

Russian Hill Neighbors Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 4th, 2014 @ 6:00 pm

Home of Nafiseh Lindberg, 1535 Pacific Ave

Executive Committee Reports

- **President's Report: Dan Holligan (15 min)**
 - Retreat Recap
 - Secretary
 - Follow up on Lombard St
 - Sept Board meeting – Ed Reiskin
 - Merchant Liaison
 - Street Sweep – Sat, 9:30, out front of La Paloma
 - Voter file

- **Secretary's Report: Approve July Retreat minutes**
- **Treasurer's Report: Ian (10 min)**

Attending: Eric Schleelein, Tracy Jaquier, Mike Moylan, Steve Kendrick, Laurie Petipas, Phoebe Douglass, Carol Ann Rogers, Dan Holligan, Nafiseh Lindberg, Sarah Taber, Steve Taber, Erica Kwiatkowski, Gregg Carr, Par Hanji, Ian Madison

Not Attending: Greg Polchow, Tina Moylan, Jovanne Reilly

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Dan Holligan at 7:05pm. In the absence of an elected secretary, Erica Kwiatkowski volunteered to take notes.

Retreat Recap and President's Report

President Dan Holligan asked Erica Kwiatkowski to give an update on the voter file. Erica Kwiatkowski explained that RHN has the ability to purchase to voter file as a group to reach out to the community. The file will cost 170 dollars for email addresses for all registered voters within the RHN Russian Hill boundaries (data attached).

Nafiseh Lindberg also posed the question as to whether or not we should reach out directly to the Francisco Reservoir activists who are not RHN members in addition to other Russian Hill groups that participated in the park process.

Ian Madison made a motion to start with the voter file, come out of marketing budget (out of communications committee).

Someone states that we also need the money for business cards

Nafiseh mentioned that we chose this money to use for marketing, for events at Swensons.

Someone asked if membership has a budget? Ian said no.

Ian said we did budget for a mailing.

Jody second the motion to buy the voter file, motion passes to buy voter file.

Mike Moylan asks now that we have access to the data, what is the process to get these people signed up? The group agreed to first acquire the data and then discuss next steps.

President Dan Holligan stated that we need to get a new secretary. Has it gone as an e-blast?

Par asked what is the job description? Dan said to show up to exec committee meetings and board meetings to take minutes.

Dan brought up the follow-up questions received about Lombard street.

Dan talked to Supervisor Farrell's direct aide, Margaux. It was good and timely to get feedback from Lombard.

Sarah Taber said the Leavenworth side residents were going through living hell, traffic control people were screaming, people blocking the way.

Carol Ann said the bottom of the hill has now become an issue.

How did Anne Brubacker get information from the folks on Leavenworth?

DOES the city have an organized way of gathering information from the city?

Ian stated that the end of the DZLU report says the information is coming.

Sarah Taber suggested that when we receive feedback, we need to send to Farrell's office.

Steve Taber said the left side of the hill said there was not enough attention paid to the streets leading up to the crookedest street.

Sarah reports that Lombard was backed up at 3:30pm on a Monday.

The question was asked, who is going to do what with Lombard Street? Dan has responded to all people who have given feedback via Russian Hill Neighbors to Supervisor Farrell and Ed Reiskin.

Director of SFMTA Ed Reiskin will be at our next board meeting. We want to let Supervisor Farrell and Ed Reiskin know that this is an issue we need to talk about.

Our September 8th Board meeting will be held at the Taber's home.

Carol Ann said she would read the DZLU report (attached) and discussed who might draft and sign a letter regarding the crookedest street.

Ian suggested that we should wait to see the city will do.

It was presented to write a letter to Supervisor Chiu.

Ian seconds that Dan will send a letter to Chiu, all in favor, none opposed.

Goals and preparation for meeting with Ed Reiskin: DZLU sent a letter with positions regarding the central subway, van ness brt, issues regarding columbus, and will certainly bring up the crookedest street.

