

**RHN Board Meeting**  
**Monday, December 7, 2015**

*Russian Hill Neighbors is a voice for residents and merchants to preserve and advance neighborhood character and quality of life through collaboration, volunteerism, and celebration of community.*

**Attendees**

Tina Moylan, Mike Moylan, Sarah Taber, Steve Taber, Greg Polchow, Emily Harrold, Phoebe Douglass, Carol Ann Rogers, Gregg Carr, Tracy Jaquier, Laurie Petipas, Richard Cardello, Al Greening, Helen Doyle

Tina called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

**Executive Committee Reports**

- President's Report (Tina)
  - Proposed a speaker for RHN's Annual Meeting in April: Gavin Newsom. The Board agreed he would be a big draw and could speak to many issues. Tina will try to confirm him for late April, potentially the third or fourth Thursday of the month.
  - Greg Polchow won the D2 Clean Team Award. Congratulations!
  - Tina will invite Aaron Peskin to RHN's February Board meeting to speak for 30 minutes.
  - We need a chair for a Parks Committee. Steve: we need more oversight over special funds to parks, etc. We need a plan and progress report. Tina: let's discuss later in this meeting when Carol Ann and I give an update on Parks.
  
- Secretary's Report (Emily)
  - In the latest November minutes, Tina noted 'Gregg' should be changed to 'Greg' and Sarah said the holiday party is now from 3-6pm on Sunday, December 13.
  - With these updates, Emily moves for the November minutes to be approved. Carol Ann seconds the motion. The motion is approved.
  
- Treasurer's Report  
An update was sent by Ian via email on December 1. There were no questions from the board.

**Committee Reports**

- DZLU (Sarah)
  - A report was forwarded by Mike via email on December 6.
  - There is a DPW hearing at 9am on Wednesday, December 9 at City Hall for Article 25, which would allow wireless companies to install their hardware on polls throughout the city without input by the city government or residents. Examples of the poll/equipment is on Francisco between Leavenworth and Jones. Can anyone attend this hearing to show there is neighborhood support for Article 25 to be voted down? Carol Ann may be able to attend.
  
- Families with Children (Emily)
  - Proposal: Let's distribute the survey to Russian Hill families we have created on the first Tuesday in January. A link to the survey can go out via an email in SurveyMonkey to RHN's members. We will ask recipients to share the survey with any other families they know in Russian Hill. (At this time we are only interested in collecting data from parents, guardians, or those raising children in

- their homes in Russian Hill.) Emily will also reach out to schools and neighborhood organizations and ask their memberships to complete the survey, to help us collect as much data as possible.
- Once we have an initial set of findings in late January, Emily will share it with the board via email and then we can send some of the most salient findings to Aaron Peskin to comment on when he attends an RHN Board Meeting.
- Transportation (Steve)
 

Met with Ed Reskin on the Central Subway. The next steps are a conceptual study and neighborhood outreach. Also spoke to the MTA and CTA to see what funds are available – both groups are supportive but have other priorities. We need to provide a voice from this area in support of the Central Subway. We also need Aaron Peskin on board. Fisherman’s Wharf is already behind the project, but we should get Chinatown CDC’s support. We also still need Telegraph Hill Dwellers (they have a split board.) It would be helpful to have a connection to North Beach Neighbors and North Beach Merchants. MTA’s budget process starts in January with a workshop at the end of that month. A preliminary budget is released in Feb/March. The CTA said it is possible to get some funding but not the entire amount. Community outreach will be an early piece of this. Next steps: make contact with the other organizations we need to be on board. Tina: We should get a meeting together of community leaders. The four we already have is great. Also, David Chiu is also supportive of this. Steve: we should talk to David about state money.
  - Parks (Carol Ann and Tina)
    - Francisco Park Conservancy: Carol Ann was involved initially with this group, so she was recently invited to go and meet other board members. Carol Ann reported she was very impressed with how far they have come since the initial stages. It is a small board but it has a large committee around it working on different issues. The board is discussing topics in an open way (whether the park will be fenced, etc.) They have account with First Republic Bank and will start functioning as Francisco Park Conservancy in January. The current task is to finalize the agreement between the Conservancy Board and Rec & Park. Attorneys are involved in this process and they are addressing issues such as who will have control over maintenance, etc. Ideally the Francisco Park Conservancy will gain approval from Rec & Park by mid-January. On this schedule, the park may be able to open as early as 2017. The Francisco Park Conservancy wants a relationship with RHN and they are very dedicated members. They are also focused on the details, which is good, demonstrated by the fact they have birders and tree specialists working on the project. Gregg: what is included in the agreement? CA: who will maintain the park, who are they employed by, liability, etc. Drafted by lawyers. The Conservancy will pay for improvements as well as maintenance (private 501c3.) Carol Ann will continue to share updates.
    - Ina Coolbrith: Carol Ann saw a crane go up at this park and then saw neighborhood emails expressing concern about the work being done. She attended a recent meeting at Ina Coolbrith with Supervisor Christensen and Rec & Park staff, including the captain in charge of park. They are doing work to improve the park including updating the landscaping (with proper erosion control.) Rec & Park staff was very pleased to learn neighbors are interested in volunteering and perhaps RHN could donate funds. The issue was money became available for improvements and Rec & Park moved very quickly to start the work and gave no neighborhood notice. They needed signage and better communication. Moving forward, Carol Ann let Rec & Park know RHN can help with this outreach. Note: on March 10, Ina Colbrith will be 175 years old. She has a notable background as the first woman poet laureate in California. Carol Ann is working with a friend on a possible celebration to mark this birthday and also highlight the park’s improvements.

- Tina: we need to form an RHN committee on Parks and find a chair. Phoebe will be on the committee (Sterling Park is a PUC park) but we still need a chairperson. The committee may only need to be twice or four times per year. Let's ask for committee volunteers in the next e-blast. Steve: money is sitting in restricted funds for parks or 'park like areas' so we need to have some kind of reporting on what is happening related to the monies. Will report back on developments in February.
- Social (Sarah reporting)
  - A cheers event will take place on February 28 from 6:00 – 8:00 PM. Location TBD. Potentially House Rules.

There is no RHN Board Meeting in January. The next Board Meeting will take place on Monday, February 1. Carol Ann will host with Richard as a backup.

Tina adjourned the meeting at 8:15pm.