

HRB

Meeting Minutes

1/7/2020

I. Call to order

Hobart called to order the regular meeting of the HRB at 4:00 p.m. on 1/7/2020 at the University Hills Community Center Conference Room.

II. Present

The following were present:

Brad Conley (HRB), Hobart Taylor (HRB Chair), Andrea Canfield (HRB Communications Coordinator), Sandrine Bizaux-Scherson (HRB), Michele Guindani (HRB), Susan Pearlman (HRB), Andrew Herndon (ICHA), Victor Van Zandt (ICHA), Olga Razorenova (resident), Mary Watson-Bruce (resident) Barbara Correa (ICHA), representatives of UCIPD: Assistant Vice Chancellor of Division of Finance and Administration, David Ott; Chief Liz Griffin; Lieutenant Matt Mahoney; Lieutenant Mike Hallinan; Sergeant Trish Harding.

III. Approval of December 2019 Minutes

The minutes were approved. HRB minutes are posted at <https://uhills.org/hrb-minutes/> .

IV. ICHA Reports

a. Groundwater at Vista Bonita

Groundwater has been located at the steps of Vista Bonita. ICHA has investigated thoroughly and experts believe this is an underground spring. A dewatering program will be underway, using perforated pipes to conduct water to a storm drain. This should resolve the water problems.

b. Lockers near pools

Placing lockers near the pools is pending while suitable lockers are sought.

c. UCIPD Awards Breakfast

ICHA has purchased a table for 10 representatives of ICHA, HRB, and CSD at the UCIPD awards breakfast.

V. Election Update

Four HRB spots will be available for election. Several current members are seeking reelection: Brad Conley, Andrea Canfield, and Susan Pearlman. Current member Michele Guindani will not seek reelection. The deadline for nominations is 7 February, and elections will be held in late February. A reminder will be sent to the community via email by ICHA. Voting will be handled by ICHA.

VI. UCIPD Presentation

Assistant Vice Chancellor of Division of Finance and Administration, David Ott; Chief Liz Griffin; Lieutenant Matt Mahoney; Lieutenant Mike Hallinan; and Sergeant Trish Harding were present to represent UCIPD.

Hobart introduced Chief Griffin, and she and the other representatives of UCIPD provided some personal and professional background. Chief Griffin has a focus on community engagement and would like to coordinate with HRB where there can be overlap in community programs, such as the UCIPD grilling burgers for a BBQ during the Gabrielino Park movie night. The officers stressed that they want to provide a safe environment for students to go to school and that they have high expectations on the force for their officers. More information about UCIPD, the officers, training, and policing practices can be found on the UCIPD website (<https://police.uci.edu/>).

UCIPD would like to begin a “know your neighbor” campaign to help the neighborhood get to know each other and feel comfortable with exchanging contact information with each other. HRB asked questions including: Q: What type of training does the UCIPD receive? A: The Web site will be updated with training the officers receive and information regarding community engagement training. Q: Can visitors attend briefings? A: Yes, community members can contact UCIPD for information regarding ride-alongs and about attending briefings as visitors. Q: How do officers train to present themselves and adjust as situations evolve? Q: The UCIPD does have de-escalation training and other tactical training programs that address these situations. It is a learning process for the officers, who begin in police academy and learn nuances as they progress through their careers. Body camera information can be used to evaluate and learn continuously.

UCIPD presented some information about a recent life-saving interaction in UHills. Officers noticed a delivery driver in the vehicle who was not conscious. The driver had been incapacitated by a heart attack. Officers performed CPR and provided life-saving aid. The driver recovered and will be at the UCIPD awards breakfast to thank the officers. Chief Griffin also noted that, while patrolling, two officers found a cluster mailbox apparently inadvertently left open by the mail delivery agent. The officers were unable to secure the mailbox, and so hand-delivered the exposed mail to the sixteen households.

VII. ICHA/HRB February Retreat

Victor Van Zandt was present to inform HRB that the fall retreat workshop that includes HRB officers and ICHA officers, which was postponed until spring, will be postponed until summer.

VIII. UHills Priorities/ Communications

Conversations are ongoing regarding improving communications involving campus, ICHA, and HRB.

IX. Renters' Representation

HRB is in favor of rental residents having a voice in representing themselves to ICHA, and a subcommittee on renter representation will support a renter representation group.

X. Core Values: Building Community

This was tabled to a future HRB meeting.

XI. HRB representative to attend ICHA Board meeting

Hobart Taylor and Brad Conley will attend the monthly ICHA Board meeting.

XII. Committee Reports

a. Sustainability

There was a flock of 13 cedar waxwing birds that hit a glass wall and were killed. Sustainability requests that if possible the glass walls could be modified with stickers or decals to minimize bird strike.

