

RCPC ROCKRIDGE COMMUNITY PLANNING COUNCIL

◇ 5245 COLLEGE AVENUE PMB 311 ◇ OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA 94618 ◇ 510-869-4200 ◇ www.rockridge.org ◇

BOARD OF DIRECTORS Meeting

Thursday, January 3, 2008 7:00 PM, Rockridge Library

Minutes

Present: Gloria Bruce, Annette Floystrup, Jeff Small, Richard Smith (arrived 7:10), Ronnie Spitzer, Peter St. John (departed), Danica Truchlikova, Don Kinkead (arrived 7:11)

Absent: Jennifer Edmister, Stu Flashman, Susan Montauk, Ellen Peterson, Margaret Wahlberg.

Meeting called to order to 7:10 with a quorum present.

Item I. Administrative

A. Approval of October, November, December minutes

- MOTION: To approve the October 2007 board minutes as amended with the added web votes. *Motion:* Truchlikova. *Second:* Floystrup. *All in favor. Motion passed.*
- MOTION: To approve the November 2007 minutes as corrected and with addendum. *Motion:* Small. *Second:* Truchlikova. *All in favor. Motion passed.*
- MOTION: To approve the December 2007 minutes. *Motion:* St. John. *Second:* Truchlikova. *In favor:* Small, Smith, Spitzer, St. John, Truchlikova. *Abstaining (due to absence from December meeting):* Bruce, Floystrup. *Motion passed.*

- B. **Consent forms** – All board members who had not signed amended form regarding consent for on-line voting policies (Truchlikova, Bruce, and Floystrup) signed forms.

Item II. Finance (moved up on agenda)

The board held a brief discussion of Sally Fitzhugh's departure as financial consultant. Susan and Ronnie will be trained on QuickBooks. Susan, as treasurer, will manage the finances until the end of her board term in April. The board will discuss this matter further.

Item III. Website

A. **Rockridge.org** - Peter and Stephen are meeting on 1/4/08 to catch up and determine next steps. They will likely hold a meeting the week of January 16. They plan to end the use of the Yahoo! Group as soon as possible and start using the website instead for internal board communication. Peter will also write an article on the website for the *Rockridge News*.

January 2008 minutes

B. **Rockridge News reprints** – On the issue of whether www.rockridgeresidents.org could reprint stories from the Rockridge News, an online poll was posted but there were not enough responses to allow for a clear decision. Remaining board members were urged to vote in the poll. Don Kincaid suggested that authors grant permission for reprinting before submitting to the editor of the *News* (since under normal circumstances, only the editor would need to grant permission for a reprint as the article becomes the property of the News once submitted). The board stipulated that reprinting was acceptable if the reprinted articles were published in full, not edited, and fully attributed to the original source. A trial period of 3-6 months for the policy was suggested. Further discussion to follow (?).

Item IV. Meetings

- A. **Town Hall/General meetings** - In January, the League of Women Voters will do their presentation on the ballot measures. February will be collecting ideas from the community. Plans are needed for March, April, and May meetings. April will feature board elections.
- B. **Board retreat** - The board retreat will be held in March.

Item V. Fourth Bore Coalition

Wade Boygin (sp?), RCPC accountant, had expressed concern over RCPC's 501c3 as it becomes active in the Fourth Bore lawsuit, wondering if the organization could cross the allowable borderline of political action, if the mitigation goes to a legislative level.

- MOTION: That the RCPC will not itself, nor will it allow anyone speaking on its behalf, to enter into any political action which may be related to the Caldecott Improvement Project. *Motion:* Bruce (?). *Second:* Floystrup. *In favor:* Bruce, Floystrup, Small, Spitzer, St. John, Truchlikova. *Opposed:* Smith, on the grounds that the resolution's reference to "political action" is too vague and precludes too many actions. *Motion passed.*
- MOTION: to retract the ~~p~~previous motion regarding the RCPC's involvement in the Caldecott Improvement Project. *Motion:* Bruce. *Second:* Small. *All in favor. Motion passed.*
- MOTION: That the RCPC will not itself nor will it allow anyone speaking on its behalf to enter into any political action not allowed a 501c3 organization which may be related to the Caldecott Improvement Project. *Motion:* Bruce. *Second:* Floystrup. *All in favor. Motion passed.*

Item VI. Committees

- A. **Schools Committee chair**
- MOTION: To appoint Jennifer Edmister as chair of the Schools Committee. *Motion:* Small. *Second:* Truchlikova. *All in favor. Motion passed.*

Item VII. Other business

- A. **Baby present** – The board voted to take up a collection and purchase a Rockridge Kids gift certificate for former board member Stephanie Upp. **Action:** Board members will give contributions for the gift to Annette, who will purchase the gift certificate.

Item VIII. Committees (continued)

B. Planning and Project Review Committee.

i. Committee selection process – As of January 3, one candidate had submitted an application.

Action: The board appointed Annette and Gloria to serve on the selection committee with Richard. Based on comments about the selection criteria that are published, the selection committee may discuss the criteria and return to the February meeting with recommendations.

ii. 5666 Telegraph – The board sent a letter commenting on the project.

Action: There is a Planning Commission meeting on January 16 which will address this and 5175 Broadway. Board attendance and support is requested.

iii. 5175 Broadway – Richard reported that there are no substantial issues for this project in terms of the zoning code or General Plan. Issues might be traffic and parking, but this is probably negligible with the size of the building (28 units, 28 parking spaces). Issues raised by neighbors include not allowing potential tenants to use balconies for storage and not allowing them to use the easement/alley to cut through (this is private property instead of a public ROW and this is why it has not been addressed by city). The neighborhood also wants 100-foot stretch of Coronado to be two-way; the City disagrees.

