

RCPC ROCKRIDGE COMMUNITY PLANNING COUNCIL

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING JUNE Minutes – Thursday, June 7, 2007 Rockridge Library

Present: Gloria Bruce (left 10:00), Susan Montauk, Ellen Peterson, Richard Smith (arrived 7:40), Peter St. John, Ronnie Spitzer, Danica Truchlikova, Stephanie Upp (arrived 7:55), Margaret Wahlberg

Absent: Jennifer Edmister, Annette Floystrup, Cy Gulassa, Jeff Small

Guests: Bob Franklin (7:35-7:55), Stuart Flashman (7:30- 10:00), Sally Fitzhugh (8:15-8:55), John Gussman (arrived 8:55)

Meeting commenced at 7:32 with a quorum present.

Item 1: BART Retrofit

Bob Franklin, BART Director for District 3, explained work around the Rockridge BART station. With seismic work on the pillars supporting the BART tracks, there is an opportunity to re-landscape about 15-20 feet around each pillar. Bob displayed six native plants being considered as ground cover. The options are posted on his website, www.bobforbart.com.

Of particular interest to RCPC is the area around the Locksley/Forest pillar since RCPC holds funds dedicated to improving that area for the Locksley Garden group. A decision will be made in the next few weeks. Bob and Stephanie Upp will continue to seek input from David Lee and/or other representatives of the Locksley neighbors group (Gloria volunteered to assist with this).

Bob also discussed plans for the under BART plaza. Ian Reed of Level IV studios (who designed College Avenue benches) will be delivering a design plan this week, also to be posted on www.bobforbart.com and sent to the RCPC chair. The redesign will include rearrangement of street furniture, ivy replaced with indigenous plants, a new walkway, and real-time BART train clocks at Market Hall, Cactus and Jucy's. Bob discussed plans for a community bulletin board and kiosk, supported by the Rockridge District Association, and asked if RCPC would uphold the former board commitment to contribute financially and help maintain the bulletin board. The board expressed interest and will make a decision at a later time.

Item 2. Administrative

- A. *Approval of May 3 minutes* (correction from agenda, which read “April 24” minutes)
- **MOTION:** To approve the minutes from May 3, 2007 with the amendment that Jennifer Edmister be listed as present rather than absent. *Motion:* Susan Montauk, *Second:* Ronnie Spitzer. *In favor:* Montauk, Peterson, Smith, St. John, Spitzer, Truchlikova, Upp, Wahlberg. *Abstained:* Bruce (was absent). *Motion passed.*
- B. *Approval of April 5 minutes*
- **MOTION:** To approve the minutes from April 5, 2007. *Note that only Susan, Gloria, and Stephanie could vote on this item since they were the only board members present for the April 5 meeting. *Motion:* Stephanie Upp, *Second:* Gloria Bruce. *All in favor.* *Motion passed.*

Item 3 (item 4 on agenda). Candidate statement

Stuart Flashman presented his background and interest in joining the RCPC board (*see candidate statement and information included in June 2007 board packet*). Several board members asked questions and Ronnie informed Stuart that we would make a decision about his candidacy soon.

Item 4. (item 7 on agenda) Financial.

Ronnie asked whether it was appropriate for the board to discuss budget items allocated by the former board, when a member of that board responsible for some of those items (Annette) was not present. The board agreed to discuss school donations but hold off on other items.

Sally Fitzhugh reviewed the board’s monthly finances. As a parent organization, RCPC has assets of more than \$46,000 and no liabilities as of May 31. Sally has taken some of our money out of CDs and put it into a market rate account, but she would like to transfer \$12,000-15,000 into a new CD with a higher interest rate.

The RCPC currently has a positive budget variance and is spending at a slower rate than anticipated in the 2007 budget.

Susan emphasized that we need to make some budget decisions to inform publicity for the Kitchen Tour. After some discussion, the board decided to table decisions on specific budget line items until July. The budget will be a priority on the July agenda. Susan will prepare a précis on the budget items in question, and Gloria will circulate the minutes from the meeting at which the budget was discussed.

Item 5. (item 3 on agenda) Ad Hoc committee recommendations.

