

RCPC ROCKRIDGE COMMUNITY PLANNING COUNCIL

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING February 2009 MINUTES Thursday, February 5, 2009, 7:00 PM Rockridge Library

Present: Andrew Charman, Stu Flashman, Annette Floystrup, Bill Kaufner, Colby Lavin (7:16), Joan Martin, Doug Patton, Ellen Peterson, Ronnie Spitzer (7:10), Danica Truchlikova

Absent: Jon Gabel, Katy Taylor

Guests: Don Kinhead (7:12)

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

Item 1: Administrative

A) Approval of January meeting minutes

MOTION: Move to approve minutes of January 8, 2008 BOD meeting. *Motion:* Patton, *Second:* Kaufner. *In favor:* Flashman, Kaufner, Lavin, Martin, Spitzer, Truchlikova. *Abstained:* Charman, Floystrup, Patton, Peterson (not present at January meeting). *Motion passed.*

B) Communication from Jane Brunner

Stu reported on invitation for RCPC representatives to attend North Oakland Leadership Meeting to be held on February 12 at 7 pm. Stu and Ronnie will attend. The meeting will address priorities for Oakland improvements. Stu asked the Board to e-mail him input on ideas to discuss.

C) Approval of Executive Committee decision

MOTION: Move to affirm Executive Committee decision to authorize Ann Smulka to negotiate with Caltrans on RCPC's behalf and be able to commit RCPC to the settlement between Fourth Bore Coalition and Caltrans. *Motion:* Martin, *Second:* Floystrup. *Motion carried unanimously.*

D) Update on LUC and Board applicants

The chair reported that he received five applications/inquires for the vacancy on the Land Use Committee. One of them, Ken Wysocki, lives outside of RCPC boundary and therefore is not eligible. After discussion the Board agreed to appoint Arden Hearing who attended the last LUC meeting and expressed strong interest.

MOTION: Move to appoint Arden Hearing to the Land Use Committee. *Motion:* Truchlikova, *Second:* Patton. *In favor:* Charman, Flashman, Floystrup, Lavin, Martin, Patton, Peterson, Spitzer, Truchlikova. *Abstained:* Kaufner (did not read his application). *Motion passed*

For the Board elections in April we received so far three applications. With four current Board members running for re-election (Charman, Kaufner, Lavin, Spitzer) we have sufficient number

of candidates to fill six positions. In addition, there is currently an open seat on the Board, which may be filled after the election by an appointment.

E) Consent calendar reports

a. FORL: Report submitted, no discussion.

b. NCPC: Minutes of joint RCPC/NCPC Town Hall meeting on November 20 were submitted.

Item 2: Financial

A) Bookkeeper

Joan interviewed all applicants and their references by phone. There are three qualified candidates whom she wants to interview in person. The process was delayed by the death of Joan's father with full understanding and sympathy of the Board.

B) Financial Statement

Report submitted, no discussion.

C) RCPC & supported committees' financial responsibilities

RCPC's committees manage their budgets with RCPC's oversight. Discussion ensued on possible liabilities for the organization and its non-profit status by any unintentional mistake in reporting. The fundraising rules for non-profits have been tightened up and thorough scrutiny of all committees' budgets is needed.

Item 3: Committee Reports

A) Land Use Committee

a. Safeway

Safeway has apparently decided to abandon the stakeholder process. Concerned neighbors suggested a public meeting to have the community architects present an alternate plan. Land Use Committee discussed that proposal and recommended instead to start with a presentation of the alternate scheme directly to Safeway with RCPC and other stakeholders writing letters to Safeway urging them to meet with the community architects. Should Safeway be not interested in this proposal, make it clear to Safeway that we will not support the 50K SF store but would work with them on the details of the second option they proposed, the remodel of the existing store.

MOTION: Move to accept the Land Use Committee recommendations and follow up with the stakeholders to support the recommendation and draft a letter to Safeway. *Motion:* Lavin, *Second:* Petersen. *Motion carried unanimously.*

b. Chiropractic Office on College Avenue

The LUC committee recommended to not oppose the application. Even though RCPC generally opposes non-retail functions on the first floor in the C-31 zoning, the LUC concluded that this specific location, being behind another building, would not have adverse effect on College Avenue retail. No action by the Board required.

c. Red Oak Realty

Red Oak Realty has submitted application to the City to relocate offices from their current location on the corner of Pleasant Valley and Broadway to the corner of Chabot and College Avenue at the ground floor of the Dryer's building. RCPC already formally objected to the move. Dave Valesco of the Planning Department wants to arrange a meeting with RCPC Board and ROR as soon as possible. There is a great concern that such a large storefront taken by a non-retail activity would set a very bad precedent and significantly alter the College Avenue character. Stu to set up a meeting.

