**Russian Hill Neighbors Board Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, August 4th, 2014 @ 6:00 pm**

**Home of Nafiseh Lindberg, 1535 Pacific Ave**

**Executive Committee Reports**

* **President’s Report: Dan Holligan (15 min)**
  + **Retreat Recap**
  + **Secretary**
  + **Follow up on Lombard St**
  + **Sept Board meeting – Ed Reiskin**
  + **Merchant Liaison**
  + **Street Sweep – Sat, 9:30, out front of La Paloma**
  + **Voter file**
* **Secretary’s Report: Approve July Retreat minutes**
* **Treasurer’s Report: Ian (10 min)**

**Attending:** Eric Schleelein, Tracy Jaquier, Mike Moylan, Steve Kendrick, Laurie Petipas, Phoebe Douglass, Carol Ann Rogers, Dan Holligan, Nafiseh Lindberg, Sarah Taber, Steve Taber, Erica Kwiatkowski, Gregg Carr, Par Hanji, Ian Maddison, Jody Meisel

**Not Attending:** Greg Polchow, Tina Moylan, Jovanne Reilly

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by President Dan Holligan at 7:05pm. In the absence of an elected secretary, Vice President Erica Kwiatkowski volunteered to take notes.

**Retreat Recap and President’s Report**

President Holligan asked Vice President Erica Kwiatkowski to give an update on the voter file. Kwiatkowski explained that RHN has the ability to purchase the voter file for residents of Russian Hill as a group to reach out to the community. The file will cost $170 to obtain the email addresses for all registered voters within the RHN boundaries (data attached).

**MOVED: (Maddison) That the Board approve purchase of the voter file, using funds budgeted for marketing.**

**SECONDED AND CARRIED.**

A discussion followed regarding the need for business cards, merchant marketing and related activities. There currently is no budget for Membership, but there is an allocation for a membership mailing.

Nafiseh Lindberg also posed the question as to whether or not our membership recruitment should reach out directly to the Francisco Reservoir activists who are not RHN members and other Russian Hill groups that participated in the park process.

President Holligan stated that we need to recruit a new Board secretary. The job description was briefly discussed. The Board was asked to reach out to neighbors and colleagues in the Russian Hill area who might be interested in coming on the Board in this capacity.

Dan brought up the follow-up questions received about the recent trial closures of Lombard Street on the RHN website. A discussion ensued regarding the experiences of nearby neighbors and RHN members during the trial closures of Lombard Street. The DZLU committee is also monitoring this information. Holligan has referred commenters to Supervisors Farrell and Chiu. This is also a topic that could be directed to SFMTA Director Ed Reiskin who will attend the September Board meeting. It was agreed that a letter to Supervisor Chiu be drafted by DZLU and sent over Holligan’s signature.

Our September 8th Board meeting will be held at the Tabers’ home. We will have 45 minutes for our discussion with Reiskin. The Board discussed how best to prepare for and structure the discussion.

In preparation for the meeting, a letter was sent to Reiskin with RHN positions regarding the Central Subway, the Van Ness BRT, and issues regarding Columbus Avenue.

Steve Taber said that one issue that did come up is that of level boarding. The MTA decided against it; they still do not know how they will fill the gap, RHN made it clear that they rejected that decision because it would slow service.

Regarding the Central Subway, it was reported that the MTA is studying it and it is supposed to go to a working group in Mayor Ed Lee’s office by early September and will subsequently be released to the public. DZLU reported hearing all very positive responses around the Central Subway.

Dan reminded the group to arrive promptly at 6:00pm next month.

**Merchant Liaison Update**

Par Hanji, new Merchant Liaison, and Holligan reported on ideas for the position and asked if anyone had additional ideas for the role.

In simple terms, it involves getting to know all the merchants, expanding to other merchants and getting them more involved. Lindbergh asked what we want from our merchants and we are we going to do for them? Taber said our accomplishments with the Polk Street merchants and our work are a good example. It was not total agreement on the details, but we worked together on the objectives showing that RHN can be a good partner on issues on behalf of the merchants.

Holligan reported, in Greg Polchow’s absence, that there is a street sweep Saturday, August 9, meeting at La Boulange.

If Members want to do sweep their own area, Greg can organize DPW to drop off street sweep supplies to your street/area.

**Financial Report**

Treasurer Ian Maddison reported that we will be ready to send out membership renewal notices in October. The second mailing will go out by end of year. As in past years, volunteers will assist with the mailings as needed.

Moylan said that the financial reports are now on the website.

There was a brief discussion of some of the restricted accounts:

* Faye Park needs a co-chair;
* The planters on top of Broadway at Hyde need attention. How can RHN help?
* What is the latest on the Greening of Broadway project and its funds?

**Social**

Jody Meisil reported that the Giants Game is still on for August 26. There are 20 tickets available for Members to purchase on the website. She is working on organizing the September *Cheers* event. Phoebe Douglass asked about the annual Symphony tickets. Although the deadline for their purchase has passed, Meisil will call the Symphony and see if there are any tickets left.

**DZLU Report**

Carol Ann Rogers referred the Board to the written DZLU report they had received in advance. She reported briefly on a few issues:

* DZLU has been trying to arrange a meeting with the owners of 1041-1061 Broadway regarding their proposed removal of 4 mature trees along the 1000 block of Broadway. A hearing before the Board of Appeals is scheduled for October 29, with RHN as the appellant.
* The issue of short-term rentals (Airbnb, VRBO, etc.) is being looked into by DZLU.
* Undergrounding of wires is proceeding.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Moylan requested time to speak and reminded everyone that National Night Out is Tuesday, August 5 (tomorrow night) at Joe DiMaggio Playground with a BBQ, and kickball against the police. RHN contributed $250 in support of this event.

Moylan also reminded the group that Next Village is having an event with Mel Sharp and his jazz band. RHN also contributed in support of this event.

Moylan discussed the Website/e-blast and the opportunities they offer for RHN to promote activities and let residents know what RHN is doing. He suggested that someone write an article about RHN’s involvement in the Francisco Park efforts.

Lindberg asked if it was too early to discuss a theme for our meeting next year? Is Francisco Park a good theme for next year? Rogers asked, what about parks in general as a theme next year? Parks would allow us to rally a lot of city officials. Are there people in the community who would be a good spokespeople for parks?

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:23pm.