

# **Bayside Acres Neighborhood Association (BANA)**

Board Meeting Minutes; October 21, 2021  
Meeting Held Virtually Via Zoom

## **Board Members Present:**

Laurie Favaro, Julia Glenister, Bob Lenz, Alan Schaevitz, David Tattersall, Abbie Urban

**Absent:** Scott Gerber, Joe Tyszkiewicz

**Quorum Present:** Yes

**Meeting called to order at 6:02 PM**

## **Old Business**

- Minutes of the March 30 and July 12 meetings were approved via earlier email quorums and posted to the BANA Website shortly after the respective meetings.
- **Summer Party** - The BANA Summer Party scheduled for August 15, 2021 at the Loch Lomond Yacht Club was postponed via email on July 31st due to rising Covid infections in Marin. No decision was made on whether to reschedule for a Winter Party.

## **New Business**

- **This Zoom meeting** was called to discuss replacements for Ogden Hamilton who resigned as a Board Director and Chair of the Bayside Acres Firewise Team via email on September 26, 2021.
- **New Board Member**
  - David said that Dianne Fruin had expressed an interest in serving out Ogden's term that began in 2019 and ends in March 2022. David mentioned that she was involved with our neighborhood Firewise Committee in the early days of its formation. It should be noted that this is a board appointment rather than an election because it falls within Ogden's current term.

- **The Vote:** Abbie moved to approve Dianne. Bob seconded the motion. All present voted in favor.
- **Action:** Alan said the next step is to seek final confirmation from Dianne. He will need her bio to put on the website.
- **New Firewise Chair**
  - **Julia noted that Ogden has done a magnificent job as Chair of our Bayside Acres Firewise Team (BAFT)** and following in his footsteps won't be easy. Julia said she and Alan, the current Secretary of BAFT who is responsible for posting Web information and email communications to our neighborhood, have worked closely with Ogden from its inception, and she said it would be wise to have a Chair with experience.
  - As a current BAFT Team Lead for Bayview Drive, Julia said she would be willing to take over the Firewise Chair position if the board can commit to recruiting leads in each micro-neighborhood comprising Bayside Acres (Bayview Drive, Main/Manzanita, Chicken Point). She said, ideally, Firewise would have at least one board member from each micro-neighborhood or the local board members would find someone in their micro-neighborhood to be a lead. Julia noted that as one of our first Firewise projects, she and Ogden worked with the county and city fire departments to get a neighbor's lot cleared by AmeriCorps. If appointed, she promised to maintain and build on the relationships BAFT has already established with the city and county fire departments, the Marin Wildfire Prevention Agency (MWPA) and FIRESafe Marin.
  - **Alan said he would be willing to take on more of Ogden's technical responsibilities, and agreed to submit this year's annual report to renew our Firewise Neighborhood rating with Firewise USA.** He noted that our Firewise USA rating has helped us to get input from FIRESafe Marin, the Marin Wildfire Prevention Agency (MWPA) and the local fire departments. He added, that's what got us two chipper days last year and two this year, along with the removal of four large eucalyptus trees along Bayview Drive that could be a threat to an evacuation in the event of a wildfire. The dollar value of those four trees was over \$100,000. He noted that the taxes Marin County residents agreed to pay to create the MWPA has paid back for our neighborhood "quite nicely." He figured we've gotten back significantly more dollars than our neighbors have paid in taxes to the MWPA. Alan

ended by saying, we hope to continue that work. There are at least two more trees along Bayview Drive that we are proposing to remove, as well as along Main Drive on school property.

- **David observed how expensive it can be to follow up on the fire department mandates and recommendations following their annual property checks. He had heard that the City of Novato applied and received money from the State of California.** Residents of the city and county of Novato could apply for up to \$3,000 in grant money for vegetation management and Firesafe upgrades. He said he had contacted Firesafe Marin regarding these grants, and they indicated they hadn't applied for any grants 'yet.' David thought this might be something to look into.
- **Julia agreed with David, and said she proposes looking at state grants and other new opportunities, which she has started tracking.** She also said that with Alan's creation of a website where we post our Firewise information and updates we can be a further resource to our neighbors if we centralize the disparate grants and opportunities being offered to residents by the state of California, FIRESafe Marin and the city and county fire departments.
- Laurie moved to approve Julia as Chair. Bob seconded the motion. All present voted in favor.

#### **Benefits of BAFT discussed in this Board Meeting:**

- **We've Created a Safer Community for Our Families.** Laurie said one of the biggest benefits of our neighborhood participation is safety. Our neighbors are collectively building a safer community through the clearing of defensible space and home hardening through our Firewise programs and outreach.
- **Insurance Discounts and Potentially Preventing Insurance Cancellation for Residents in the Wildfire Urban Interface (WUI) Communities.** Julia noted that participation in Firewise USA may bring with it policy benefits. She noted that we have been told by FIRESafe Marin that insurance agencies consult their list of Firewise USA member neighborhoods. Alan added that there are indications insurance agencies may one day ask policy-holders to show records of their defensible space clearing and home hardening activities. Our Firewise database could be a resource for policy-holders to collect and easily access the information they have filed over the years.

- Julia said it is her understanding that the California Insurance Commissioner is pushing hard for more insurance agencies to recognize neighborhood Firewise activities.
- **Firewise has put our little neighborhood on the map with FIRESafe Marin, San Rafael Fire Department, County Fire, and the MWPA.** Julia and Alan said that our Firewise accreditation has enabled us to:
  - Remove four massive Eucalyptus trees on Bayview Drive that would threaten our evacuation route in the event of a wildfire
  - Clear the Bayview Fire Road for defensible space between our neighborhood and the open space bordering China Camp.
  - Leverage AmeriCorps to clear an elderly neighbor's 1 1/2 acre lot
  - Arrange Chipper Days
- **We have built a Firewise resource specifically for Bayside Acres that includes ...**
  - a database of our fire prevention activities
  - evacuation information
  - A convenient electronic form for reporting clearing of defensible space and hardening our homes each year.

**Meeting Adjourned at:** 6:36 PM PST

**Minutes Submitted by Secretary:** Julia Glenister