**Russian Hill Neighbors Board Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, September 8th, 2014 @ 6:00 pm**

**Home of Sarah and Steve Taber, 1170 Green Street**

The September Board meeting of the Russian Hill Neighbors’ Board of Directors was called to order at 6:15 PM at the home of Sarah and Steve Taber by Mike Moylan substituting for President Dan Holligan who was unable to attend.

The following Board members were present: Greg Carr, Phoebe Douglass, Tracy Jacquier, Steve Kendrick, Nafiseh Lindberg, Jody Meisil, Mike Moylan, Laurie Petipas, Greg Polchow, Lucretia Rauh, Carol Ann Rogers, Sarah Taber, Steve Taber. Absent: Dan Holligan, Erica Kwiatkowski, Par Hanji, Ian Maddison, Jovanne Reilly, Eric Schleelein.

Director Carol Ann Rogers volunteered to take minutes of the meeting.

Steve Taber introduced Guest Ed Reiskin, SFMTA Director, and the Board members went around the room introducing themselves.

Reiskin covered the following topics in his presentation:

**Extension of the Central Subway**. This is a proposed Phase III of the Central Subway project. Phase I was the Third Street Light Rail. Phase II is the underground subway currently under construction which extends to North Beach. Phase III would extend the subway to the Northern Waterfront. HNTB consultants were hired to map out the feasibility and concept analysis of the transportation and economic values of extended the subway. Their study is due at the end of the month at which time the Board of Supervisors, SFMTA and the Transportation will be briefed on the results and recommendations. The issue of the Pagoda Theater was briefly discussed. The property is under lease by SFMTA until May 2015. It is already entitled for housing. Although the station could all be located within the public right of way, the theater is an ideal location for a future subway station due to the ability to minimize disruption. The Mayor is supportive of trying to preserve the option of the theater as a future station. There will be a hearing in October before the Transportation Authority. RHN should consider having a presence at that hearing.

**Polk Street.** The Safety and Streetscape Project is currently in Environmental Review which should be completed by the end of the year. SFMTA and DPW will be working in 2015 to complete and implement the design. The next public hearing at the SFMTA will take place later this year or in early 2015.

**Lombard Street Trial Closures.** SFMTA has been in communication with Supervisor Mark Farrell’s Office to evaluate the trial closures. In short, there appears to be no conclusive data. It is recognized that better signage, more police presence and enforcement, and other mitigation measures were needed. There is consideration being given to repeating the experiment again next summer with lessons from this year incorporated into the plans.

**Van Ness BRT.**  The current schedule calls for the opening of the BRT in 2018. The main focus leading up to construction will be pre-meetings to try to compress the timeline and manage the impacts of construction. It will represent the highest level of bus rapid transit in the country. It will have mostly level boarding because all of the new buses will have low floors. The Vallejo Street stop, which RHN opposed, was approved due to the large senior housing center at Broadway.

**Columbus Avenue.** SFMTA is following the lead of the neighborhood associations that have jurisdiction in the North Beach area, which is also the position taken by RHN.

**Prop A Transportation and Road Improvement Bond Measure.**  This measure, if approved by the voters in November, would provide $500 million over 5 years to fund critical transportation infrastructure improvements by replacing previous bonds as they expire without raising tax rates. It has four key objectives:

* To improve the reliability of the transportation system by investing in maintenance.
* Adding accessibility improvements, such as ramps and elevators, to the transit system.
* Funding changes in the right of way such as signal priority, right and left turn pockets, additional traffic signals, etc.
* Making the streets safer by developing a tool kit of design changes that address physical improvements with the goal of eliminating street deaths (34 people died last year.)

In the question and answer period, Reiskin addressed issues of the need for a long-term and strategic policy on parking, and developing a city policy on tour buses and their use of Muni bus stops to load and unload passengers in tourist areas of the City.

**President’s Report**

Moylan reported that the problems reported at 1111 Green of loud parties and possible violations of zoning rules is being investigated by Police Captain David Lazar and his staff.

The August minutes have been revised in a shorter format with an emphasis on reporting actions taken rather than quoting individual comments. Rogers will email the revised document to all Board members for approval. It was agreed that future minutes should not be posted to the website until approved at the following Board meeting.

The Treasurer’s report was accepted as distributed by Ian Maddison in advance via email.

**Social Committee Report**

Jody Meisil reported that there had been no interest among RHN members in the August 26 baseball game. The Symphony had arranged to give 12 tickets to the annual concert for nonprofit organizations. Several members took advantage of this opportunity although there was some breakdown of communication regarding the ticket delivery. The next Cheers will take place at Taps on Broadway at Polk in mid-October (not a Monday night).

**Design, Zoning and Land Use (DZLU)**

Sarah Taber reported on the following:

* The RHN appeal to the Board of Appeals regarding the proposed removal of four mature trees on the 1000 block of Broadway will be heard on October 29. Additional information will be reported at the October meeting.
* The Francisco Park Conservancy has now incorporated, applied for 501c3 tax exempt status, has constituted a Board of Directors, and is engaged in ongoing fundraising.
* DZLU is monitoring the proposed legislation regarding short term rentals (Airbnb, etc.). No recommendation for an RHN position has been made.
* DZLU will be looking into developing guidelines on roof decks.

**Transportation**

Following a brief discussion, the following motion was made:

**MOTION: *That the Board approve support of Proposition A, the San Francisco Transportation and Road Improvement Bond, on the November ballot.* Seconded and carried.**

An article describing the provisions of Proposition A will be written and posted to the website.

**Neighborhood Improvement**

There were 20 volunteers at the weekend street sweep last month, including several families. Greg Polchow reported that he has also been sending alerts to neighborhood organizations that border RHN’s boundaries (East Marina, etc.) which have expressed an interest in doing their own street sweeps. A barbecue for volunteers is planned for October.

Polchow expressed a desire to have t-shirts or hats to give volunteers to wear while sweeping. This would be a nice gesture of appreciation and give people in the neighborhood a sense of cohesiveness.

**MOTION: *That the Board approve the expenditure of up to $500 for RHN logoed hats or t-shirts for the street sweep program.* Seconded and Carried.**

**Business Cards**

A brief discussion took place on the proposed business cards designed by Dan and Erica. It was agreed that the year of RHN’s founding, 1979, and RHN’s mission statement should be included on the card. Lucretia Rauh also suggested that RHN consider printing postcards in a similar design for use in mailings to members.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15.

Respectfully submitted by

Carol Ann Rogers, Acting Secretary for the September Meeting