

# **RCPC ROCKRIDGE COMMUNITY PLANNING COUNCIL**

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## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**September AGENDA –Thursday, September 4, 2008, 7:00 PM**

**Rockridge Library**

*Meeting called to order to 7:05 with a quorum present.*

Present: Stu Flashman, Annette Floystrup (until 8:10), Jon Gabel, Joan Martin, Ronnie Spitzer, Katy Taylor, Danica Truchlikova, Doug Patton, Ellen Peterson (until 9:40), Don Kinkaid, Jason Burke, Colby Lavin

### Item 1: Administrative

- A) Approval of Agenda
- B) Approval of Minutes (5 min)– All
  - 1. Minutes of August meeting

**MOTION:** Move to approve minutes of August 7, 2008 BOD meeting as amended.

Motion: Floystrup Second: Patton (Approve: Flashman, Floystrup, Gabel, Martin, Spitzer, Taylor, Truchlikova, Patton, Burke, Lavin; Abstain: Peterson)

- C) Communications Received
  - 1. letter from FBC thanking RCPC for its contribution
  - 2. letter seeking RCPC's opinion/position on city council term limits- RCPC does not take positions on such issues- Stu will send response as such
  - 3. letter from Mr. Cataldo claiming we owe him money on website creation contract but the contract was canceled. Contract was clear and we are confident we do not owe any money- we should send a letter back explaining we consider the matter closed

### Item 2: Presentation on BART seismic retrofit & mitigation [7:10 pm]

- A) presentation (10 min) – Katherine Westphall (7:10- 7:35)

BART vulnerabilities- transbay tube, aerial guideways, elevated stations. Work areas are station proper, and wherever BART crosses streets. BART has met with all of the local schools to prepare the schools as well for the upcoming work. Micropiles will be used in the area to avoid the extreme noise pollution produced by pile drivers. All work will be completed during the day, unless the neighbors are notified otherwise. Work will be phased in the station vicinity, a maximum of 40 spaces will be disabled at a time, BART will provide attendant parking to mitigate temporary space loss. The city will approve any required street closures. A representative will be dedicated to the neighborhood to inform the area of expected work, etc. Rockridge station work will begin approx. this November and end in 2009 (about 14 months). The work on the canopy that covers the platform areas may be necessary to be completed during the night, while trains aren't running (unless they can do the work piece meal during operational hours).

### Item 3: Request for Board position – Red Oak Realty

- A) Presentation (10 min) Bob Blumberg, Vanessa Bergmark, Kimberly Miller

Red Oak Real Estate is interested in relocating their Oakland office from Broadway to College Ave. They would take over the space in the Dreyer's building currently occupied by Cotton and Co. Red Oak began in 1976, has had virtually the same owners for 32 years and currently has 75 agents. This is a community based office and has resisted becoming a part of a national franchise operation. All transactions going through Red Oak stay within the community. They perceive themselves as falling in between a professional and retail establishment. Around 125 individuals come through the office on a daily basis, there is also night traffic, and weekend traffic. They

include as part of the office, artist space. The other office is on Solano Ave. in Berkeley. Doors are generally open from 9 to 6. Buyers come in from San Francisco. There are about 35 agents in the Oakland office. Most work is with single family housing and condos. They are looking at partnering with financial institutions to work on areas that have seen a great deal of foreclosures.

Question from RCPC board member: is their customer parking? Yes, there is. They would prefer this location in order to receive more foot traffic. They are looking for a way to engage more closely with the community.

The space will be used for in house graphics and printing, desk space for agents, 3-4 conference rooms, full time staff of 12-14 employees above the number of agents.

In response to concern about being on the first floor: their experience has been that a great deal of foot traffic comes through their offices and they are extremely active. They have observed that offices on the second floor are less successful.

How much do they pay in business taxes to the city of Oakland: they will have to get back to us on this item.

How many homes do you sell in Oakland: 50% of their sales are in Oakland.

How often do their current galleries turn over: 2-3 months.

B) Board discussion & vote

Patton: overall opposed because of C-31 zoning.

Lavin: can we propose a smaller amount of space be dedicated to this office?

Floystrup: her concern is economic. And offices don't provide as much revenue to the city; are we sure that Cotton and Co. is closing? Floystrup is opposed as a general principal to office use on the ground floor. Doesn't feel confident that we can get any assurances from Dreyer's that they will not then continue to use the space for office in the future.

Maison Nouveau: RCPC opposed but Oakland provided use permit; there have been complaints that they do not turn over their community gallery on a regular basis.

