

Russian Hill Neighbors Board Meeting
Home of Traci Jacquier
Monday, October 2, 2017

Attendance

- **Attended:** Sarah Abbott, Bob Bluhm, Richard Cardello, Phoebe Douglass, Al Greening, Par Hanji, Traci Jacquier, Judy Junghans, Joyce Kucharvy, Matthew Mansfield, Mike Moylan, Tina Moylan, Monique Olivier, Laurie Petipas, Greg Polchow, Jovanne Reilly, Carol Ann Rogers, Julia Strzesieski, Stephen Taber, Christine Welland

- **Absent:** Lorena Calcagni, Gregg Carr, Tim Covington, Helen Doyle, Lucretia Rauh

Thank you to Traci for hosting the Board meeting and to Greg for co-hosting and providing dinner.

Meeting Called to Order at 7:00pm

The meeting was called to order by the Vice President.

Executive Committee Reports

- **Vice President's Report**
 - RHN is still looking for a new President, but in the meantime the Executive Committee is handling the President's responsibilities as a group.
 - A town hall meeting with the local Police Chief will take place on October 3rd at Grace Cathedral in response to the shooting in a domestic dispute on Salomon Street in September.
 - Tina Moylan was given a special plaque and an award for her work on safety at the police commission meeting held at Grace Cathedral on September 20, 2017.
 - Executive Committee members met with David Chiu regarding continuity and transitions in managing nonprofits on October 3rd.
 - Police Commander David Lazar will be honored at North Beach Citizens dinner on November 12th. It would be nice if RHN members could attend this event.
 - Certain residents on the block of Jones between Union and Green Streets are asking for traffic on that block to be made one-way, going North, however the impacts on traffic from such a change have not been studied. The existing restrictions on size and weight of vehicles in these areas are currently not being enforced by police. It was expressed that it would be preferable to enforce existing laws rather than make drastic changes to traffic patterns without extensive study. The Vice President drafted a letter to SFMTA Director Reiskin regarding the numerous tour buses and

other vehicles getting stuck on the Jones and Leavenworth hills and the draft letter was circulated to the Board prior to the Board meeting.

- **Moved, Seconded, Carried:** To approve the letter to SFMTA Director Reiskin.

- **Treasurer's Report**

- Financials will be prepared and distributed later in the month.
- RHN has over \$100 in gift cards for Cole Hardware to be used for RHN events.
- The RHN membership number at Cole Hardware is **1822**. Board members can provide this number or just say "Russian Hill Neighbors" when paying and RHN will receive a 10% dividend at the end of the year.
- There is money in the Families with Children budget that has not been used so it can be spent by the Chair of the Families with Children Committee on various RHN sponsored activities without a vote until the funds are depleted. The Treasurer and Chair of the Families with Children Committee will discuss the amount of the budget.

- **Secretary's Report**

- The Secretary requested approval of the minutes from the September Board Meeting.
- **Moved, Seconded, Carried:** To approve the September Board minutes prepared by the Secretary.
- There was a discussion regarding eliminating the use of Board member names in published Board minutes, going forward. **Consensus:** Names of Board members, including those who move and second motions, will not be included in the minutes of the October Board meeting. Board members could make comments regarding this method after reviewing the October Board minutes.

Committee Reports

- **Families with Children**

- The second annual RHN Trick or Treat with Polk Street Merchants will be held on October 28th, 3-5pm, on Polk Street, between Union and California Streets. There will be trick or treating at local merchants and pumpkin decorating at St. Luke's Church (1755 Clay Street). St. Luke's is donating space to host event but would like someone to sit at the door and monitor who is entering. Board members should let the Chair of the Families with Children Committee know if they would like to volunteer.

- **Membership**

- Membership Renewal: The Chair of the Membership Committee will undertake a mass mailing effort to contact existing members about renewing their membership. Existing members will receive hand-addressed, personalized paper letters with remittance envelopes. A mailing party will be held sometime before November 12th. A sign-up sheet for volunteers to help was passed around and the Chair of the Membership Committee will contact volunteers by email.
- New Member Mailing: The Membership Committee will be mailing a postcard with color image on front and RHN information on back to attract new members. Imagery designed by Ian Maddison's wife that was used on the RHN brochure could be used on the postcard. The postcard's imagery could also be blown up to poster-size and displayed in local stores. The Chair of the Neighborhood Improvement Committee will obtain the addresses of owner-occupied residences in Russian Hill. The Chair of the Safety Committee has the name of the contact at Direct Mail that was worked with RHN in the past. The US Postal Service has a service called "Every Door Direct" that will laser print addresses directly on postcards, which could be used for this mailing effort. **Consensus:** It would be best to send out these postcards in January in order to avoid getting them mixed up with Christmas cards.

