

Russian Hill Neighbors Board Meeting
Home of Tim Covington
Monday, December 4, 2017

Attendance

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

Thank you to Tim for hosting the Board meeting and to Tim and Laurie for providing a lovely dinner.

Meeting Called to Order at 7:07pm

The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson.

Executive Committee Reports

- **Chairperson's Report**
 - Thanks to Joyce and the Social Committee for throwing a great holiday party on December 3rd!
 - The Executive Committee met on October 26, 2017 and discussed the following regarding the proposed Whole Foods 365 store:
 - We have a mandate from our members that they want the Whole Foods 365 store, as evidenced by the 2016 neighborhood survey regarding the store.
 - The Condition Use Permit ("CUP") hearing for the store has been delayed until mid-January.
 - RHN will actively encourage members to write letters of support of the store and appear at the CUP hearing. Carol Ann will provide the email address where people can copy/forward their letters to RHN.
 - RHN is circulating a petition for neighborhood residents to sign to show support for the store. At the December 3rd holiday party, 60 RHN members signed the petition. We need 200+ signatures to be equivalent to 2016 survey response. Carol Ann will email the petition to Board members and if each Board member obtains ten signatures, we could easily add 200 additional signatures to the petition. Carol Ann will hold the signed petitions until they are presented at the CUP hearing.
 - A stand-alone e-blast regarding how RHN members can show their support for the store will be sent out by the end of the week. The e-blast will reach approximately 800 people.
 - The Chairperson, and possibly a few other members, will take a trip to the Whole Foods 365 store that is opening in Concord to see the concept.

- **Treasurer's Report**
 - November financials will be prepared later in the month.
 - A total of \$2,686 in membership dues were collected in the last week.
- **Secretary's Report**
 - The Secretary requested approval of the minutes from the November Board Meeting. **Moved, Seconded, Carried:** To approve the November Board minutes prepared by the Secretary.

Committee Reports

- **Social**
 - 109 people attended the December 3rd holiday party.
 - Two new members signed up for the Social Committee at the holiday party.
 - The Chair of the Social Committee asked members to let her know of any ideas for parties or social events.
- **Families with Children**
 - Since there are so many events during the holiday season, the next Families with Children event will take place in January. It will be held on a weekend morning since it gets dark so early in the afternoon at this time of year.
- **Membership**
 - At the holiday party, 12 people renewed their RHN membership and one new member joined. A total of 60 people (approx. 20% of members) have renewed their membership since the membership mailing drive took place one week ago.
- **Safety**
 - The Chair of the Safety Committee has booked the Art Institute for the Safety Report Card Follow-Up event that will take place on February 22nd. The DA and the Police Chief will attend this event.
 - The Chair of the Safety Committee completed Commander Lazar's safety survey and has met with Nest about cameras that residents can place in front of their homes.
 - The Chair has started joining the walking patrols at reservoir on Tuesday mornings.
 - The Chair has also contacted Troy about putting up more signs (in three languages) in the neighborhood warning people not to leave anything in their vehicles.
 - The Chair would like two volunteers from Board for nominating committee. The Chair of the Neighborhood Improvement Committee volunteered to be on the nominating committee.
- **Neighborhood Improvement**
 - Street Sweep with North Beach Neighbors: There was a good turnout with 25-30 volunteers. The Chair of the Neighborhood Improvement Committee discussed doing a sweep in conjunction with Families with Children in the spring, and possibly reward volunteers with ice cream.

- The Chair of the Neighborhood Improvement Committee requested \$250 to take some regular street sweep volunteers (approx. ten people) out to lunch in December. **Moved, Seconded, Carried:** Approval of a special appropriation for \$250 for the Chair of the Neighborhood Improvement Committee to take ten volunteers out to lunch.
- Mechanical Street Sweeping Survey: The Chairs of the Social Committee and the Neighborhood Improvement Committee are working on the survey regarding mechanical street sweeping, which will be ready in January. Previous surveys went to recipients of the monthly e-blast. RHN would need to obtain other email lists to include more people.
- **Merchant Report**
 - Whole Foods 365 store: The Chair of the Merchants Committee advised Board members that the Polk Street merchants are opposed to the Whole Foods 365 store because they feel threatened by Amazon, especially since there will be Amazon lockers on 2nd floor. The Polk Street Merchants have been working through Moe from the Middle Polk Neighborhood Association. Cole Hardware will write a letter in opposition to the store because other merchants on Polk Street sell food. Board members pointed out that (1) the Amazon lockers would actually create more foot traffic in the area, which could benefit local merchants, (2) while RHN does not want to oppose Polk Street merchants, it needs to address RHN members desires for the store, (3) RHN needs to decide if it will take a position regarding retail preservation and development, and (4) RHN could try to exert some pressure on Whole Foods 365 regarding how it can serve the neighborhood.
 - Berber: Tony Berber, the owner of Berber, a North African restaurant that will operate in old Pasha space on Broadway at Polk, spoke with the Chair of the Merchants Committee. There will be a hearing on December 5th in front of the Entertainment Commission regarding the restaurant's proposed entertainment (music and belly dancers) and Tony Berber asked RHN for a letter of support. **Consensus:** There was not enough time before the Entertainment Commission hearing for RHN Board members to get information regarding the proposed entertainment, so RHN cannot provide a letter of support by December 5th.
- **Transportation**
 - The Central Subway extension is moving forward and community outreach will start at first of the year. The Chair of the Transportation Committee has been urging SFMTA to address problems and mitigate the effects of construction on local businesses. He has also discussed this with Aaron Peskin, who is in support of the project. The Chair will meet with certain other Supervisors in next few days.
- **DZLU**
 - Philz Coffee: The proposal to put in a Philz coffeeshop at 2230-2240 Polk Street, which requires a Conditional Use permit because Philz is considered a "formula retail" business, will go in front of the Planning Commission.
 - 915 North Point (Jamestown): A hearing regarding the proposed four-story, 37-unit residential building will be held in the spring. The developer recently made a presentation regarding the project to DZLU.
 - 982 Green Street: At the mandatory discretionary review hearing held in November, it was that decided that no fully enclosed garage is permitted on this property. The

western garage can remain but the eastern garage must be removed. In addition, the wings must be removed and the windows must be restored.

**** No Board meeting in January. Have a wonderful holiday! ****

Meeting Adjourned at 8:10pm

Minutes taken by Monique Olivier, Secretary