

# HRB Meeting Minutes

6/2/2020

## I. Call to order

Hobart called to order the regular meeting of the HRB at 4:04 p.m. on 6/2/2020 via Zoom meeting.

## II. Present

The following were present via Zoom: Brad Conley (HRB), Hobart Taylor (HRB Chair), Gerald Parham (HRB), Andrea Canfield (HRB Communications Coordinator), Sandrine Bizaux-Scherson (HRB), Susan Pearlman (HRB), Andrew Herndon (ICHA), Kim Encinas (ICHA), Barbara Correa (ICHA), Zach Nelson (HRB), Linda Tacy (HOOT), Patty Bartell (HOOT), Kim Huxman (HOOT)

## III. Approval of May 2020 Minutes

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

## IV. Presentation: HOOT Group

The HOOT group (Help Our Owls Thrive) attended the meeting to discuss implementing barn owl boxes in UHills to help reduce the rat population using nontoxic methods. In order to introduce raptors, the community must stop using bait boxes. HOOT has been in contact with raptor experts, and 2 of 3 support shifting away from vitamin D3 poison to raptor boxes. Because there are alternative options available (an owl may kill up to 1,000 rats each year), HOOT believes it is reasonable to switch to the more environmentally safe option.

HOOT has contacted environmental experts of local organizations including City of Irvine (rodenticide), OC Vector Control (education in lieu of rodenticides), Irvine Company (a pilot project in UC Research Park using snap traps with sensors in lieu of bait stations). The sensors indicate when a trap has been sprung. HOOT would like to make information available online for residents regarding halting rodenticide in order to install raptor boxes.

Andrew responded to the request to add HOOT information to the University Hills website. ICHA is in support of educating community members regarding the potential harm of rodenticide and is in support of reducing the rat population. ICHA uses a vitamin D3 derivative bait in secured bait boxes.

Ideas were presented by HRB members, including: Provide a web page for a discussion of rat control and a discussion of the issue from all perspectives; educate regarding stopping the use of rodenticides; survey residents to see if a special assessment to cover the additional cost of snap-trapping would be supported.

It was motioned that the HOOT group, Sustainability, and ICHA meet to coordinate webpage content to educate residents about choices for rat control and that this information be provided on the UHills.org site. The motion passed.

## V. Communication Protocols for HRB

An amendment to the communication protocol was suggested via email. The amendment is below in bold.

- 1) all email messages sent to HRB should be acknowledged by a member or by the chair. **Amendment: Responses to messages should be read and approved by 2 HRB members.**
- 2) If the issue fits within the scope of a specific ICHA employee or an HRB committee, the resident should be referred to that person or the chair of that committee. We can let residents know that HRB can advise ICHA and that residents should contact HRB again if their concerns are not resolved to their satisfaction and then we can put it on the agenda for discussion.
- 3) If an HRB member has the time and inclination to take on an individual project in response to a resident request (i.e., organize a financial seminar, form a subcommittee etc.), the proposed project should be added to the next meeting's agenda for approval by the board.
- 4) Urgent items could be addressed in between HRB meetings via email or by special session if they are time-sensitive.
- 5) Committee heads can make reasonable decisions independently that should be presented during the committee reports, including responding to resident messages to the HRB email (i.e., what's the status of the bike lane on Gabrielino, is there a community composter, when is the next trivia night, etc.).
- 6) HRB members can respond to individual residents as individuals, and should indicate in the email that this is the case. HRB does not need to be copied on these messages.

The amendment was accepted.

## VI. ICHA Report

### a. Artwork at Vista Park Update

ICHA will provide \$5,000 for two garden features to be selected by a subcommittee for the Vista Park in area 11. Andrea, Brad, and Sandrine will serve on the committee. ICHA notes that the features should not have water

features and not include electricity. September is the deadline for features to be selected to facilitate installation within the construction schedule.

## **b. Birdhouse Update**

A community member would like to build birdhouses for University Hills and UCI campus, donating his time and materials. ICHA will discuss areas of the common area where birdhouses may be wanted or needed. Sandrine will join the conversation with the community member.