- **Safety**

- Executive Committee members are organizing a safety forum to be held on November 8th at the Norwegian Seaman's Church (2454 Hyde Street). Retired SFPD Deputy Chief James Dudley will be the moderator. Police Captains Yep and Jaimerena, Assistant DA Charlie Bisesto and two plain clothes police will be on panel, which will focus on personal safety and crime prevention in Russian Hill. The goals for this meeting include coming up with ideas and solutions for personal safety and determining what can residents can do to help crime prevention. Board member suggestions for the title and marketing of the meeting are welcome. The Executive Committee would like a large number of RHN members to attend. **Consensus:** The Board is supportive of the safety forum.
- RHN will evaluate the solutions for safety that emerge from the safety forum on November 8 and will determine what actions to take from there. Organizing neighborhood self-defense courses was suggested at the Board meeting.

- **Neighborhood Improvement**

- Volunteer Monthly Sweeps: The monthly volunteer sweeps have been good for community building, but not a very effective manner of keeping the neighborhood clean. These sweeps will now be done once a quarter.
- Mechanical Street Cleaning: The Chair of the Neighborhood Improvement Committee expressed that it is necessary to put pressure on DPW and the Board of Supervisors to obtain mechanical street cleaning at least once a month in Russian

Hill. The Chairs of the Neighborhood Improvement Committee and the Social Committee will prepare a survey regarding the desire for street cleaning to be circulated to RHN members. If a majority of RHN members are in favor, RHN will approach the Supervisors of Districts 2 and 3 and ask them to circulate a petition regarding street cleaning to Russian Hill residents. If a majority of residents respond favorably to the petition, this would be a basis for requesting mechanical street cleaning from DPW.

- Street level tenants, including merchants, are responsible for keeping the sidewalks in front of their buildings clean. The Chair of the Neighborhood Improvement Committee explained that people can walk into businesses and tell them to clean up their sidewalks. Businesses are required by law to keep their commercial areas clean.

- **Social**

- There will be a Wine and Dine event on November 5th. This will be an intimate dinner of 8-12 people so neighbors can get to know each other.
- The Holiday Party will be held on Sunday, December 3rd, 2-5pm, at Joyce Kucharvy's home.

- **Merchant Update**

- The New Spot on Polk has signed up as a new merchant member.

- **Transportation**

- Central Subway Extension: The delay in construction of the Chinatown subway station has area merchants complaining about losses in business. Supervisor Peskin is working with Chinatown merchants to compensate them for the disruption. This could be positive for North Beach merchants who may similarly be disrupted when the extension of the subway to North Beach is constructed. It is estimated that it will cost \$150MM to build the North Beach Station with tail-track box to prepare for boring toward Fisherman's Wharf. The Chair of the Transportation Committee is creating a group supporting the subway extension and will make a presentation at the North Beach Neighbors Community meeting taking place on October 9th.
- ConnectSF: Connect SF is a planning tool created by the SFMTA to plan for the future of transportation. The subway master plan is being folded into the scope of ConnectSF. The Chair of the Transportation Committee would like to organize a session with ConnectSF for Russian Hill residents.

- **DZLU**

- 982 Green Street: The owners of 982 Green Street, the oldest building in the Macondray Lane Historic District, have made unpermitted modifications to the building, including to the historic façade on Green Street. The City Planning

Department is requiring that, among other things, the façade be restored and the two new garages be removed. There will be a variance hearing on October 5th. The Board approved a letter sent by the Executive Committee to the Planning Commission stating that it reinforces their enforcement actions.

- 1101 Green Street: Sirius is proposing satellite installation at 1101 Green Street and has asked RHN for suggestions on where it could hold a community meeting regarding this issue. Board members suggested the Fellowship Church and the lobby of 1101 Green Street building. The Vice President will draft a letter to Sirius regarding this matter.
- RHN Land Use and Development Principles (the “Principles”): A revised draft of the Principles, prepared by DZLU, was circulated to RHN members prior to this Board meeting. **Moved, Seconded, Carried:** To adopt the revised draft of the Principles.

Ongoing Business

- Brian Hunt, the owner of the building on the corner of Broadway and Larkin, will spend some of his own money to “green” the Southside of the Broadway tunnel, along the side of his building. The City will begin breaking the sidewalk and it will take six months to finish planting. Maintenance of the green space will be done by the building owner and RHN.
- Poet’s Piazza, end of Vallejo at Columbus, wants RHN Board support at an MTA Meeting being held on October 3rd. The Vice President noted that this location is in Angela Alioto’s district and is not RHN responsibility, therefore RHN will not provide a letter in support of the Poet’s Piazza.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:49pm

Minutes taken by Monique Olivier, Secretary

Upcoming RHN Events

- Monday, November 6, 2017 – Board meeting at Tina and Mike Moylan’s home (1450 Greenwich Street, Sky Room), co-host Al Greening
- Wednesday, November 8, 2017 - Russian Hill Safety Summit, 6-7:30pm (Norwegian Seaman’s Church, 2454 Hyde Street).
- Monday, December 4, 2017 – Board meeting at Tim Covington’s home (1365 Greenwich Street), co-host Helen Doyle
- Sunday, December 3, 2017 (2-5 pm) – Holiday party at Joyce Kucharvy’s home (900 Green Street, #501)