Action: Peter will continue conversations with property owners and with neighbors about Coronado. Peter attests that it will help if RCPC supports the neighbors on the issue.

- **MOTION:** That the RCPC take an official position of supporting the neighbors surrounding 5175 Broadway project about converting Coronado Street to a two-way street from the project exit to Broadway, and that the board write and submit a letter of support to the Planning Commission to this effect. *Motion:* Small. *Second:* St. John. *All in favor. Motion passed.*

iv. Hauser Creekside – The issues at stake are the impact on the building next door, noise from trash pickup which is right next to residential windows, cumulative impacts of “spot zoning.” The building rises 7 stories and 5 stories on Clarke Street, even though it is being presented as 6 stories and 4 stories – the shadowing is a major issue even though developers are saying it is not a significant impact. (Note that San Francisco does not allow any shadowing of any park by new projects).

Hauser is holding a public meeting on January 7 at the Rockridge Library. The board discussed increasing resident representative at Planning Commission meetings and discussed distributing a flyer. **Action:** After conversations with Ronnie, Richard and Peter for information, Jeff will draw up a flyer which board members will distribute to area homes.

The position of PPRC is that the initial study on the project is inadequate and flawed in its conclusions that only traffic and parking will be impacted. The committee believes there are other impacts and we are extremely concerned about the transportation and traffic impacts that have been identified, shading of the Redondo Park, blocking passive solar gain through shaded windows of the building next door, as well as the cumulative impacts to zoning. **Action:** The

board will write a letter to this effect – we have until January 19 when the period for scoping comments is over.

Vote to authorize letter expressing concerns on initial study for Hauser Creekside. *In favor:* Bruce, Floystrup, Small, Smith, Spitzer, St. John. *Abstaining:* Truchlikova. *Approved.*

v. *Safeway:* Richard and Peter briefed the board on this project, discussed at the January 2 PPRC meeting; there will be a number of variances that will be needed for approval. Substantial issues about profile of the parking structure, egress of delivery trucks on College, etc. Kirk Peterson has offered to work with RCPC. Jeff and Peter have seen architect Kirk Peterson's initial drawings and were present at the meeting with the Alcatraz neighbors convened by Todd Paradis. Todd said that the selling floor is not going to be increased by much, even though there will total square footage would double (this will include storage). There is a possibility of that Safeway will purchase the 76 gas station (which has agreed to sell). This would allow for a pedestrian oriented façade on College with auto access along Claremont. The façade is at issue; PPRC members feel its "Tuscan" look doesn't fit in with Rockridge architecture. There was agreement that the RCPC should see the architectural drawing. It was noted that grocery stores are not allowed by right in C-31 (note that maximum commercial size allowed under C-31 is 7,000 sqft). Ronnie emphasized that the RCPC should go and talk to other boards and other groups about this, and how it will affect the C-31 zone.

Action: Todd Paradis and Kirk Peterson will be invited to the February board meeting and asked to bring drawings.

vi. *Trader Joe's* – Pharmaca is moving in next door to Trader Joe's. The RCPC's letter regarding concerns about signage was acknowledged. Jeff contacted a planner about the signage, and he responded said that no variance would be granted for signage, even though both stores want more. Pharmaca is allowed some minimal signage (lettering). Jeff will keep calling and checking on this issue. The bike racks at Trader Joe's are getting a lot of use and pedestrian signs are up. Zebra stripes for the pedestrian crossing have not been painted yet. Landscaping buffering will wait for later, as will pedestrian access on Miles and better lighting.

vii. *Dreyer's* - The project architect has contacted Jeff about the ice cream store, and Jeff will write an article about the renovation for the Rockridge News.

viii. *Cabaret License* – Jane Brunner's new staff has been working with Ronnie and Valerie on this. The language of the revised cabaret license ordinance has been changed and now needs to be re-read to council. There is an issue of whether there should be two zones under the ordinance: one for downtown entertainment and one for neighborhoods. The initial concern was that this was an administrative decision so there was no hearing needed – the new change will require an administrative hearing. Notice will be increased from 3 days to 30 days and neighbors within 300 feet will be notified. The RCPC will stay abreast of the issue.

Item IX. Rockridge News

- A. **Guidance for News** – Don Kincaid (taking over for Cy) is planning on having a meeting of writers and a post-mortem about the January issue sometime during the month. Don will probably have a meeting next weekend. Don distributed a statement of purpose and style guide for the *Rockridge News* to the board for reference.

Don gave a brief review of the *News* review process. Board members were reminded that they should feel free to comment on layout or editing, be as early as possible with their comments, and that they should review the whole issue (not just their article).

- B. **Articles for February issue:** We will publish announcements for board candidates. It was mentioned that we should emphasize that we need people to sustain and grow the organization, not just focus on land use (officers, finance, etc.).

Action: Peter will write an article about the website. Jeff will write about Dreyer's and put in box about the town hall meeting, Annette will write about "green" issues, suggestion of doing a Valentine's Day "man on the street," Susan will write an NCPC update, Gloria will write about Oakland Symphony Chorus, and about Stephanie Upp's resignation. The deadline is January 17.

Item X. – Financial (continued)

- A) The board discussed the need to spend more time on finances in the future and to be more informed. There was also a discussion of the need for proactive fundraising (apart from the *Rockridge News*). **Action:** Jeff, Gloria, and Ronnie expressed interest in serving on a fundraising committee and will explore the matter further, perhaps recruiting non-board members such as former member Janelle Cavanaugh.

Item XI. Fourth Bore Coalition

The board discussed the Fourth Bore lawsuit.

The board agreed to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Gloria Bruce, RCPC secretary.