

BHNA Board of Directors' Meeting: January 6, 2011

Before the meeting was called to order, the approximately 340 newsletters (with/without renewal slips and envelopes) were prepared for mailing. Discussions documented here did not necessarily happen in the order listed.

Present: Anne Arnold, Karen Herrel, Juliette Najjar, Bruce Klafter, Suki Martin, Susan Churchill
Absent: Mike Germano, Donna Bischoff

President Anne Arnold called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM. A quorum was present. The November Board meeting minutes and General meeting minutes were approved unanimously. The December 31st financial report was also accepted, recognizing that it will be finalized when the bank statement arrives.

San Mateo United Homeowners Association (SMUHA) membership

The group approved BHNA's continued membership in SMUHA. Karen will submit the updated form, and dues (\$30), after the new officers are elected and the Board can confirm the representatives at its February meeting.

Meetings

January meeting – Karen has arranged for SM Firefighter Robert Cook to make a presentation on emergency safety.

February or March – Larry Ivich, General Manager of the Hillsdale Mall, is willing to come as our speaker, possibly either month. He will speak about the many changes at the Mall this year, and if he comes in March, he may be able to name the new tenants. He is still confirming his calendar. **Karen** will follow up.

Future meetings – Suggestions included a financial planning presentation, and a gardening talk by Terry Lyngso, hosting the elementary school principals (since the Hillsdale/Abbott principals were well received last year). Other topics documented in past minutes include PG&E/Sustainable SM County on “greening” our homes, and inviting Jackie Speier to speak at a meeting. Final decisions for later in 2011 should be up to the incoming Board.

Directors/Officers for 2011

Anne led a discussion of the results of the work by the Nominating Committee and other Board members. Members were contacted, but all had reasons to decline at this time. Annie Schlossman and Stan Shogren have volunteered to serve. We are still without enough experienced people to serve as officers. As of now the slate seems to be:

President - open

VP or Secretary – Anne Arnold

Treasurer – Karen Herrel

Directors – Margaret Edwards, Juliette Najjar, Stan Shogren, Annie Schlossman, Suki Martin (would prefer not to continue as a Director)

Directors Emeritus – Bruce Klafter, Mike Germano

Margaret Edwards wants to transfer Newsletter Editor to another Officer/Board member. She would provide training and transition time.

Anne (and Bruce) will not be at the January General meeting, and asked Karen to run the meeting if Mike is not available.

Newsletter preparation

Karen said that two members (Carolyn Banda and Dorothy Reuszer) have volunteered to do the hand delivery of the newsletter to various pick up points. She will be walking them through the process early next week. **Juliette** volunteered to pick up the newsletters from The Copy Shop, as advised by the editor.

The Copy Shop did a trial run of a machine done second fold of the newsletter. This would save time and streamline the process, at a cost of 1 ½ or 2 cents per newsletter. It would not be possible if we had an extra page insert. Although not perfectly square, it was at least as good as the hand process we use now. **The Board decided to have The Copy Shop do a machine second fold from now on.**

The Copy Shop also provided a demo of a legal size sheet (as now) with a 4 fold that ends up with an 8 ½ z 3 ½ self mailer. Just add an address label and a closing sticker. This would require reformatting the newsletter, which was felt to be less attractive and readable than the current one. Any closing sticker would need to be hand applied (about 5 cents each). They can also hand apply address labels, for a similar price. The group felt that they did not want an outside vendor using our address labels. Also, just the labels and stickers go very quickly. We will defer any decision on those services, pending results from our request for volunteers.

We are still looking for volunteers to label and seal the newsletter and another to take it to the post office. The January newsletter asks for volunteers, and we will mention it again at the meeting.

Web design

Deferred in Mike's absence.

John Belforte bench

This is another continuing item. **Anne** needs to follow up with the city. There are opportunities to have/use a bench near the tennis courts, which would be appropriate to remember John.

Holiday Donations

The \$300 was sent to Second Harvest Food Bank. The 11 DVD's (\$180) were brought to the Hillsdale Branch Library.

High Speed Rail

San Mateo United Homeowners Association has asked member groups to consider taking a position on High Speed Rail. In November, BOD members' discussion was lively. Points of view included complete opposition to HSR, opposition to it on the Peninsula, and opposition if it uses aerial or at grade alignment anywhere in San Mateo. "I wish I could take back my vote" was expressed. Some wanted to see the Burlingame position, to possibly use as a basis for ours. Deferred to February for the new Board members to participate. Any position that the Board takes will need to be presented to the membership for possible discussion and potential acceptance/rescission, in accordance with the By Laws.

San Mateo City Budget shortfall

Anne brought up areas of city services that are threatened by the continuing shortfall in the city's budget. She would like BHNA to become more involved in this issue, to have a say in where further cuts should be made. The Council has already held study sessions advising staff on how to approach this problem. Karen will contact City Manager Susan Loftus to see when/how we can become more involved.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Karen Herrel, Secretary