

**Russian Hill Neighbors Board Meeting**  
**Home of Carol Ann Rogers**  
**Monday, August 7, 2017**

**Attendance**

- **Attended:** Bob Bluhm, Lorena Calcagni, Richard Cardello, Gregg Carr, Al Greening, Par Hanji, Joyce Kucharvy, Ian Maddison, Monique Olivier, Matthew Mansfield, Greg Polchow, Lucretia Rauh, Jovanne Reilly, Carol Ann Rogers, Stephen Taber
- **Absent:** Sarah Abbott, Tim Covington, Phoebe Douglass, Helen Doyle, Traci Jacquier, Judy Junghans, Mike Moylan, Tina Moylan, Laurie Petipas, Julia Strzesieski, Sarah Taber, Christine Welland

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Thank you to Carol Ann for hosting the Board meeting and to Jovanne Reilly for co-hosting.

**Meeting Called to Order at 7:03pm**

The meeting was called to order by Carol Ann Rogers.

**Executive Committee Reports**

- **Vice President's Report: Carol Ann Rogers**
  - Vice President Rogers volunteered to write the “Letter from the President” for the August 2017 e-blast. The Letter will include thanks to Emily Harrold for her work as President of RHN, address the issue of the proposed medical cannabis dispensary on Polk Street at Filbert, and mention how this is a good time to join the RHN Board.
  - Vice President Rogers feels this is a good time to contact and meet with Supervisors Peskin and Farrel to get a sense of the issues that are most important during the second half of the year and their sense of whether a moratorium on medical cannabis dispensaries will be passed. Greg Polchow volunteered to accompany Carol Ann and Matthew Mansfield may also be able to join them for certain meetings.
  - Vice President Rogers reported that Judy has been meeting with DPW about the “South Patch” above the Broadway tunnel.
  - In follow-up to a discussion during the June Board meeting, Vice President Rogers stated that a handwritten note of appreciation will be sent to anyone donating \$250 to RHN.
- **Treasurer's Report: Ian Maddison**
  - Former Treasurer Maddison reported that over the month of August, Mike Moylan will transition the Treasurer's emails to new Treasurer, Jovanne Reilly. Ian will continue to be available to assist Jovanne.

- Former Treasurer Maddison reported that Diane Bloomquist will retire from her role managing the Broadway Gardens that are located over the Broadway Tunnel, on the south side of Broadway between Mason and Taylor (West of the senior housing complex). The Chinatown Development Corporation (CDC) has volunteered to take on this responsibility. RHN holds approximately \$5,000 from a charitable trust for expenses related to the Broadway Gardens and two alternatives have been proposed regarding how these funds would be made available to the CDC: 1) Diane Bloomquist suggested that the funds be conveyed to the CDC with the restriction that they be used exclusively for the Broadway Gardens or 2) RHN could enter into an agreement with the CDC whereby RHN would hold the Broadway Garden funds and CDC would be designated as manager of the funds. Both RHN and the CDC are non-profits and could hold the funds in accordance with IRS regulations. Steve Taber recommended the first option because it would eliminate RHN as “middleman” and its association with the Broadway Gardens funds.
  - **Moved, Seconded, Carried:** To transfer the Broadway Gardens funds to the CDC on the conditions that (i) the restrictions on the funds set forth in the charitable trust be adhered to, and (ii) that the CDC will report its use of the funds to RHN for the first year. Steve Taber will draft an agreement accompanying the funds setting forth these conditions.
- **Secretary’s Report: Monique Olivier**
    - Secretary Olivier requested approval of the minutes from the June Board Meeting and the July Retreat.
    - **Moved, Seconded, Carried:** To approve the June Board minutes prepared by Tim Covington (as an ad hoc recorder) and the July Retreat minutes as prepared by new Secretary Monique Olivier.
  - **Medical Cannabis Dispensary (“MCD”) at 2464 Polk Street: Matthew Mansfield and Par Hanji**
    - Par Hanji reported that the Board of Supervisors is planning to vote on imposing a 45-day moratorium on approving new MCDs in September. RHN will need to find out what that means. RHN should not be forced into taking a position on the proposed MCD on Polk Street because there are currently too many unknown factors. Par suggested that RHN not take a position until we have more substantive information.
    - Matthew Mansfield reported that he attended the MCD Meeting at Ho’s on July 24, 2017. Matthew stated that Ken Schlesinger, who proposes opening the Polk Street MCD, was ill-prepared to address community questions and did not give much information. Several members of the public were very hostile toward Ken Schlesinger. Based on an informal poll conducted, it appeared that approximately one-third of attendees were against the proposed MCD, one-third were for it and a large number of attendees abstained from voting. Most people had come looking for

