

The

Fiesta Bee

April Newsletter
Volume LXIII, Issue 4



A Monthly Newsletter for the Fiesta Gardens Homes Association, San Mateo, CA
PO Box 5288, San Mateo CA 94402

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President's Message

By Steve Strauss

Spring is in the air, baseball season is right around the corner, it's March Madness time, the Warriors are about to embark on another championship, the sun is shining, and THE BALLOTS ARE OUT!

That's right - the ballots to vote on the one-time assessment to build a new cabana are in the mail – by the time you read this you should have yours. Vote yes, vote no.....but please VOTE. It's very important as we need a certain number of returned ballots to validate the election – either way.

I would like to first thank everyone who came to the meeting on March 6th. While at times a bit contentious, I feel that everyone's questions were answered, and good information was shared.

I would also like to address some of our neighbors who have found it necessary to insult, belittle, name call, suggest dishonesty, question integrity, and just plain be unpleasant just because you didn't hear the answer you wanted and/or you didn't get your way. I can completely understand if you are against the project, but don't hide behind your computer keyboard and direct your negativity to a group of people (the Board) who take time out of their busy lives to do nothing other than to help the community by volunteering their time and effort, only to have to deal with your wrath. A lot of people have done a lot of work over a long period of time to make this happen. If you ignored the information, the Bee articles, the meetings, the committees, etc., I'm sorry, but that's on you. From where I sit, your actions are TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE! If any of you want to be President of this Association, and want to deal with people like you, just let me know and I will gladly relinquish the position. Just be careful what you wish for. We do this because we WANT TO, not because we HAVE TO.

For those of you who have supported the project publically, and have responded to these people directly through various outlets, as well as those of you who have expressed your consent in an adult, professional and upfront manner, I can only say THANK YOU, THANK YOU, and THANK YOU. It's nice to know there are many of you out there, and a large majority at that, that recognize what your Board does for you and appreciate it. You make it much easier to deal with the negativity and it plays a big part in our wanting to help our neighbors.

Enough about that.

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Find past issues of the Bee, Financials, FGHA documents, announcements and more at the FGHA webpage
www.FiestaGardensHoa.com

I would like to welcome to our group a couple of new volunteers, Mariano and Christina Saenz who have volunteered to be our Webmaster and Social Director, respectively. Thank you – I look forward to working with you both. If anyone would like to volunteer to help with our social events, please email social@fiestagardenshoa.com and let us know you're interested. The more help we get, the better the event!

PLEASE NOTE: The April meeting has been changed to WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10th. I hope to see you there. OH.....and VOTE!!!!

FGHA Board of Directors

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| President Steve Strauss | president@fiestagardenshoa.com |
| Vice President Mike Russell | vp@fiestagardenshoa.com |
| Civic Affairs Rich Neve | civic@fiestagardenshoa.com |
| Park Director Roland Bardony | parks@fiestagardenshoa.com |
| Pool Operations Steve Stanovcak | poolops@fiestagardenshoa.com |
| Pool Maintenance Steve Muller | poolmtc@fiestagardenshoa.com |
| Social Director Christina Saenz | social@fiestagardenshoa.com |

FGHA Staff

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Treasurer Steve Gross | treasurer@fiestagardenshoa.com |
| Secretary Pam Miller | secretary@fiestagardenshoa.com |
| Bee Editor Eleni Hulman | editor@fiestagardenshoa.com |
| Webmaster Mariano Saenz | webmaster@fiestagardenshoa.com |

Civic Report

By Richard Neve

Traffic Action Plan

The city only received one overpriced bid to prepare a report on improvements for the 19th Avenue/Fashion Island Blvd. corridor. Thus, they are planning to change the scale and scope of the project. Once we hear more, we will let you know.

Sewage Tank (Underground In-System Storage, ISS)

You should all have received a letter from Public Works about the draft EIR (Environmental Impact Report). There will be a public meeting on this project at the Planning Commission meeting on April 9th at 7pm at the City Council chambers.

Bicycle Master Plan

There will be a Bicycle Master Plan meeting on Thursday, March 21 to review and provide feedback on the draft goals and objectives for the updated plan. Please let me know if you have any ideas to improve the biking experience in San Mateo.

