

AHA Annual Meeting Minutes  
June 18, 2011  
Meeting Called to Order 9:40am

**Introduction of Residents in Attendance.**

- Paula & Gary Tillotson, Jim & Judy Wells, Whitey & Helen Atchley, Ernie & Marcella Woods, Ron & Sue Collier, Jim & Kim McCarthy, Jon & Bev Coble, Joyce Bailey, Fred & Suzanne Egger, Steve Rounds, Cassandra Stevenson, Pat & Terry Monahan, Larry Wilson, Mimi & Alex Baird, George Osborn, Larry & Mary Linville, Irv & Jo Bork, & Mark Stanley.
- Board in attendance: Mark Stanley, President; Kim McCarthy, Vice President; Sue Collier, Secretary/Treasurer; Larry Linville, Director; Larry Wilson, Director

**Treasury Report**

We currently have \$7884.18 in our account. We've been saving money for fire exit clean up, signs, and gates, as well as repainting the entrance sign. It was asked why more people aren't required to pay, and it was explained that the \$25 dues are voluntary, and that normally we get most people paying once we send out a second letter. A resident commented that \$25 was so low, that it would be silly for people not to pay.

**AHCS Update**

- Last year the CSD paved 1<sup>st</sup> half of Kingfisher. The 2<sup>nd</sup> half is scheduled for this autumn. Because of the pond and location to waterways, the planning takes more effort. There needs to be biological surveys, Army Corp of Engineer's approval, etc. We're waiting until fall, for when pond is at its lowest.
- The order of side road pavings is assigned by the number of occupied parcels that utilize the street. The side streets are second in priority to Audubon Drive. Blackbird and Mockingbird are the next streets in order to be paved. In some cases, smaller streets might be combined within the amount of money that's been allotted to AHCS.
- When side streets are paved, they will be widened to 16', with 2' of gravel on either side. Additionally, 50' Cul-de-sacs will be put in at the end of each road. This is done for emergency egress, which will allow fire trucks to come in and turn around, and residents to get out. Otherwise the trucks won't come in during a fire, because they would have to block the road which would endanger resident's safety. Jim Wells asked if all streets will have cul-de-sacs, and yes they will ALL be improved to current standards.
- Parking ordinance-The CSD has been working with a lawyer, to discover its legal rights on the road easements in Audubon Hills. CSD discovered, after the incident with the white truck in the middle of Audubon Dr. last winter, that they had no rights to tow vehicles blocking the road. Additionally, because the rights for the road easement had been granted to AHCS, the residents no longer had the authority to tow a vehicle on the CSD's easement or their property either. So, the CSD has passed a parking ordinance so they could get a vehicle out of the right of way.
- AHCS (Audubon Hills Community Services District) & AHA (Audubon Hills Association); George Osborn suggested that we explain the difference to the newer residents.
  - AHCS is responsible for all road related issues. It's a publicly elected board, through the county elections office. Only AH residents are on the board, and they receive no pay for their time on the board. The CSD is funded by a portion of the property taxes and a special fee to all AH parcels of \$75. This special fee has helped immensely, especially in tight years when the State decides to hold back the property tax portion. This special fee, so far, cannot be taken away or borrowed from the state.
  - AHA is for things like community activism (website, newsletters, etc.), neighborhood watch, and beautification. In the beginning, there had been one group for all things. However, when the CSD was formed, they decided to break up the responsibilities.
- Larry Linville asked who is responsible for clearing the vegetation within the AHCS 60' road easement.
  - The CSD is responsible for 3' back and 6' up from the road. Residents are responsible for everything else on their property.
- Finally, you might have noticed that the CSD started clearing side roads, in addition to Audubon Drive, of snow this year. Because of the excessive snow, we spent around \$2700 for snow clearing this year; we normally pay \$500-\$800 a year.
  - Mark Stanley said, "Kudo's to the CSD, you all should be commended on your impeccable timing to clear our roads." Everyone commented on how wonderful it was this year.
  - He also commended Jim & Kim McCarthy, Jim Wells, and Gary Tillotson for taking upon themselves, in a snow storm, to stop traffic and cut down the tree that was leaning over Audubon Drive at Nighthawk. This is most definitely not in their job description.

**Benches**

- Two were approved years ago, and one has been purchased, but rain has spoiled the installation on Waxwing, next to the mail boxes. A second one will be purchased, once Kingfisher is completed, and installed next to the pond.

**Nominations/Elections**

- There are two positions up for re-election Vice-President & 2<sup>nd</sup> Director.
  - V.P.-The Tillotson's made a motion to nominate Kim McCarthy for another term as Vice President, Jim Wells seconded that motion. There were no other nominations; all voted for Kim McCarthy as Vice President and thanked her for all her hard work with the e-mails, newsletters, and website.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Director-Whitey Atchley made a motion to nominate Larry Wilson for another term as director, Jim Wells seconded. There were no other nominations; All voted in favor.
    - Larry asked if he could get something that showed exactly what his responsibilities were. Kim said she would get that to him, and that things had been slow, but if something came up that affected AH, the board would get together with the county or officials to represent the needs of Audubon Hills and its residents request.

## **Power Lines**

- Russ Anders, a resident, asked Mark about getting underground power lines, because of the increased problem of power outages in our community. Mark asked PGE, and they said that it would cost \$7000 per span (between each pole). This cost does not cover road work or the span to your house. Kim pointed out that although this would be a nice; all of the power outages this year were because of tree damage and transformers blowing outside of Audubon. Most expressed that this was not an expense they wanted to pay for.

