

## **Minutes of the OHHA General Meeting of February 25, 2003--Approved**

**Opening of Meeting:** More than 40 people were in attendance. As President of the 2002 OHHA Board, Bruce Barrett chaired the meeting. Bruce outlined the agenda, introduced the members of the 2002 Board, then turned the meeting over to Bill Quirk, Chair of the Election Committee for the 2003 Board. The other members of the Election Committee were Steve Bristow, Carole Kaufman, Becky Ridgeway, Laura Swan, and, as alternate, Valerie Caveglia.

**Election of 2003 Board:** Bill asked all the candidates to come forward and stand in the front of the room. George Dimic, one of the candidates, volunteered the information that he and his wife own and plan to build on two unimproved lots in the neighborhood. He also explained that "unimproved" differs from "developable" in that unimproved lots cannot be subdivided while developable lots can be subdivided. Another candidate (Chris Powell) was absent, so Bill requested a quick caucus of the Election Committee. The committee agreed that there was no reason that an absent candidate could not be elected, and the General Meeting resumed. Because there were seven candidates for seven positions Bill requested a motion to elect all seven. A motion was made and seconded to elect the slate by acclamation. The motion passed with no dissent. The 2003 Board Members are: Diane Ballou, George Dimic, David DeLeonardo, Nancy Harrison, Chris Powell, Joy Rowan, and Doug Sprague. Bill then turned the meeting back to Bruce.

**ByLaws Amendments:** Bruce suggested that two proposed amendments to Articles VII and VIII be voted on together; there was no dissent. It was moved and seconded that the proposed amendments be added to the OHHA Bylaws. There was some discussion about whether the intent of the amendments applied to "unimproved" property as well as "developable" property. The intent was to apply the amendments to developable property only, with the goal being to prevent Board members from using their Board membership for personal gain at the expense of the character of the neighborhood. A vote was taken and there was no opposition; there was one abstention. The amendments were as follows:

Section VII: Any candidate for the OHHA Board of Directors who owns an interest in developable property in the Old Highlands must announce such interest at the OHHA election before the vote.

Section VIII: Any OHHA Director who also owns developable property in the Old Highlands must recuse themselves from all OHHA Board votes regarding issues that directly affect that property.

Bruce then turned the meeting over to Holly Guier, the 2002 Neighborhood Alert Liaison to OHHA.

**Neighborhood Alert:** Holly described the program as a crime watch, a safety program, and a neighborhood preparedness program, and gave some examples of situations with which Neighborhood Alert could be helpful. People currently working as Block Captains include Holly Guier for Lower Parkside, Bill Quirk and Doug Sprague for Middle

Parkside, Becky Ridgeway for Upper Parkside, Margaret Warhurst for Home, Valerie Caveglia for Hillcrest, Carole Kaufman and Laura Swan for Cotati, Grandview, and New Dobbel. Holly urged others to become involved. Block Captains are still needed for Tribune, Call, and Chronicle. To become a Block Captain the City requires a background check and attendance at a Citizens Academy Program, which meets for eight consecutive Tuesday evenings. A new program is starting on March 18. People who want to be less involved can also be helpful to whatever degree they are willing to volunteer. A minimal level of involvement is to call the non-emergency number at the police department if you observe suspicious activity. That number is 293-7000. Mary Kay Lindstrom volunteered to work on creating a roster of neighborhood people who want to be on the roster. Holly then turned the meeting over to Joy Rowan.

**Streets Issues:** Joy announced that the City is currently counting up street assessment agreements in preparation for forming an assessment district to pay for building new streets in the Old Highlands. If nothing is done, Old Highland residents will pay for new streets to be constructed according to the City's plans. She suggested that if the residents can agree on what we want done, we may be able to convince the City to accept our plans rather than the ones on record. She offered a list of several partially overlapping alternatives. Votes were taken in a somewhat disorganized way. No one voted in favor of complete construction according to the City's plans, and no one voted in favor of a suburban look similar to Oakes Drive. There were also no votes in favor of doing nothing except continuing to ask the City to fix potholes as they appear. 25 people voted in favor of fixing specific problem spots (including potholes), and getting slurry seal. Discussion made it clear that others were also in favor of something similar but didn't vote because of the confusing process. It was suggested that the residents once again be invited to vote by mail. It was also suggested that choices be simple and few, e.g., (a) Do nothing; (b) Do minimal fix-up at a cost not exceeding \$5000 per parcel; (c) Do somewhat more fix-up at a cost not exceeding \$10,000 per parcel; (d) Re-do the streets completely according to the City's plans.

Several people volunteered to serve on a Streets Committee: Mike Balmuth, Jerry Cruz, Lodema Epperson, Ron Lewis, Mary Kay Lindstrom, Becky Ridgeway, Dave Sinclair, and Harry Steelman.

**Miscellaneous:** Someone asked the OHHA Board to get a key to the park, since it is sometimes locked when it shouldn't be.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Harrison