

RCPC ROCKRIDGE COMMUNITY PLANNING COUNCIL

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Minutes

November 1, 2007

7:30 PM, Rockridge Library

Present: Gloria Bruce, Stuart Flashman, Annette Floystrup, Cy Gulassa (arrived 8:03 PM), Susan Montauk, Jeff Small, Richard Smith, Ronnie Spitzer, Peter St. John, Margaret Wahlberg

Absent: Jennifer Edmister, Ellen Peterson, Danica Truchlikova

Guests: John Gussman (arrived 8:28 PM), Sally Fitzhugh (arrived 9:00 PM, left 10:45 PM)

Meeting called to order at 7:15 PM.

Item I. Administrative

- a. *Past minutes* – Minutes from prior months must be amended to include votes and motions passed by online polls.

Action: Gloria will add online votes, and motions to the past minutes. Minutes will be amended and re-submitted for board approval as necessary.

- b. *October minutes*

- **MOTION:** To table approval of the October 2007 minutes until the December board meeting, for the purpose of adding online votes to the minutes. *Motion:* Flashman. *Second:* Floystrup. All in favor. *Motion passed.*

Item II. Kitchen Tour (moved up from Item V)

Susan gave a report on Acteva (online ticket purchasing) questionnaire responses. Many people heard about the tour from friends or posters (next most popular sources were *Rockridge News* or *Chronicle*). Vast majority (75%) of visitors were planning a kitchen remodel. The had 500 visitors (Shades of Green tour on the same day had 700 visitors) and netted approximately \$15,000.

Ideas for next year: do more calendar search to be aware of competing events, pay for posters ourselves so that we don't have to put an advertiser; sell tickets at places like Whole Foods and Home Expo, farmer's market, etc.

Item III. Website (moved up from Item VII)

Peter reported on the search for a new web host. We will likely use Electric Embers at \$10/month. The web designer needs more photographs that represent Rockridge and RCPC for the website.

Action: RCPC members with photos that represent Rockridge should send these to Peter by next week (November 9).

The website will be ready for board review by next week.

Action: Peter will email board members asking for pieces of content that they need to fill in and will create a form for entering information.

Item IV. Schools

A. *Claremont Middle School* – Susan reported on an all-community group (reps from library, RDA, Brunner’s office) has been meeting with the principal. There has been difficulty with kids who are acting up and causing problems for the merchants. Suggestions to get them involved in film programs, or a program for teen girls at Bushrod Recreation Center, or dragon boating at the Lake. The Parks and Recreation department does not have funding, so the RCPC may consider helping to fundraise for more teen programs either off-site or on-site at the library. Susan will continue to participate in the discussions and brief the board.

B) *Schools Committee chairperson election* – Jennifer Edmister had expressed willingness to serve as Chairwoman of the Schools Committee. No action was taken to elect a chair, since Jennifer was absent.

Item V (moved from Item III) – Project and Planning Review Committee

A. *Project updates-*

- a. *Telegraph zoning* - (Stu) The rezoning project has been broadened to be a citywide update with a citywide EIR. Temescal zoning update will still move forward without the EIR; they will go to Planning Commission for hearing and recommendation(essentially a draft zoning amendment). The City Council vote to approve the ordinance will be postponed until the EIR is completed. Recommendation is C-28, but some merchants want C-30. The area goes all the way up to Berkeley border; RCPC is the only organization focus on that area dealing with that (STAND is more focused on Temescal). This recommendation will possibly go before the Planning Commission in December.

The RCPC will need to continue to do public outreach and need to outreach to STAND and ULTRA. The suggestion was made to meet with the new Planning Commissioners.

- b. *5175 Broadway* – Richard spoke to project planner Peter Vollman. The bollards on Coronado have been rejected by Public Works because they would actually cause more two-way traffic. Traffic study is still being reviewed. It is unlikely that the project will go to Design Review; may go to Planning Commission in matter of weeks, after negative declaration is finished. Possibly late December, but staff is unsure – it may take longer. Peter has been talking with neighbors including Burt Verrips and Kim Lenox. It is possible that there may not be much interest from many other neighbors; RCPC needs to encourage neighbors and developers to interact directly.
- c. *Kingfish* – Latest update is RCPC’s settlement with the project representatives. STAND has 30 days after October 16 to appeal.
- d. *Safeway* - There is a concern that Safeway representatives have not been forthcoming about their plans. RCPC should interface directly with Safeway and get them to share architectural drawings.

