

## **AUDUBON HILLS 38<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL COMMUNITY MEETING**

Called to order at 9:20 on Saturday, June 10, 2006

Introduction of all residents in attendance. McCarthy, Collier, Fennessy, Wells, Murray, Anders, Breckinridge, Rounds, Blowe, Howard, Brozo, Nicodemus, Clarke, Mannion, Linville, Atchley, Cott.

### **Tax Status**

State of CA tax exemption status has gone through. The background is that the Federal government told CA state government we hadn't paid taxes; that fact is that we haven't had to, because we were tax exempt. The state decided to say that we weren't after 30 years, but after a few hundred dollars in tax attorney costs, and many filings and phone calls, they now say we are. So we no longer have to worry about paying state taxes and we are now filed as a "Volunteer Association", which makes us non-profit. Just as we've been all along.

### **Bylaws**

The state said we had to add in the following changes the bylaws for non profit status. These proposed changes were sent out via e-mail and postal mail, to all residents a month ago. It states:

#### **"ARTICLE XV. Dedication and Dissolution.**

The property of the organization is irrevocably dedicated to social welfare purposes and no part of the net income or assets of this organization shall ever inure to the benefit of any director, officer or member thereof or to the benefit of any private persons.

Upon dissolution or winding up of the organization, all assets remaining after payment, or provision for payment, of all debts and liabilities of this organization shall be distributed to a nonprofit fund, foundation, or corporation which is organized and operated exclusively for social welfare purposes and which has established its tax exempt status under Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code."

Motion made by Nora Fennessy to ratify bylaws, seconded by Inga Clarke. All were in favor

### **Street Signs**

Now that the tax issues are taken care of, we can spend the money in our account, and we've been able to start putting in street signs and Merrill's memorial bench at the big curve. They are going in where we have directors that are volunteering, and then those that are volunteering to put a sign in will go in next. The old signs are going to be used in a structure under the under the Audubon Hills sign in the front, and you can look up and see all the streets in the neighborhood. The signs are cemented in, epoxied with screws that can't unscrew and sub-floor adhesive.

### **Treasurer Report**

We were frozen to spend any funds, until we knew if we had to pay taxes. Now we can move forward. The treasury report is pretty self explanatory. Right now we have \$947.62, with more dues coming in. There were no questions on the treasurer's report. All in favor of approving the tax report say I. All in favor.

### **Audubon Hills Community Services District (AHCS D)**

Speaker Mike Fennessy, president of AHCS D stated that there are two positions have been filled by Bill Brozo and Robert Matheson. We need a secretary to fill the shoes of Inge Clark and we'd like to thank her for all her years of service. (A beautiful bouquet of roses was given to her.) If any road needs to be fixed, please fill out the form at [www.ahcsd.org](http://www.ahcsd.org). Right now we have about \$42,000 for the road getting fixed. We reserve money to do major paving every two years. Our main charter states we take care of Audubon's paving and snow removal, then the side roads get taken care of.

Jim McCarthy AHCS D director stated that if you fill out the request for a road to be fixed, it will have priority

to get fixed because you spoke up. The special assessment has made a huge difference, because the income from the state has gone down substantially, and that special assessment has made up the difference.

To pave 1500 feet, it's about \$35,000, so it's really expensive. Once we pave the last section of Audubon Drive, we'll start paving side roads. The next paving will be from Kittiwake to Kingfisher or maybe Mockingbird. We're using Petromat so we have long term road maintenance. It helps reduce potholes and erosion. The back area is much more dry and stable, and doesn't see as much traffic, so we aren't going to Petromat the back portion of Audubon Drive.

What side roads will be paved first? All side roads will be paved in order of highest number of homes served first. There may be some changes on the narrower roads that have become overgrown or built next to. Be sure to check where the easements are, before you build any fences or gardens. The future improvements may affect these.

Don Murray stated that the community has always wanted side road paving, and that he thanks the board for considering and working towards paving and improving all the side roads.

A resident stated that when trees are trimmed, we need to remind the owners to clear out their property and to remove the dead branches and brush. Mike said we'll take the issue up at the next CSD meeting. Some neighbors aren't clearing.

Another comment was that some areas seem to be getting cut back too far. Mike said he'd look into that.

Jim said that if residents are concerned about spraying, there is a solution. There's a 25% vinegar that works as well as round up, but it's not poisonous, and it's a lot cheaper. Clove oil is another way to do it, but it's more expensive; it also works well. Both are used by organic farmers. We're looking into where the vinegar can be purchased, and to use that instead of round up.

