

Meeting Minutes for Beresford Hillsdale Neighborhood Assoc. February 19, 2013 General Meeting

Meeting location: Beresford Community Center

President Susan Rowinski called the meeting to order at 7:31 PM. There were 30 members and guests attending.

Susan introduced the BOD members attending by raising hands: Kaye Sharma, Diana Mongini, Stephanie Alley, Julliett Najjar, Heinz Plischke, Ellen Wang, Stan Shogren was sick with the flue. The room was set up: screen, mike, chairs, tables. The sign-in attendance list was displayed. Susan asked Heinz to be secretary and do the minutes.

7:33, Susan started talking about BHNA's probable involvement with Caltrain's plans to electrify the Peninsula's railroad corridor from San Francisco to San Jose, with San Mateo in the middle. After a few comments from the audience, Susan continued giving information about BHNA's letter of opinion to city hall about leaf blowers, their noise, unhealthy smell, and clouds of dust. She mentioned available study sessions at city hall. BHNA would like to see the current use of l.b. reduced from 8-5 M-F, to 9-5 M-F, and no use on SAT and SUN, and officially reduce the noise level to not exceeding 65 decibel, and consider no gas but only electrical leaf blowers. For the city to issue permits for professional users, and avoid maverick users.

SPEAKER:

At 7:40, Susan introduced Mike Jamieson, Historian and Speaker, and David Nightingale, General Manager, of the Peninsula Golf and Country Club. Courtney Jamieson, was in charge of the technical part of the presentation. For the benefit of the audience, Mike talked extensively about the PG&CC colorful history. The original Country Club was founded in 1911 as the Beresford Country Club using land of the Moralles, Casey, and Borel properties. The course measured 6,012 yards. The club house opened in January 1915. On hand of historic pictures Mike explained what the land, buildings, and people looked like then. Most golfers came down from San Francisco by street car. He showed the club's president, Walter Steetheimer, who in 1922, got the famous golf course designer Donald Ross to completely redesign the Beresford course. And while he was at it recommended Willie Nicoll to be the first professional Beresford golf pro. He stayed for 30 years. (His brother played golf with John F. Kennedy). We learned when the Beresford Country Club went through a period of declining memberships in the 1930's and 40's, how Helen Lengford and Ben Follett saved the Club by buying up all the San Francisco memberships and making them available for new San Mateo members. It also published a monthly newsletter called "The Blaster". Somehow the Club survived WWII, and after selling 50 acres of land (which became residences), got back on sound footing. In 1945 the Beresford Country Club changed its name

to Peninsula Golf and Country Club.

Mike also talked about, and showed pictures, of George Archer. He grew up in San Mateo, went to San Mateo High, and became one of the greatest golfers of his time. He brought the 1969 Masters Trophy to the Peninsula Golf & Country Club. During his golf career he won 19 tournaments. George had one big secret: he was illiterate. He could not read or write, yet, always showed up exactly at tee time. His wife started an illiterate foundation and raise \$300,000. George Archer was a honorary member of the Peninsula Golf & Country Club. He died in 2006.

At one point Mike Jamieson told us how fortunate he was to get hold of an old scrapbook kept by the widow of Willie Nicoll. Many of the pictures we saw came from this prized book.

By 1990 the PG&CC went through major renovations. They spent \$9-1/2 million, with \$2 million alone for improvements on the drainage system. David Nightingale said that after some earthquake damage the clubhouse is now in terrific shape and earthquake safe. He said the Club welcomes new memberships, it has expanded its social, tennis, and clubhouse activities, and welcomes children.

Some people in the audience asked about the 100 year anniversary celebration of 2011. The Club wanted to do something extravagant and staged a huge fireworks show worthy of such an event. Oh, yes, it was beautiful, but it was loud and sparks were flying.

After a very professional and entertaining presentation of over an hour, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM. Thank you Mike, David, and Courtney.

Submitted by Heinz Plischke