HRB supports \$150 in decals to reduce bird strikes against glass.

b. Welcoming and Wellness

Welcoming and Wellness committee continues a series of free talks for residents, held on Wednesdays.

c. CSD

CSD will soon be seeking a new Coordinator. The book club meetings continue.

XIII. Yoga Program

Valerie (Fowler) Withington and Brad Conley are bringing a "Yoga of the Heart" class to University Hills for four-weeks. The class is free, with donations accepted, with 20% given back to ICHA. Class is on Mondays 6:45-8, beginning 2/3/2020. Four weeks will be held on a trial basis with reconsideration by HRB. After 4 weeks, 50% of attendees should be UHills residents. Room use will depend on attendance. If a paid reservation is requested during the time the class is held, the class will be bumped.

XIV. Las Lomas Relocation update

Victor Van Zandt relayed to the HRB that ICHA discussed with UCI campus the importance of dispelling community concerns by providing as much information about the redevelopment of Las Lomas as is possible at this early stage. The redevelopment project is still in the planning stages. There are many stages that will need to be decided in some cases at the level of the Office of the President. Although this is not an approved project at this time, the expectation so far is that the site will be used for about 90 single family homes, 2-3 stories. There is no specific timeline. Those who were previously living in the Las Lomas development have been accommodated in other housing areas within University Hills. There were initially 85 residents. 13 moved or have left UCI. 10 are waitlisted on another community with highest priority. 62 have reserved a Miramonte townhome.

XV. Resident questions regarding Las Lomas demolition and construction questions

Resident Mary Watson Bruce lives in an area adjacent to Las Lomas and is interested in presenting concerns and asking questions regarding the demolition of Las Lomas. The demolition, planning and design, and construction aspects are of concern to residents who live nearby, especially parents and expecting parents. The concerned residents have met and provided a document listing their concerns. See Appendix 1.

XVI. Current resident requests reconsideration of new window installation.

The HRB previously denied an architectural review request for a window that opens and that has a different look than the window of an adjacent residence. The resident was present to show a photograph of the specific windows and to explain the reasons for the request. Upon consideration of photographs of other UHills windows, and in appreciation of the residents' desire to improve the home, the HRB granted the request for the opening window of the same brand but slightly different appearance than the adjacent neighbor's window.

XVII. Summary Statement

Agenda items included a presentation from UCIPD; a presentation from Victor Van Zandt regarding the Las Lomas apartments; a resident requesting reconsideration of a denied architectural improvement form; a request from a neighborhood near Las Lomas for information regarding the planned demolition of the apartments; and other agenda items. The minutes, which will be posted once approved, will include more information on these and other matters.

XVIII. Adjourn

Hobart adjourned the meeting at 6:41 pm

Minutes submitted by: Andrea Canfield

Minutes approved by: Brad Conley, Michele Guindani, Sandrine Bizaux-Scherson, Hobart Taylor, Andrea Canfield

Appendix 1

BLAKE COURT RESIDENTS' CONCERNS REGARDING NEW LAS LOMAS DEMOLITION AND CONSTRUCTION – 2020

Concerns:

A. Demolition

1. Make EPA reports affecting adjoining properties available before the demolition.
2. With pregnant women and small children living on this street, and for the rest of the residents: "What is going to be done about mitigating asbestos and other toxic materials? How will toxic, impairing particles and volatile gases be cleaned from the air before they rise to the homes of the residents on Blake Court and other Courts surrounding the Las Lomas area?" Who will be monitoring the toxic waste abatement process? Will daily reports be made available?
3. Will the noise be allowed only during the City's restricted hours? Will we need to petition or use court orders to get humane respect before and during the demolition process?
4. How will the demolition affect the foundations and seismic stability of the existing housing? What studies have been done to evaluate that?

B. Planning and Design

1. How many stories will there be? How will the sunlight and views be maintained for the existing homes? Some of our homes have only North and South access to sunlight. How will their access to sunlight be affected? The main concerns here are health impact (mood illnesses, Vitamin D deficiency) and mold and fungal growth that will happen without access to sunlight.
2. Will existing homes be able to maintain views. Will there be green space with trees and shrubs masking our homes and theirs from intruding eyes?
3. What are the planned parking and traffic patterns to account for the addition of more people and automobiles? We are especially sensitive to traffic on Los Trancos, both pedestrian and vehicular.

C. Construction

1. When will construction start? We would like to keep a fast rule of 7:00am. Unlike the campus construction, this construction affects established residences.
2. How will particles and unhealthy volatile gases released during construction be mitigated?
3. Provide mitigation plans and traffic studies, both vehicular and pedestrian.