

# OSO GRANDE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION (OGNA)

General Membership Meeting

October 15, 2015, 6:30 p.m.

Bear Canyon Senior Center

**Present:** Board members: Alicia Q. (AQ), Bruce Bisulco,(BBisulco), Carolyn Kelly (CK); Bill Honeywell (BH), Jane Honeywell (JH), and 8 other attendees (7 residents, 1 non-resident); **Absent:** Beth Baker (BB), Richard Cooley (RC)

## 1. Upcoming OGNA Events in 2015-16:

- **October 24, 2015:** El Oso Grande Park & Habitat Clean-up Volunteer Day
- **March 24, 2016:** General Membership Meeting, Bear Canyon Senior Center
- **April 2016:** Oso Grande Pollinator Habitat Volunteer Day (Date TBD)

## 2. Board Elections (AQ):

- A Nominating Committee recommended the following individuals to serve as Board members for 2015-16: Alicia Q., Beth Baker, Bruce Bisulco, Richard Cooley, Ryan Giar, Jane Honeywell, Carolyn Kelly, Charmaine Schmile. (Special thanks to outgoing Board member, Bill Honeywell for his outstanding service to the Pollinator Habitat).
- A motion was made and seconded; there were 12 'yes' votes and 0 'no' votes.

## 3. Treasurer's Report (BBisulco):

Balance of \$630.00 as of September 18, 2015.

## 4. Crime report (AQ):

- Per APD statistics, there were 56 crimes reported in our neighborhood since January 1, 2015, including 9 burglaries, 15 auto thefts, and 11 instances of vandalism.
- Ryan Giar began a Neighborhood Watch on Noreen Drive and was elected block captain. This is the second Neighborhood Watch group in our neighborhood. A reminder that any resident can start a Neighborhood Watch program on their block. Contact Steve Sink at APD for more information. Ryan also noted that residents can look at the website FoothillsCommand.com for good information on APD activities.
- Residents are reminded and encouraged to call 242-COPS for anything that seems suspicious, as well as for noise problems, illegal parking, etc.

## 5. District 8 Report (AQ for RC):

- The District 8 Coalition serves as an interface between the City and 29 neighborhood associations in our region. District 8 is Councilor Trudy Jones' district, and she is usually in attendance at the quarterly meetings. Each association pays \$15 in annual dues. Discussion revolves around a variety of issues such as zoning concerns, placement of cell towers, police oversight, etc. As OGNA's representative, Richard Cooley attends and makes

known the Association's concerns to the City, and relays pertinent information from the City to us. OGNA is recognized by the City as being active and involved in preserving the quality of the neighborhood.

## **6. Accomplishments, 2015:**

### Oso Grande Pollinator Habitat (AQ):

- Some 500 hours of volunteer time was devoted to maintaining the Pollinator Habitat in 2015.

### Adopt-a-Park (AQ for BB):

- BB continues to regularly fill the Mutt Mitt stations around the park, as well as send in lists of needed repairs to the City
- *Note:* There will be a park and habitat clean-up volunteer day on October 24, 2015, from 9:00am-11:30am.

## **7. Miscellaneous:**

- Nextdoor.com: Resident Claudia discussed the website/program called nextdoor.com. Residents can go to the site and sign up to be included on a neighborhood blog. Participants post a variety of items of interest, including recommendations for service providers and babysitters, lost-and-found notices, crime watch concerns, City events, etc. Periodic notices of activities from APD's Foothill Command are also included. All OGNA residents are encouraged to sign up and exchange information.
- Volunteer Opportunities: Working on the OGNA website, representing OGNA at the City's Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, serving as a block captain, cleaning up at the park, serving on the Design Committee for a neighborhood sign (see under Projects).
- Suggestions: (1) More planting of trees in yards: brings up property values and is good for the environment; (2) please do not poison pigeons; doing so negatively affects other wildlife.

## **8. Projects for 2016 (AQ):**

- Permanent sign at Osuna and Morris, to say "Oso Grande Neighborhood": This sign would provide recognition for our neighborhood, as well as help with safety issues on this corner (if sign is lit). Ryan Giar has volunteered to head up a committee to work on this project. Bill Honeywell and Alicia Q. will also serve. Phase 1 will include securing a City Streetscape grant from the City, which would pay for landscaping, hardscape, and lighting. Phase 2 will include working on a design and getting funding for the sign itself. Ideas for securing this funding are welcomed, as are others who would like to serve on the committee.
- Pollinator Habitat: As expected in its first year, a number of plants have been lost in the Habitat. OGNA has \$3,000 left in the budget from the original project. This money will be used to purchase new plants. Several volunteer days will be held in the spring to put in the new plantings.

