

Everything you ever wanted to know about the new Clubhouse ... but were afraid to ask

Here are some answers to questions we have received from residents:

When will construction start and what will that mean for the pool and swim team?

We are currently targeting "after July 4" as our start date for construction in 2014. We determined this timeline after multiple and ongoing conversations with the Swim Team and the Homes Association leadership. This will have the least impact on the swim team and other users of the pool. Our intention is to keep the pool open for use through its normal months of operation, and do any work related to the pool, or impedes access to the pool, after the pool closes in late fall. If for any reason, we need to shorten the pool season (Swim Team season is over before July 4), the Homes Association will, of course, refund the appropriate portion of your annual payment. Keeping this schedule does hinge on securing a permit and green light from the County of Marin for the project, and reaching full funding from donors. We began the permit process in December of 2013, and do not know exactly when we can get a green light, hence the use of the looser term "after July 4."

How are we doing on fundraising?

We are doing pretty darn well, thanks to the residents of Sleepy Hollow! We now have raised two million, three hundred and seventy-seven thousand dollars. That's right ... \$2,377,092.22. We are 94.9% of the way to our goal of \$2.5 million, and are getting so, so close to the finish line. A team of dedicated, unpaid Sleepy Hollow volunteers—no commissions—has done all of this work! That said, the final money is the hardest to get. Boy is it! We still need to raise \$122,908. We will get there step-by-step-by-step, so if you haven't contributed yet, or can give a little more, we really need it to make this project real.

What happened to all of the green donor signs?

For those working on this project, the donor signs were a thing of beauty. For others ... not so much. On January 17, we declared the end of "Era of the Sleepy Hollow Thank You Signs." We really appreciate those that stepped forward to support the new Clubhouse, and thank them for allowing us to put a green sign in front of their home to help demonstrate the diversity and fullness of community support for the project, and ultimately, support for Sleepy Hollow itself. The signs will return. Before the Fourth of July, we plan a show of community spirit by placing thank you signs in front of the homes of all of our final donors. So if you want to donate, and would like a sign, you will get one (for a shorter period of time!)

How does the fire protection district get its money?

As you may know, the Sleepy Hollow Fire Protection District is a major contributor to the project. The Fire Protection District was created in 1949 by an act of the Marin County Board of Supervisors and derives its funding by keeping in Sleepy Hollow a small portion (17%) of our property taxes to be used for fire protection and emergency purposes, funds that otherwise would go to other county and state agencies. This is not an additional tax, so if there was no Fire District, our taxes would not change, Sleepy Hollow would just retain less of the taxes we pay to the state. While nearly all of the funds every year pay directly for contracted fire and emergency service, the District has methodically built up financial reserves over the decades to provide for the contingency that it might become necessary for the District to operate a stand-alone fire department in Sleepy Hollow should fire protection services become unavailable from other agencies. Fortuitously, effective July 1, 2010, the District successfully obtained full voting membership in the Ross Valley Fire Department, thereby allowing its reserves designated for fire department start-up expenses to be re-deployed for an alternative emergency facility, in this case, in the form of a dual-use community center. An elected Board of Sleepy Hollow residents govern the Fire District, which currently includes Frank Berto, Tom Finn and Rich Shortall.

I don't need to donate because I pay taxes to the fire district, right?

Nobody needs to donate, but we hope everybody will choose to be part of this project, in whatever way they can. We, or you, don't actually pay any taxes to the Sleepy Hollow Fire Protection District, per se. Check your property tax bill. Instead, we, as Sleepy Hollow, actually get to keep 17% of the property taxes that would otherwise go to other places in California (see above). This is a great deal for Sleepy Hollow. You can choose to donate or not donate for any reason, but do know that you don't actually pay any additional taxes for the Fire District.

If I donate in 2014, do I need to pay homeowners dues? What about joining the pool?

If you donate \$1000 or more, in 2014, you do not need to pay homeowners dues this year. If you already paid HOA dues, and then donate, we will refund your HOA dues back to you. And, if you donate \$5,000 or more, you will get 2 years of free HOA and pool membership.

Where do I donate?

Please visit sleepyhollowfoundation.com or send a check payable to the "Sleepy Hollow Charitable Foundation" at 1317 Butterfield Road, San Anselmo, CA

What happens if the project is killed? Will I get my money back?

This is becoming a very unlikely scenario, but since you asked, if indeed does not happen, we will proportionally refund our donors everything we haven't spent yet - and we haven't spent very much yet!

Who designed this thing?

The residents of Sleepy Hollow did. It all began at the Homes Association meetings at the end of 2011, but since that time more than 575 residents have given input into the process over the past year through online and paper surveys, design workshops, focus groups, Homes Association meetings, emails, letters, and other means. If you consider that there are about 785 households in Sleepy Hollow, and about 2,000 residents from babies to 97-year olds, that's some pretty healthy input.

Who's responsible for the project?

It takes a village. In the end, the Sleepy Hollow Charitable Foundation is in charge of the Clubhouse rebuild and other projects conducted by the Foundation. We also work very closely with the Sleepy Hollow Homes Association and the Sleepy Hollow Fire Protection District.

Has anyone thought of how to run this thing once it's built? How are you going to pay for that, buster?

Indeed, the Homes Association has thought of that, and is working with outside experts too. Look for a separate mailing on the operating plan in the near future

Let us know if you have other questions, and thank you for everything,

The Sleepy Hollow Charitable Foundation