CASA Compact

I highly recommend everyone reading up about the CASA Compact.

<https://mtc.ca.gov/our-work/plans-projects/casa-committee-house-bay-area>

This is a 10-point set of policy recommendations designed to “increase housing production at all levels of affordability, preserve existing affordable housing, and protect vulnerable populations from housing instability and displacement.” The goal would be to get these recommendations voted into law in Sacramento. The Casa Steering Committee was created by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and includes area council members, developers, planners, union leaders and representatives from large employers such as Google, Facebook and Genentech.

Suffice to say that the 10 policies have already proven to be highly contentious or unpopular at the local level and they could affect YOU as a renter or home owner.



The next Board meeting will be
Wednesday, April 10
7PM in the cabana.



MONTHLY CALENDAR

FIESTA GARDENS

April 10
FGHA Board Meeting
7 p.m., Pool Cabana

April 15
Deadline to get articles and ads to Bee Editor.

SAN MATEO

April 1, 15
City Council meeting
Where: City Hall, Council Chambers
When: 7:00 PM

April 3
Park and Recreation Commission Meeting
The Park and Recreation Commission makes recommendations to the City Council on acquisition, development, beautification and maintenance of public parks, landscape resources, public recreation facilities, budget, and programs of Park & Recreation activities.
Where: City Hall, Council Chambers
When: 7:00 PM

April 4
Teen Movie Night: Spiderman: Into the Spider-Verse
Come watch this award winning movie! Light snacks will be provided. For students in the 6th - 12th grades.
Where: San Mateo Main Library, Laurel Room, 1st Floor
When: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Cost: FREE
[EVENT FLYER](#)

April 9, 23
Planning Commission Meeting
Where: San Mateo City Hall, 330 West 20th Avenue
When: 7:00 PM - 10:30 PM

April 10
Sustainability & Infrastructure Commission Meeting
Where: City Hall, Council Chambers
When: 7:00 PM

April 11
Dave Barry - *Lessons From Lucy*
Share an evening with the Pulitzer Prize-winning writer who never fails to leave us looking at the world differently while making us laugh.
Where: Aragon High School Theater
When: 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM
Cost: \$15 - \$45 [FLYER](#)

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FGHA BOARD MEETING – February 6, 2019

APPROVED Minutes, Respectfully Submitted, Pam Miller, Secretary

The FGHA Board Meeting was called to order by Steve Strauss, President, at 7:03PM. Board Members in attendance were: Steve Strauss - President, Mike Russell - Vice President, Roland Bardony - Parks Director, Steve Muller - Pool Maintenance, Rich Neve - Civics, and Steve Stanovcak - Pool Operations.

January 2019 Minutes: On a motion duly made and seconded and approved by all board members, the minutes of the January 9th meeting were approved.

Financial / Steve Gross

- Least amount of expenses this time of year.
- \$108,000 in past due assessments, liens are in place.
- Finances will be included in The Bee as well as on our website.

BOARD REPORTS

Civic/Rich Neve

- Proposals from the information gathered from residents concerning the traffic action plan on 19th Avenue, have been posted on the city website.
- City will do traffic counts at Fiesta Gardens School to see if we need another crosswalk.
- Starting Monday, February 11th, there will be no left hand turns at Shell Blvd. and Edgewater Blvd. during rush hour. This will be for a trial three month period.
- Sewage tank environment draft is nearly done. Presentation will be in April. All residences will receive a postcard in the mail.
- General plan is ongoing. Many special interest groups are trying to get things done that will not necessarily benefit residents. Go to meetings to voice your opinions.
- Become familiar with Casa Compact. It's trying to take away from local government. We wouldn't have a say on what happens in our area and throughout California.
- County Vector is who to call if you have rodent or raccoon issues.

Social Director

- We need a Social Director. If you are interested, please contact one of our board members.

Parks/Roland Bardony

- The net that blew down in the tennis courts has been fixed. The other side has fallen and will be fixed as well.
- Walkway around park will be redone by the city after the rainy season.

Pool Maintenance/ Steve Muller

- Nothing to report.

Pool Operations/Steve Stanovcak

- Nothing to report

Vice President/Mike Russell

- Nothing to report.