Steve Taber mentioned that one of Ed's issues will be to sell the Transportation GO bond to the group.

Mike Moylan asked if Dan planned to structure that part of the meeting?

Dan said yes, we will have 45 minutes with Ed. We have given him our agenda.

Steve Taber said that Ed knows what we need to address and that the crookedest street is the only new issue that has arisen.

Mike Moylan asked Steve to re-send the agenda.

Steve Taber said that one issue that did come up is the level boarding. The MTA decided against it, they still do not know how they will fill the gap, RHN made it clear that they rejected that decision because it would slow service.

Regarding the Central Subway, it was reported that the MTA is studying it and it is supposed to go to a working group in Mayor Ed Lee's office by early September and

will subsequently be released to the public. DZLU reported hearing all very positive responses around the Central Subway.

The group reminded itself to be focused about what we will ask Ed Reiskin and to remember what is on our agenda and to thank him for working with us on Polk Street. The big issues on the front burner are moving the central subway forward and straightening out the crookedest street issues.

Dan reminded the group to arrive promptly at 6:00pm next month.

Merchant Liaison Update

Par and Dan talked about the role and some ideas for the position and asked if anyone had additional ideas for the role? no one can recall who used to do it!

But Dan acknowledged Nafiseh for good merchant liaisoning with Rouge for the current meeting. And Nafiseh asked Dan if he could please describe the role?

Dan said it is a blank slate. In simple terms, it involves getting to know all the merchants, to expand to other merchants and get them more involved. We have one merchant member who is on the board-how do we get RHN out there so they know how much we are involved with the community.

Par said, we think it is just lack of knowledge. We will explain our position to them, how they can get involved. Since this is a new position, par will try to see what will work and what might not. She will be seeing who is a member, who is expiring etc. Par will try a few things.

Nafiseh asked what we want from our merchants and we are we going to do for them?

Steve Taber said our accomplishment with polk street merchants and our work on polk street is a good example. It was not total agreement on the details, but we worked on the objectives and worked together. We can be a good partner on issues on behalf of the merchants.

Sarah Taber said that when there are are issues that come up in the neighborhood, we want to help them resolve the situations. We won't get involved in commercial issues, but we will work on common neighborhood issues.

Steve Taber said there will be more issues with the bus stop etc. and we should be together on common issues.

Carol Ann said that in the past some merchants have offered a deal to RHN members, discussing common interests in addition to more advocacy issues.

Sarah Taber also mentioned that we have used merchants for fundraising etc.

Everyone said thanks!

Dan acknowledged that Greg was not able to attend but that there is a street sweep this saturday, meeting at La Boulange!!

La Paloma closed. Mike Moylan said he heard they didn't get a liquor license. Greg will bring food from La Boulange.

Nafiseh will invite the mother and the two children that reached out.

Mike said that If you want to do your own area, Greg can organize dpw to drop off street sweep stuff to your area.

Dan asked if anyone was able to review the agenda from the retreat? The answer was no and he said that we would approve the minutes next time.

Financial Report

Ian reported that the Finance committee is supposed to meet this month.

Ian also reported that at the very least, we will be ready to send out membership notices in October. We will work to bump it up in October and the second mailing will go out by end of year. Is the plan to get volunteers to do an ad hoc thing?

Ian will deal with the finance committee later this month.

Ian mentioned that there was a big cash flow into the vallejo steps , carol ann did a great job and that new money is earmarked.

Mike said that finance numbers are now on the website.

Ian reminded the board that we discussed the restricted accounts at the retreat. We were on top of each account, point person on each.

Mike Moylan spoke with Lucretia, there is no head of the Faye Park committee. Lucretia said needs to find a co-chair

Ian posed the question about the planters on top of Broadway and Hyde noticing that they have been neglected. If an idea gets presented from RHN, Paul or the city, could use Broadway tunnel project money?

Lucretia said the project was to create seating and planters above the tunnel, but that it was all or nothing and once it stopped, it was done.

