

## Notes from OHHA General Meeting, Wed., October 16, 2002

The meeting was at Flavia's. Flavia charged \$100 for coffee and cookies for 30, set up and clean up. About 50 people were present, including (eventually) all incumbent board members: Bruce Barrett, Amy Burce, Valerie Caveglia, Holly Guier, Nancy Harrison, Joy Rowan, and Doug Sprague. Amy and Joy had to be quite late. Bruce Barrett chaired the meeting. (Nancy Harrison also "chaired" the meeting, by providing 16 chairs in addition to those provided by Flavia.)

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Valerie Caveglia reported \$13.70 in petty cash and \$3,304.82 in the checking account.

### STATE OF THE HILL

**Newsletter:** There was a small response to the survey in the last newsletter about the contents of the Newsletter. Those people who responded appeared to be reasonably content. Appreciation was expressed to Joy Rowan, the Newsletter Editor.

**Streets:** Bruce reported that Joy Rowan attempted to get street repairs accomplished by requesting slurry seal. (Repairs are normally done by the City before slurry sealing.) This is not a small matter, since the City used to say they wouldn't slurry seal our area. This year, the City said that no more requests for slurry sealing would be honored this year, but they invited us to request to be on the list for next year. Also this year, some of the paint was renewed to more clearly indicate stop lines and one-way arrows.

Discussion showed discontent with the streets. There was general agreement that Tribune and Call Avenues are in need of significant repair, perhaps beyond that likely to be provided by the City in preparation for slurry sealing. There was also general agreement that the problems on Tribune were exacerbated, and perhaps created, by faulty drainage from a newly constructed home. The drainage provided by the contractor was approved by the City, but should not have been. [Note: Joy Rowan has phone logs indicating her logged complaint which was filed before the city approved the project. However, the inspector would not schedule a meeting with Joy until after the approval was already granted. If complaints against the City are to be pursued, this is a good place to start.]

Questions were raised about why stronger efforts had not been made to force the City to improve the streets. Bruce, with assistance from others, explained that the City had never accepted the streets after annexing the Old Highlands because they were not constructed according to city requirements. The City expects the residents of the Old Highlands to pay the cost of bringing the streets up to code. This is the normal procedure followed by cities when they annex residential areas; cities normally pay for roads only around government buildings; developers pay for most new roads.

Bruce further explained that in the past, OHHA residents who have responded to periodic surveys (last done in the early and mid-1990's) have indicated that they do not want to pay for improved roads, and would prefer to get the City to improve particular trouble spots and maintain the streets in serviceable condition. This is in fact the decision of record from the Neighborhood Task Force where 60 to 80 residents were in attendance. In addition, the City's plans for improving the roads include features that some residents have said they do not want, especially significantly widening the roads and adding curbs and gutters. These features are opposed by some residents because (1) they would make

the streets noisier by encouraging faster traffic, (2) they would make the streets less pedestrian-friendly by encouraging faster traffic and giving pedestrians no place to walk, (3) they would eliminate a great deal of currently available parking, (4) they would eliminate areas that some people think of as being their front yard, and (5) they would give the neighborhood a more traditional suburban appearance.

These explanations were not acceptable to some attendees, so Bruce said the issue could be raised again in the issues to be dealt with next year, and moved the agenda along.

**Crime and Neighborhood Watch:** Holly Guier, the OHHA Neighborhood Watch Liaison, first explained her role, which is to coordinate the Block Captains in the neighborhood, and serve as a liaison between them and the City, and to maintain a master list of neighborhood watch information. She said that OHHA policy is that the master list will not be distributed to others, and that OHHA Block Captains are not supposed to use their lists for purposes other than Neighborhood Watch. She then reported on the people acting as Block Captains for several areas, including lower and middle Parkside, Hillcrest, Home, and Cotati Avenues, and perhaps others. More Block Captains are still needed. She also explained the general purpose of Neighborhood Watch as being about about neighbors helping neighbors in many ways, including after earthquakes.

