



**North Hills Community Association
Board Meeting Minutes
Claremont Resort and Club, Berkeley Room
March 20, 2025**

Board Member Attendance: Fred Booker, Miki Chan, Cornelia Grimes, Donna Karch, David Kessler, Brian McCroden, Nancy Mueller, Elizabeth Stage

Guest Attendance: None

1. Call to order: David called the meeting to order at 4:04 P.M.

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

3. Election of Board of Director Officers:

Chair: David Kessler

1st Vice Chair: Fred Booker

2nd Vice Chair: Miki Chan (automatically Public Safety Chair)

Treasurer: Donna Karch

Co-Secretaries: Donna Karch and Nancy Mueller

Garden Chair: Fred Booker

Advocacy: David Kessler and Elizabeth Stage

Public Safety: Miki Chan and Elizabeth Stage

4. Review and Approval of Draft Minutes of February 20, 2025: Elizabeth made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Miki seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Announcements

Board Member Announcements:

a. Cornelia Grimes was elected to the Board at the Annual Meeting. She lives in the Parkwoods Condominiums. The Board is pleased to have a representative from the Parkwoods. Cornelia volunteers on Garden Work Party days, and actively picks up litter along Caldecott Lane.

b. David announced that he will attend a meeting with approximately 45 neighbors who live on Drury Road and introduce them to the NHCA.

6. Treasurer's Report: Donna reported that the 2025/2026 NHCA Budget was circulated to the membership and approved at the Annual Meeting (Attachment #1). The check account currently has a balance of \$16,692.91, and the savings account has a balance of \$16,340.80. The total available funds are \$33,303.71. NHCA's Post Office Box is due for renewal. The fee for one year is \$234.14. The Board approved the fee.

7. Committee Reports

- a. **Garden:** Nancy reported that two garden volunteers emerged from the Annual Meeting. Fred said that NHCA will host UC Berkeley Project Day students on Saturday, April 12th. The students will work at the Memorial Garden from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided by donations from Whole Foods and Andrea Gordon. Fred is gathering bids to replace the irrigation lines at the Memorial Garden. The estimated cost is \$3,000.
- b. **Communications.** Donna reported that she, David and Fred had a Zoom meeting with Barry Pilger re the draft website. He is working with a webmaster in the United Arab Emirates. Barry has requested that we compile a list of comments and send them to him when the list is complete. All Board members are asked to look at the draft website and submit their comments to Donna. resented the Communications Report (See Attachment #1). David is planning on writing a quarterly newsletter which will be sent via Constant Contact.
- c. **Advocacy.** Elizabeth reported that Cal Fire has issued new maps, which are very different than the previous ones. Fred reported that Grand View is now a Firewise Neighborhood. Hiller Highlands Homes Association (properties below Highlands Country Club) is also a Firewise Neighborhood.
- d. **Public Safety.** Miki reported that the last two Public Safety Meeting with the City were cancelled. Miki is planning a Public Safety meeting to be held at the Presbyterian Church in June 2025. Fire inspection compliance may be one of the topics on the agenda.

8. New Business:

- a. **Letter to Acting Mayor re Federal Oversight of OPD:** David drafted a letter to interim Mayor Jenkins requesting the end of the Police Oversight monitor. Fred pointed out that only Judge Orrick has the authority to end the remove the oversight monitor. (See Attachment #2)
- b. **PG&E grant proposal:** Elizabeth is planning to submit a grant proposal to PG&E on behalf of the Firesafe Council. She asked Board members to contact her re properties that are fire hazards within 500' of power lines.
- c. **Note Cards:** Nancy circulated custom-made cards which could be used to send Thank You notes to NHCA donors. The printer requires a minimum order of 25. Each card costs \$1.50 plus shipping. Fred will follow-up.
- d. The Board discussed changing the time and date of the Board meetings. After a brief discussion, it was decided that the Board would meet on the third Monday of each month from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Nancy will confirm availability with the Claremont.

Adjournment: As there was no further business, David adjourned the Meeting at 5:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
S/ Nancy Mueller and Donna Karch
Co-secretaries



P.O. Box 5844 Berkeley CA 94705

March 15, 2025

BUDGET FOR 2025/2026

Insurance	\$ 3,200.00
Garden - Memorial	\$ 5,000.00
Garden - Gateway	\$ 3,000.00
Postage & PO Box	\$ 1,400.00
Fundraising Printing	\$ 1,400.00
Website	\$ 3,000.00
Web Security	\$ 360.00
Annual Meeting	\$ 500.00
Office Supplies/DOJ	\$ 500.00
Total	\$18,360.00

ATTACHMENT #1



P.O. Box 5844 Berkeley, CA 94705

20 March 2025

Dear Interim Mayor Jenkins, City Administrator Johnson, City Attorney Richardson, and Members of the City Council:

We write to you to ask that you use any available authority to end the Federal oversight of the Oakland Police Department. This was discussed at the City Council Public Safety meeting on January 14, 2025. Recent news coverage has pinpointed the futility and lack of success of the current monitoring system. <https://www.oaklandreport.org/p/oakland-police-department-cant-escape>

After twenty years of oversight, it's time to let the Oakland Police Department stand on its own two feet and see if confidence in the police force can be restored, both among the officers and the public. We are a long way from the Riders scandal. Every police force, indeed, every public agency in the world is liable to have failures and breakdowns. Even if standards are not constantly being shifted, as the *Oakland Report* article alleges, it is almost impossible for any police force to have a perfect record.

The City has established a strong civilian oversight structure with measure S1 and LL, which were supported by the majority of Oakland voters. Now, with the addition of Chief Mitchell to the team, we are in an excellent position to transition away from federal oversight.

ATTACHMENT #2

Given these dire financial times for the City, we cannot afford to pay over \$1 million a year to a federal monitor especially if he prioritizes his own self-interest (as the *Oakland Report* alleges) rather than that of Oaklanders.

Please consider reviewing the upcoming report about transitioning to independent civilian oversight, which will be finalized shortly. We need the Council, Mayor's office, City Attorney and City Administrator to work with our current civilian oversight to finally free ourselves from this consent decree. And please let us know how we can help make this happen!

Sincerely,

David Kessler

Board Chair, North Hills Community Association

Cc: OPD Chief Mitchell, OPC Chair Garcia-Acosta