

March Update on Parkland (Hills) Village

Since our last update in January, we have held three Board meetings, and they have included two new Board members, bringing the Board to a total of eight. At our last Board meeting, we decided to drop “Hills” from our name and call ourselves Parkland Village. Part of the reason for the name change is the fact that we also decided to expand our service area beyond Parkland Hills to the entire census tract (11.01) that includes Parkland Hills. This census tract also comprises a fairly walkable neighborhood with no major streets to cross. The census tract is bounded on the east by San Mateo, on the south by Gibson, and on the west by Carlisle. The northern boundary is more complicated. Heading west from San Mateo, the boundary follows Zuni until Adams, then jogs south on Adams to little Zuni, west again along little Zuni to Morningside, north to Garfield, and west on Garfield to Carlisle. Our bylaws also allow people outside the service area to become members on a case-by-case basis, and that would almost certainly include residents who live close to the service area boundary.

For those of you who are new to this list, or as a reminder to the rest of you, Parkland Village will aim to help residents age in place through appropriate volunteer services, such as transportation, light chores in and around the home, compassionate visits, and social events. We are members of the Village to Village Network, which provides support to several hundred villages in the U.S.

One exciting piece of news is that we recently obtained our 501(c)(3) status from the IRS, which will allow us to solicit tax deductible donations. We still have a few steps to take before we can solicit donations. Hopefully we will be able to begin providing services later this year or early next year.

We have established several standing committees and one task force. The committees are: Recruitment, Fundraising, Outreach, and Evaluation of Existing Resources. Beginning later this spring, the Recruitment Committee will knock on doors, hand out written information about the Village, and conduct a simple survey to determine interest, need, and willingness to volunteer. This may be followed by a deeper survey among those who have indicated interest in the Village and will definitely be followed by an effort to recruit members and volunteers prior to the “launching” of services.

Eventually, these updates will be replaced with a more formal newsletter. Outreach efforts in the next month will consist of our having a table at EarthFest on Saturday, April 20 (by the La Montañita Co-op) and making a presentation at the Parkland Hills Neighborhood Association semi-annual meeting on Tuesday, April 23. Any other ideas for outreach are, of course, welcome.

The committee to evaluate existing resources will help us to avoid duplication of services and to develop protocols for referring people to agencies that provide those resources and for receiving referrals from those agencies. We have already informally done some of this evaluation, but we want to deepen and formalize that effort.

The one task force we have created is set up to evaluate software programs (and choose one) among those that are used by villages to keep track of member and volunteer information, to set up an appropriate multi-faceted website, to include a calendar of events, and much more. **If there is anyone out there who would be willing to be a web manager, please let me know.**

Also, if any of you would be willing to serve on one of the above-mentioned committees or task force, please contact me by replying to this e-mail. In addition, feel free to forward this information to others in our neighborhood, especially to those who live in the part of the census tract that lies west of Washington and Valverde.

If you have any questions or would like to help our effort, please contact me by responding to this e-mail.

And, as always, please let me know if you do not wish to continue receiving Parkland Village updates.

Rich Weiner, President
Parkland Village