



**North Hills Community Association  
Board Meeting Minutes  
Claremont Club and Spa, Berkeley Room  
December 18, 2023**

**Board Member Attendance:** Carolyn Burgess, Ken Cohen, Dan Conolly, Donna Karch, David Kessler, Nancy Mueller, Vicki Oliveira

**Guest Attendance:** Kakoli Mitra

**1. Call to order:** Dan called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M.

**2. Review and Adoption of Agenda:** By consensus the agenda was adopted as presented.

**3. Review and Approval of Draft Minutes** for November 20, 2023 meeting. Vicki made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. David seconded. Unanimous approval.

**4. Treasurer's Report:** Donna reported that the:

Checking account has      \$4,936.86

Savings account has      \$11,893.13

Total available funds are \$16,833.99

Donna noted that BrightView Landscaping cashed the check that was reissued after BrightView had misplaced it. The check, for \$1,122.53, was for maintenance of the Memorial Garden.

Donna reported a donation of \$50 in Carolyn's honor. \$25 to gardens, \$25 to general.

Donna also reported that David Kerr tendered a bill for \$360 for annual maintenance/monitoring of our website. He had been sending monthly reports to Chris Johnson. Donna paid David Kerr's invoice. In the future David Kerr will send monthly reports to NHCA.

Ken Cohen asked what our fiscal year was. No one knew. Nancy texted Steve Hanson, Chris Johnson and Sue Piper. All three responded to Nancy that it was January 1 to December 31.

## **5. Committee Reports**

**a. Gardens and Events.** Vicki gave the wrap-up of the two-year garden plan at the November Board meeting. Dan had asked Wyllie Clayson, who is a native plant steward (He also tends to Garber Park and leads stewardship activities in Garber and for Claremont Canyon Conservancy and heads up work at Sign Post 29) for his opinion of the gardens as compared to when he first saw them 2 ½ years ago. He felt they were now in compliance with the stated mission of being a demonstration garden of native and less fire-prone plants. He saw a 180 degree change and was very pleased with all the work Dan has orchestrated for NHCA at the Demonstration Garden and the Memorial Garden (Attachment 1). Vicki had organized an envelope stuffing of the Annual Newsletter. Donna got permission from Highlands Country Club to use Spy Glass Room. Dan, Vicki, Donna, Carolyn, David and Nancy stuffed the envelopes. It was perfect. Over 3,000 newsletters were mailed on December 18, 2023. NHCA saved more than \$600 in labor by stuffing envelopes and over \$1,900 in postage as Carolyn had obtained a permit for bulk mail for non-profit mailings. Green Copy (5367 Broadway, Oakland) did the printing. Their rates and service were laudatory.

**b. Communication.** Donna and David discussed the issues with the two databases for Open Forum vs. Announcements.

**c. Membership.** No report. It is hoped that more neighbors will sign up for Open Forum and Announcements after they receive the Annual Newsletter.

**d. Advocacy.** David reminded the Board of the importance of supporting the Oakland Firesafe Council, which no longer receives funds from the City.

**e. Public Safety.** See Carolyn's report (Attachment 2). "Rising Tide" is a documentary film about homelessness in Oakland and how it came to be where it is. She asked the Board if this is something NHCA should post on Announcements. There ensued a discussion about what protocols should be in place for postings on Announcements. It was generally agreed that the Board should give approval of what is posted on Announcements, but several Board members pointed out that most Board members do not respond to the requests. David had posted a plea to support the Oakland Firesafe Council on Announcements without Board approval or even inquiry. David noted he often writes letters to the Board and members don't reply. Who determines what gets posted and what is the urgency factor? David made a motion to post "Rising Tide". Donna seconded and the Board voted unanimously to post it.

## **6. Old Business**

**a. Safety/Annual Mailing** (no discussion)

## 7. New Business

a. The **NHCA Annual Meeting**, will be held on Thursday March 21, 2024 at the Montclair Presbyterian Church. David and Ken volunteered to be in charge of the meeting. Carolyn will help them. Vicki noted that it was a lot of work and she and the committee last year met once a month for three months prior to the meeting. David, Ken and Dan also volunteered to be the Nomination Committee.

b. **Communications:** Barry Pilger has suggested a number of improvements to our website. Nancy suggested that NHCA hire Ruby S. Cardona, who does tech work for the Claremont Canyon Conservancy (CCC). Ruby has communicated with Dan that she is interested in doing the redesign. Ken moved that NHCA hire Ruby to do the work, with a budget not to exceed \$1,000. Donna will work with Ruby to “refresh” the website.

c. **Fourth Bore Coalition (FBC).** The Board held a lengthy discussion regarding the FBC, a 501c3 organization. NHCA and other organizations contributed funds to FBC, which is in the process of being dissolved. When it is dissolved, funds will be given to NHCA and other organizations. One of the organizations is the Parkwood Condominiums, which is not eligible to receive funds as they are not a 501c3. NHCA has been asked to receive and hold the funds for the Parkwoods. There are legal documents that need to be completed and, at this time, NHCA is not comfortable holding the funds for the Parkwoods.

d. **New Board Candidate Review/Discussion:** Kakoli Mitra is in the process of creating the Claremont Hills Safety & Advocacy Initiative (CHSAI) for her neighborhood (Chancellor Circle/Marlborough in the north to Charing Cross/Tunnel Road in the south). She gave a detailed presentation to the Board and requested that the Board incorporate CHSAI into NHCA.