more information about the MCD. The landlord of the former laundromat at 2464 Polk Street (at Filbert) has not yet decided whether to lease the space to Mr. Schlesinger. Matthew reported that he later met with Ken Schlesinger, who is thinking of holding another public forum in the next few weeks. Mr. Schlesinger is evaluating whether to go forward with the proposal. If there is a lot of public resistance, he may not move forward. He may be consulting with PR firms and other professionals about whether to proceed. Matthew stated that we would research neighborhood impact from existing MCDs.

- Ian Maddison raised the question of why RHN is involved in this issue. In response, Richard Cardello noted that the proposed MCD on Polk Street would qualify as a “quality of life” issue and Bob Bluhm noted that it is also a land use issue (Bob).
- **Consesus:** RHN will not conduct a survey of public opinion regarding the proposed MCD at this time. We are still in an information gathering mode and are encouraging RHN members to let us know their feelings. RHN would like to wait to see how City and State laws are set to change after recreational marijuana becomes legal on January 1, 2018.

- **Transportation: Steve Taber**

- Residential Parking Permits: Steve Taber reported that District 3 is currently heavily oversubscribed for public parking permits: more parking permits have been issued than the number of potential parking spots available in the area. Steve stated that he wanted to push the District 3 SFMTA Citizens’ Advisory Committee to conduct a parking study. Matthew Mansfield noted that the City has already done such a study. Steve advised that he can arrange have DPW to come talk to members about parking permits.
- In discussion, members suggested the following possible solutions to the parking permit issue: only selling parking permits for the number of parking spots in the District, reducing the number of parking permits allowed per household (currently 4), and offering prorated reimbursements for parking permits returned to the City before the end of the year. Ian Maddison suggested that we poll RHN members before taking any position regarding changes to the existing permitting system. It was suggested that we ask Emily Harrold to help prepare this type of survey. Board members should send any potential survey questions to Steve.
- Central Subway Extension: Steve reported that completion of construction of the Chinatown subway station will be delayed at least 8 months due to excavation issues. In light of this delay, the MTA is concerned about bringing up the subway extension to the public at this time. The MTA plans to roll out the “ConnectSF” rapid transit planning program. Steve wants to ask for a presentation to Chinatown Community Development Center (CCDC) committee on how project planning will progress and how all 13 transit plans will be integrated.

- **Social: Carol Ann Rogers for Joyce Kucharyy**

The next RHN event will be the San Francisco Symphony community day in September. Matthew Mansfield will be coordinating the sale of the Symphony tickets because Joyce will be traveling.

- **Neighborhood Improvement: Greg Polchow**

- Greg Polchow stated that he attended the National Night Out and spoke to the President of North Beach Neighbor about doing a combined neighborhood sweep event.
- Greg has also been discussing tree planting with DPW. A tree may not be planted in a residential area unless there is an existing “tree cut” in the sidewalk with no tree in it. Residents can buy get trees from Friends of the Urban Forest or the City, and the City will maintain the trees. RHN needs someone to volunteer to identify where there are existing tree cuts that do not have trees. The City must approve all tree pruning.

