



**North Hills Community Association
Board meeting Minutes
Claremont Hotel, Berkeley Room
August 21, 2023**

Board Member Attendance: Carolyn Burgess, Dan Conolly, David Kessler, Katie Kochounian, Nancy Mueller, Vicki Oliveira

Board Member Excused: Donna Karch

Guests Attendance: Rob Merker, who lives on Spyglass Hill

1. Call to order: 7:05 pm

2. Guest Introduction: Rob recently moved to Oakland. Asked what he could contribute to the board, he mentioned he has owned several companies in New York. He has degrees in philosophy and ethics. He is on a hospital ethics board. He owns apartment buildings in several Bay Area locations including Oakland. He is considering selling his Oakland property, as he is not optimistic about Oakland.

3. Review and Approval of July 17, 2023 Minutes: David Kessler moved to approve the minutes of July 17, 2023. Carolyn Burgess seconded. Unanimous approval.

4. Treasurer's Report: Donna Karch had submitted the Treasurer's Report to the Board prior to the meeting. As of 8/21/2023, available fund per WFB statements:

Savings account: \$13,950.79

Checking account: \$4,536.67

5. Committee Reports

A. Garden and Events: Vicki Oliveira reported that Chevron would have a group of volunteers working at the gardens on September

26, 2023. Ongoing maintenance continues on Friday at the Gateway Garden from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

The 2nd annual Ice Cream Social was held on Saturday, August 19, 2023. It was a huge success. Vicki estimated over 100 people came, maybe around 130, including numerous police officers, firemen and our councilmember, Janani Ramachandran, and her assistant Nathan Stalnaker. Approximately \$1400 was raised, about half from the raffle and half from the sale of succulents. Cash, checks, PayPal and Venmo were all used for payment.

Memorial Garden. Dan reported that last Spring, three California Lilac bushes, Ceanothus, were planted to honor Walter Denmead.

B. Communications: Donna Karch had submitted a report to the Board prior to the meeting.

Clarifying the use of Open Forum (approx. 640 addresses) and Announcements (approx. 1060 addresses). It was proposed to email subscribers of Announcements and Open Forum, and describe the differences between the two services: clarify that Announcements is a one-way channel without subscribers' responses, and OpenForum, is a two-way form of communications.

David and Katie will work on how to clarify this to the NHCA community. Katie thought that moving to Google Groups might clarify. She offered to help sort it out.

Donation letters need to be sent out quarterly. Katie will get with Donna to get donations to date, amounts, names and addresses.

C. Membership: Katie gave boxes of See's chocolates to new homeowners. Chocolates provided by Vicki's connection to See's. Katie's neighbors on Buckingham, Norfolk and Marlborough Terrace are connected. She is organizing bi-monthly gatherings on her driveway. Some other neighbors have also stepped forward to host.

D. Advocacy: David had nothing to report. However, he did note that members of the "Save the Claremont" group had met with the new management of the Claremont Hotel and they reported the development of the condominium proposed by previous owners is off the agenda. They also expressed awareness of the danger the eucalyptus grove poses, and will consider removing it. To be continued.

E. Public Safety: Carolyn reported that the Oakland city council takes a break for the month of August so there is no report. The Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) will be jointly managed by OFD and Public Works. The PW staff doesn't necessarily know that French Broom is a highly flammable plant that looks nice in Spring, so the don't cut it. It was decided that PW is better at managing contracts. Many Oakland departments are combining in limited ways to save money. The problem is institutional knowledge and communication between departments is struggling. There will be a presentation on August 22, 2023.

Crime rate on Buckingham was reported as more than 55% over last year.

Jordan Caldwell, a suspect of crimes in Oakland, was arrested in SF but released.

Barry Pilger and Catherine Moss are hosting a public safety meeting on security cameras on Thursday, August 24, 2023, at 7:00 P.M. at the Montclair Presbyterian Church, 5701 Thornhill Drive, Oakland.

Old Business

A. Dropbox/Google Doc Files Transition: Drop box has been cancelled. Katie will assist in the transition to Google Docs.

B. Open Forum/Announcement Transition:

Steps: 1. Confirm that the lists are not compromised.
2. Cross check between Announcements and Open Forum
3. Send a notice to everyone explaining how the two services function and ask subscribers if they want to continue to subscribe. David, Donna and Katie will work on this.

7. New Business

A. Committee Responsibility Review. On the agenda, but not discussed.

B. Firesafe Council Donation. On the agenda, but not discussed. Dan mentioned Nancy had donated \$100. Budget funds have been cut and Doug Mosher was ending his work on FSC as of 8/31/23.

C. Sponsorship threshold. \$500 was discussed as the entry level for Sponsorship. Update of Sponsorship list on website for 2023. Three levels:

1. In-Kind donations, i.e., BrightView, Claremont Club & Spa, Dreyer's, Star Grocery, Casa Orinda, Scott's Restaurant, USS Potomac, etc. Include all volunteer groups: Chevron, churches, etc.

2. Monetary donations: Everyone who has donated to NHCA this year. (Amounts? Alphabetical order???)

3. Sponsorship. Listed in size of Donations so largest on top? Minimum contribution: \$500. Ask previous big Sponsors to re-up for 2023/2024. Claremont Club & Spa, Andrea Gordon, Julie Nachtwey, Gunderman Group etc.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Mueller and Donna Karch, co-secretaries

Adjournment

As there was no further business, Dan Conolly proposed adjourning the meeting at 845 p.m.

Next NHCA Board meeting: Monday, September 25, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. Location to be determined.

Respectfully submitted,
s/Nancy Mueller & Donna Karch
NHCA co-secretaries