

Russian Hill Neighbors Board Meeting
Home of Tracy Jaquier
Monday, May 7, 2018

Attendance

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

Thank you to Tracy for hosting the Board meeting and to Bob Bluhm for providing a lovely dinner.

Meeting Called to Order at 7:00pm

The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson.

Executive Committee Reports

- **Chairperson's Report**
 - Thanks to everyone for their help at Annual Meeting.
 - In order to finish Board meetings by 8:30pm, the Chairperson suggested starting the meetings earlier. **Consensus:** Start dinner at 6pm and starting the Board meeting at 6:45pm.
 - August and September Board meeting dates conflict with NERT meetings. **Consensus:** In August, the Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 7. In September, it will be held on Tuesday, September 4.
 - The President and the Vice President will meet with Aaron Peskin to learn about his concerns and priorities for next year and express that RHN would like to be included in local decisions. They will also meet with Supervisor Catherine Stefani later in the year.
 - Reminder: Please come up with topics for the RHN retreat on July 14. One topic to be covered is the revising the RHN bylaws. For example, in the bylaws it is unclear whether someone who lives outside of the RHN boundary can be a committee member or on the RHN Board.
 - The Chairperson stressed the importance of following up with RHN members who have volunteered for committees.
 - Motion: To ratify the letter of support for the conditional use of 2230 Polk Street by Philz Coffee that the Executive Committee approved to be sent by the Chairperson to the Planning Commission. **Moved, Seconded, Carried:** To ratify the letter of support for Philz Coffee.
 - The Polk Street Merchants Association has chosen to be neutral regarding Philz Coffee opening on Polk Street, however many merchants are opposed to it. Philz expressed interest in being local and it has the resources to be a steadfast business on Polk Street.

The Chairperson will try to meet with Duncan Ley to discuss the Polk Street Merchants Association (e.g. who belongs to it) and its position on local issues.

- Board members discussed how many local merchants are moving out of Polk Street because rents are so high and only larger chains can afford to operate there and in San Francisco, in general. There is greater demand for workspace than for commercial or retail space. Coffeehouses are thriving because they are used as workspaces. Many storefronts are left vacant for years. It was suggested that the Merchant Liaison discuss the status of merchants on Polk Street as a topic at the retreat in July.
- Motion: RHN that donate \$50 to pay for the painting of the backboard at Michelangelo Park. **Moved, Seconded, Carried:** To donate \$50 to pay for the painting of the backboard at Michelangelo Park.

- **Treasurer's Report**

- Committee chairpersons need to provide the Treasurer with the amounts they require for the coming year.
- The following donations approved at April Board meeting were recently made: \$1,000 to Yick Wo for iPads for the two first grade classes, and \$1,000 to the Coalition for Undergrounding Utilities. The Fay Park Committee also received money from the Fay Park Designated Fund for a thank you card that it designed.
- The Treasurer met with an accountant regarding government filings required for RHN.

- **Secretary's Report**

- The Secretary requested approval of the minutes from the April Board Meeting. **Moved, Seconded, Carried:** To approve the April Board minutes prepared by the Secretary.

Committee Reports

- **Social**

- The chair of the Social Committee could not attend but sent an email update prior to the Board meeting stating that there will be a cheers night at Rouge/Nick's Crispy Tacos on Friday, May 18, 5:30-8:00pm, hosted by Michelle Montoya. It would be appreciated if RHN Board members could attend to show support.
- SF Brew Works is opening in Ghirardelli Square on May 8. The chair of the Special Events Committee will cut the ribbon and make a presentation about RHN.
- The date of the annual RHN picnic was announced to be on the afternoon of June 24 (since then the date has been changed to August 11)

- **Communications**

- Deadlines for items to be included in the upcoming newsletter/eblast will be one week earlier. All items to be included should be camera-ready for publication.

- **Families & Children**

- The Committee Chairperson did not attend but sent a report via email prior to the meeting stating the following:
 - There is a Family Playdate scheduled for Sunday May 20 at Helen Wills to gather neighborhood families together before schools get out and people leave town for the summer. Coffee and donuts will be served.

- A street sweep/ice cream social involving families is being planned for September.
 - All suggestions from the Board for FWC committee activities and outreach are very welcome!
 - This committee is planning to spend money in the Helen Wills restricted fund on new picnic tables for the playground.
- **Membership**
 - The annual meeting resulted in several membership renewals and new members.
 - In May, the committee will send a follow up letter to recent members that have not renewed.
 - In May, the committee chair will update the merchant list on website and remove any merchants that have not renewed their membership.
 - There are over 600 members in RHN and approx. 11,000 households in Russian Hill.
- **Safety**
 - The woman that stabbed people with scissors near Joe DiMaggio playground is in police custody and getting mental health services.
 - The SFMTA did not approve permanent signs warning people not to leave property in cars. The Committee Chairperson will ask Ann Mannix if she can help get approval. Catherine Stefani could also possibly help with this matter. Since Lombard Street is not in Aaron Peskin's district, he may not be the appropriate person to contact about these signs.
- **Neighborhood Improvement**
 - The Committee Chairperson has contacted committee members and some have volunteered to put "Park Smart" cards on cars that do not have residential parking permits. At the Board meeting, some Board members volunteered to also distribute these cards.
 - There will be a family sweep with the Families with Children Committee in September.
 - The Committee Chairperson asked DPW what the penalty is for not keeping sidewalks clean, but did not receive an answer. DPW said it would get back to her with this information.
 - If any Board members see trash or debris on the sidewalk, they should take a photo and email it to the Committee Chairperson.
 - Street Cleaning Survey had 321 responses and the results are in the President's Letter. RHN has not yet decided what steps to take next and needs to talk to the Supervisors about this. Seventy percent of respondents were in favor of mechanical street sweeping. There was a discussion among Board members about whether the survey results should be published. It was expressed that it is necessary to give an explanation of the results when publishing the numbers. **Consensus:** To share the results of the street sweeping survey at this time.
- **DZLU**
 - WF365 hearing: Commission continued the hearing 90 days because it wants to see some element of housing in the project. It may not be feasible to add housing due to the age of the building and recent zoning restrictions passed. RHN is waiting to hear from

Whole Foods team. If the WF365 conditional use is not approved, it is not known what the building owner will decide, but it could be a new construction housing plan with small commercial spaces on ground floor or could be renting the current space to an entity that does not need a conditional use permit.

- Polk Street Special Area Design Guidelines: These guidelines are adjunct to urban planning guidelines that were recently passed. The Department of City Planning invited various neighborhood groups to participate in review the Polk Street guidelines, but not RHN. The President and the Chairperson of the DZLU Committee met with the Department of City Planning on February 27 to discuss the guidelines and asked to be included in future decision making. RHN is in favor of the guidelines. **Consensus:** To submit the DZLU comment letter regarding the Polk Street Special Area Design Guidelines.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:40pm

Minutes taken by Monique Olivier, Secretary

Upcoming RHN Events

- Monday, June 4, 2018 – Board meeting at Judy Junghans' home (1575 Broadway #4), co-host Tracey Katayama