



**North Hills Comm Association
Board Meeting Minutes
Claremont Club and Spa, Berkeley Room
November 21, 2024**

Board Member Attendance: Fred Booker, David Kessler, Brian McCroden, Nancy Mueller, Anna Sarukhanov, Elizabeth Stage

Board Members Excused: Miki Chan, Donna Karch

Guest Attendance: Rana Bader Matly, Rajni Mandal, Jared Savas

1. Call to order: David called the meeting to order at 4:06 P.M.

2. Introduction of Visitors: Rana lives in GANC and is interested in joining the Board. Rajni is our co-public safety chair but does not have time to serve on the Board. Rajni introduced Rana to the Board. Jared is Janani Ramachandran's aide and has been attending NHCA meetings. He announced that Janani had her baby last week and will be on leave for the next month or so.

3. Review and Adoption of Agenda: The Agenda was approved by consensus.

4. Review and Approval of Draft Minutes of September 16, 2024: Elizabeth made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Second by Brian. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Announcements

- a. Board Member Announcements:** David introduced Rana Bader Matly who has filled out an application to join the Board. She briefly introduced herself. She has lived in Montclair since 2014. She has two children, an 11-year-old and 13-year-old. She has an MBA from Wharton and raised \$20 million for one of her clients. She has been involved in helping Joaquin Miller Park. She is a professional fundraiser, and marketer, and she wants to help her community. The Board asked her to leave the room so they could discuss the application. After a brief discussion, it was moved to invite her to join the Board. Unanimous approval. The Board discussed its procedures for welcoming new Board members.
- b. Guest Announcements:** Jared announced that Janani had her baby and will be off for at least the month of December.

6. Treasurer's Report: Donna emailed the Treasurer's Report to the Board members. The checking account balance is \$11,926.53, which includes \$6,284.88 from the dissolved Fourth Bore Coalition (FBC). The savings account has a balance of \$14,907.77. A total of \$26,834.30 in funds is available for NHCA as of 11/14/2024.

Last January, the Board voted that half of the FBC funds would be used for public safety. After a brief discussion, the Board voted to donate \$3,142.44 to Make Oakland Wildfire Safe. Fred moved that NHCA donate an additional \$1,000 to Make Oakland Wildfire Safe, for a combined total of \$4,142.44. David seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Rana noted that NHCA needs a bigger sign at the Gateway Demonstration Garden and Pavilion proclaiming the success of the passage of Measure MM and how people can get involved in volunteer activities.

There was a discussion about forming Firewise Communities, which insurance companies are recognizing.

7. Committee Reports

- a. Garden:** Fred reported that there were two good workdays with UC Berkeley Project Day students. Seventeen students helped at the Gateway Demonstration Garden and Pavilion on November 2, 2024. They collected about 35 bags of green waste. On November 9, another group of UC Berkeley Project Day students worked at the Firestorm Memorial Garden and collected 50 bags of green waste. Andrea Gordon and Star Grocery contributed lunch for both workdays.

Due to a medical emergency, Lick Wilmerding High School students who were scheduled to work in the gardens on November 15, were not able to come. Fred has been in touch with the program director, and the students will revisit in the Spring.

In addition, weed-a-thon and trash pick-up days are held twice a month, unless it is raining.

David, Fred and Nancy met with representatives from Adopt-a-Spot and EBMUD at the Firestorm Memorial Garden. EBMUD is going to replace a 12" water pipe with a 24" pipe from the Amito Pumping Plant at 102 Hiller Drive to Tunnel Road. The project will start in 2025/2026.

- b. Communications.** The Board discussed year-end fundraising. David prepared a one-page year end summary and donation appeal. Rana reviewed it and made some suggestions for a more effective pitch. Lia did the layout. David will continue to revise the letter. It will be posted on Open Forum and Announcements. Board members can post to their local list serves. Nancy has

approximately 150 donor labels that can be used for direct mailing. David will draft a cover letter.

- c. Public Safety.** Rajni encouraged everyone to get involved with the Police Commission, which is anti-police. She said our presence will make a difference. She is taking a carpool from her neighborhood to the meetings which are held on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month. In December, there will only be one meeting, which is scheduled on December 12, 2024.

8. New Business: The Board discussed working with, and the possibility of merging with, the Montclair Neighborhood Council (MNC). With the passage of Measure MM, NHCA and MNC have much in common. To be continued and explored.

The Annual Board Holiday Potluck will be held on December 13th.

Adjournment: As there was no further business, David adjourned the Meeting at 5:36 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

S/ Nancy Mueller and Donna Karch
Co-secretaries