**MOTION:** Move to table the discussion.

Motion: Patton; Second: Lavin (Approve: Flashman, Floystrup, Gabel, Martin, Spitzer, Taylor, Truchlikova, Patton, Burke, Lavin; Abstain: Peterson)

#### Item 4: Electric Embers Account

Stu: we need to cancel out "electric embers" account. We should download the data that still exists. How can we get access and is it worth doing.

#### Item 5: Communications items [8:05 pm] (55 min)

- A) Update on website redesign – Jon Site design: Colby is working on powerpoint
- board provides individual, written feedback on sheets.
  - Ronnie has extreme concerns about how content will be put up using HTML code.
  - Jon suggests a counter proposal to suggest how to upload data.
  - Joan has used "contribute" another product to update websites. (Don Kinkaid uses this.)
  - Stu suggests that committee chairs write something up on yahoo group with regard to their requests for the website.
- B) Rockridge News articles
- BART report
  - October meeting from Danica
  - Zip car from Joan
  - Update about Safeway
  - Invasion robberies- contribution from
  - FROG fall maintenance and restroom update- full report
  - Out and About event

- Rockridge Kid Taskforce article
  - Pedestrian bike safety- Ronnie
  - Swimming world at Temescal pool
  - Development at Chabot School
- C) Update on Out and About
- We have been approved for our booth
  - We need to have our charitable solicitation permit posted at the booth- it has been applied for but has not yet been received.
  - We need people at the booth, as well as people to help set up and break down
  - We need to arrange for a canopy
  - Katy and Ronnie will prepare for the out and about event

Item 6: Possible response to recent criminal activity on College Ave.

A. Discussion of possible citizen patrols

If such a thing were done it would need to be pursued as a joint effort with police, RDA, guardian angels

Patton- he thinks we should think about hiring security patrols

Citizen patrols would themselves be vulnerable. Preventive measures are better than “going out on the street”.

Suggestion that we invite Russo, city attorney, to speak at one of our meetings

Peterson suggest we submit a letter from RCPC to Mayor Dellums and city council- Flashman is concerned about how this would unfairly affect other neighborhoods

Is there an overall security plan for this area?- the closest thing is the merchant watch program and neighborhood watch program, as established by the city of Oakland. (they are not greatly detailed)

Lavin suggests that we write a letter that states our appreciation for the increased amount of police and increased efforts

**MOTION:** Move to write a letter expressing our appreciation for the increased amount of police efforts in the area.

Motion: Peterson; Second: Lavin (Approve: unanimous)

Joan volunteers to write the letter.

Item 7: Committees [9:20 pm] (70 min)

A) FoRL – *see website*

B) FROG Park

- Fall cleanup September 13<sup>th</sup>. 8:30-4:00
- Will be sealing the structures, turn over fibar, sift sand, look for things that require fixing
- Concerns about steering committee and activity
- Outreach- monthly survey to find out what sort of activities the neighborhood would like to see completed
- Delay on public art
- No picnic in the park due to lack of volunteers

C) Traffic, Bike, Ped Safety

- Ronnie took a count to see how many cyclists are riding on sidewalks- kid with parent, coming to and from bike racks, there is only a small population who actually ride on the sidewalk (about 20% or cyclists seen, total of 81 bicyclists in 30 minute)s. Ticketing program is on side streets as well as College avenue.
- Oakland’s director of bicycle safety, Jason Patton, encourages talking to cyclists about how to increase bicycle safety- stickers appear to be the best sort of action and city of Oakland appears to be willing to pay for these.
- What about signs on the street?- the city agrees to stickers but not to signs
- Articles in the newsletter- education may make a big difference, proper etiquette
- Stickers seem like a good start
- Include in articles suggestions for kids

- Schools committee should take this up regarding education in the schools
- D) Land Use Committee
  - a. Safeway
    - There are dates but no place and time for the upcoming meetings
    - There were going to be two customer representatives for Safeway: the concerned neighbors are going to protest the handpicking of these individuals
    - Stu will be participating in an individual interview prior to the first meeting
  - b. Hauser/Creekside EIR etc.
    - EIR has been distributed
    - They have left out the intersection of 51<sup>st</sup> and 52<sup>nd</sup> in the traffic study
    - Stu and LUC will compile response; Ronnie will also sign letter as vice chair

\*\*Stu is meeting with Red Cross blood bank and will fill Colby in so that he can take over the issue

#### Item 8: Fourth Bore Coalition - Update on litigation

There is still a need for fundraising for legal fees. Enews might be a better way reach people for donations.

**MOTION:** Move to set up paypal account for RCPC.

Motion: Patton; Second: Truchlikova (Approve: unanimous)

Joan volunteers to set up the paypal account.

#### Item 9: October agenda items:

Website

Logo Design

Halloween- Katy and Danica will help Ronnie

Constant contact policy

*Meeting Adjourned. 10:30.*