### **Neighborhood Watch**

Volunteer residents needed from the back area of Audubon Hills to volunteer to be deputies. Your main job is to help us contact everyone, in the event of an emergency, by utilizing a phone tree. It works well in the case of the Mt Lion's to break-ins, to help notify people in the area of what's going on.

Stickers haven't been forgotten. Once the signs are done, the stickers will be worked on. We had to wait on the tax filing to spend the money. These stickers work well to let you know if someone lives in this area or not.

Fire Safety; Check your smoke detector today.

Home address safety. Kim suggested that after talking with the Fire Safe Council, we might want to consider getting uniform address signs for each neighbor. There are some really nice designs that can promote safety, while keeping the charm of the area. For some time, this is not what people wanted, but it's been noted that having a community wide "reflective address sign" will allow emergency personnel to find our homes at night or in the smoke. Our local fire and ambulance have stated this has delayed their response time to many homes in this Audubon. When minutes count, we don't want to wish we had done this.

There are two designs that were presented, to make these signs more charming. One was the numbers inside of a pine tree design, the other was the numbers inside of a bird house designs. Since our area is Audubon (synonymous with birds), residents voted for the birdhouse design for a more universal look in our area. We will send out information on this project, and costs to homeowners, as soon as all the street signs are in place. Residences in attendance were interested in this project for community safety.

Fire Safe Council, Jim and Kim talked to the Fire Safe Council, and the El Dorado County Home and Garden show. It showed that we do not have a council in the Camino area. Kim suggested that perhaps we could neighbors together, to get this going; or perhaps, if the job is too big, work in conjunction with the Camino Community Action Committee to get this going.

There are many advantages, such as once a group is formed, we can work at getting grants to help improve fire safety and clean in the area. We have to learn to help ourselves in the event of a forest fire; the Fire Safe Council gives us the tools to do so. If anyone is interested, please come to us.

## **Audubon Hills Association Voting**

### **Board Members**

No interest has been expressed from residents to fill upcoming openings for board member positions. Russ Anders asked if we can move to accept all three current board members to stay in their positions. He was informed that yes he can. Russ Anders moved to nominate all three board members to their current positions. Mike Fennessy seconded all where in favor. The following were re-elected in their current positions:

President-Jim McCarthy

Secretary/Treasurer –Sue Collier

1<sup>st</sup> Director-Don Murray

### **Final Thoughts, Reminders, and Comments**

- Picnic-We upped the cost per person, to cover cost of goods, to \$6. The picnic is on July 8
- Website always updated with new and interesting things, not to mention all by-laws as well.
- Dumpster-will be here Sept 29th-Oct 9<sup>th</sup> please call before coming. It's for paid members.
- Literature is available here and online that helps you live with the wildlife.
- New garbage-just took over on Thursday, we'll see how first pick up goes on Wednesday.
- Dogs-Illegal to have dogs going onto other people's properties. Barking dog problems can be rectified, we as a board can't do anything about it, but you can do something. Must be persistent. If you have a problem, call or e-mail us, and we'll give you the steps the county gave us that you need to take to work the situation out.
- There was a positive remark, on the reduction and improvement of realty signs, of individual homes being placed on other resident's properties, and at the entrance to Audubon. Many felt it was getting carried away and looking cluttered. All agreed and were glad that was no longer an issue.
- Speed-Just a reminder...Slow down. Please remind visitors to slow down when coming to visit as well.
- Many members thanked the both boards for listening to their concerns and helping make our community brighter. Neighbors stated they appreciated the e-mails and effort this board has made for Audubon Hills and everyone thanked us for getting involved.
- There were some questions on paperwork received by neighboring residents to some property at Waxwing and Audubon; they asked if anyone know what was going on there. There will be a hearing to see if they are reducing the buildable acreage from 2 to 1.63 acres.
- Don Murray said Audubon Hills has to be diligent about enforcing the 2 acre minimum, because the county has forgotten that zoning in the past.

### **Volunteers Needed**

- Secretary for AHCSO-only six (6) meetings a year contact Mike Fennessy at [CSD@audubonhills.org](mailto:CSD@audubonhills.org) if you're interested. Residents are welcome to attend these meetings, posted at the entrance.
- If anyone knows of a CPA to help us periodically, that would be helpful.
- Street sign installation-Anyone interested in helping put up the new street signs, can sign up at the table or e-mail us if you're willing to help.
- Fire Safe Council-Anyone interested in helping start up this valuable team in the Camino area, please e-mail or write us.
- Neighborhood watch deputies please e-mail or write us.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30am.