

LHA Board Minutes Annual Meeting November 15, 2023

President Casey Ramsey called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Board Members Present

Casey Ramsey, James Breeden, Chris Metcalfe, John Brewer, Justin Williams
Lisa Ray, Administrator, Janice Lind, Communications Manager

Guest Speakers

Captain Yu, 18-year veteran of the Oakland Police Department became the Captain of Area 3 in June. Captain Yu shared an update of criminal activity within Area 3 and how OPD has responded, adding foot patrol officers to the Business Districts, including Lakeshore. The LHA neighborhood doesn't see much crime compared to the activity on Lakeshore – Captain Yu reviews data to identify spikes in crime on particular days of the week and look for patterns so police presence can be adjusted accordingly. He encouraged neighbors to report crimes, even if the crime seems small in nature. There's been an increase in ATM robberies and foot patrol officers are an increased presence near those locations. LHA members asked about crimes related to cannabis dispensaries and the current number of police officers in Oakland. The city is currently staffed with 720 officers. Increased crime levels in other parts of Oakland was also discussed and it's being addressed, with the Ceasefire program and community policing being successful options. Question about OPD response to sidseshows, where 30 officers are working to disband up to 200 cars. OPD tries to get ahead of the participants by monitoring social media and arriving at the sideshow location to keep the sideshow from starting. The city has also purchased Flock cameras – alerts will be dispatched through the 911 system, not directly to patrol officers.

Dr. Carlo Beckman has been working with OPD just over 2 years, in charge of the Bureau of Research and Planning at the Department of Services. He also teaches at the police academy. There's a mix of officers and non-sworn staff in the Bureau. The agency helps OPD take action through legislation and they also review and develop departmental agenda reports. They look at ways for technology to improve efficiency & communications. Crime stats are published every week and available online. Technology provides tools to utilize all of the data collected – Dr. Beckman manages OPD's IT department. He advocated for Oakland's purchase of Flock cameras for over 2 years – the city recently purchased 300 cameras. The city utilizes technology called SoundThinking that uses sensors to detect gunshots – 99% of the alerts are not called in by the community. The 911 system will be replaced within the next 2 years. A question was asked about texting 911 – calling should be first choice though text can be sent to 911. Discussion of OPD implementing new tech – there are certain technologies that are not permitted by the Privacy Commission such as facial recognition.

Board Updates

Parks / Chris Metcalfe – we added a gardener for 4 hours a week, which allows us to keep trees healthy and maintained. The trail in Oak Grove has been graded to address water issues. We've also done some tree removals of Eucalyptus in Plot C and will be replanting natives in that park. The deep feeding of the Sequoia's at Carlston Triangle has worked to improve their health.

Neighbor Network / James Breeden – we had a good turnout for most of our events this year. Would like to encourage neighbors to host small, block type events next year. Also worked on the research and implementation of Flock cameras for our neighborhood.

Treasurer / John Brewer – presented the financial review for 2023 to date. We’ve seen an increase in members paying dues online, which correlated to an increase in transaction fees. Also, we saw an increase in insurance and our printing costs, though the overall change balanced out and expenses were reduced from last year.

Neighborhood Preservation / Justin Williams – the committee review a steady stream of applications submitted for changes to properties. This includes a significant number of solar installations.

President / Casey Ramsey – Casey acknowledged the impact of recent crimes in our neighborhood and wants to assure members that the Board takes these issues seriously by taking steps to improve neighborhood safety & security. LHA has invested in the installation of Flock license plate reading cameras and supports the speedbump initiative. Casey urges LHA members to get to know their neighbors – our community is a shining example of resilience, unity and strength. He appreciates all of the hard work that the Board has accomplished and welcomes the new 2024 Board members, James Donatell and Ashley Morris along with returning Board members James Breeden, Chris Metcalfe and Justin Williams.

The board reviewed and approved updates to the Reserve Study MSC JB/CR

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46pm.

I certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes approved by the Board of Directors.

Justin Williams, Secretary

Date