

BHNA Board of Directors' Meeting: March 3, 2011

Approximately 255 newsletters (without renewal slips) were prepared for mailing a half hour before the meeting time. Approximately 55 "last notice" renewal letters were also prepared and mailed (first class), outside of the meeting. Four checks were also written and countersigned.

Present: Margaret Edwards, Karen Herrel, Bruce Klafter, Susan Rowinski, Annie Schlossman, Stan Shogren

Absent: Anne Arnold, Mike Germano, Suki Martin, Juliette Najjar

The discussion recorded here did not necessarily occur in the order given.

Treasurer Karen Herrel called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM. A quorum was present. The February Board meeting minutes and General meeting minutes were approved unanimously. The February 28th financial report was also accepted, recognizing that it will be finalized when the bank statement arrives.

Secretary

Karen said that she would handle the minutes of tonight's Board meeting, but would appreciate it if other board members could take turns with the general meeting minutes. There are two purposes in the general meeting minutes. One is to create a high level record of the meeting, the speaker and any votes that are taken, or issues raised by the membership. The second, which can be done separately from the formal minutes, is to take notes of the speaker's presentation, to provide input to the newsletter editor for the summary in the next month's newsletter. **Stan** volunteered to take the March minutes, and email the draft out to the Board members. **Karen** will email him a higher level (less detailed) version of the prior month's minutes, to use as a guide.

San Mateo United Homeowners Association (SMUHA)

BHNA participated in last year's Outstanding Home Maintenance Award, sponsored by SMUHA and presented by the City Council. To participate this year we need to have our home chosen, and the owner's agreement to the program, by the March 17th SMUHA meeting. The awards will be given at the April 4th Council meeting, and the homes are usually featured throughout the month on the city's cable channel. The emphasis in the choice is maintenance, rather than any preferred architecture or garden design, etc. Also, this is *an* outstanding home, not intended to say that it is the only one in the area. Karen had suggested 730 28th Avenue. **Each board member** is encouraged to look at it, make other suggestions if they choose, and confer via email in order to meet the March 17th deadline.

There is a city run painting program to help lower income people with home maintenance. **Annie** will provide Margaret with more information, for possible inclusion in a newsletter.

Newsletter preparation

Karen reported that four of the five members who have volunteered to do the newsletter preparation in the half hour before the Board meeting met earlier that evening. It seems to be a very congenial group and they accomplished the intro to the project and completion of the labeling and sticker-ing in short order. A sixth volunteer only wants to work (alone) at her home, over several nights, so will be kept in reserve for future projects (i.e. the late August/early September mass mailing). One of these five volunteers also mentioned that she could be a backup for the bulk mail run to the Post Office. **Karen** will work with her to accomplish that.

The volunteers have said they will continue to come to the Rec Center before our Board meetings, to get the job done, so there are more than enough volunteers for the amount of work it takes to prepare the newsletters. Board members should come at the usual meeting start time of 7:30 PM.

Leaf Blower Ordinance

Board members expressed concerns with current leaf blower use (gasoline engine pollution, noise (both for the workers and the neighbors), too early/late hours of operation, etc. The City Council will hold a study session on possible revision of the city's leaf blower ordinance on Monday, March 7th at 6 PM. Annie plans to attend, and Susan might be also be able to go. **Annie/Susan** will email the Board with the direction the Council seems to be taking.

Music practice room noise during meetings

Following up on last month's discussion, Annie and Karen have been "double teaming" the Park and Rec staff on this issue. Annie followed up with Carolyn Shavel at the Beresford Rec Center, who referred BHNA's concerns to Paul Council, Park & Rec Community Services Manager. The most recent information was from Paul to Karen, who had followed also up with him. In a message, he said that the piano needs a lot of repair work, so they are considering replacing it with an electronic version, which can be used with headphones. Sound baffling the current piano is another option. They are asking the Fire Marshall for his decision on whether we could hang a heavy drape over the hallway door during our meetings, since sometimes singing, or other music, is the problem. For now the piano is being moved to the "kitchen" wall. In discussion, it became apparent that various members have different sensitivities to this distraction, but all agreed to pursue a solution. **Annie/Karen** will continue to monitor with Carolyn and Paul.

Discussion included trying to book the practice room when we meet (P&R says they will not allow that), moving our meeting to the same room that we use for the Board meeting (issue of possibly exceeding posted occupancy and not being a good layout for our larger groups, such as candidates nights). We could investigate booking both rooms for the year, but Park & Rec may balk at tying up a room that others could use, and it would be an added expense. **Karen** will try to quantify.

Meetings

March – Larry Ivich, General Manager of the Hillsdale Mall, is all set.

April – Karen Maskel, Hillsdale a reference librarian at the Hillsdale branch, will speak. Members will also be encouraged to speak briefly about a favorite book or author. Although Bruce suggested this topic and Annie arranged this talk, neither will be at the meeting to introduce this speaker. At our next meeting, **the Board** needs to determine who will run the April general meeting.

May – We have received a cautiously optimistic response from Jerry Hill's staff. **Susan** has been arranging this and will continue to follow up. If not set by April 7th board meeting, we will have to find another speaker.

June – Susan has been successful getting Ken White of the SPCA to talk about their extremely successful program, proposed facilities and services to San Mateo residents. We need to promote this, for a good turnout.

July – is our annual "social" meeting. Although in recent years it has been an ice cream social, the group discussed other suggestions to make it simpler, less costly, with more healthful choices, etc. Suggestions: just root beer floats, sheet cake or a "theme design" cake made up of cup cakes, fresh fruit/watermelon or other cut up melon, potluck, and pizza. To be discussed further.

August – No meeting.

September – City Council candidate night. As in past years, **Karen** can arrange this, once the field is set.

Other suggestions – the city is sponsoring a Be Ready...Be Safe...Be Involved campaign, encouraging citizens to get CERT training, join Neighborhood Watch and join their neighborhood association. (The group had brochures on this subject, picked up at City Hall and distributed at the meeting.) The Be Involved had been a SMUHA initiative in 2009 and 2010, which tied into our March mass mailing. We have had the CERT lead in presentation, but could feature Neighborhood Watch at a meeting.

Other items of interest for BHNA

Annie spoke about the hidden gem, the SamTrans KX bus, which runs from Palo Alto to SFO. It only costs \$2.00, stops just south of the Hillsdale Mall on El Camino Real, and its very direct. **Annie** will write up some information for the newsletter.

Web design, the John Belforte bench and High Speed Rail

Those working on these two items were not in attendance.

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

The next Board meeting: Thursday April 7th at 7:30 PM, Beresford Recreation Center.

Karen Herrel, Acting Secretary