Ronnie and John reviewed the recommendations of the ad hoc Land Use restructuring committee, composed of Ronnie, John, Richard, and Gloria (see document included in June board packet). The board discussed concerns over community input and how the members of the new working committee would be solicited and appointed. After discussion, the following decisions were taken:

- MOTION: To rename the Land Use Committee as the Project and Planning Review Committee. (*Motion: Susan Montauk, Second: Margaret Wahlberg. All in favor. Motion passed.*)
- MOTION: That the Land Use Committee's separate mission statement will be eliminated, and the Project and Planning Review Committee will follow the general RCPC mission statement. (*Motion: Danica Truchlikova, Second: Richard Smith. All in favor. Motion passed.*)
- MOTION: To restructure the committee as a board-appointed, working committee whose members are chosen for their specific expertise and ability to contribute to the committee's work. (*Motion: Margaret Wahlberg, Second: Peter St. John, All in favor. Motion passed.*)
- MOTION: To appoint Danica Truchlikova, Peter St. John, and Glen Jarvis as members of the Project and Planning Review committee, with other potential members to be solicited from a broader pool of residents based on criteria written by Richard Smith. (*Motion: Ellen Peterson, Second: Margaret Wahlberg. In favor: Bruce, Montauk, Peterson, Smith, St. John, Spitzer, Truchlikova, Wahlberg. Abstaining: Stephanie Upp. Stephanie felt that at this point prior to a public solicitation, the committee membership should be limited to RCPC board members.*) Motion passed.
- MOTION: To appoint Ronnie Spitzer as an *ex officio* member of the Project and Planning Review Committee. (*Motion: Ellen Peterson, Second: Danica Truchlikova, All in favor.*) Motion passed.

There was an agreement that a communication would go out soon to the Land Use Committee email list regarding the restructuring of the committee.

John explained bylaws changes to Article IX that are pertinent to the committee's restructuring. Further discussion of these bylaws changes, and the committee's process, was tabled.

Item 6. (Item 5 on agenda) Land Use Committee.

- A. *Safeway* - Richard gave an update on the proposal to renovate the Safeway store at the corner of College and Claremont. The consultants are very interested in public input, and RCPC has a good chance to enter the discussion early. The Safeway team will present to the community at the June 21 general meeting.

- B. *Kingfish* - Danica gave an update on the Kingfish (North Oakland Cohousing project). There is no date for a Planning Commission meeting at this point. The project is requesting a CUP for density and two minor variances for height and parking. There is a concern that the project exceeds the allowable height and density under any possible general plan/zoning scenario. The RCPC will get involved but there is no official action needed at this time.
- C. *Temescal Rezoning* – Richard Smith summarized proposed Telegraph corridor zoning changes. The “Community Commercial” includes rezoning of C-28 zone on Claremont and would extend up to the edge of the old Safeway parcel (the cutoff is Cavour Street).

Executive Session.

- MOTION: That the board move into Executive Session (*Motion:* Susan Montauk, *Second:* Danica Truchlikova. *All in favor.*)

The board then met in executive session to discuss RCPC’s strategy with respect to the 5132 Telegraph project. No formal action was taken in executive session.

Item 7. (Item 6 on agenda) Committees

- A. *Kitchen Tour* – Susan announced that the houses have been chosen and publicity is underway.
- B. *NCPC* – Susan announced the emergency meeting to be held on June 13 (7:30 PM, Rockridge Library). There has been a recent upsurge in violent crime, and Jane Brunner is working on the issue. Brunner will be attending the June 13 meeting, along with Wayne Tucker (chief of the Oakland Police Department), Bob Franklin (District 3 BART director) and the District Attorney.
- C. *Traffic and Pedestrian safety?*

Item 8. (Added) Appointment of new board member

After discussion of the candidates, the board moved to fill the vacant “merchant” position.

- MOTION: To appoint Stuart Flashman to fill the “merchant” position on the RCPC Board of Directors. *Motion:* Peter St. John, *Second:* Ellen Peterson. *In favor:* Montauk, Peterson, Smith, Spitzer, St. John, Truchlikova, Upp. *Abstaining:* Wahlberg. Motion passed.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 10:53 PM. Approved.

Meeting duration: 3 hours, 21 minutes.

Respectfully submitted by Gloria Bruce, RCPC co-secretary with additional notes by John Gussman and Susan Montauk.