nottingham in the Montclair side of Beat 13 Y. She expressed interest in serving on the board, where she can bring her marketing expertise. The Board unanimously approved naming Allison to the Board.
2. **Minutes** of November 16, 2020 were approved as mailed
3. **Treasurer's Report**—Brenda Roberts shared her report for the month ending on November 30, 2020. NHCA has received \$12,976 in donations to year to date; (\$3,375 was raised so far in the annual mailer) generated a total of \$5,136.64 in expenses, leaving an ending balance as of 11//20 of \$14,974.90 with \$7,912.87 in the savings account, with \$3,000 in reserve, for a total of \$22,787.77 in the bank. Brenda noted that due to the pandemic, our revenue was less than anticipated, but our expenses were also less than budgeted.

Brenda will be sending out budget templates for 2021 to all committee chairs.

Plans for fund raising in 2021 include a canvassed appeal to Hiller Highlands for the Garden Committee in January, and a fundraising campaign focused on the upcoming 30th Firestorm Anniversary later in the year. Steve Hanson will call a meeting of the 30th Firestorm Anniversary committee for the second week of January. Committee members are Steve, Brenda, Dave, Sue, and Allison.

4. Communications Committee-

- a. Steve Hanson reported that he sent a letter to the City expressing NHCA's support of completion of the sidewalk from Hiller to Parkwoods, as originally planned in the 4th Bore Mitigation Plan. He has not received a response to date.
- b. Letter to the Consultant concerning the Draft Environmental Impact Report on the City of Oakland Vegetation Management Plan—the board unanimously approved signing a letter from the Oakland Firesafe Council and signed by more than 20 other neighborhood organizations and individuals, concerned about the efficacy of the draft EIR and requesting the addition of a 5th Alternative that would incorporate recent changes to fire behavior, weather, pathogens killing large swaths of trees and resulting in more projects that would reduce the risk from crown fires as well as ground ignited fires. Individual members are welcome to sign as well.

5. Public Safety- Elizabeth Stage

- a. Elizabeth and Allison will flesh out details to an early **January Zoom Public Safety meeting** that would offer 15 minute presentations on Changes to the CORE Program;(CORE Coordinator Brianna Horton) the upcoming public comment deadline for the Draft EIR on the Vegetation Management Plan (Sue Piper); status of reimagining the police task force (Brenda Roberts, Budget process and deadlines for next 2 year city budget(Council member Dan Kalb or Sheng Thao, or their staff). They will also develop a survey to poll residents on topics for future Public Safety Meetings. One thought was to provide opportunities to address COVID concerns, stresses, facts.

6. Garden Committee—Sue Piper

- a. **Gateway Extension:** The City Attorney is still mulling over a new agreement to allow the NHCA Garden Committee to adopt the Gateway Extension. Meanwhile, Sue is working with Joe Devries, the Assistant City Administrator in charge of interdepartmental

coordination, to develop an agreement to allow us to use power tools (weed eaters) at Gateway. It is our understanding that we need to add the City to our policy for the two or three weed cutting events. Sue will work with Steve on clarifying what is required and what our policy can provide.

- b. **4th Bore Construction Impact on Firestorm Memorial Garden:** we are still waiting for the City to come up with a proposal for restoring what was removed. Meanwhile, they learned that 7 of the oak trees have Sudden Oak Death and will need to be removed. We are asking for additional information, including copies of any tests because if SOD is indeed on the site, it will require anyone working in the garden to take special precautions before and after working in the garden to avoid spreading the pathogen.
 - c. **Proposed Budget for 2021**—Sue went over proposed expenses. She will present a final budget to the Board once Brenda sends out the template.
 - d. **Garden Committee Fund Raising Letter**—Sue asked members to review the letter that was included with the agenda and to get back to her with any edits. The committee hopes to raise \$2,500 by walking the letter throughout Hiller Highlands.
7. **Adjournment**—Steve thanked all board members for their hard work during these unexpected and trying weeks of COVID 19. The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 pm.