President/Steve Strauss

- The cabana survey is out, and we have doubled the responses since last month; 52% of the people who responded would like a one-time assessment of \$2,400.

OLD BUSINESS

Cabana Renovation

- A motion was made by Steve Muller and seconded by Steve Stanovcak to send out the cabana information letter to our residents, followed by the cabana ballot with the special assessment choices.

NEW BUSINESS

- Our online website needs to be updated. Looking for someone to help us clean up the site and make it more user friendly. If you can help, please contact one of our board members.

ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING

The next Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 6th, 2019 at 7pm in the pool cabana. Meeting was adjourned at 8:03pm.

FGHA BOARD MEETING – March 6, 2019

Unapproved Minutes, Respectfully Submitted, Pam Miller, Secretary

The FGHA Board Meeting was called to order by Steve Strauss, President, at 7:06PM. Board Members in attendance were: Steve Strauss - President, Mike Russell - Vice President, Roland Bardony - Parks Director, Steve Muller - Pool Maintenance, Rich Neve - Civics, and Steve Stanovcak - Pool Operations.

Opening Statement Steve Strauss, President, introduced the Board Members as well as Steve Gross our Treasurer, and Secretary, Pam Miller. Also in attendance, our attorney, Tom Fier, Pool Cabana Committee members Denise Iskander, Mike Bratt, and Joe Almirantearena. Steve made it clear he expected everyone attending the meeting tonight to be respectful of one another. Members in good standing would be able to speak for no longer than three minutes. Questions should be directed to the President. Steve also stated that the Board had no hidden agendas and wanted what was best for our neighborhood.

February 2019 Minutes: On a motion duly made and seconded and approved by all Board Members, the minutes of the February 6th meeting were approved.

Financial /Steve Gross

- The first couple of months of the year are generally slow.
- We are financially sound.

BOARD REPORTS

Civic/Rich Neve

- The Traffic Action Plan will be doing small changes over time in an effort to try and make traffic flow better.
- Sewage tank environment draft is nearly done. Presentation will be on April 19th. All residents will receive a flyer in the mail. This will be affecting the backside of Fiesta Gardens where RV parking is.
- Become familiar with Casa Compact. It's trying to take away from local government. Groups are trying to push through many agendas. Not necessarily in our favor. We wouldn't have a say on what happens in our area and throughout California. Become educated.

Social Director

- We need a social director. If you are interested, please contact one of our board members.

Parks/Roland Bardony

- The tennis net is broken. We ordered a new one and it will be installed after the rains.

Pool Maintenance/ Steve Muller

- Nothing to report.

Pool Operations/Steve Stanovcak

- Nothing to report

Vice President/Mike Russell

- Nothing to report.

President/Steve Strauss

- Nothing to report

NEW BUSINESS

- Open board position, we need a Social Director. Contact any Board Member if you are interested.
- The budget will be finalized at our April meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

- Denise Iskander gave the history of the cabana project, how and when it started and ended up where we are today.

Questions and Comments

- Steve Strauss read from the CC&R's about the responsibility the Board has in maintaining our common areas. He then opened it up to questions.
- Dianna T., Bermuda Drive, wanted to know why there was no vote on the cabana being redone. Our Attorney explained that it is the responsibility of the Board to take care of our common areas.

