

## Audubon Hills Association 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Community Meeting

June 20, 2009

Meeting called to order 2:00 pm

### **Introductions of those present:**

Mimi Crowe, Alex Baird; Ken Brook, Steve Smith, Mark & Robin Stanley, Verla Blowe, Larry & Mary Linville, Debbie Winterson, Lisa & John Hoffman, Jim & Judy Wells, Nevada Blair, Nadar Khalil, Jim & Kim McCarthy, Ron & Sue Collier, Curt Breckinridge, Russ Anders, Larry & Karin Wilson, Red Ryder, Joyce Bailey.

### **Board Members present:**

Mark Stanley, president; Kim McCarthy, vice-president; Sue Collier, Secretary-Treasurer. Appointed position: Neighborhood Watch, Jim Wells.

### **AHA Board elections:**

There are three positions open, Vice President, 2<sup>nd</sup> director (two year position), and 1<sup>st</sup> director (one year position because of Don Murray stepping down). Ken Brook nominated Kim McCarthy to be Vice President; Jim Wells seconded it, all in favor and passed. Karin Wilson nominated her husband Larry Wilson for the 2<sup>nd</sup> director position, Jim Wells seconded it, all in favor, passed. Larry Linville agreed to fill the 1<sup>st</sup> director position, Kim McCarthy seconded it, all in favor, passed.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

\$4584.50 in checkbook. Saved \$500 on dumpster by utilizing the Camino Clean up dumpsters in the spring.

### **Fire:**

Exit route handed out. Some of the AHA money will be used for emergency exit signs. Fire exit needs to have the one tree removed, so vehicles can leave easier. Mark Stanley will fell that tree. Eventually, Audubon Hills will have turn-arounds or hammer turns at the end of every street, to allow emergency vehicles to get in and out of our neighborhood easier. We would also like to start an Audubon Hills Fire Safe Council, which will allow Audubon to have help from the state for improving Audubon Hills safety. It was mentioned, by those attending, that there are probably few program left in the budget to do this. The programs have been slashed quite drastically, but it would be in our benefit to get started now, so we can be ready when the economy starts getting better. For one, it would help the elderly in Audubon, who are unable to do the work themselves, or ones that are unable to afford paying someone to do the work. As always, we encourage neighbors to look out for each other, and in the case of wildfire, to check on their neighbors to see if they need any help.

### **Insurance:**

Because of the nature of the area—and concerns over potential claims because of wildfire, limited means of access and egress—Allstate Insurance is not renewing their homeowner policies if fire clearance is not done. Judy Wells says their property is cleared to fire code, but they were cancelled anyway. Allstate has said they're not renewing anyone in this area because of the overgrown properties, narrow roads, and there's only one exit. She's tried 25 different insurance companies, and they've all said they won't insure in Audubon Hills. Currently, Allied is writing policies. Mark encourages everyone to use their green waste bins to remove debris from property and to utilize the free chipping program through the county, while it's still available. With all the planned improvements to side roads, and stricter fire clearance policies, we hope this will settle uneasiness with insurance companies, so they won't drop insurance in this area. It was asked if there was anything we could do to improve ratings for this area, and Mark said that residents need to abide by the fire clearance codes, and clear the properties of dangerous ladder fuels, that would be a good step.

### **Fire Hydrants:**

EID said owners use to own the water lines, but because of recent events in the neighborhood—and county—EID has agreed to take the lines back and take responsibility for them. This was, in part, the result of EID not

wanting owners to cut into the line and create potential contamination into the lines to other customers. Most lines are the responsibility of the owners, from the meter to the house, and EID will be responsible from the meter down the street. EID has also expressed to the AHCSO that as the side roads are paved, they will put a fire hydrant on that road. We simply need to contact them as AHCSO starts paving, to request that.

### **AHCSO:**

Jim McCarthy, president of AHCSO spoke. For those of you that don't know, AHCSO's purpose is to maintain roads within the Audubon Hills boundary. The board consists of volunteers from our community. Funding from a portion of our property taxes, and a special assessment fee, help pay for these roads to be kept in good order. Audubon Drive is the primary road to maintain, because it has the most people using it. Once Audubon Drive was put in good order, the board started the widening and paving—not chip sealing—all the side roads, starting with the roads that are utilized most. Each large side road is currently about \$20,000 to pave, and if the state doesn't mandatorily take our funds as a loan, it will take two years to save the money to do a large road or two smaller roads. This process started last year, with Waxwing being the first side road to get widened, get a full turn around, & get paved. Please take a look at Waxwing and what's to come to your street. The next road to be worked on will be Kingfisher Lane, as they have the most residents using that road from both Kingfisher and Kingbird. All other roads will still be maintained as needed, with pot hole filling or chip seal, until the time comes for that road to be paved. All side roads will be getting widened to 14 feet, the bare minimum needed for safe passage during an emergency. AHCSO will make as little impact as possible on residents and their property, and urges everyone to become familiar with the AHCSO easements that are shown on your property map. Do not build or plant within the easements, as these items may have to be removed to widen the road. AHCSO will notify, and work with, residents when widening comes to your street. AHCSO will also be putting in 35 foot turnarounds or hammer turns, at the end of every road, to allow emergency vehicles, utility vehicles, and cars to turn around at the end of all streets. The code is actually a 50 foot turn around, but AHCSO was told that 35 feet would do. There are a lot of roads that dead end into a driveway and the bigger trucks cannot turn around. The 14 feet will give room for two small cars to pass & one big one to make it through.

EID has been informed of the order of paving, so they can work at installing fire hydrants, and we will tell them again, as the paving details become more solidified. AHCSO has been clearing the roadside back 3 feet and 3 feet up on side roads and back as far as 6 feet on Audubon Drive. We would like to get the roads cleared 15 feet up so the fire trucks and larger trucks don't hit the large overgrown branches, but that will require a different crew, with chainsaws. Currently, we are trying to find someone that will take this job.

Again, AHCSO is trying to make our community safer, more insurable, and valuable for each and every resident. We encourage all residents to attend meetings, or write the board, if they have any questions. Meetings are posted at the entrance. Yearly updates are always available through the AHA minutes of these meetings and AHCSO also keeps the community informed through AHA newsletters and e-mails.

### **Neighborhood Watch:**

Not much to say. A couple of area's with no captains, which we still need, please come to Jim Wells if you are interested. Reflective signs have been received and many have been installed. They look great, and will be a terrific help for emergency vehicles AND visitors. If anyone is still interested in purchasing a sign, please come talk with Kim.

### **Camino Community Action Committee:**

They meet 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month 5:30-6:30 @ Camino School. 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in July will be another fundraiser for a scholarship fund for Camino mill families to go on field trips, etc. National Night Out will be August 4 @ the Camino Church on Carson Rd.

Meeting adjourned 3:23 pm.