

# BLOCK CAPTAINS MEETING 22-04

November 17, 2022 10-11 a.m.

## MEETING AGENDA

### 1. Introductions

#### a. New Block Captains

There are four new Block Captains since the last meeting in August.

- Jonathan Beutler – Portuguese Bend
- Chris Linton - Pine Tree
- Daniele Puhl – Lower Blackwater Canyon
- Camille Manquen – Quail Ridge Rd North

Jonathan Beutler	Danielle Puhl	Dorothy Vinter	Deputy Lopez
Chris Linton	Melissa McNabb	Debra Shrader	Christian Horvath
Clint Patterson	Marian Visco	Arlene Honbo	Elaine Jeng
Leslie Stetson	Marita Geraghty	Gene Honbo	Nicole Tangen - Zoom
Nadine Bobit	Ed Swart	Annie Occhipinti	Sandy Sherman –Zoom
Maureen Hill	Kathleen Hughes	Mark Grindle	Judith Haenel – Zoom
Nancy Hoffman	Kay Lupo	Arty Beckler	Fire Station 56
Marion Ruth			

### 2. Feedback on Annual Zone Meetings in October 2022

#### a. Lessons Learned

Lead Block Captain Arlene Honbo provided a summary of the Zone meetings: There were five Zone meetings held at City Hall and three Zone meetings held at private residences. The First Responders attended all the Zone meetings, three City Councils attended their Zone meetings, and four RHCA Board members attended as well.

The City is divided into 24 Zones or neighborhood with 54 subzones. There are 15 Zones that do not have a Block Captain or about 20% of the neighborhood. The first two meetings were held specifically for those Zones that do not have a Block Captain and they were not well attended. Those Zones with Block Captains the attendance were much improved and well attended. The conclusion is that the success of the Block Captain Program is tied to a Block Captain.

Lead Block Arlene Honbo read a letter that was sent to Leslie Stetson after she held the Zone meeting at her home.

#### b. Suggested Changes for 2023

Arlene opened the floor for discussion on feedback on the Zone meetings:

- Most residents don't know their zones so perhaps the Blue Newsletter should specify the address with the Zones
- Personal messages/personal touch go a long way (e.g., knock on doors)
- One BC expressed that there were lots of apathy for the meetings. Money and effort should be spent on videos instead of the Zone meetings. She spent a lot of energy and effort on getting her neighbors to attend and ultimately no one attended. She suggested that the BC sends out quarterly newsletter/ notes/messages instead.
- Another BC echoed the sentiment. Perhaps the messaging on fire mitigation, emergency preparedness has become saturated and the lack of "newness" resulted in neighbors not attending the Zone meetings.
- Knocking on neighbor's doors was uncomfortable as neighbors were not used to having their doors knocked. Another BC suggested that the BC should wear a name tag or wear a shirt that indicates who they are.
- Gene Honbo observed that those Zone meetings where there is a canyon, there were plenty of discussion of canyon management. Perhaps for next year's Zone meeting, the focus should be on neighbors who are working on canyon management. Invite those neighbors to discuss how they started, what were the challenges and the costs. He suggested to look at your Zones and come up with ideas that are important to your neighbors.
- City Manager Elaine Jeng spoke about her conversation with Mr. Don Crocker who proposed to have a Barn Tour similar to the one event held by the Palos Verdes Art Center at his property. Anyone who is interested in his artwork could buy it and he would donate 25% of proceed for mitigation projects in the community. The social event would have a Block Captain component to it. This is not to replace the Annual Zone meetings, since it still important to have interactions with their neighbors.
- Arlene asked for feedback from First Responders and both responded positively. The Zone meetings provided valuable information to residents.
- Mark Grindle observed that there is a marketing problem on attendance. Maybe there should be some time allocated earlier in the process that could be used to do outreach.
- One BC noted that each year the community is looking better, there is less foliage due to the various programs available to residents such as the communal bin events, chip days, and brush collection events.

### **3. Important Updates**

#### **a. Block Captain Leadership Announcements**

City Manager Elaine Jeng announced that Marian Visco, Debra Shrader and Marita Geraghty will lead the Block Captain Program as the Block Captain Leadership Team. Arlene and Gene Honbo will continue to serve as the Block Captain for their Zone and will also serve as the Block Captain Liaison to the City Council.

b. HQE Systems - Siren Project Update

Arlene reported on the November 14<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting which discussed the 10 proposed sites: four City-owned properties, five CalWater facilities and one RHCA location. Of the five CalWater facilities, two were being considered further. There were a few residents who spoke at the City Council meeting who opposed the CalWater facility on Spur Lane. Arlene spoke that it her opinion that there is a lot of misinformation in the community about the siren project. The residents who spoke against having the siren poles placed near them were surprised that there were other residents who wanted it on their properties. At the conclusion of the siren project discussion, the City Council directed Staff to remove the CalWater facility on Spur Lane from consideration and look into two other locations: Fire Station 56 on 12 Crest Road West and Rancho del Mar High School. The Honbos, Viscos, and Clearwaters were in support in having siren poles installed in their properties.

To educate the residents on the siren project, Arlene suggested that the Block Captain develop a Fact Sheet to dispel any misinformation.

c. EIS – Second Notification Exercise in October Feedback Needed

A survey of the audience was conducted to determine who received a text, an email or a phone call during the 2<sup>nd</sup> emergency notification exercise.

d. Hardening the Home and Canyon Management Evaluations – December 2022

The LA County Fire Department, Forestry Division is offering free canyon management evaluation to residents. It is highly encouraged that if you owned a canyon or know of a neighbor who does, to participate in the free evaluation. You could use the evaluation to provide to your gardener to start the process. The canyon management videos are a good source of information and is already vetted by the LA County Fire Department management team.

e. Block Captain Holiday Party – December 6, 2022 at 6:30 pm

- Spouses/Significant Others Invited

The Block Captain Holiday Party will be held at City Hall on December 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM. Spouses and significant others are invited. Please RSVP.

**4. Next Block Captain Meeting: Thursday, February 16, 2023 at 10 a.m.**