

RUSSIAN HILL NEIGHBORS BOARD MEETING
Home of Judy Junghans

MINUTES

Prepared by Tim Covington

Monday, June 4, 2017

Attending Provided separately.

Tree and Sidewalk Policy Report By Mohammed Nuru and various members of DPW and the Department of Urban Forestry:

Street Trees. A pamphlet was distributed. New policy into effect 7/1. City will manage street trees, including pruning. Initially, a triage policy will address trees most in need. But, the program will ramp up over 3-5 years at which time all sidewalk trees will be on a maintenance rotation. City maintenance includes sidewalk damage from roots, etc. Properties cited before the start of the program will remain responsible for sidewalk repairs at the owner's expense. Questions regarding prioritization of trees pruning/maintenance can be addressed to sue@urbanforestmap.org at the Bureau of Urban Forestry. A digital version of the pamphlet is available at sfpublications/trees.org. To replace dead trees call 311. Some funding under Prop C is available for new tree planting. Additional funding is needed.

Garbage Service. Rates are going up, tracking inflation. A new program to resize to larger recycling and compost bins is being implemented, but size changes are optional. Same day large item pick up is now available. Similarly, abandoned item pick up is now available same day. Also, pick up requests for

trash are now quicker than before. An issue exists regarding areas privately owned including the various stairway gardens on Russian Hill, as the city does not assume responsibility for clearing trash from these.

Greening Programs. These have been increased, and requests are being accepted for improving plantings in public areas. Brisbane box trees are replacing preexisting plantings in some areas. Again, the problem exists that privately owned areas are not eligible, although the city is available for consultation.

Street Sweeping. Many years ago, Russian Hill opted out of mechanical street sweeping as a neighborhood in favor of volunteer manual sweeping. The reasons for this are unclear according to the presenters (ed. it was to avoid loss of parking lot at the time of weekly sweeping). In any case, volunteer sweeping has waned over time. Russian Hill may want to consider whether to switch to mechanical sweeping or to reinvigorate its manual sweeping.

Sidewalk Trash Cans. Trash can density is controversial. Many people equate more cans with less trash on the street and sidewalk. However, ironically, and counterintuitively, trashcans are often accompanied by increased street trash. DPW would welcome any guidance RHN may offer regarding the number and locations of trash cans. [7:36]

Executive Reports

Thanks to Greg for arranging Mohammad Nuru's and his staff's presentation. We should send our thanks directly and send the Prop 2 pamphlet to members.

Consent Agenda. The agenda was distributed prior to the meeting. Motion by Joyce Kucharvy to adopt. Second by Laurie Petipas. Agenda adopted unanimously.

RHN Bookstore. A hearing on its landmark status is scheduled for the coming Thursday. A motion by Ian Maddison to set aside \$1000 for Russian Hill Bookstore funding. (Ed. Note that the motions did not specifically provide that a donation be made.) Seconded by Tracy. Passed by a majority with 3 abstentions. Additional discussion ensued during which a consensus, but no vote, was established not to fund the bookstore directly but to act as a clearinghouse for donations and, possibly, to pay to acquire space to promote RHN within the bookstore.

Donor Acknowledgement Policy. Already distributed by Carol Ann Rogers. The question arose whether we could automate the acknowledgment process electronic using the website. After discussion, a consensus emerged to the effect that acknowledgments would be more meaningful if handwritten. A similar consensus was revealed as to when acknowledgments should be written: \$250 and higher contributions would receive acknowledgments. It was noted that for the recent period there were 7 contributions of \$100 or more and 4 of those were for \$250 or more.

House of Cannabis. The anticipated location is Polk and Filbert. Parr has received information on the proposed business and will summarize it for the board. There was a lengthy discussion about whether RHN should even participate in the process of determining whether the House of Cannabis was desirable or would oppose or support it. It was revealed that the city wants RHN to help organize a neighborhood discussion and make its recommendation to the city. Following this announcement, a consensus was formed to play an assist role but avoid taking sides in the controversy. It was left open whether RHN might later support or oppose this business located in our neighborhood at a later time. For further consideration of this question, and whether to assist in organization of a

neighborhood meeting on the subject, Par Hanji and Mathew Mansfield volunteered to meet and develop a recommendation for the board.

Announcements:

New Secretary. The Board has a new Secretary – Monique Olivier. Monique is a young mother, married, lawyer by profession. She is very enthusiastic about joining the Board and will be attending the July retreat.

Bye Bye Emily. Emily Harrold is moving to the East Bay, and this is her last meeting as president. :--(

Retreat Agenda. The agenda for the Retreat is not yet set. Emily Harrold will send out a doddle pole, with topics to be selected from a survey.

Conflicts of Interest. A conflict of interest policy and form is expected from Steve Taber.

SAFE. Mike Farrell's office wants to do a safety fair with us together with the Fire Department and D2. We may be responsible for acquiring the location, such as the Art Institute or the Norwegian Seaman's Church. Women Against Rape would be panelists.

Clean Up and Picnic. A Neighborhood Clean Up and Picnic will be held on June 24 at Tee Pee Park at 1:00. Meet at Greg Polchow's. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be grilled RSVP@RHNSF.org. Pot luck for side dishes. Bring your own chairs if desired. There will be a paperless post event invitation. Help is needed for set up and clean up.

Treasurer's Report. From Greg Polchow: We still have money. Spend it.

Marketing. Mike Moylan: Collateral materials available and recommended include jar openers [\$500], reflective slap bracelets, small LED flashlights, baseball hats [\$1600].
Consensus: Go with jar openers and hats.

DZLU. Bob Bluhm:

2215 Leavenworth. Communications equipment still an open topic with Anne Brubaker having just filed her appeal, which she will provide to DZLU. DPW has posted a notice of tentative approval. The deadline for protest letters is coming up.

Board member recommendations (Sarah Taber) that RHN support this appeal with a board resolution in opposition, which could be filed together with a cover letter with the Board of Permit Appeals.

2201 Leavenworth. Deadline for filing protests is 6/13. Can be put on DPW's web page ("auto hearing"). The adjacent property owner, Anne Brubaker has proposed an alternative/default site. Note that a recent State Court of Appeals ruling allows permit denial based on aesthetics. But, a proposed state rule exempts small cell signal equipment from such permit review.

1000 Broadway (and Taylor). A new project sponsor with new plans will be holding a community meeting 6/15 6-8:00 at the Page and Turnbull office at 417 Montgomery. Several modifications to the original plan, including additional lot coverage in the back. These, in turn, may trigger changes to neighborhood covenants. Question: should these changes reopen review?

Fay House. Lucretia Rauh: The question persists as to what to do with the Fay House, i.e. what uses should it have? This has been an open question since the property was acquired from the Mary Fay estate by Rec and Park. For example, should it

be rented out for commercial residential or commercial purposes, used as city (e.g. Rec and Park) offices, comprise a neighborhood resource for meetings and administration of neighborhood organizations, be set aside for historic tours, be rented for events (e.g. weddings)? Some of these purposes would require rezoning. Currently, however, the property is in a decrepit condition and there are no funds for restoration. The cost to retrofit is estimated at about \$1.5 million. The Board is invited to view the location at Leavenworth and Chestnut.

The meeting was adjourned. The next Board meeting will take place on August 7. A Board Retreat will take place in July.