Continued next page

March Minutes

continued from page 5

- Jaunita S., Ginnever St., suggested we hire a firm to count ballots. Bobbi S., Dublin, also liked the idea of hiring an outside firm. Steve Strauss let everyone know that it is open to everyone to be there when the ballots are counted. Ballots will be available for any member to go through and look at for a year. Steve Strauss also said the Board would take it under consideration about the outside firm. Bobbi S. also felt it would be a conflict of interest having J.D. Construction as our contractor because Joe was a past Board Member. Steve Strauss responded that we sent out over 3 dozen requests to contractors and we got back two and Joe was one of them. The Board also felt since Joe had lived in Fiesta Gardens at one time he would have a vested interest in doing a good job for our neighborhood.
- Joe B., Bermuda Drive, stated our pool area needs to be rebuilt and that it's the right thing to do for our neighborhood.
- Some residents on hand wanted to know our next step if the \$2,400 assessment didn't pass. They were told if we don't pass the one-time assessment then we will move on to other options. It was noted by our attorney, Tom Fier, that our annual dues will not go up because of construction if we do the one-time assessment.
- John L., Bermuda Drive, wondered if we had reserves that we could use for the cabana project. It was noted that our reserves are to be used for unexpected things that may happen to one of the common areas.
- Residents also expressed that we all have a responsibility to this community to keep up the pool and that it's important to our neighborhood. Some residents also felt it was a good thing for our home prices and to think of it as an investment not an assessment.
- There was concern about having a payment plan if a household is unable to pay the \$2,400 assessment all at once. It was noted there will be payment options and the Board will work with people that may not be able to make the payment all at one time.
- It was suggested that the Board give monthly updates on the construction of the cabana. Updates will be in the Bee and on our website.
- It was noted that the pool would stay open during construction and would be fenced off. There may be some days that it would need to be closed depending on construction.

ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING

Steve Strauss thanked everyone for coming and that it was a great meeting. The next Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 10th, 2019 at 7pm in the pool cabana. Meeting was adjourned at 8:46pm.

Earth Day Clean-up at Coyote Point

At [Coyote Point Recreation Area](#)

Saturday, April 20 2019, 9am



Join us to help remove trash along the San Francisco Bay. Our efforts will help protect marine life from harmful trash and keep one of the Bay's most picturesque beaches looking great.

Dress in layers and wear sturdy, close-toed shoes. Drop-in individuals and families are welcome. Be sure to bring a signed San Mateo County Parks [volunteer agreement](#). Volunteers under the age of 18 must have the agreement signed by a parent or guardian. Youth under 15 are welcome and have to be accompanied by an adult.

**Fiesta Gardens Homes Association
Annual Board Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, April 10, 2019
7:00 PM**

1. Call to Order
2. Opening Statement by Steve Strauss, President
3. Reading and Approval of Minutes
4. Financial Report – Steve Gross
5. Board Reports:
 - i. Civic – Rich Neve
 - ii. Social – Christina Saenz (pending)
 - iii. Parks – Roland Bardony
 - iv. Pool Maintenance – Steve Muller
 - v. Pool Operations – Steve Stanovcak
 - vi. Vice President – Mike Russell
 - vii. President – Steve Strauss
6. New Business
 - i. Social Board Position – Nominate Christina Saenz
7. Old Business
 - i. 2019 Budget Review & Acceptance
 - ii. Cabana Clubhouse/Bathrooms/Guard House Renovation Update
8. Questions and Comments
9. Adjournment/Break into Executive Session if needed

Greetings Fiesta Gardens Homeowners:

The Special Assessment Ballots were sent to all of you yesterday. The procedures for handling the ballots are dictated by California law and are detailed in the cover letter included with the ballot.

A 'Yes' vote means you are in favor of a one time Special Assessment of \$2,400.00 which will be used to build a new Cabana. A 'No' vote means you are against the Special Assessment.

If the Special Assessment passes, The Board of Directors has indicated a willingness to accept payment of the assessment of a period of 6 to 12 months.

Our Association Secretary, Pam Miller will serve as Inspector of Elections (Pam is not a Board Member as the Secretary is a paid Staff Position). Ballots are due by April 17, and Pam and her deputies will be at the Cabana at 9:00AM Saturday, April 20 to open and count the ballots. *This meeting is open to all owners who wish to observe the process.*

We have one volunteer to serve as Deputy Inspector and could use two more Owners to serve as Deputies and assist in the ballot counting.

Finally, PLEASE VOTE!!! What ever your opinion, Yes, No or Abstain, the process works best when every one votes! Additionally, the law requires that we get a quorum of 50% + 1 of the property owners for a valid election.

If you have any questions about the Special Assessment, the proposed new Cabana, the voting process or want to serve as a Deputy Inspector, do not hesitate to contact one of the following:

Pam Miller secretary@fiestagardenshoa.com
 Steve Gross treasurer@fiestafardenshoa.com
 Steve Strauss president@fiestagardenshoa.com

Thank you for voting,
 The Board of Directors
 Fiesta Gardens Homes Association



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The next board meeting is on
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10th!
7PM in the cabana.