

# **RCPC ROCKRIDGE COMMUNITY PLANNING COUNCIL**

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## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING March 2009 MINUTES Thursday, March 5, 2009, 7:00 PM Rockridge Library**

Present: Andrew Charman, Stu Flashman, Annette Floystrup, Jon Gabel, Bill Kaufner, Don Kinkead (7:15), Colby Lavin, Joan Martin, Doug Patton, Ellen Peterson (7:20), Katy Taylor, Danica Truchlikova

Absent: Ronnie Spitzer

Guests: David Williams and Merideth Marchak (8:10 – 8:35)

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

### Item 1: Administrative

#### A) Approval of agenda

Stu opened the meeting asking for any additions or revisions to the meeting agenda. Doug Patton suggested that with the city cutbacks the RCPC might consider providing supplemental services either voluntary or compensated. The idea was deemed worth consideration and will be on the agenda of the April Board meeting.

#### B) Approval of February meeting minutes

**MOTION:** Move to approve minutes of February 5, 2009 BOD meeting. *Motion:* Floystrup, *Second:* Patton. *In favor:* Charman, Flashman, Floystrup, Kaufner, Lavin, Martin, Patton, Peterson, Truchlikova. *Abstained:* Gabel, Taylor (not present at February meeting). *Motion passed.*

#### C) Initial discussion on RCPC “back-up” functions

Stu suggested that the Board Executive Committee, RN editor, and Committee chairs to have designated back-ups to maintain smooth functioning of the RCPC. The item will be added to the next month meeting agenda.

#### D) Discussion of Board Business Cards

Stu presented a mock-up business card for Board members. The mock-up was approved with the proviso that official RCPC address will be listed with the name, phone number and e-mail address of the individual cardholders. Stu will send the electronic master; each Board member will print or have printed their cards as needed.

**MOTION:** Move to approve RCPC business card as presented except that the official RCPC address will be used instead of addresses of individual Board members. *Motion:* Truchlikova, *Second:* Floystrup. *Motion carried unanimously.*

E) Consent calendar

a. Jane Brunner Leadership Meeting report

Stu reported on the meeting held on February 12 at the College Avenue Presbyterian Church. Jane Brunner reviewed her action plan and heard comments from the audience. Report on the meeting was included in the agenda package, the only Board discussion touched on the zoning issue, particularly C-31 zoning of College Avenue. Stu stated that Jane Brunner indicated that there is no plan to change College Avenue zoning.

b. 2<sup>nd</sup> zoning update meeting report.

Stu's report included in LUC committee report in the meeting agenda package. No further discussion.

c. Update on BOD candidates.

There are 8 people running for 6 spots.

Item 2: Financial

A) Bookkeeper update

Joan reported that she offered the position to Craig Garman who has an extensive accounting experience. Joan has a draft contract ready for Stu's and John Gusman's review.

B) Financial Statement

The RCPC is in good financial health. There was a discussion that which of the proposed 2009 budgets was approved by the Board. After the meeting Danica found out that the reduced 2009 budget with \$2,797 deficit as amended by \$4K cut (\$3k from LUC appeal line, \$1K from Grants/Scholarship line) was approved in December with a proviso that it will be revisited in six months.

C) RCPC & supported committees' financial responsibilities

Joan recommended that Craig Garman's responsibilities would include interface with the committees and reconciliation of their accounts.

Item 3: Committee Reports

A) Land Use Committee

a. Safeway

Stu reported on stakeholders meeting on March 4 at which the options of further actions were discussed. The LUC recommended that the RCPC not take any action till the Safeway meeting planned for April. The community architects working with Concerned Neighbors are to meet with Safeway architects. Some members of the Board did not think it the best idea; presentation to Safeway management might have been more appropriate. The stakeholders group agreed to proceed with lobbying the Planning Commission and the City Council. It needs to be resolved whether there is sufficient lobbying expertise in the neighborhood or whether consultation services of a professional lobbyist may be needed. The lobbying effort should point out the financial benefit to Oakland from College Avenue stemming from its unique character, should be positive emphasizing that we like Safeway we have, but do not want a big Safeway that would have negative effects on traffic, small

merchants, and existing character of College Avenue. It was suggested that a broader coalition should be organized (AC Transit, realtors, bicycle coalition, etc.)

