

Russian Hill Neighbors Retreat

Home of Joyce Kucharvy

Sunday, July 22, 2017

Attendance

• **Present:** Bob Bluhm, Richard Cardello, Gregg Carr, Phoebe Douglass, Emily Harrold, Judy Junghans, Joyce Kucharvy, Matthew Mansfield, Mike Moylan, Tina Moylan, Monique Olivier, Laurie Petipas, Lucretia Rauh, Jovanne Reilly, Julia Strzesieski, Steve Taber, Christine Welland

• **Absent:** Sarah Abbott, Tim Covington, Helen Doyle, Al Greening, Par Hanji, Tracy Jaquier, Ian Maddison, Greg Polchow, Carol Ann Rogers, Sarah Taber

We were pleased to have former President Emily Harrold return to attend the first hour of the retreat.

Meeting Called to Order at 2:24 pm

The meeting was called to order by Tina Moylan. Thank you to Joyce Kucharvy for hosting the retreat.

o **Moved, Seconded, Carried:** To approve Monique Olivier as Board Secretary.

o **Toast to former President Harrold.** Tina Moylan presented a going away/appreciation present to former President Emily Harrold. Emily will continue to serve on the Francisco Park Board. Tina urged the need for more RHN members to join the Francisco Park Board and the need to communicate with other neighborhood groups regarding concerns about developing the park. A toast was made to Emily.

Medical Cannabis Dispensary (“MCD”) Report: Matthew Mansfield

Matthew Mansfield has been acting as a liaison with Ken Schlesinger, a businessman who wants to open a medical cannabis dispensary (“MCD”) at the former laundromat located at the SE corner of Polk and Filbert Streets (the “Proposed MCD”). Ken Schlesinger owns a strip mall in Sacramento and plans to open a second MCD in San Rafael, however he has no prior experience in owning or operating an MCD. He intends to have his daughter run both the Russian Hill and San Rafael MCD locations. No consumption of cannabis would take place on the property and medical certification or a prescription would be required to enter the store. The MCD would have a “sports theme” and would be a cash-only operation. Ken Schlesinger has asked RHN to approve the Proposed MCD in order to speed up approval from the San Francisco Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors for this proposal.

MCDs are regulated by the San Francisco Department of Health and generate significant tax revenue for the City, however it is unclear what regulations would apply to MCDs after the sale and adult-use of recreational cannabis is legalized in San Francisco on January 1, 2018. A member of the Board of Supervisors has proposed that a moratorium be imposed on issuing new permits for MCDs since the laws regulating sales will be changing.

o **Questions.** Members formulated the following questions to be answered in order to help the Board determine what position RHN will take regarding the Proposed MCD:

1. How would the Proposed MCD enhance the neighborhood (example: keeping the street clean)? Will it serve mainly residents of Russian Hill or of other neighborhoods?

2. How much foot traffic would the MCD have?

3. Many MCDs operate mainly by delivering medical cannabis to their customers. If this were the case at the Proposed MCD, where would the cannabis delivery trucks park?

4. How will the business model change once recreational cannabis is legalized in January 2018?
5. How many other MCDs exist in the City? Where are they and what has the impact been on those neighborhoods?
6. Does the City distinguish between medical and recreational cannabis? [This could change when recreational cannabis is legalized in January 2018]
7. What does Mr. Schlesinger intend by a “sports theme” for the Proposed MCD?
8. What is the impact we are concerned about? [At best, the Proposed MCD would supply necessary cannabis to Russian Hill. At worst, property values would go down and crime would increase]
9. What is the timeline for RHN to approve the Proposed MCD? [Mr. Schlesinger would like this done as soon as possible, but there are no other time constraints]
10. What type of security issues would this cash only operation create?

○ **Possible next steps.** Board members suggested the following possible next steps regarding the Proposed MCD:

- Support the Planning Commission’s possible moratorium
 - Do a public opinion survey
 - Suggest to Ken Schlesinger that he use a public relations firm
 - Ask Ken Schlesinger what type of shop he would be modeling.
 - Obtain information from other neighborhoods regarding impact from MCDs [Matthew offered to reach out to other neighborhood associations]
 - Formulate a poll among RHN members once more information is obtained.
- **Conclusion.** RHN cannot take a position on the Proposed MCD at this time because there are too many unknowns. We need to obtain more information from other neighborhoods regarding impact from MCDs and contact the City to see what learn more on how MCDs will be regulated. Matthew would like to continue following this issue.

Public MCD Meeting

A public meeting regarding the proposed MCD (the “MCD Meeting”) took place on Monday, July 23 at Ho’s Bootleg Tavern where Ken Schlesinger, members of his legal team and some of his potential staff, legal team were to attend to explain the plans for the MCD. RHN assisted in coordinating the event, but did not sponsor it. ○ **Moved, Seconded, Carried:** Any RHN member speaking at the MCD Meeting should specify that they are speaking in their individual capacity and not as RHN member. It was decided that Matthew should not introduce Ken Schlesinger at the beginning of the MCD Meeting in order to avoid giving any impression that RHN supports the proposed MCD.

Board Leadership and Membership Retention: Tina Moylan

□ **Open Board Positions** The Executive Committee is comprised of a President, two Vice Presidents (only 1 position is currently filled), a Secretary, a Treasurer and Members at Large (currently Gregg and Richard)

- The positions of President and one Vice President are currently open; Carol Ann or Gregg Polchow may act as President for the next few months until a replacement is found
- Jovanne Reilly has agreed to be the new Treasurer, replacing Ian who will continue as a Board member

□ **Board Membership.** The following ideas were presented for increasing and retaining Board membership:

- Personal recruitment; current Board members could think of people who would be good Board candidates
- Advertise on e-blast, include job description
- Wine and appetizer event in North Beach restaurant for potential Board members
- Member/New Member Party (not a “happy hour”), possibly on Sundays 3-6pm, where RHN would pay for the drinks
- Create an account for RHN on Nextdoor.com
- Give merchant discount cards to Board members
- Invite potential members to Board meetings (possibly making meetings open to everyone on a quarterly or semi-annual basis)
- Involve people who are concerned with neighborhood issues
- Members of individual committees could be recruited for the Board
- Book club
- Give Board members time to discuss issues that concern them at Board meetings
- Each committee should have three goals and if members do not get involved they would be removed

□ **RHN Membership.** The following ideas were presented for increasing and retaining general RHN membership:

- Hold new members parties that would be open to all members
- Put a table on Polk Street to recruit new members
- Present a monthly report of membership numbers
- Joyce will put post on Nextdoor.com about joining RHN
- Put a sign up at the MCD Meeting saying “RHN wants to know your views”
- Members can pass out RHN brochures at the MCD Meeting

Updates:

- Judy will complete the forms for greening at the building on Larkin at Broadway. The City will oversee it for 3 years.
- Christine verified that RHN currently has 363 memberships (including 163 household memberships, comprised of 2 or more people).
- Julia has obtained four new business members of RHN: Cheese Plus, Bow Wow Meow, Edward Jones and Good Vibrations.

Retreat Adjourned at 4:59pm.