

Russian Hill Neighbors Board Meeting
Home of Joyce Kucharvy
Monday, February 6, 2016

Attendance

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by President Emily Harrold. She thanked Joyce and Matthew for hosting and co-hosting the evening's dinner.

President Harrold then introduced Julia Strzesieski from Cole Hardware, potential new Co-Merchant Liaison (with Par Hanji) and RoseAnn Frank, potential new Board Secretary.

Executive Committee Reports

- President's report: Emily
 - President Harrold reported that RHN's Annual Meeting will take place on April 20. Thanks to Tina Moylan, the keynote speaker will be SF District Attorney George Gascon. Additionally, Supervisors Farrell and Peskin, our State Representatives and Police Captains will be invited to participate. She asked Tracy Jaquier to report on possible venues. She and Carol Ann Rogers will tour the SF Art Institute which may be available; other options being looked at are the Norwegian Seaman's Church on Hyde Street and the Fellowship of All People's on Larkin Street. The Social Committee will be providing a light pre-meeting supper and wine as in the past. Arrangements will be made for AV equipment depending on the venue.
 - President Harrold reported on recent community outreach regarding the design and uses of Francisco Park. The Francisco Park Conservancy and the Department of Recreation and Parks are in the community feedback phase. The next large community meeting is scheduled for March 1. All Board members are invited to attend a meeting on February 13 at 10:30 AM at the Norwegian Seaman's Church designed to inform community leaders on Russian Hill on the proposed design. The Architect and Landscape Designer will be present. She also referred to a recent article about the Francisco Park that appeared in local media.
 - President Harrold reported that there will be a meeting on February 7 to discuss the formation of a Van Ness Neighbors Alliance with representatives from neighborhood groups along the Van Ness corridor. The meeting is being organized by Moe Jamil from Middle Polk Neighborhood Association (MPNA). Carol Ann Rogers will attend for RHN.

Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer Ian Maddison reported that there had been a delay in printing the financial statements but that he would be emailing them to the entire Board later in the week. There were a few questions regarding the format of the Profit and Loss and budget report. It was agreed that part of the March Board meeting will include a walk-through of the various financial reports so that all members of the Board understand and feel comfortable with the reports, and to prepare for the Annual Meeting . Maddison reminded all Committee Chairs that they need to submit their budget requests for the 2017-2018 fiscal year by the end of February.

Secretary's report

- Carol Ann passed announced a new procedure of passing around an Attendance Sheet to be signed by Board Members . She then asked for any corrections to the Draft Minutes of the December Board Meeting previously distributed via email. Gregg Carr pointed out that he had been in attendance.
- **Moved, Seconded, Carried:** *To approve the November Board minutes as distributed by Carol Ann Rogers (as an ad hoc recorder) with the correction that Gregg Carr was present, not absent, from the December meeting.*

Committee Reports

Nominating – Tina Moylan

- **Moved, Seconded, Carried:** *To elect Julia Strzesieski to the position of Merchant Liaison Co-Chair.*

Membership – Christine Welland reported that there have been 265 membership renewals to date. There are 350 lapsed individual members and a number of lapsed merchant members. It was agreed that the Membership List will be added to the password protected Board access Dropbox. Board members are asked to review the list and advise Christine of any lapsed members whom they know personally and would be willing to write a personal note on the upcoming renewal letter or send an encouraging email. It was also suggested that there be a mailing party organized to allow for the personal addressing of the letters. Sarah Taber offered to host this. Matthew Mansfield brought up the previously discussed issue of acquiring Membership Database Management software. He and Christine will be exploring this and would appreciate any suggestions on specific programs.

Parks – Christine Welland reported that quarterly workdays have been scheduled a Russian Hill Parks, with the first taking place on Saturday, February 18. The dates and details will be published in the next eblast.

She also presented a motion to allocate funds from the restricted Ina Coolbrith Park account as follows:

- **Moved, Seconded, Carried:** *To approve the donation of \$2,500 to the SF Department of Parks and Recreation for the purchase of a motorized hopper cart to use primarily for the maintenance at Ina Coolbrith Park (although it may also be used at other nearby parks.) The cart will be stored at Joe DiMaggio Playground. Any funds remaining from the \$2,500 after purchase of the cart should be used for the upcoming Spring Planting.*

Transportation – Steve Taber reported that there has been progress toward getting the Central Subway Extension underway. The first step is community outreach and preliminary engineering. He asked the Board to suggest the names of individuals interested in volunteering in these efforts. Over \$1 million has been appropriated for the needed study. In addition, he reported:

- The Van Ness BRT (Bus Rapid Transit) project has begun.
- There is nothing new to report on the Lombard Street congestion issue or the SFMTA survey and recommendations.

