



**North Hills Comm Association
Board Meeting Minutes
Claremont Club and Spa, Berkeley Room
August 19, 2024**

Board Member Attendance: Fred Booker, Miki Chan, David Kessler, Brian McCrodan, Nancy Mueller, Anna Sarukhsov, Elizabeth Stage

Board Members Excused: Donna Karch

Guest Attendance: Jared Savas

1. Call to order: David called the meeting to order at 4:07 P.M.

2. Introduction of Visitors: Jared Savas, Constituent Services Liaison for Councilmember Janani Ramachandran. He attended the July 2023 meeting. Email: jsavas@oaklandca.gov

3. Review and Adoption of Agenda: The Agenda was unanimously approved.

4. Review and Approval of Draft Minutes of July 15, 2024 minutes: Miki made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Second by Brian. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Announcements

a. Board member announcements: Elizabeth will discuss the WPZ.

b. Member Announcements: None.

6. Treasurer's Report: Donna submitted the Treasurer's Report, although she did not attend the meeting. Balance in checking as of 8/17/2024, is \$6,543.38 (Includes \$1,000 matching grant sent by Gordon and Sue Piper). Bentley School promised \$1,000 to help with irrigation at the Memorial Garden, but the funds are not showing as having been received. Fred will follow up. Fred asked why some donations went into the general account while others went directly into the savings account. It appears that PayPal deposits go directly to the Savings Account. PayPal is still charging fees as of 8/17/2024. Savings balance as of 8/17/2024 is \$14,407.40. Total funds available to NHCA as of 8/17/2024: \$20,750.78.

7. Committee Reports:

a. Communications: Brian said he sends the NHCA missives to about 6-8 community groups. Nancy suggested if we have something for Dora to post on

the website that we send it directly to her and cc Donna and David and any other board member who might be interested in that issue.

b. Advocacy: Nancy asked about the status of the Bay Forest landslide repair. Reportedly supposed to happen this summer, fall. Jared said that Josh Rowan, the new Director of Transportation, is on top of things. He has monthly coffee hours, next is Sept 20th 3:30-5:30pm. One must sign up. Nancy will email Jared to find out how to sign up. This would be good to inform our members about.

David asked Jared to sign up NHCA for a garbage can at Gateway. Apparently, there is a recycle bin there but mostly what is needed is a trash bin. David sometimes rolls it out and sometimes Dave McGuinness does. (Dave was previously on the NHCA Board). Since the structure is on City of Oakland property, the City must request the bin and the service. Jared will follow up and determine which City department is responsible.

c. Public Safety: Miki is holding a Public Safety meeting at the Presbyterian Church on Thornhill on Thursday, Sept 26, 6-8 p.m. on the Wildfire Ballot measure. It is a 501.c 4 campaign. Miki met the new police chief and she felt he was listening to our concerns. Jared said Janani's office was doing a Zoom info town hall on the Wildfire ballot measure on Sept 23. He will send a link as we get closer to the date.

8. Old Business

a. Management of Memorial and Gateway Gardens. Fred, Steve Cobbledick on Spyglass Hill, who is a surveyor, and Joshua van de Werf a young neighbor on Grand View Drive, created a map of the Memorial Garden. The map shows all irrigation valves, controller, hardscape, and primary trees etc to replace a missing map of the garden. Fred asked Wyllie Clayon what it would cost to update the Gateway Exhibit Management plan and create a new plan for the Memorial Garden, and he said \$1500. The board did not vote on this expenditure.

Kathy Kramer of Bringing Back the Natives wants to start a resource group for restoration projects. Fred also sent out a request to those on Open Forum to find someone who can help with outreach. Ben Bowen, a neighbor on Buckingham, did volunteer but would like someone else to help as well.

Fred requested that the board approve a \$1200 bid to clear the dead plants to the East and South of the Gateway demo pavilion such that it can comply with the spirit of a buffer zone around the building. This garden is to be a fire-wise demonstration garden. Currently it is a fire hazard in several areas. Fred will meet with the gardeners to clarify the scope of work to be done. The board approved unanimously.

Fred also spoke about the "garden" to the North of the Gateway Exhibit area. This is an area with high weeds around numerous succulents. There is no irrigation. This plot of land failed this year's fire inspection.

b. Campaign: Wildfire District Measure. Elizabeth is chairing this and the effort officially begins Sept 2. There will be door hangers and a chance for all to get engaged and help get this measure passed. She has created a 2-page summary and Miki is working on a 1-page post for Facebook, which will also be placed at the two gardens.

9. New Business

a. Funds for public safety meeting: The board unanimously approved a \$200 budget for Miki to spend for each public service meeting.

The next NHCA board meeting will be Sept. 16, 2024, 4:00 p.m.

Adjournment: As there was no further business, David adjourned the Meeting at 5:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Karch and Nancy Mueller, co-secretaries