Kakoli left the room and the Board met in Executive Session. After a lengthy discussion, the Board declined her membership to the Board.

As there was no additional business, Dan adjourned the meeting at 8:56 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Mueller and Donna Karch, NHCA co-secretaries

**From:** Wyllie Clayson  
**To:** Daniel Conolly  
**Sent:** Monday, December 18, 2023 at 11:47:15 AM PST  
**Subject:** Re: Wyllie Favor to Ask (Board Meeting Tonight Dec 18, 7pm)

Hello Dan,

I've visited both of the gardens and they look so amazing compared to when we started! Gateway Gardens has transformed from what started out as a disheveled, unmaintained, and overgrown garden that was fighting against the original fire-safe concept to a more manicured, pruned, and thoughtful garden that conforms to the original directives. As with all gardens, Gateway will require continued maintenance, but with the work and organization that has already been put into it, it feels like a fresh garden again that allows for the plants to have space to thrive and grow, rather than the dense patches there were before.

Memorial Garden is also night and day compared to when we started. Especially the front near the actual dedication, it feels vibrant and clean, with a well-spaced layout, rather than some of the haphazard plantings that were there before.

Both gardens have transformed a complete 180 and both are at a great space to continue on their care, without it seeming like a momentous task for volunteers.

We're so happy to have been a part of these transformations and look forward to seeing where they go next!

-Wyllie

**ATTACHMENT 1**

### Nov 25- A Rising Tide documentary.

I have reviewed this Independent film. It focuses on Oakland and the homeless issues and history and past laws that were in place that contributed to the issue.

The first showing is at The New Parkway Theater on Tuesday, January 2, at 7:00 pm. This is an important screening for the film maker. Most screenings have been free but this one helps raise a bit of money to offset expenses.. Whatever ticket sales are split with the theater. The screening isn't listed yet on their website but when it is, tickets can be purchased online.

Should this be something to promote?

### Nov 28 Special meeting of Safety and Services Commission (SSOC)

There was a Special Meeting of the City Council to receive informational reports on Violence Reduction Efforts through Measure Z. (Public Safety and Services Violence Prevention Act 2014)

Presented by Safety and Services Oversight Board (SSOC), Community Police Advisory Board (CPAB), and Police Commission, Fire and Police Departments,

(this is helpful to read) <https://tinyurl.com/mryepbsx>

This was a required meeting since the Office of the City Administrator must account for \$28 million tax dollars a year.

This is what I heard:

77.75% of those voting were in favor of this tax which replaced Measure Y and then measure BB

- money to go to 911 and violence intervention.
- A new parcel tax replacing measure Z will be up for a vote in 9 months
- Dozens of Oakland community organizations, working in collaboration with City leaders, focus on reduction of violent crime through additional police officers and research-based community programs for at-risk youth.
- There were numerous calls for a "dashboard" on the oakland website and individual programs to show an audit report ....% improvements or not.
- 911 receives (246,221 in 2022) 70,000 calls a year for OFD
- Macro (under OFD) receives 15,000 calls. Dec 18 final interviews to increase Macro staffing and coverage will go to 24/7 availability. January it is planned Macro will have their own number to relieve 911 congestion. Maybe setup when calling 911, an option press #1 for OPD, #2 for fire, #3 for Macro....maybe. <https://tinyurl.com/y9sjk8xt>
- Adding OFD academy in March. 1500 applicants showed up.

ATTACHMENT 2

- Most staffing is Data driven. Data decides how many patrols are assigned to specific areas of concern. OPD needs reports from their online form unless it is a level one crime (imminent physical danger and violent crimes involving weapons, murder, shooting, abduction rape) then an officer will be dispatched. If you do not report a crime to their website then the crime is not recognized.
- Less than 1/2 of 1% are responsible for gun violence.
- Ceasefire. Again data driven. Track and keep in touch with repeat offenders (88 as of Sept) or those that are on verge of starting up in criminal activity. Meetings with them to give counselling and options to that lifestyle.
- The funding from Calif. for the LPR (licence plate reading) cameras has not been identified yet!
- Still in talks to get pricing for fixed wing aircraft that will replace OPD helicopters.
- Police Commission- They do not have the final 3 candidates for Oakland Police Chief selected yet. Chair Marsha Peterson says soon!

## Dec 5 City Council Meeting

Non-consent item report 911

#10 Subject: Informational Report On Practices At The Department Of Human Resources Management for Recruiting, Testing, And Hiring 9-1-1 Dispatchers During The Years 2022 And 2023 From: Councilmember Ramachandran Recommendation: Receive An Informational Report On Practices At The Department Of Human Resources Management For Recruiting, Testing, And Hiring 9-1-1 Dispatchers During The Years 2022 And 2023, Including But Not Limited To: 1) Staffing Levels And Vacancy Trends During That Time Period; 2) Data On The Number Of Applications Received And Processed, Examinations Conducted, And Candidates Deemed Qualified By Month; And 3) Processes And Timelines For Processing Applications And Forwarding Qualified Candidates To OPD For Consideration, Including An Explanation Of How Continuous Hiring Processes Actually Function And During What Months Continuous Hiring Took Place - Ramachandran presenter

See Newsletter summary or video from meeting on

<https://oakland.legistar.com/calendar.aspx> video item 10

Dec 10 Met with Norfolk/Drury Neighborhood watch Steering committee-organization and advocacy

Dec 14 Rockridge NCPC mtg- Pamela Price 6:30

Dec 16 Up Lift Dist 4 Meeting -Ramachandran

Location TBD

11-1:00