

Lakeshore Homes Association

Annual Meeting

November 14, 2018

The Annual Meeting was called to order at 7:40pm. LHA Board President Marshall St. Clair introduced the Board: Angel Garrett, Chris Metcalfe, Brian O'Malley & Eddie Low and the office staff Lisa Ray and Patty Montmorency. He then introduced guest speaker Tom Debley, President of the Oakland Heritage Alliance.

Mr. Debley spoke about the work of the Oakland Heritage Alliance, their focus on advocacy & historic preservation with the City and neighborhoods in Oakland that want to do restoration. They are a non-profit and provide education on preservation as well. Mr. Debley will be speaking about the history of Lake Merritt and the lake's relationship to its neighbors.

This year is the 150th Anniversary of Lake Merritt and in 2 years, it will be the 150th anniversary of the designation of a wildlife sanctuary. The lake is manmade and in the 1880's, there were no park or other structures around the lake, but there was hunting and fishing. The lake began as a tidal slough and was used for sewage. In 1850, Dr. Samuel Merritt came to the area during the gold rush and lived in SF. He loved the lake and moved to Oakland, built his house and a hospital and decided to develop the lake in the 1860's. He was mayor of Oakland, but paid for the development out of his own pocket. He also built a bridge at 12th Street, replacing a toll bridge that "eased travel into Brooklyn" the area east of the lake.

The lake was originally called Peralta Lake, but was referred to as Merritt's Lake. Merritt became a senator and designated the lake as a wildlife refuge. The first Buckminster Dome was built here by CAL students. The focus was to solve the sewage problem to make the area more desirable. The lake was completed the same year as the Trans Pacific railroad – in fact, Southern Pacific was the original owner of the lake. They wanted to fill in the lake, but the city needed to get control of the waterfront and convinced them to give the lake to city with the condition that a park would be developed there.

In 1905, the City Beautiful Movement was being promoted by Mayor Frank Mott and then in 1906 the SF earthquake brought thousands of refugees and businesses into Oakland. Between the years 1900 and 1910, the population increased from 67,000 to 150,000 – an increase of 124%. There was a lot of building during this time – high schools, city hall and the high pressure pumping station #1, an emergency water source, which is now the municipal boat house (location of Lake Chalet restaurant). In 1963, the federal government declared the lake a national historic monument.

Mr. Debley answered a few questions from the audience, including why doesn't the water in Lake Merritt rise as much as it used to? Because there is a dam and pump station installed at 7th Street near Laney College. The pump removes the excess water from the lake.

The next speaker was Pamela Erickson from Councilmember Abel Guillen's office. Pamela is also an LHA neighbor, who moved here in 2011. Pamela regularly attends the Grand Lake NCPC meetings where she gets updates from OPD. The top 2 crimes that OPD sees in our neighborhood are car break-ins (the smash and grab type) and bike theft. OPD is encouraging people to register their bikes with OPD so that

they can be returned to the owner if recovered. Pamela encourages all neighbors to report crime related incidents to OPD.

Homelessness is an ongoing concern for the city and residents. There had been 60 unsheltered residents living around Lake Merritt. There is now a temporary housing / navigation center at the Henry Kaiser Center that houses up to 40 people. The city has also recently purchased an occupancy hotel on Grand Avenue that will open soon. City policy has been to allow unsheltered residents to remain in place until space is available in a shelter. Operation Dignity is still operating in Oakland. For more information about Oakland's response to homelessness www.oaklandhomelessnessresponse.com

Board President Marshall St. Clair announced the names of the 2 new Board members for 2019 – Stacey Harper and Ron Fenolio. Marshall has been on the Board for 2 years and became involved to influence the neighborhood. His perspective is that the role of the LHA Board is to preserve the character of the neighborhood and preserve LHA's common areas. Determining when to enforce rules has become more complex with Airbnb and rental related issues like parking and noise and also resolving encroachments, but the Board works to be consistent and consider the impact to the neighborhood. We have over 1000 homes in LHA and the Board is 5 volunteers that meet once a month. I encourage members to become involved and be part of decisions for future of the neighborhood.

A question was asked about a home with an encroachment into Plot C. Neighbors on Carlston have been aware of this for 8 years and had petitioned the Board to correct the issue with the homeowner. And now it appears that the house next door has added a deck that encroaches into Plot C. Marshall responded that a memo of encroachment was placed on the property in 2010, which is now for sale. LHA has retained a lawyer to assist with the remediation of the encroachment.

Another question was asked about why LHA has not taken action against short term rentals. Board Vice President Chris Metcalfe responded that the world has changed since the CCRs were written and LHA needs community input to resolve these type of issues. Treasurer Angel Garrett agreed that along with members voicing their concerns, they also need to be engaged and contribute to the solution.

Chris then shared the status of the LHA parks and the work done this year. In Plot C, the lower portion of the Dollar stairs was rebuilt. We work with an arborist to help us identify health and safety of the trees in all of our parks. Chris is happy to work with neighbors to do more planting in Plot C. The Parks Committee meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm.

Eddie Low is Vice President and chair of the Membership Committee, which is changing its name to Neighbor Network. The 2 main functions of the committee are social events and neighborhood preparation and awareness and new members are welcome. This committee encompasses LHA Cares that Robyn Jagust has spearheaded for many years. This group organized LHA into 40 clusters of approximately 25 homes each so that neighbors will be connected in the event of an emergency. Eddie also mentioned that Safer Crocker is a great program that's funded by donations – consider donating.

Finance Manager, Patty Montmorency, asked everyone to please sign up for email of LHA official documents. We have forms here or you can also download from the website.