

RCPC ROCKRIDGE COMMUNITY PLANNING COUNCIL

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

April 5th, 7:30 PM

Rockridge Library

Present: Gloria Bruce, Janelle Cavanagh, Kent Deverell, Al Hussian, Hiroko Kurihara, Steve Mike MacDonald, Meyer, Susan Montauk, Jessica Pitt, Mike Taylor (9:35), Stephanie Upp,
Guest: John Gussman (9:15), Legal Advisor

Absent: Cy Gulassa, Annette Floystrup, Jennifer Edminster

Call to order: 7:37

I. Approval of minutes from March meeting

Susan asked the secretary to alphabetize the attendees by last name.

MOTION made to approve minutes (Moved Susan, Second Kent, All in favor, Jessica and Janelle abstained since absent.)

II. Rockridge News

- a. Discussion of 250 word limit on letters to the Editor (tabled from last month-Stephanie)
One idea was to note the limit in the Rockridge news. Majority felt 250 words is long enough. Since Cy is not at the meeting it was recommended that we wait to make a motion. It was noted that we could post longer letters on the web and print the 250 word version.
- b. Names for Ad-hoc committee to discuss RRNews Redesign-Stephanie
A board member recommended the Board update look and feel of the RRNews so that it had a more contemporary look. One board member recommended working with the website design person. It was decided to wait until the new board meets to organize a new committee.

Susan mentioned that the Rockridge News distributors' party is on May 18th at Methodist Church at 6pm. It is a dinner for the distributors and their families. Susan needs help decorating.

The Rockridge News needs a new marshal that delivers the boxes to the district captains. Kent may be interested.

Ideas for May Rockridge News issue—Stephanie will write about 529 college savings accounts. Steve will have something on traffic. Gloria may have something from the LU committee. Hiroko will write something about Peralta School. Susan will ask Cy to write about town hall. If Cy doesn't have Chabot elementary article Kent will do it. Jessica will announce new board members.

Jessica said she has concern about role of Cy. She said that John Gussman had said that RCPC has ultimate responsibility for the newspaper but that you want your editor to be independent. Jessica said she has concerns about neutrality. Hiroko wanted to revisit the timeframe of reviewing the draft. Some members thought it was inappropriate to discuss the issue without Cy. Some members said we discussed issues about Hiroko without her so it would be appropriate. It was decided to limit the discussion to policy. Board members wondered if we should change the deadlines so RCPC could look at Rockridge News drafts sooner. Currently the policy is that the Board sees a draft 48 hours prior to deadline. Board members were not clear if the editor was publishing all letters to the editor. Many board members wanted to see the submissions no later than 72 hours in advance of the draft.

Another issue was around the Board's ability to respond to letters. Some felt RCPC should respond to the letters. Additionally some board members were upset that the Peralta fire did not get in the news.

It was noted that there are three issues: timing of receiving documents, option to respond to letters and who has final say. Majority of the board felt the publisher (aka the Board) has final say over editorial decisions.

The question was asked: Is it time to create an editorial board to have conversations with Cy around issues of what is important to publish? Discussion ensued.

MOTION: To create an editorial board to receive all letters to the editor and any other articles that may be deemed controversial by the editor. The editorial board may bring letters to the full board. The Rockridge news email address would be changed so that the editorial board receives the letters as they arrive. The chair and the vice chair must be members along with a third and perhaps fourth member of the board. RCPC board reserves the right to write a response if it deems appropriate. Responses to the board must be published. (Hiroko made the motion, Al second. No one opposed or abstained. All approved.)

The question came up if Cy can run as a Board member and be paid by the Board as editor. It was recognized that it may be legal but is it a practice the board feels comfortable with. It was pointed out that other Board members have been approved to have their business receive money for services. It was noted that Cy was a board member when he first started to receive a stipend as editor. Jessica will have further discussion with John. (After the meeting, the board realized Cy was not running as a RCPC candidate.)

III. Land Use Committee

a. Update on projects

At the Last Land Use meeting, they discussed the Claremont and Telegraph Global Video site. April 25th design review. LU committee didn't have a recommendation for this project at this time. The Frog group had a lengthy discussion about the new drawings for the site. The builders are turning the back of the project onto the greenway. The frog group is making recommendations to planning staff. This project will be before the Design Review committee on April 25.