## **c. Dog Park Liaison**

Prior to COVID-19, ICHA requested from the community volunteers to be liaison between dog park users and HRB. ICHA will touch base with the dog park users to see whether a liaison has been selected. It was noted that a new dog park will be constructed in the Miramonte apartments and requested that ICHA include residents be allowed an opportunity to provide feedback on the new dog park before it opens. ICHA noted that they would make efforts to arrange a viewing of the park plans.

## **d. Mulching Update**

ICHA reports that providing free mulch to residents has been a well-received program. Common areas are being mulched through July.

## **e. Vista Bonita Standing Water**

ICHA reports that, now that the standing water is identified as coming from an underground spring, a dewatering collection system of pipes will be connected to an existing storm drain pipe to alleviate standing water at the surface, and the location will be re-landscaped. This is not an uncommon problem in the area.

## **f. Invitation to HRB Member to Attend ICHA Board Meeting 6/10/20**

Brad and/or Gerald will join Hobart at the ICHA Board Meeting.

# **VII. Community Facilities “New Normal”**

## **a. Pool openings**

ICHA will reopen the pools during the Stage 3 reopening, looking toward the OC Health Agency, City of Irvine, and campus agencies. HRB has asked ICHA to provide their guidelines regarding proposed rules for reopening, and is also interested in what the anticipated interaction will be between UCIPD and residents in following the guidelines of the pools and other quarantine related issues.

## **b. Tennis doubles**

City of Irvine is now allowing doubles to play tennis if groups that live together are on one side of the net. HRB is in support of ICHA considering following these guidelines.

## **VIII. Committee Reports**

### **a. Entertainment Committee**

The entertainment committee is working on ideas to bring community members together virtually or in person with proper distancing and safety measures. Ideas included streaming movies together, rooftop concert, distanced dance party, drive-in movie on a big screen, and other options that will be continued to be discussed by the Entertainment Committee.

### **b. Welcoming and Wellness Committee**

The committee provided updates regarding the Community Mapping Project that originated with matching willing community volunteers to community members who needed assistance during isolation. Creating the tool to do so underscored a need in our neighborhood. The HRB unanimously supported funding development of this tool.

### **c. CPEC Meeting Report**

There were two residents present at the CPEC meeting, Hobart and Brad. The upcoming Area 12 project includes a proposed bridge to connect the new area to the campus and also to the nature preserve. There was also conversation regarding the width of pedestrian and bike paths and lighting of the area. HRB made a brief statement asking that HRB and UHills residents be involved in this and future projects.

### **d. ICHA Board Meeting Report**

There will be a vacancy on the ICHA Board. HRB inquired about the process of filling the resident seat. The seat will be filled via ICHA Corporate bylaw protocol in an internal process.

## **IX. The HRB voices support of the Black Lives Matter Movement.**

## **X. The HRB expresses their condolences on the passing of Brian Rains, an ICHA Rental maintenance employee.**

From the ICHA newsletter: It is with sadness and reflection that we share the passing of Brian Rains, a member of the ICHA Rental Department maintenance team since 2003. Brian died of natural causes at his home in Orange on May 20. Known for his quiet and methodical work ethic, Brian was a steady presence around the ICHA office. He loved movies and was fondly called Mr. X by neighborhood kids. On May 21, the ICHA staff gathered via Zoom to

commiserate, remember our coworker Brian, and remember that it is the personal bonds we share that make us a workplace and a community.

## XI. Summary statement

The HRB voiced support of the Black Lives Matter Movement. Agenda items included a presentation regarding rat control by the community-based HOOT (Helping Our Owls Thrive) group; an update regarding standing water near the Vista Bonita park; communication protocols for HRB responses to residents emailing to the HRB email address; discussion regarding reopening pools; and a statement regarding the Welcoming and Wellness project to map our village; and other agenda items. The minutes, which will be posted once approved, will include more information on these and other matters.

## XII. Adjourn

Hobart adjourned the meeting at 6:22 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Andrea Canfield

Minutes approved by a quorum.