

**RHN Board Meeting**  
**Monday, February 1, 2016**

*Russian Hill Neighbors is a voice for residents and merchants to preserve and advance neighborhood character and quality of life through collaboration, volunteerism, and celebration of community.*

**Attendees**

Tina Moylan, Mike Moylan, Adam Barrett, Sarah Taber, Steve Taber, Emily Harrold, Phoebe Douglass, Carol Ann Rogers, Gregg Carr, Richard Cardello, Joyce Kucharvy, Ian Maddison

Tina called the meeting to order at 8pm.

**Executive Committee Reports**

- President's Report: Tina
  - Thank you to Supervisor Aaron Peskin for speaking with us earlier tonight. It was also helpful to meet his staff in person.
  - The RHN Annual Meeting will take place on Wednesday, April 20 from 6-9pm at the Old First Presbyterian Church. Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom is our confirmed keynote speaker. More details to follow.
  - Anne Brubaker has requested RHN submit a letter to DPW in support of creating planters along Leavenworth. The grant is already in place but a letter would help push DPW to get the project started. RHN letter supporting Leavenworth planters (from Ann Brubaker) requested a letter of support. Already have the grants. Need a letter to DPW to get the project going. Joyce moves for RHN to draft and send the letter. Carol Ann seconds. Motion passed.
  - We have a few openings on the RHN Board to be filled: 2 Vice Presidents and some directors. We also need one person from the board to help with a nominating committee (thank you to Par for volunteering.) Erica is moving so will be unable to serve in the future. Let's keep discussing so we can make the nominations at our Annual Meeting.
  - Moe Jamil, the new president of the Middle Polk Neighborhood Association (MPNA), connected with us. We would like to organize a social for the Boards of RHN and MPNA on Thursday evening, March 3 at Original Joe's (601 Union Street). Details to be confirmed.
  
- Secretary's Report: Emily

Emily moves for the minutes from the December board meeting to be approved. Second by Joyce. Motion passed.
  
- Treasurer's Report: Ian
  - I will be sending out an update on RHN's finances via email.
  - We need to build membership as we have less than half of the members as we had at this same time last year.

**Committee Reports**

- DZLU: Sarah
  - Please see the DZLU report and attachments emailed by Carol Ann to the Board on February 1. There are a few important topics for discussion.
  
  - Regarding Whole Foods' proposal to build a WH365 grocery store at 1600 Jackson Street, we agree with MPNA that housing above street-level retail would be ideal, but this may take three or

more years in Planning approvals. Generally, our neighborhood seems to be in favor of the new grocery option. It would be helpful to conduct a formal survey in order to have solid data to support our position, especially if our position is contrary to those of other neighborhood organizations. Whole Foods has data on how they have brought more business to small, specialty stores near their big stores. Richard: what are MPNA's real concerns? We should listen to them. We should also listen to WF 365. It is our responsibility to say what kind of neighborhood retail we want. Emily created a draft survey on the Whole Foods 365 proposal on SurveyMonkey. We added and edited a few questions. The survey will be sent out to RHN's database (members and non-members) in the next week with promotion in an e-blast from Mike. Anyone can complete the survey. We ask whether respondents are RHN members and whether they live in Russian Hill so we can sort the data by these characteristics if we want to. Once we have the results, we will publish on our website and share via an e-blast, and strategize on how to share with the community more proactively.

- Supervisor Peskin mentioned the Affordable Housing Bonus Program in which the SF Planning Department will approve up to two additional floors on a project as an incentive for developers to add more affordable housing in that same project. Gregg: Remember this program can only apply to new housing and affordable housing. Pressure will be on commercial corridors. Bob Blum drafted an excellent letter to John Rahaim, Director of SF's Department of City Planning, which asks for clarification on certain points in order for RHN to make an informed comment on the program. Motion by Sarah to approve the letter. Second by Gregg. Motion approved. Tina will send the letter.
- Membership: Adam  
Our membership numbers are really down. Adam has been busy but will ramp his efforts back up. We have only sent emails soliciting membership so far, but will now explore physical mail. Please encourage anyone in the neighborhood you know to join!
- Families with Children: Emily
  - We collected more than 100 responses to our Families with Children Survey in January. Please see the summary results and link to full results I sent via email on February 1. Top issues for families include housing, access and quality of the local public schools, and cleanliness of the streets/safety. Notably, the overwhelming majority of respondents do not feel SF's elected officials are making the issues facing families a priority. Tina: it is worth connecting with Leslie Gardner of the SFUSD (Tina has contact info.) Par, Tina, and Carol Ann volunteered to join a working group on next steps with the results.
  - In the survey, families asked for RHN to help create opportunities for families in the neighborhood to get together. So, let's host another RHN Families Night at Helen Wills Park on Friday, February 26 from 4-6:30pm. Snacks and drinks for kids and adults will be provided.
  - Tina: let's reach out to Joanne Hayes of the SF Fire Department to start planning a families event at Helen Wills with a fire truck, etc. It is sure to be a big draw!

Social: Joyce

- Please see the update sent via email on February 1. We are brainstorming on other events, including a barista event. Please send ideas my way.
- The next Cheers will take place on Monday, February 29 from 6-9pm, likely at House Rules (TBC).

Francisco Park Update: Carol Ann

The Francisco Park Conservancy is still working on the agreement with Rec & Park. It is not yet signed. They are also updating the budget and fundraising is still happening privately. Currently RHN does not have a spot on the Conservancy board. See more information on their website at <http://www.franciscopark.org>

Tina adjourned the meeting at 9:20pm.