Holly then introduced Cynthia Sessions from the city wide Neighborhood Watch group. She explained that people involved in Neighborhood Watch become resources to whom neighbors can turn. They also cooperate with the police. There are regular meetings for Block Captains in which they learn a variety of skills and knowledge. Attendance at 6 to 8 meetings is required for certification. Bottom line: be involved.

Holly closed her presentation by recommending Community Emergency Response Training (CERT), and saying that anyone interested could contact her.

**Parks and Trees:** Bruce reported that some requests from Joy Rowan for maintenance of the Old Highlands Park by HARD have been honored, most notably brush clearance and replacement of the signs.

He then reported on the new city tree ordinance, which restricts work on trees in front yards and vacant lots. People not in compliance with the ordinance are subject to fines. This has affected some OHHA residents, so care is needed.

He voiced the intentions of the Board to begin developing a tree plan for the Old Highlands to encourage gradual, rather than sudden, replacement of the neighborhood's eucalyptus tree population.

**Development:** Bruce reported on a few of the larger development issues that came before the OHHA Board in the last year. The internet switching station proposed by Cal State Hayward is no longer being considered, so is no longer of concern. However, two large projects are still in the development stages: (1) Faculty and/or student housing to be built on the bay side of Grandview Avenue by Cal State Hayward. (40 questionnaires concerning that issue was distributed at the meeting, but no one returned any.) (2) Development of the corner of Tribune Avenue and Hayward Blvd. (The proposal from Bijan Mashaw for 13 houses and a daycare center was withdrawn.)

Sherman Lewis, a resident, recommended that OHHA residents vote in favor of Measure U, to give the City flexibility to explore alternatives to the 238 freeway bypass. If

Measure U fails, it is likely that the \$11 million supporting the project will leave Hayward. Another resident expressed the opinion that voting against Measure U would make it more likely that CalTrans will build the 238 freeway bypass according to the old CalTrans plans. Others pointed out that the old CalTrans plans for the 238 bypass have been ruled invalid by the court, so those plans are unlikely to be used regardless of the fate of Measure U.

### **ELECTION OF THE 2002 BOARD**

It was M/S to nominate the seven incumbent board members, all of whom agreed to serve. Pre-printed lists of another seven people were passed to all attendees by one of the residents. Each was nominated and seconded. The final list of nominees was as follows: Nancy Harrison, Holly Guier, Bruce Barrett, Joy Rowan, Valerie Caveglia, Amy Burce, Doug Sprague, George Dimic, David DeLeonardo, Bijan Mashaw, Marie-Pascale Peterson, Becky Ridgeway, Margaret Warhurst, Melany Spielman.

Each nominee spoke briefly. Blank ballots were aggressively distributed by Bijan Mashaw. An announcement was made to write seven names. It was M/S/P that Steve Bristow, a resident from Call Ave., manage the election. He selected some helpers. They collected the ballots and tallied the results. The following people were elected: Becky Ridgeway, David DeLeonardo, Margaret Warhurst, George Dimic, Marie-Pascale Peterson, Bijan Mashaw, Holly Guier.

A period of confusion followed, during which members of the new board attempted to take immediate control of the meeting, citing unclarity in the bylaws about when the new board properly takes over. This turn of events had not been anticipated by the outgoing board so they were not well prepared to deal with it, but Bruce held firm.

[Note: After the meeting, the most current ByLaws were consulted. As approved at the General Meeting in January 1996, OHHA Board elections are held at the General Meeting in Fall, and the new board assumes office the following January. This was intended to allow a period of transition/learning time for new board members.]

#### **Priorities for Next Year:** (in the order in which they were suggested)

Streets, including a survey of residents asking how much they are willing to pay, and their opinions about various options of curb and gutter

Term limits for OHHA Board members

Speed bumps

Lobby City Council members about redoing streets

Increase the number of people on the OHHA Board

Maintain the Grandview Avenue view vs. Cal State Hayward

Neighborhood alert/Neighborhood watch/Neighborhood forums

Tree plans

More communication with the community

e-mails of the agendas and minutes of the OHHA Board Meetings

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Harrison, Secretary