Co-housing Claremont project—it is 5 stories,—initially 30 parking spaces now including 33 spaces so that there will be no design review. Ownership of the site is moving to the co-housing company. Co-housing wants five stories. The Land Use

committee is in favor of co-housing but there was negative feedback about the height. May 2nd this development will be presented to the planning commission.

After discussion, the board decided to write a letter to the planning commission. The **Vote:** Board voted whether we would oppose or not oppose the project.

5 board members voted to oppose the project based on height but include what is liked about the project.

4 Board members voted to not oppose the project

1 Board member voted to write a letter but not include opposing or not opposing.

Gloria will draft a letter 10 days before planning commission. It was requested to print a synopsis of the opposition letter in the May Rockridge news.

Gloria wants to find a secretary for the land use committee.

IV. Committees

a. Kitchen Tour-Jennifer

Susan reported that the kitchen tour is thinking about expanding to two days since there are so many good kitchens this year. She reminded the board that she and Jennifer may not be doing the kitchen tour in 2009. Stephanie has agreed to be PR chair for the tour. We will need more people for the publicity committee. The first K-Tour meeting is April 26th.

b. Traffic and Pedestrian Safety.

Meeting next week.

c. Website –Annette

MOTION: To approve Stephen Caltaldo to design our new website. Susan made the motion. Gloria second. All approved. Motion passed.

The next step will be to draw up a contract for this project.

d. Schools-we will give \$1,000 to Peralta instead of having them advertise for us in the spring fling. RCPC hopes to ask for others to give to match the gift. Mike will write a letter to Peralta and send check. It was decided to add an envelope in the next newsletter if this is feasible. Susan will communicate with the printers about logistics and price. It would be a generic “remit” form. Janelle will help design it. Hiroko will write the article.

e. Fourth Bore (Ranking Priorities-first Pass-How to proceed)

Many groups are sending their rankings of concerns to the city. It was suggested to create a subcommittee to go over mitigations and prioritize them and write a document within two weeks to. Steve will take it to his traffic committee. Kent took a stab at the prioritization. Susan, Gloria and Steve are interested in joining his group.

f. Under Bart—Stephanie said that Ian is designing? a kiosk and 15 benches were committed by Jane Brunner. We need to find out costs before finding people to work on a kiosk. If there is money left over then they may paint the pillars.

V. Financial

- a. New issues related to Approved Budget-Susan /Jessica
Sally commented on the board's intention to spend assets for the next couple of years. Sally is concerned about how much and when we plan to spend it. This year is the kitchen tour year. Discretionary grants would be better to spend later in the year. Next year, we are looking at spending a similar amount of money in a non kitchen tour year. That is aggressive spending. Sally ran a run-rate. She suggested we keep a reserve of \$20,000. She suggested we look at the timing of giving the Frog and FORL grants.

The majority of the Board decided to stick with the budget while noting Sally's remarks but that the Board should reserve the right to look at 2008 budget based on kitchen tour results. We also need to pay attention to when we spend the money.

If we raise enough, one idea was to give FROG and FORL the money what we get in the newsletter instead of monies designated in the budget.

Library will get the check at the end of May per Sally's suggestion.

- b. Treasurers Report-Sally/Susan
Q1 we are ahead of budget.

VI. Meetings

- a. April Town Hall/ Election-Jessica/NCPC-Panel-Susan
Mike is planning to resign before the election. However, John reminded us that we cannot elect more than 6 candidates. Any open positions after the election will be filled by Board appointments.
 - i. Candidate list reviewed--all live in Rockridge.
 - ii. Discussion of election procedure and appointment of election officer. Jessica proposed that she be assigned to act as the election officer, and the board concurred.

Staffing the election: Thursday, Gloria and Mike

Staffing the election: Saturday, Annette and Mike

- b. Potential May Town Hall Meeting-All (tabled from last meeting)
 - i. Land Use Community Discussion
 - ii. Earthquake safety (addition by Susan)

Susan stated a few other ideas: League of woman voters present healthcare plans and Crisis support services (Claire Issacs)

- c. May C-31 Training/ New Board Member Training

Since Mike is resigning and Jessica term is expiring, Jessica asked Susan to run the next meeting. It was noted that the vice chair doing the agenda and the packets was very helpful to the Chair. Gloria will host the May Board meeting.

- d. It was recommended that C31 training for all board members. Date to be determined.

Respectfully Submitted by
Secretary Janelle Cavanagh.