

BLOCK CAPTAIN MEETING 20-03

AUGUST 20, 2020

MEETING MINUTES

1. Introductions – Name and Zone

Block Captain Lead (BCL) Arlene Honbo welcomed everyone present. She introduced City Manager Elaine Jeng, and from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Captain Powers. She gave a quick overview of the agenda.

Arlene Honbo asked for everyone to state their name and for the Block Captains to include their zone(s) they represent or their address. The following were present:

Penny & Ross Smith, Zone 21a
Lisa Kopenhefer, Zone 21b
Debra Shrader, Zone 13b and parts of a & c
Nicole Tangen, Zone 1a
Kathleen Hughes, 13 Caballeros, Zone 18b & c
Michael Sherman, 33 Crest
Ralph Schmoller, Zone 11
Charlie & Pia Raine, New Block Captain Zone 6
Gene & Arlene Honbo, Zone 7, Block Captain Lead
Jack Smith, 12 Johns Canyon Road
Bill Ruth, Zone 23
Clint Patterson, 22 Georgeff Road
Kay Lupo, Zone 15a
Dorothy Vinter, Zone 15c
Leah Mirsch, Mayor of Rolling Hills
Arun Bhumitra, 13 Upper Blackwater Canyon Rd.
Judith Haenel, Zones, 19c, 20, 22a & 23a
Captain Powers, Lomita Sheriff
City Manager, Elaine Jeng
RHCA Manager, Kristen Raig
Architectural Clerk, Kathrine Bishop
Admin. Support, Kirsten Orlor

2. Important Updates

a. CWPP updates and next steps

City Manager Jeng reported that the CWPP was adopted by both the City Council and Community Association Board. There are projects listed for 2020 however, there were

some projects not completed in 2019. Mainly the Emergency Communications Project. She stated she has inquired to the City Council for dedicated support to assist with the selection of devices. Secondly, the Block Captains have honed-in on the “Hardening the Home”.

Mrs. Jeng stated that during a recent Regulatory Law Meeting, an RPV representative mentioned that they have a similar neighborhood watch program and would like to meet and discuss and compare programs. She will be coordinating with Mrs. Honbo and their representative so we may all benefit by working together as a whole.

b. Crest Road East Gate update

RHCA Manager Raig reported the Board approved the automation of Crest Rd. East Gate. The automation includes the removal of tree branches, the relocation of the power pole from the south side of the street to the north side also the closed-circuit camera will be moved as well. The Board also approved the installation of a license plate recognition camera and the capability of opening the Crest Rd East Gate remotely from the Main Gate or by the Fire Department in case of an emergency. Also, the installation of a keypad for the Sheriff’s department and for the Fire Department to be able to access with a “Knox Key”. The installation of the keypad and Know key entry has not yet been completed since Edison Co. has not been able to schedule the work to date.

c. Fire Risk Assessment Along Evacuation Routes by LA Co. Fire Department

The City Manager Jeng, Councilmember Mirsch and others went on a ride along with the Fire Department to assess fire risks along the evacuation routes (Portuguese Bend Road, Crest Roads and Eastfield Drive). The F.D. pointed out areas of concern, areas that looked great and provided their perspective on fire suppression during evacuation activities.

The City Manager Jeng stated that the biggest concern that resulted from the Wildfire Mitigation survey with the potential traffic congestion that would result from the residents exiting the city during an evacuation. There was a scheduled meeting to discuss findings from the risk assessment but will be rescheduled with the fire department due to the number of current fires that require their assistance.

3. Block Captain Training “Hardening the Home” Overview

a. “Hardening the Home”

Block Captain Lead (BCL) Arlene Honbo informed everyone that the topic for the Annual Zone meeting RH residents will be “Hardening the Home”.

Mr. Honbo stated that the block captain training started last year but due to Covid the implementation was delayed. Ms. Shrader and Mr. Honbo worked together on the training materials to best convey what residents should address to improve or provide the best defense during a wildfire. Please refer to the “Hardening the Home” overview presentation prepared by Debra Shrader.

b. Resources available from LA Co FD

Trevor Moore from the Department of Forestry is conducting the “Hardening the Home Inspections” as scheduled. The inspection is completely private/confidential, the form used during the inspection will be left with the homeowner. The form utilized is “Home ignition zone structure assessment guide”.

c. Resident feedback on “Home Hardening Inspection”

A few residents have had their homes inspected by FD Moore and have appreciated his insight with regards to vegetation around their home’s immediate area. He pointed out areas outside or on or around the roof line that should be considered for removal to prevent a potential wildfire from reaching the residential structure.

Their feedback was all very positive and would recommend as many residents as possible request an inspection that would take approximately 45 minutes for each resident.

d. Sign-ups for Annual Zone Meetings via Zoom – All

Mrs. Honbo stated that the Annual Zone meetings will be conducted by Zoom and would focus on “Hardening the Homes” Block Captains should encourage residents to sign up for inspections. All residents will be invited to attend the morning or the evening zoom meeting. The First Responders will attend so residents can ask similar questions that were posed during last year’s meeting, such as evacuation routes, Crest Rd. E Gate, information on emergency evacuations and horse evacuations.

4. Next Resident’s Zone Zoom Meeting: Tuesday, September 29, 2020 from 10 - 11 am and Wednesday October 1, 2020 from 6 - 7 pm.

Note as of September 15, 2020 the zoom meeting dates changed to October 6, 2020 from 10-11 am and October 8, 2020 from 6-7 pm.