Social – Joyce Kucharvy reported that the goals of her committee are to figure out ways to increase attendance at events. There was a discussion of several ideas, including the need to give lots of notice and to market in multiple ways, including Facebook and Paperless Post. A regular game night, reinstating the monthly Cheers nights and asking the Aquarium (Bay.org) to host an event. Joyce encouraged everyone to help the committee as planning and executing the events is very labor intensive. In addition, Joyce announced that Joe Butler would be hosting three walking tours in the coming months. The February tour will ask for a \$20 donation to RHN from participants. Information about the tours will be in the upcoming eblast.

Merchant Members Committee – Par Hanji reported that 24 merchants have joined RHN to date. Her goal, now joined by Julia Strzesieski, is to reach 35 Merchant Members and to find ways to get them more involved.

Families with Children – Sarah Abbot reported that the Play Dates at the Park are going well, although recently impacted by the rainy weather. There are approximately 105 families on a separate email list that she maintains for promoting RHN Family Events. She then shared that she and her family will be travelling for five months, from April – July. She is committed to returning to her position as Committee Chair upon their return, but is looking for someone(s) to fill in while she is away.

Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods – Matthew Mansfield reported that RHN is hosting the March meeting of CSFN.

Neighborhood Improvement – Greg Polchow reported on the tree planting effort being coordinated with Friends of the Urban Forest (FUF) and Russian Hill Community Association. Approximately 35 trees are scheduled to be planted in March. Although the City is taking over responsibility for street trees in July, they do not pay for the planting of new trees. Greg asked for ideas on how best to leverage a \$2500 donation to from FUF to “green the hill.” Some of the funds are being used to purchase water bags to ensure that the new trees are irrigated. Regarding the volunteer street sweeping program, Greg reported that they are looking to address the issue of dirty streets in new ways, including meeting with DPW to discuss mechanized street sweeping and then providing information to interested residents on how to petition to get mechanized street sweeping on their blocks. It was suggested that this information might be given out at the Annual Meeting.

Communications & Marketing – Mike Moylan reported that he wants to incorporate the DropBox information into a private password section on the website to make it easier for Board members to access that information. He is also looking for a marketing person to serve on the committee and assist with design needs.

DZLU – Carol Ann Rogers reported in the absence of Richard Cardello. A written DZLU report was distributed in advance by email to the entire Board. She presented a motion submitted by DZLU for Board action:

MOTION: *DZLU recommends that the RHN Board approve the sending of letters of protest in response to notifications of applications to install wireless antennae equipment to wooden poles in our area, when there are aesthetic concerns, including the possibility of marring public views of Russian Hill vistas. Further, it is hoped that possible future protests or appeals would be filed by RHN as a neighborhood organization, which is anticipated to carry more weight than those filed by individuals.*

A lengthy discussion of the motion centered on the mechanics of how this policy would be carried out and by whom. It was decided to refer the motion back to the DZLU Committee for clarification.

Carol Ann then presented the following motion from DZLU:

MOTION: *that the RHN Board support efforts to seek SF Landmark designation for qualifying districts on Russian Hill and set up an Historic Preservation Fund to accept donations for such projects and provide resources as appropriate (i.e., information on website and at Annual Meeting, volunteers, etc.)*

(Extensive background information had been provided in advance to the Board as a separate document called RHN and Historic Preservation as a

Fulfillment of its Mission. An additional PDF is provided that describes the current efforts regarding the Western Slope Historic District.) Following discussion, the Motion was **MOVED, SECONDED, CARRIED.**

Carol Ann then presented a second motion, which did not come from DZLU as the request had come following the January DZLU meeting.

MOTION: *that the Board authorize RHN to serve as the 501(c)(3) sponsoring organization for the Lombard Hill Improvement Association in its application to the Alice Ross Carey Preservation Fund of SF Heritage for a grant in the amount of \$5,000 to be used to pay consultant fees associated with the nomination of the 1000 block of Lombard Street for SF Landmark District designation.*

A copy of LHIA's grant application has been distributed to the Board in advance via email, along with other background information. Following discussion, the Motion was **MOVED, SECONDED, CARRIED.**

Carol Ann encouraged Board members to attend the community information meeting scheduled for February 16. Tim Frye and other members of the Historic Preservation Commission and SF Planning Staff, Supervisor Mark Farrell and SF Heritage Staff will be present to explain the process and benefits of SF Landmark designation.

New Business – Phoebe Douglass reported that on March 1, 6-8 PM, in the SF Main Library's Koret Auditorium, there will be a panel discussion moderated by Audrey Cooper, Editor-In-Chief of the San Francisco Chronicle and featuring Jeff Kositsky, Director of the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing; Laura Guzman, Director of the Mission Neighborhood Resource Center; District 2 Supervisor Mark Farrell; Lateefah Simon, Bart Board Director; Kevin Fagan, Reporter of the San Francisco Chronicle. Related exhibition: [*Everyone Deserves a Home*](#), Jewett Gallery, December 17 - March 12, 2017.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Ann Rogers, Acting Secretary