B) Traffic Committee

Ronnie reported on the Oakland settlement with Caltrans over the Caldecott Improvement project. The settlement of the \$8.2 mil. benefited Rockridge in providing funding for several intersection and road improvements. Oakland is currently working on transportation funding for 2009-10. RCPC plans to submit a list of problem conditions for evaluation and prioritization. Input from Board members to be e-mailed to Ronnie before the next meeting of the Traffic committee on February 18.

MOTION: Move to authorize a letter to the City with a list of priorities listed in the Traffic Committee report, if it has to be submitted prior to the next Board meeting. *Motion:* Floystrup, *Second:* Petersen. *Motion carried unanimously.*

c) FROG Report

MLK day call for public service resulted in 100 volunteers who participated in FROG clean-up. We should know within a week whether the FROG park would be extended onto a triangle of land owned by Caltrans and the City. Should this project go ahead, a large number of volunteers would be needed to clear the site and develop the park.

Item 6: Fourth Bore Coalition

A) Lawsuit Settlement

Prior to the ruling by the judge, RCPC participated in the settlement between the Fourth Bore Coalition and Caltrans. The settlement negotiations were prompted by the Governor's request to grant retroactive CEQA exemption for the Caldecott project in the name of "economic stimulus". This would have derailed the FBC lawsuit with nothing to show for the years of efforts. The settlement includes Caltrans' commitment to spend \$2 mil. for improvements along Ashby/Tunnel Road corridor and up to \$250K for a long-term study of the entire SR24 corridor. Legislative leadership made a commitment to find funds for noise and air mitigation at the Chabot and Claremont schools sites. The settlement falls short of what the FBC was hoping for and the threat of further relaxation of environmental controls is a real one and sets a bad precedent for future projects in California.

B) Future Directions

Fourth Bore Coalition will continue to oversee and monitor the settlement agreements. New RCPC board will need to nominate a representative to the FBC since Ellen's term on the Board is expiring.

Item 5: Town Hall Meetings

A) February Town Hall meeting

Annual RCPC report and community input meeting. Danica agreed to take notes on large sheets of paper pinned up on the wall.

B) Upcoming Town Hall meetings

April – RCPC Board elections

Item 6: Rockridge News

Deadline for March issue is **February 19**.

Proposed articles: Board candidates profiles, Report on Jane Brunner’s meeting on greening of Oakland, Report on Mayor’s Economic Summit, Fourth Bore – school and budget allocations; Transportation Committee report; Safeway – status; Ask-A-Cop column (new feature); Kids biking on sidewalks

Item 7: Communication items

A) Website redesign

Ronnie prepared a report based on previous board discussions and consequent phone interviews with Board members.

MOTION: Move to create a parallel developmental RCPC website using WordPress. *Motion:* Martin, *Second:* Floystrup. *Motion carried unanimously.*

MOTION: Move to continue for 6 months on the current site and form a committee which will decide which system to use for the final RCPC site. *Motion:* Patton, *Second:* None. *Motion failed.*

B) Communications Committee

Ronnie recommended to form a Communication Committee open to the community which will coordinate Rockridge News, Constant Contact and website input.

MOTION: Move to establish a standing RCPC Communications Committee to coordinate communication between the RCPC and the public. *Motion:* Floystrup, *Second:* Spitzer. *Motion carried unanimously.*

B) Tech Advice

NTC's Day Of service is scheduled for April 26. Ronnie reported that every non-profit who registered for a free consultation will be able to get one membership for a discount rate of \$199.

MOTION: Move to authorize \$199 for the Communications Committee to attend NTC conference should the committee decide to do so. *Motion:* Truchlikova, *Second:* Kaufner. *Motion carried unanimously.*

Item 8: NCPC

Annette brought up the controversial decision by the Mayor’s office to dismiss the Neighborhood Services Manager and re-assign the Neighborhood Watch Program coordinator. All NCPC components oppose the decision, as well as Piedmont Merchants, and lobby for the reinstatement of the two women. Annette asked whether it would be appropriate for the RCPC to join in the effort. Stu thought that the RCPC legal counsel would have to be consulted to determine legality of such action. At the end it was decided that the Board will take no action, but individual actions by Board members may be considered.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Danica Truchlikova, RCPC secretary.