## **Fire Safety**

- Fire clearance-Still a real concern because there are so many residents without the required 100' clearance around their house.
  - As the state budget gets worse, this clearance will be more vigorously enforced.
  - There's been talk of a \$150 fee to homeowners in high risk area, to help offset costs of fire fighting measures. It may still happen.
  - We all need to take care of ourselves, and clear before there's a problem. We cannot expect someone is going to save us, or our overgrown property, in the event of a fire.
  - If you keep your property clear, you have a better chance of keeping your homeowner insurance.
- Green vouchers-get these from the McCarthys (647-8878), if you have needles and branches to take to the dump, the vouchers let you do this for free.
  - If you have filled your green waste dumpster, you can call El Dorado Disposal ahead of time, and put the yard waste into garbage bags next to your green waste dumpster, and they will pick them up.
  - Kim will call to see if they still have funding for a green waste dumpster to come out.
- So far they are still coming out from El Dorado County Fire Safe Council to chip, you can go online, to their website, to see how to stack your branches and schedule them to come out.
- Take a copy of the emergency evacuation forms Kim has put together, and make your plan ahead of time of what to bring and how to prepare your home before leaving.
- A neighbor asked if there are any legal ways to get a vacant land owner to clear their property of fire danger. He talked with a neighbor who flatly said he didn't want his property to be touched, it was staying natural. Unfortunately, right now there is not a way to force them to do the right thing.
- Clean gutters now of debris, fire sparks will take to needles in your gutter and quickly burn your home.
  - Gutter Glove is rated #1, will help keep debris from getting into your gutter.
  - Keep in mind that metal gutters do not burn. The plastic can and does melt and burn.

## **Fire Exits**

- Emergency exits are only to be used when there is a sheriff-ordered evacuation, and the sheriff has directed you to take that route. They will know if the end of that exit is safe or not. They need to know where residents are going.
- As a reminder, residents are NOT to use fire escape exits for personal use such as walking, quads or the like. They are located on private property.
- Kim has designed a wildfire escape sign that got approval from the Fire Safe Council.
- We will have reflective arrows that point to emergency exits at each road.

## **Camino Clean Up/Dumpster**

- The Camino Clean Up is a great program in the spring, offered through the Camino Community Action Committee. It had many people using it this year and it's free!
- October 14<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup>, 2011 will be the Audubon Hills dumpster, for all residents that have paid their 2011 \$25 dues. So mark your calendar, as it is for only one weekend.

## **National Night Out**

Camino Community Action Committee is sponsoring the Camino Community Night Out on August 2 from 5pm to 8pm. There will be a bounce house and BBQ equipment. Rotary will have a Chili cook off. The night out is a national "Night Out Against Crime," where the community comes together, for neighborhood spirit and police-community partnership. It lets neighbors get to know each other, because if you know your neighbor, you'll each be more likely to look out for each other.

## **Neighborhood Watch**-Jim Wells, NW commander

- There was a break-in near the entrance, this winter, and these individuals were caught.
- There are a few vacant homes, please keep your eye out on them. Kim saw some teenagers scoping out the house on Audubon Dr., asked them if they needed anything, they left. It's best to simply call the police if you see unusual behavior at any home, but especially a vacant home. Kids are taking advantage of these empty houses for parties, and damaging them horribly. It's most helpful if you call while they are still there, but if you can get a description of the car, license number, or individuals, it will help everyone involved.
  - Once you call the police, please call Jim Wells (644-4779), as he will alert NW area captains, who will intern let the people know within their immediate area.
- Please know, Neighborhood Watch does not work without you.

## **EID**

- George Osborn, who is on the EID board, said that after a cost of service study...
  - Agriculture is taking an increase in water rates
  - Residential is taking an increase in water rates
  - EID is taking cuts, furloughs, etc.
- He wanted to give heads up about a group in El Dorado Hills that think agriculture should pay the same as residential. This

could greatly impact our community.

- If rates go up, farmers can't afford to farm. We then start having farmers sell their farm
  - This happened to a community in San Diego, and the farms left, petitioned the supervisors to change zoning of their properties because they couldn't sell their farm because the cost to farm it was too expensive. The county rezoned the agricultural land, and it became housing.
- These people don't understand farms, but their cause is gaining steam. It's a war our community needs to stay on top of.
- It could be an interesting fight, but we need to save our lifestyle and the farms that surround us.

#### **Ideas/Thoughts/Info**

- Pat Monahan wanted to know if he had to ask permission to build a mailbox covering at Blackbird/Grayhawk, like those at Kittywake and Mockingbird.
  - Call Jim McCarthy to make sure the work is within the road easements. The CSD can pave the area in front for turn outs in front of the boxes, on their next paving cycle.
  - Everyone agreed that if he wanted to do something to improve and beautify the community, he was welcome to do so.
  - Kim said that before he started digging, to call USA to have them mark where the water lines where, so he wouldn't break a line. They come out for free.
  - It was mentioned that it would be nice if someone from each mailbox grouping built something like that. It's all been residents of the particular street that build their overhang. It would be nice to keep them consistent with what is already up on other streets. All encouraged this idea.
- Thanks to Tom and Michelle at Para Vi' for donating the use of their facilities for our meeting.

Meeting called to a close at 11:15am