Carol Ann said the problem is the homeowner would not let it go forward so they just stopped. Instead of looking at baby steps, it just stopped.

The suggestion was made that maybe we could solicit people who would be willing to take care of the planters?

Ian asked if we could send out the request in an e-blast?

It was decided that Ian will reach out to Judy and Steve and write an email regarding this issue.

Social

Jody reported that The Giants Game is still on for August 26.

The board asked, when is next cheers?

Jody is going to meet with Taps tomorrow for September. It was mentioned that TAPs may want help getting a live music permit.

Jody wants to work on a reminder to the membership.

The question was asked how are we doing on Giants tix?

Jody said you can purchase on PayPal.

Ian reminded that board that if anyone is asking questions please send to Ian. If we all the sudden have a rush of members, we would give the membership tickets.

RHN will pick up a bar and apps tab. It was be informal.

We have 20 tickets which cost us \$523 tickets. If we get the 2\$00 back it should give to enough drinks and apps.

Ian, last thing on giants, a reminder to please put on your calendar!!

Phoebe asked about the Symphony?

Mike said the deadline to order was 7/28 and it has passed.

Jody will call to see if we can still do it and will let us know quickly-by tomorrow.

DZLU Report

Carol Ann Rodgers said she wouldn't go into report detail (attached).

However, she did report that DZLU was contacted by the board of appeals, they found that we had been the appellate in protest of removing 4 trees on Broadway in the past. Now the current permit holders, 2 buildings with absentee landlords and HOA, still want the trees to be removed. We held the position that we want to keep the trees.

There will be 10/29 hearing in front of the board of appeals. RHN will work with the board to see if they can work on this agreement. There are some issues with the trees- one of the people responded clearly angry with the entire city tree policy.

Carol Ann additionally reported that one of our members wanted to raise the issue of short term rentals (in favor of airbnb) of letting owners list their properties. That is an ongoing issue.

Undergrounding is proceeding.

Steve Taber asked where do we stand on the tree issue?

Carol said, if nothing happens between now, we might have the opportunity to file a new brief. Two arborists have two different opinions on the trees. For our self interest, we wish to resolve it before having to do a brief. If we can't make any progress with the property owners.

The current permit allows them to remove the trees but makes it so they must replace with certain boxing and trees. They are concentrating on the part that allows them to remove the trees.

Paul Burke went with Carol Ann to look at the trees.

Unfortunately the permit holders have not been particularly welcoming and they have not agreed to meet with RHN.

Steve Taber said that we covered anything under Ed Reiskens pending visit.

Mike requested time to speak and reminded everyone that National Night Out is tomorrow night at Joe Dimaggio! BBQ! Kickball against the cops. We gave 250, go show up. We can have a table!

Mike also reminded the group that Next Village is having an event with Mel Sharp and his jazz band.

250 and we will get our name in the deal. The RHN Check has already been sent!

Mike also discussed the Web/e-blast and suggested that we promote some things! Someone should write an article about Francisco park. We should promote and let people know where it is going. There needs to be some follow up with what happened at Francisco park vote.

Carol Ann made the point that we should write from the RHN perspective.

Dan asked if Steve Kay had responded?

Dan will reach out for a response. And asked, who is going to ask David and Steve and Bob, mike will send and cc Dan to write an article about .

Nafiseh asked if it was too early to discuss a theme for our meeting next year? Is Francisco Park a good theme for next year?

Dan said it may be too early to decide.

Carol Ann asked, what about parks in general as a theme next year? Parks would allow us to rally a lot of city officials. Are there people in the community who would be a good spokespeople for parks?

Ian asked what are our membership numbers? guesstimate at 300 or 400

Lucretia was hoping we would have 400.

Mike said that there are currently 500 people we get e-blast.

Phoebe mentioned the Tel Hi group is considering making a plaque for the murdered woman we plan to donate to, people in charge are away.

Ian asked did we send the money? Phoebe said no, we are waiting on Tel Hi.

Dan, any other business?

Move to adjourn the meeting at 8:23pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:23pm.