

Russian Hill Neighbors Board Meeting
Home of Carol Ann Rogers
Monday, February 5, 2018

Attendance

- **Attended:** Sarah Abbott, Bob Bluhm, Lorena Calcagni, Richard Cardello Greg Carr, Phoebe Douglass, Tracy Jaquier, Judy Junghans, Tracey Katayama, Joyce Kucharvy, Matthew Mansfield, Mike Moylan, Tina Moylan, Monique Olivier, Laurie Petipas, Greg Polchow, Jovanne Reilly, Carol Ann Rogers, Julia Strzesieski, Steve Taber, Christine Welland
- **Absent:** Al Greening

Thank you to Carol Ann for hosting the Board meeting and to Carol Ann and Lorena for providing a lovely dinner.

Meeting Called to Order at 7:05pm

The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson.

Executive Committee Reports

- **Chairperson's Report**
 - A signup sheet for locations, hosts and co-hosts for future Board meetings was passed around.
 - Budget Reminder: The budget for RHN dinners is a firm \$150.
 - The Whole Foods petition still needs to be signed by some Board members.
 - Conflict of Interest Statement: This is required for non-profit organizations and RHN Board members must sign the Conflict of Interest statement once per year. A DocuSign request was sent to each Board member in order to sign the statement electronically. The Conflict of Interest statement will go in an electronic folder.
 - Van Ness Corridor Neighborhoods Council (VNCNC): Board members need to vote on whether RHN should participate in the VNCNC. Participation gives RHN a voice and awareness of local issues. Neighborhood groups from different parts of the City that are along the Van Ness Corridor are voting on issues affecting Russian Hill, such as the proposed Whole Foods on Polk Street. Several members were concerned that all groups participating in the VNCNC are given equal voting representation regardless of number of members they have (i.e. the vote of RHN with hundreds of members has the same weight as a group with a single member). If VNCNC has a different position than RHN, in the future we could insist in a minority report to avoid giving the impression that RHN is endorsing a message with which the RHN Board does not agree. The Chairperson suggested attending the next VNCNC meeting and requesting revisions to the VNCNC "House Rules" before asking the RHN Board to vote on whether RHN should participate in the VNCNC.
 - Bylaws Review. Steve Taber volunteered to review the existing RHN bylaws.
 - Vallejo Crest Neighborhood Watch Group would like to organize a Russian Hill NERT (disaster preparedness) training. A minimum of 30 participants is required and they have

requested using an RHN e-blast to ascertain local interest. **Moved, Seconded, Carried:** To approve using RHN e-blast to advertise NERT training.

- Annual Dues Reminder: All Board Members must be current RHN Members. Dues are for a calendar year. Board members were asked to renew their personal membership for 2018, as soon as possible. The Chairperson of the Membership Committee will reach out to Board members that need to pay their 2018 dues.
- RHN Annual Meeting Reminder: The RHN Annual Meeting is scheduled for April 19. Police Chief Bill Scott will be the keynote speaker and the meeting will be held at the SF Art Institute. Paul Henderson will attend with command staff.
- **Treasurer's Report**
 - Membership is ahead of budget, but still behind by approximately \$500 compared to last year.
 - Certain Board members still need to pay dues
 - \$150 is the budget for food for Board meetings (does not include beverages)
 - A Board member inquired how much money RHN can keep on its balance sheet. Board member Steve Taber advised that RHN needs to state a planned use for the funds it maintains. RHN has currently has \$126,000 in restricted accounts, \$64,000 in unrestricted accounts, a reserve of \$32,000 for operating expenses and \$34,000 for neighborhood improvement. Members should think of ways to use and priorities for these funds. The Chairperson suggested that this be a topic for next RHN retreat in July.
- **Secretary's Report**
 - The Secretary will have a new baby in February so Sarah Abbott volunteered to act as substitute Secretary for the March Board meeting.
 - The Secretary requested approval of the minutes from the December Board Meeting. **Moved, Seconded, Carried:** To approve the December Board minutes prepared by the Secretary.

Committee Reports

- **Families with Children**
 - This Committee will hold neighborhood events every other month instead of every month.
- **Membership**
 - 122 members have renewed their RHN membership. The Membership Committee will do another mass renewal mailing in March.
 - Membership Postcard Mailing Budget: Using the USPS Every Door Direct mailing system to address, stamp and deliver the postcards to every residence on specified postal routes would cost \$1,730. This service gives excellent neighborhood coverage. USPS would print the addresses and postage on the postcards, avoiding the need for RHN to manually print out labels and apply stamps. The postcard must be 6.5 x 9.5 in size. The cost of printing the postcards will be \$2,000. A Board member suggested using "Russian Hill Neighbor" as the addressee instead of "Resident". **Moved, Seconded, Carried:** To approve up to \$4,000 for postcard membership printing and mailing.

- **Safety**
 - A Safety Fair will be held at the Police Academy on March 1. Dinner will be served. This is a city-wide event and will replace the follow-up safety meeting that the Safety Committee intended to hold on February 22.
 - Board members discussed how local car break-in rings are armed and dangerous

- **Nominating**
 - Two non-Board members are needed for the Nominating Committee.
 - Existing committee chairpersons need to contact volunteers who want to join their committees. If a committee chairperson is not able to do this, they should contact the Chairperson who will find someone to call volunteers.

- **Neighborhood Improvement**
 - Mechanical Street Sweeping Survey: Joyce and Greg will send out the mechanical street sweeping survey. Board members suggested that it would be useful to do a test mailing to the Board before sending to local residents.
 - Quarterly sweeps: Manual street sweeping will be done on a quarterly basis. The next sweep is in the 3rd week of March. The September sweep will be done with the Families with Children Committee.

- **Parks**
 - The next park workday will be on April 21 (Earth Day). The Parks and Recreation gardeners will decide in which park they need most help.
 - The Chairperson of the Parks Committee explained that exchanges between parks can be established to learn from each other.
 - The Parks Committee is trying to buy a picnic table for Helen Wills playground but SF Parks & Recreation has been slow to respond so the Chairperson of the Parks Committee will look to find another contact to accomplish this task.
 - A Board member advised that there is a \$40 Cole Hardware gift certificate available for use by an RHN committee.

- **Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods**
 - Matthew Mansfield is looking for a volunteer to attend Coalition for SF Neighborhood meetings alternatively with him. The meetings are held every third Tuesday at the Police Station on Fillmore & Turk. If a Board member wants to attend, they should reach out to Matthew.

- **Transportation**
 - Central Subway community outreach by the SFMTA will begin in the next 2-3 weeks. Technical studies are moving along. \$1.5MM will be used to promote the project.

- **DZLU**
 - The Chairperson asked Board members to write letters to the Planning Commission in support of the proposed Whole Foods on Polk Street and will resend the email addresses for Planning Commission members. No date for the Planning Commission hearing date has been set but it has been postponed to no sooner than March. Pressure needs to be put on the Planning Commission at this time because its staff is currently recommending actions that the Planning Commission should take. An e-blast could go out once the Planning Commission hearing date is set.

- **Broadway Tunnel Greening**
 - The landscaping permit has been extended. The cost is much less than DPW's quote seven years ago: from \$15,620 down to \$3,000 to prepare for planting. Brian, the landlord of the property, will pay for the labor costs and is considering attaching bamboo lattice to the walls and growing vines with some shrubbery in the foreground. The area to be landscaped is approximately 74' x 4'.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:40pm

Minutes taken by Monique Olivier, Secretary

Upcoming RHN Events

- Monday, March 5, 2018 – Board meeting at the Moylans' home (1450 Greenwich Street), co-host Sarah Abbott