



**North Hills Community Association
Board Meeting Minutes
Claremont Club and Spa, Berkeley Room
January 16, 2025**

Board Member Attendance: Fred Booker, Miki Chan, Donna Karch, David Kessler, Rana Bader Matly, Brian McCroden, Nancy Mueller, Anna Sarukhanov, Elizabeth Stage

Guest Attendance: Jared Savas

- 1. Call to order:** David called the meeting to order at 4:04 P.M.
- 2. Introduction of Visitor:** Jared Savas is an aide to Councilmember Janani Ramachandran
- 3. Review and Adoption of Meeting Agenda:** The Agenda was approved by consensus.
- 4. Review and Approval of Draft Minutes of November 12, 2024:** Brian made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Second by Nancy. Motion carried unanimously.
- 5. Announcements**
 - a. Board Member Announcements:** Elizabeth announced that recalled Mayor Sheng Thao was indicted on Thursday, January 16, 2025.
- 6. Treasurer's Report:** Donna reported that the checking account balance is \$13,551.91, and the savings account has a balance of \$15,355.54. A total of \$28,907.45 in funds is available for NHCA as of January 16, 2025.

Last November, the Board voted to donate a total of \$4,142.44 to Make Oakland Wildfire Safe. However, after a review of the NHCA bylaws, the Board was reminded that the maximum, allowable donation is limited to \$250. NHCA can no longer donate to Make Oakland Wildfire Safe as their bank account has been closed.

Donna made a motion to donate \$250 to the Oakland Firesafe Council in honor of Elizabeth Stage. Seconded by Anna. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board discussed changing the Bylaws to increase the donation limit to \$1,000. No vote was taken.

The Board discussed the need to create a budget for 2025.

7. Committee Reports

Garden: Fred presented the Garden Report (See Attachment #1).

- a. **Communications.** David presented the Communications Report (See Attachment #2). Nancy requested that NHCA purchase envelopes with the logo, address and a sentence stating NHCA's mission. Rana will work on the envelope. Nancy will get price quotes. Lia will be asked to do the layout.
- b. **Public Safety.** After a lengthy discussion, the Board decided to combine the Public Safety meeting with the Annual Meeting. No vote was taken.

8. New Business:

- a. **Retreat:** There was a lengthy discussion re having a Board retreat. Brian will work on a proposal.
- b. **Annual Meeting:** There was a lengthy discussion of the Annual Meeting, including possible venues, dates, and speakers. The Board decided to include the quarterly Public Safety meeting with the Annual Meeting.
- c. **Donation to United Policyholders:** Fred made a motion to donate \$250 to United Policyholders. Donna seconded. After a brief discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

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

NHCA January 2025 Board Meeting – Garden Report

1. In November we had two very successful workdays with UC Berkeley students working both at the Gateway Garden and the Memorial Garden. At the Gateway Garden students continued with the removal of invasives and cleaning up the understory vegetation beneath the olive trees. In the Memorial Garden, students successfully removed all the invasive broom, dead wood and general cleanup around the sculpture.
2. Due to rain and the holidays, there were no workdays in December.
3. We held our first workday of the new year on January 11th, with 6 volunteers. Work included removing new growth around the pavilion, the removal of a small Red Gum Eucalyptus adjacent to Caldecott Lane as well as continuing with the clean up under and around the olive trees. Trash was picked up along the roadway from the Garden to the stoplights at Hiller Drive.
4. Preliminary grant proposals were submitted to the Diablo Firesafe Council, to UC Berkeley's Chancellor's Community Partnership Fund and Keep Oakland Beautiful, for funds to transition the Gateway Garden to a firesafe demonstration garden. We got positive feedback from everyone. UC said that we do not meet requirements, though they would keep an eye out for applicable funding sources.

ATTACHMENT # 1

Communications Committee Report for January 16th 2025 mtg.

Newsletter:

We created a newsletter with the help of Lia Turk. She sent it out to our Announcements list via Constant Contact. We also accessed various email lists of other local organizations in our area by asking key people in those organizations to send the newsletter out for us. These groups are: GANC, Montclair, UPCAN, Claremont Hills, Grandview, Vicente Canyon, and Bristol Buckingham.

Thus, many people previously unaffiliated with and unaware of our existence were introduced to the NHCA.

David and Donna have designed a “Thank You Note/Acknowledgement” process which is working smoothly. Thank you notes are being sent in a timely manner. The donor list is being updated as donations arrive.

We will need to send out an announcement of the details of our annual membership meeting as well as the slate of proposed nominees for next year’s Board of Directors. This must be done a month prior to the date we select for that meeting.

We propose sending out a reminder to prepare for evacuation because of the imminent risk of a red flag warning in the months ahead. The firestorms in Los Angeles are a reminder that we must be alert; the NHCA should be putting this reminder in the minds of our neighbors.

David sent a letter to City Officials reminding them that the repairs on Tunnel Road have not been made and the one-lane road continues to erode.