

**Russian Hill Neighbors Board
Meeting
Home of Judy Junghans
Monday, December 5, 2016**

Attendance

- Present: Emily Harrold, Sarah Abbott, Richard Cardello, Helen Doyle, Gregg Carr, Tracy Jaquier, Judy Junghans, Gregory Polchow, Carol Ann Rogers, Tina Moylan, Mike Moylan, Greg Polchow, Sarah Taber, Steve Taber, Phoebe Douglass, Lucretia Rauh, Par Hanji, Matthew Mansfield, Laurie Petipas,
- Excused: Ian Maddison, Tim Covington, Joyce Kucharvy, Al Greening, , Jovanne Reilly, Christine Welland

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm by President Emily Harrold. She thanked Judy and Greg for hosting and co-hosting the evenings dinner. She sent around a sheet for Board members to sign up to host/co-host for 2017 Board meetings and reminded everyone that the current budget for food is \$150 per meeting

Executive Committee Reports

- President's report: Emily
 - President Harrold reported that there had been legal activity involving RHN since the last meeting and asked Steve Taber to share information with the Board. RHN, through Treasurer Ian Maddison, had received a subpoena asking for certain materials. Steve Taber called the attorney of record representing a title company. The owners of a property on Vallejo Street have brought action against the company regarding failure to disclose a recorded covenant at the time they purchased the property. There is a disagreement between the company and the property owners regarding the settlement amount, claiming that absent the covenant they would have been able to develop their property. The requested documents include minutes (which are posted on the RHN website) and correspondence with public agencies regarding the property owners' proposed development project. Taber assured the Board that the request is reasonable and should be complied with. Although not relevant to the current situation, he explained that RHN is protected in legal actions against its full public participation in issues of interest to its mission by legislation preventing strategic lawsuits against public participation.
 - President Harrold asked for ideas for the 2017 Annual Meeting which last year took place on Wednesday, April 20. She will check the schedules of our public officials (Chiu, Weiner, Peskin and Farrell) as well as the police captains so that they can be present as usual. Tina Moylan suggested District Attorney George Gascon as a keynote speaker. She heard him recently speak on the justice system and such issues as sanctuary city, and all agreed that he is an excellent speaker. As a backup, or for a future meeting, Carol Ann suggested Audrey Cooper, Editor-in-Chief of the SF

Chronicle. Several meeting locations were discussed and Harrold will look into them.

- President Harrold gave a re-cap of RHN's activities for 2016 which include holding more than three events per month, a strong and successful emphasis on Families and Children, Safety Fairs, working successfully with our Supervisors and their staff, and addressing such important issues as Francisco Park, the Lombard Crooked Street and the Polk Street corridor (Whole Foods proposal and the CBD), as well as the regular work of DZLU and increased outreach to our merchant members. It was suggested that Harrold create a written report to be sent out in January with the monthly eblast.
- President Harrold reported that she had been contacted by Suzanne Markel-Fox with an update on the efforts to create a CBD for Polk Street. A petition will be going out to every property-owner within the proposed footprint giving them an estimate of the annual assessment amount. For the majority, this would range from \$200-\$800 annually. In order to proceed, 30% of the property owners need to be in favor of the CBD. Par and Gregg continue to be copied on communications and will keep the Board informed as efforts move along.

Secretary's report

- **Moved, Seconded, Carried:** To approve the November Board minutes as distributed by Carol Ann Rogers as an ad hoc recorder. Harrold urged Board Members to help recruit a new Board Secretary.

Treasurer's Report

The monthly financials were distributed in advance to all Board members via email as Treasurer Maddison was unable to attend the meeting. There was a brief discussion about the benefit of including in the monthly financial reports a breakdown of the Restricted Funds which make up more than half of the total funds held by RHN. The Board agreed to request the following:

- Monthly breakdown on Restricted Funds from Treasurer Maddison
- Quarterly report from Christine Welland, Parks Chair, on the amounts held in trust for the various parks and any financial transactions that quarter.

Committee Reports

Membership – Emily Harrold for Christine Welland, Membership Chair

- Membership dues received in response to the recent mailing are down from last year.
- Suggestions include doing a follow-up letter in January, and possibly personal phone calls, to members who have not yet renewed. Also, Par and Tina will distribute RHN brochures to local merchants and gyms in an effort to attract new members.

- It was also suggested that RHN look into acquiring some kind of reasonably priced membership software to enhance our membership recruitment and retentions efforts.

Transportation – Steve Taber

Steve reported on a recent meeting of Russian Hill organizations (RHN, RHIA, RHCA, Lombard Street Hill Association, etc.) to discuss coordinated efforts to address the problems related to the exponentially growing visitors to see the Crooked Street of Lombard. The meeting was attended by Andrew Heidel of SFMTA who has been coordinating the survey of residents and creating recommendations to be presented to the Board of Supervisors and Mark Farrell’s staffer Kanishka Karunaratne. There are long-term and short-term recommendations addressing the two-fold problems of auto traffic and pedestrian traffic:

- Long-term – develop a reservation/toll system (similar to Golden Gate Bridge tolls) to manage the auto traffic and produce needed revenues for enforcement and mitigation. 2-year implementation timetable.
- Short-term – signage, pedestrian bulbs at intersection corners.

After considerable discussion by the entire Board, Taber recommended that RHN endorse the concept of a reservation/toll system and support the City’s efforts to gain the needed authority to implement it (some state legislation is required). **Moved, Seconded, Carried.**

Taber will draft the letter to be mailed by the end of the year to Andrew Heidel to be included in the SFMTA report to the Board of Supervisors.

There was also strong consensus among the Board members that, in the short-term, the most effective strategy is enforcement of current laws by deploying police officers and other measures, to be paid by current City resources in anticipation of future revenues from the reservation/toll system.

Social – Tracy Jacquier

The Holiday Party is scheduled for Sunday, December 11, from 3-6 pm at the Tabers’ home.

- There are 118 RSVPs to date, up from 75 last year. The Board agreed to an increase in the budget from \$300 in 2015 to accommodate the increased attendance.
- It was suggested that Ian and Christine set up a check-in table in the lobby of the Tabers’ building since the party is Members Only (and their guests). This would be a good way to encourage membership renewals.
- Board Members were asked to arrive at 2:30 to help set up.
- Tracy and Sarah Taber will be shopping for refreshments this week.

DZLU – Richard Cardello

The DZLU Committee report was distributed via email for advance review by the Board.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Ann Rogers, Acting Secretary