- **DZLU: Bob Bluhm**

- Bob Bluhm reported that the appeal to stop installation of a wireless box on the wooden pole at 2215 Leavenworth Street appears to be successful, but the Appeals Board is waiting until September 13 to formulate its exact verbiage. The Appeals Board has stated that poles are at a tipping point, which could be a good reason to elevate the issue to the Board of Supervisors. This could be a good time to encourage political forces to push for the general undergrounding of utilities.
- Bob also reported that there is a place to plant a tree on corner of Larkin and Lombard (east side), next to the sidewalk plaque honoring former RHN Board member Francisco Centurion. Lucrezia suggested that RHN buy a tree from Friends of the Urban Forest and have City maintain the tree, per its current policy. Greg Polchow will call DPW to see if they can plant a tree in this spot, which RHN would pay for.
- Bob would like to propose that the responsibility of caring for sidewalk plaques be transferred from DZLU to Parks. Richard Cardello suggested that RHN should have a list of RHN plaques in the neighborhood.

- **Merchant Update**

Julia Strzesieski has signed up a new merchant member, Wood Tavern, a bar that serves empanadas on Polk Street. New merchant members are currently being offered a discounted annual membership fee of \$40.

## **New Business**

- **Historic Building Enforcement**

The City Planning Department has fined the owners of 950 Lombard Street for unauthorized demolition, and will review potential action regarding unapproved construction at 982 Green Street, the oldest contributing structure in the Macondray Lane Historic District.

- **Conflict of Interest Policy: Carol Ann Rogers**

- The IRS requires that 501C3 non-profit organizations have a conflict of interest (“COI”) policy which obligates board members to disclose any form of compensation they or their family members would receive as the result of an action taken by the board of directors. Steve Taber prepared a draft form of COI policy for the RHN Board, which addresses IRS and state law requirements. The draft COI policy was emailed to Board members for review. The draft policy states that Board members should not vote on any issue where they could indirectly benefit in a unique way (for example, zoning issues). A Board member must announce the COI and abstain from voting.
- After discussion, the following revisions to the draft COI policy were proposed by Board members: 1) clearly defining the limits of the COI, 2) requiring that Board members disclose whether a COI exists and then the Board would decide whether that member should be recused from voting on a certain issue, and 3) removing the requirement that Board members sign the COI policy annually since no annual statement required by law, in order to avoid unnecessary paperwork.
- **Consensus:** The RHN Board needs a COI policy. The draft policy should be revised to state when and/or how often the policy needs to be disclosed to Board members. Steve will present the revised COI policy at the September Board meeting.

### **Discussion Regarding Increased Number of Transients in the Neighborhood**

Matthew Mansfield noted that the increasing number of transients in the neighborhood has become a safety issue and a cause for concern among Russian Hill residents. Greg Polchow explained that many homeless people are getting pushed out of areas of new development South of Market and the Van Ness corridor which is under construction. The City is currently building “navigation centers” for homeless but this is a lengthy project. The police department is not equipped to deal with the homeless situation. Carol Ann suggested meeting with police Captain Yep or Audrey Cooper, the author of an in-depth homeless report published in the San Francisco Chronicle). Carol Ann also suggested mentioning this issue in the e-blast and reminding members that RHN has a Safety Committee that they can join.

### **Meeting Adjourned at 9:03pm**

Minutes taken by Monique Olivier, Secretary

### **Upcoming RHN Events**

Monday, September 11, 2017 – Board meeting at Judy's home (1575 Broadway, #4)

Monday, October 2, 2017 – Board meeting at Tracy's home (900 Green Street, #200)

Monday, November 6, 2017 – Board meeting at Tina and Mike's home (1450 Greenwich Street, roof deck)

Monday, December 4, 2017 – Board meeting at Richard Cardello's home (999 Green Street, #903)

Sunday, December 10, 2017 (3-6 pm) – Holiday party