b. Rockridge Montessori

Representatives of neighbors, David Williams and Merideth Marchak, discussed with the Board what options they may have to mount a successful opposition to the proposed expansion of the school. It is not their intent to shut the school down, just stop further expansion, which would bring the count to about 200 children. This will have a major impact on traffic in the neighborhood. No traffic study was yet done for the latest proposal. It was also suggested that they check with the state regulators whether the school complies with all licensing requirements. Stu reported that Montessori filed application with the City last week, he will get the name of the assigned planner so the neighbors can contact him/her to request traffic study. The City will determine whether an EIR is needed based on the significance of the project impact. There is an approved proposal to modify Broadway traffic lanes which also may have impact on the project.

c. Red Oak Realty

Red Oak Realty has submitted application to the City; the hearing is scheduled for April (no date yet). Stu Flashman, Bill Kaufner and Ronnie Spitzer attended meeting called by the planner Dave Valeska and ROR representatives. The plan they presented is basically an office space behind this large part of College Avenue storefront. At the meeting Stu suggested that they provide about 25% of space as a retail space selling items relevant to their work with a dedicated salesperson. Stu put three options before the Board – do nothing and let them move in; ask for retail component; or keep opposing. A lively discussion ensued, it was felt that a compromised solution will be a defeat for RCPC and, if should be defeated, we will do so representing neighborhood position. All responses to the article in the RN against the proposal were from Rockridge residents, all letters supporting the move were from outside of Rockridge. RDA came out in support of the move. The Board will search records to find the conditions of Dryers CUP. It was agreed to canvas and mobilize the College Avenue merchants. Annette will prepare a petition, a flyer, and a write up which may double as an article in the April RN.

**MOTION:** Move to continue with an opposition to the corner of Chabot Road and College Avenue at the ground floor of the Dryer’s building. *Motion:* Patton, *Second:* Martin. *In Favor:* Floystrup, Gabel, Martin, Patton, Truchlikova. *Against:* Kaufner, Lavin. *Abstained:* Charman, Flashman, Taylor. *Recused:* Peterson. *Motion carried.*

d. Red Cross Blood Bank

Colby looked through the files and found an agreement from 1990 that all deliveries and pick-ups will be from Claremont Avenue that was a response to neighbors concern. However, this was before Red Cross consolidated its activities at this location. Now the neighbors are concerned about early garbage pick-up, Colby will check with Waste Management.

B) Schools Committee

Bill reported on the school provisions of the Caldecott Settlement Agreement. \$3 millions were allocated for Chabot and Claremont schools for landscape barriers and air quality improvements.

The School Board member Jody London is planning to schedule a meeting to discuss projects, Bill will attend and will be a RCPC liaison during the planning and construction.

C) Communications Committee

a. Website redesign

Colby reported there was no committee meeting last month. Robert Sajan, the volunteer, is still working with Colby and next month they will release the website proposal for Board review. Ronnie enrolled and will attend the NTC conference on April 26.

b. Articles for April issue of RN

LUC update on projects (Stu); Concerned Neighbors interview (Don); article on Red Oak Realty (Annette); article on Rising Sun Energy Center; Green Corner; Ask-the-Cop; report on Jane Brunner's Greening Oakland meeting (Andrew, Joan).

c. Town Hall meeting schedule

March – EBMUD (drought/water supply)[Stu]; April – Board elections, Rising Sun Energy, Oakland Green Initiative [Colby]; May – Oakland budget (Jane Brunner) [Katy]; June – Rockridge history (Annette).

D) Traffic Committee

Andrew reported on traffic committee meeting. Broadway plan for two traffic lanes, one turn-ff lane, and bicycle lane on each side has been approved by the City. Other issues the committee is looking into: crosswalk at Chabot school. Extending bicycle routes from Berkeley via Colby Street.

Item 4: Fourth Bore Coalition

Ellen attended two meeting with Caltrans after the settlement. Caltrans wants to move with work ASAP. The agreed to 8 spots for sound monitoring. Trucks will exit down the lane along Parkwood apartments as it would be dangerous to exit to freeway at an earlier spot. Caltrans will provide temporary buffer for the apartments. Annette suggested they consult the City about which trees to plant, also to work with Chabot school landscape architect working on the school expansion. Ronnie will continue as Board representative for 4<sup>th</sup> bore coalition, Ellen is going off the Board but will continue as a member of the committee.

Item 5: April agenda items

1. Board election procedural matters
2. RCPC supplemental services
3. Introduction of the bookkeeper Craig Garman
4. RCPC "back-up" positions
5. Standard agenda items

***Meeting adjourned at 10:03 PM.***

*Respectfully submitted by Danica Truchlikova, RCPC secretary.*