



LAKESHORE HOMES ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING November 18, 2015

Present: Board of Directors: Peter Turner, Liz Sterns, Jack Backus, Chris Metcalfe, Ron Shapiro
Administrators: Patty Montmorency, Lisa Ray

Guests: City Administrator Sabrina Landreth, Councilmember Abel Guillen

Inspector of Elections Beverly Balee

Volunteer Ballot counters: Susie Cerf, Robyn Jagust, Jennifer Low, Pam May, Mary Merrick

LHA President Peter Turner called the meeting to order at Crocker Highlands Elementary School at 7:30 pm. He introduced the first speaker, City Administrator Sabrina Landreth.

Sabrina Landreth refers to herself as the Chief Bureaucrat of Oakland. Sabrina started in her current position on July 1st and it's been a whirlwind. She previously worked for the City of Oakland in several departments, including Assistant City Manager. She then became the City Manager for the City of Emeryville before returning to Oakland at the request of Mayor Schaaf. As City Administrator, all of Oakland's department heads report to her and her priorities are to implement the policies of the Mayor and city council.

Ms. Landreth groups her goals into 3 categories:

1. Support City Staff – there are 5000 employees working hard for the City. City positions were cut by 25% during the recession and it's taking a long time to recover. Workers took furlough days during that time and received reduced pay. Occupy Oakland was very stressful for city workers, as were changes in top management.
2. Restore public trust – city workers are making progress given the city's strained resources. Sabrina is working to improve levels of both internal and external customer service and instill a culture of respect.
3. Oakland not an island – we have great city pride, but Oakland's problems are not unique. We need to reach out to neighboring cities for solutions, input and partnering.

These goals and day-to-day crisis management are handled by Sabrina and her team, who happen to all be women. The contract with Waste Management was entered into before she started, but she worked on the new police union contract that will give officers salary increases over the next 4 years.

Sabrina also has priorities from the city council – one is for Oakland to keep up with the demand for affordable housing. All cities in Alameda County have this issue and many residents cannot afford to stay. There is a lot of new development – 15,000 units in the pipeline – but not enough to meet the need. Uber coming to Oakland will bring 2000-3000 employees downtown.

The Mayor has made it a priority to increase the number of OPD officers. There will be 3 academies this year and 2 next year. Improving infrastructure is another priority – the 90 year repaving cycle is unacceptable, our sewer system needs replacing and planning for the impact of the upcoming El Niño. City resources are spread thin, but Sabrina is willing to try new approaches, shake it up and raise the bar for city services.

Q&A

Q: Is there a strategy being formed to address the homeless encampments around the city?

A: Sabrina has met with neighboring cities and is proposing a “shelter emergency” to provide greater outreach and faster rehousing of the homeless.

Q: How many officers in OPD?

A: The staff level is authorized to be 722 officers and we are currently at 762, although other cities the size of Oakland have a police force of closer to 1000 officers.

The next speaker was our District 2 Councilmember **Abel Guillen**. CM Guillen feels that Oakland is entering into a unique time. He sees that in the next 7 years, Oakland will need to add fifteen thousand residential units, raising the tax base to meet the challenges of the city. Measure DD added \$800k to the maintenance budget for Lake Merritt, adding 4 new gardeners to the staff. The Kaiser Convention Center, which has been closed for 10 years, now has an agreement in place with a developer and Abel hopes that the Calvin Simmons Theater will reopen.

The development of the high rise at E. 12th Street is moving forward. Abel has been spending time with the Waste Management contract, proposal for transportation of coal through Oakland and cleaning up Chinatown, both graffiti and crime rates. Crime rates throughout Oakland have been reduced, except for car theft.

Q&A

Q: Has there been a decision about shipping of coal through the Port of Oakland?

A: The city has hired experts to determine the health risks. With coal being highly combustible, the lack of a fire station nearby may be a limiting factor. Abel does feel that a terminal can be built for shipping of other products.

Q: What’s happening with the development of Brooklyn Basin?

A: Development continues – the first phase is to get the park established. Housing will be in the next phase 2017-2018. Tours of the project will be scheduled soon.

Q: What’s happening with the estuary from Lake Merritt to the Oakland Estuary?

A: The re-routing of the conduit for utilities (AT&T) just finished, now the project can continue.

Q: Are in-law units allowed in Oakland?

A: The City will be using an expedited process to allow construction of in-law units. The City has started collecting occupancy tax on rentals, but aren’t enforcing it yet. Abel has made contact with Airbnb and working to prevent party house rentals.

Q: Have the rates for Waste Management been renegotiated yet?

A: With the new contract, there was disincentive for restaurants to compost. The city was able to shift the pricing, but the trade-off was that we no longer have a local call center.

Q: What's the status of the Park Blvd and Grand Ave road diets?

A: For Park Blvd, the city has applied for a grant to study the impact and will work with LHA to address our concerns about safety. The Grand Ave diet is moving forward from Elwood to the Piedmont border and re-striping will begin soon.

Q: Are any of the stoplights synchronized?

A: Abel isn't sure, but he'll find out.

Election Results

With 1055 properties eligible to vote and 211 votes needed for a quorum, there were 298 ballots cast and 16 ballots voided. The elected 2016 Board will be:

Jack Backus	199 votes
Chris Metcalfe	204
Ron Shapiro	198
Liz Sterns	160
Peter Turner	171

Candidate Dennis Woodruff received 119 votes. Peter Turner thanked Dennis for running and asked Dennis to join in helping the LHA Board and committees.

Peter Turner has a long history with LHA – he grew up in his family's home on Sunnyhills Road. His children were raised in Peter's home on Hubert – Peter loves this neighborhood and at 74, he's not ready to stop working for LHA.

Peter wants to make our neighborhood a happier place and to do that, the Board will work very hard and would like to encourage neighbors to help them by volunteering – join a committee or help out with updating LHA communications. Other issues that the Board will be addressing are Airbnb / multi-family rentals, the Park Blvd. road diet, Marijuana growing/smell and noise and pollutants from leaf blowers.

Peter then introduced the rest of the Board, beginning with Liz Sterns, Treasurer. Liz shared that LHA financials look good, although delinquent accounts continue to be an issue. The annual dues will increase \$5 to \$175.

Next to speak was Chris Metcalfe, Vice President and Chair of the Parks Committee. The drought has the parks committee looking at what is sustainable for our parks, with caring for the Sequoias at the top of the list. Clearing brush in Plot C to mitigate fire danger while continuing to add native plants and maintain the tree canopy in all LHA parks. The Parks Committee always has room for volunteers – join the committee or come to a work party.

Jack Backus is the head of Neighborhood Preservation, the committee responsible for reviewing changes to home exteriors and trees. Jack pointed out the committee is lucky to have skilled, long term committee members with backgrounds in architecture, landscape architecture and mediation.

Ron Shapiro is the chair of the Membership Committee. The committee has held a few events this year and is looking to modernize communications and begin planning the LHA 100th anniversary. Ron would love to see new members – the committee meets the 3rd Saturday of the month at 10:30am.

Robyn Jagust runs our LHA Cares program, which was started in response to catastrophes in 1989 and 1991. LHA currently has 40 clusters and we're in need of 4 more captains. LHA Cares organizes Core training, Neighborhood Watch and encourages people to get to know their neighbors. Robyn is happy to report that there has been a steady increase in National Night Out block parties in LHA.

One question from audience: Will the Board begin using the website to post meeting minutes, decisions and fines?

The Membership Committee is working to update functionality on the website and improve communication of this information.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:24 p.m.