

**Russian Hill Neighbors  
Board Meeting  
Home of Joyce Kucharvy  
Monday, September 12, 2016**

**Attendance**

Present: Carol Ann Rogers, Joyce Kucharvy, Gregory Polchow, Greg Carr, Phoebe Douglass, Steve Taber, Jovanne Reilly, Judy Junghans, Laurie Petipas, Par Hanji, Richard Cardello, Sarah Abbott, Christine Welland

Excused: Emily Harrold, Ian Maddison, Tina Moylan, Al Greening, Adam Barrett, Mike Moylan, Phoebe Douglass, Tracy Jacquier, Tim Covington, Lucretia Rauh

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm by Acting President Carol Ann Rogers.

**Executive Committee Reports**

- Acting President's Report: Carol Ann Rogers
  - Vice President Rogers introduced Matthew Mansfield who has been appointed by President Harrold to chair the Standing Committee defined in Article 9.1 of the Bylaws as "Representative for City-Wide Neighborhood Association Organizations. In this capacity he will also serve as RHN's representative to the Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods (CSFN). **Moved, Seconded, Carried:** To approve Matthew Mansfield's appointment as Representative for City-Wide Neighborhood Association Organizations.
  - Vice President Rogers reminded the Board to be aware that anything put into an email should be treated as public record as emails can be easily forwarded.
  - Vice President Rogers updated the board on a positive and productive meeting with Supervisor Peskin. Greg Polchow will follow up with DPW regarding street cleaning. Supervisor Peskin is supportive of mechanized street cleaning.
  - League of women voters candidate debate: Peskin has declined participation. The LWV is contacting Supervisors Jane Kim and Scott Weiner about a debate. The debate would be held October 5<sup>th</sup> at the Pier 39 auditorium.
  - The next RHN board meeting October 3<sup>rd</sup> is at Joyce Kucharvy's home.
  - Lombard Street Traffic and Congestion: A Sept 13 meeting at Yick Wo Elementary School presented data on the trial, ambassador program, etc. Lombard Hill Street Association invited President Harrold to attend their meeting on Wednesday, September 14<sup>th</sup>. Because President Harrold is out of town, Vice President Rogers will attend on her behalf.
  - Van Ness Historic Street Lamps: In 1915 in preparation for the Pan Pacific Exposition, street lamps were installed along Van Ness Avenue. With the impending Van Ness Corridor work the current plan is to remove and

discard them. Richard Cardello noted that the issue was before the Historic Preservation Commission and the poles that are actually there are from the 1920s. The current poles are reinforced concrete and falling apart. The Preservation Society discussed retaining the lamps in front of City Hall, War Memorial Opera House, etc. However, if they are retained they may be rebuilt due to their deteriorating state. Anyone interested please contact Carol Ann and she can forward the resolution that Supervisor Peskin plans to introduce regarding the street lamps.

- Secretary's Report: Christine Welland
  - **Moved, Seconded, Carried:** To approve the August minutes as distributed with one noted correction to a typo.
- Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Ian Maddison sent a report prior to the meeting. There were no questions.

### **Discover Polk Community Benefit District**

- Suzanne Markel-Fox presented the Board with information regarding the CBD in general and the progress in the effort to form a Polk Community Benefit District.
  - Goals of the Polk CBD are cleanliness, safety, capital improvements, and district advocacy.
  - Boundaries of the CBD are still not finalized but will most likely be generally along Polk and a few side streets with high traffic.
  - After receiving results from a survey indicating 78% property owners who replied are in favor of the CBD, the group has moved on to the next phase: hiring a consultant and determining what the services will be. Then assessment estimation will be done to determine approximately how much each property owner will pay. In the formation phase, they will need approval at the petition level of 30% of the square footage of the CBD footprint. After the petition will be balloting and the CBD needs 50% plus one who vote to endorse.
  - Each CBD has different ways of assessing what companies / individuals will pay. For example, in the Lower Polk CBD CPMC pays a lot while condo owners pay somewhere between \$16-\$250 or so. Anything above ground floor is assessed at a different rate.
  - June 2017 is the deadline for the process including balloting. The group would then become a 501c3 and an entity recognized by law for 10 or 15 years and can be renewed. If, at end of each year if there is a majority of people within CBD who say it isn't working it can be disbanded.
- Board Discussion on RHN's role in the Discover Polk CBD
  - We support the CBD in principle and we are looking forward to hearing the actual proposal.
  - Emily, Par, and Greg P. have agreed to be on the steering committee.

### **Committee Reports**

- Neighborhood improvement - Greg Polchow
  - The street cleanup day had 8 volunteers last week and DPW helped. Next month there will a big sweep focused on including families with children & ice cream at Swensen's. The committee would like to put information

regarding Prop E. (the proposal to bring trees back to city's control) on our website. Greg will talk to Friends of the Urban Forest about a factsheet.

- Merchant Liaison: Par Hanji
  - On September 21<sup>st</sup> at 9am at Firehouse 8, an informational meeting for merchants will be held with DPW before the Polk streetscape project starts. **Moved, Seconded, Carried:** to approve a \$100 budget for RHN to bring refreshments to the meeting. Cole Hardware is the RHN September merchant spotlight and provided a \$10 coupon available to print from the RHN website. A Halloween walk will take place on Polk Street on October 29<sup>th</sup>. Merchants will have candy for children and Glammic will have games. A wine walk will be planned for October or November. Real Foods is holding a 40-year celebration on Sept 21. RHN will help notify the community.
- Social – Joyce Kucharvy
  - There will be a November Cheers at House Rules. House Rules will join RHN as a merchant member. The Symphony ticket sale was a success and sold out. The upcoming Wine and Dine is sold out.
- Membership – Carol Ann for Adam
  - Carol Ann will follow up with Adam regarding next steps for the member mailing.
- Safety
  - All information provided in the e-blast. There were no questions.
- DZLU
  - A report was sent prior to the meeting. There were no questions on the report. Given some areas of Russian Hill have been considering creating historic districts, there was discussion about establishing a restricted fund designated for historic preservation purposes. The board should think about this and discuss at the October meeting. If the Board votes to establish the fund, the Board could then decide to contribute to it or not.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Welland, Secretary