Action: Board members will go and talk to Todd Paradis – Jeff, Annette, Ronnie, and Margaret expressed interest, though a smaller group will go.

- e. *Creekside* (Hauser/Global Video) – Still are looking at state compliance issues – need a report on aesthetics, land use and planning, historic impact, noise impact, transportation and traffic. Initial study should be available in a few weeks and will be available for 30-day comment period. There will be a Planning Commission scoping hearing, followed by a focused EIR. The General Plan determination request has been dropped. The project can fit 100 small units under existing zoning – 5% of units proposed be affordable at 50% area median income, for purchase or rent.
- f. *Interim zoning guidelines* – Interim guidelines have expired. New guidelines (code section) has been posted by planning staff – there are no changes and it will be adopted for two more years on November 6.

B) PPRC membership guidelines and process:

- a. *Selection criteria:* Richard presented the recommendation of the PPRC on membership guidelines (as presented in attached document in November 2007 packet). After discussion, consensus was reached on language for selection guidelines as below:

Candidate Selection Guidelines for the Project and Planning Review Committee:

Appointments to the PPRC are made at the discretion of the directors of the board of the Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC). Any adult 18 or over residing within the boundaries of the RCPC may apply for a position on the PPRC. Selection guidelines include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Experience and/or education in architecture, urban planning, urban design, land use, and environmental review (or equivalent as determined by the selection committee);
2. Ability to read and interpret preliminary architectural drawings; (or equivalent as determined by the selection committee);
3. Ability to read, interpret, and apply the zoning provisions of the Oakland Planning Code; (or equivalent as determined by the selection committee);
4. Availability to devote the necessary time to the review of potential planning changes and proposed projects;
5. Availability to attend some daytime meetings and late afternoon-evening planning commission and city council hearings;
6. Familiarity with urban planning, development, and/or transportation issues in Rockridge; and
7. Supports the RCPC mission statement: [insert mission statement]

- **MOTION:** To approve the Candidate Selection Guidelines as revised. *Motion:* Small. *Second:* Floystrup. All in favor. *Motion passed.*

- b. *Selection process* – After discussion, the board decided that the a committee of two RCPC board members and the chair of the PPRC will constitute the PPRC membership selection committee. The Selection Guidelines will be printed in the Rockridge News, and interested candidates will be asked to be apply by January 15, 2008. Candidates will be asked to write a letter describing their interest and qualifications according to the guidelines, and will be asked to submit a resume. The selection committee will forward candidates for board appointment and selections will be made by February 7, 2008.
 - c. *PPRC minutes* - There was a brief discussion of whether there need to be minutes taken and published for PPRC meetings. Stu suggested that action minutes be taken rather than full minutes, listing actions to be taken on each agenda item.
- **MOTION:** To amend the first sentence of Section 9.3.e.iii of the RCPC bylaws as follows (amendment in italics): “To report its findings and recommendations on the above matters, including proposed positions, correspondence, public

statements and actions, to the Board of Directors *in written action minutes specifying agenda items and action taken on agenda items*, in order that the Board may determine the organization's strategy and take action." *Motion*: Flashman. *Second*: Small. *In favor*: Bruce, Flashman, Floystrup, Small, Spitzer, St. John, Wahlberg. *Opposed*: Smith (stating that this would create more "overhead" and work for the committee that would interfere with the PPRC's substantive work). *Motion passed*.

Item VI. Finances (moved from Item II)

Sally gave a review of our finances (see attached financial reports). The RCPC is in a sound financial position (some numbers may change based on finalizing Kitchen Tour numbers). However, we are in a downward trend with decreasing net assets. If we carry out all proposed projects, we will run a deficit based on our project budget for 2008.

Action: Ronnie will let Sally know which items the board will modify or cut from the budget.

10:50pm Gloria Bruce leaves, Annette Floystrup takes over minutes.

Item VII. Rockridge News

Cy Gulassa solicited articles for the December issue of the Rockridge News. Requests and suggestions were for the following:

- 4th Bore
- RCPC website
- Open Studios
- Mass transit strategies in Rockridge
- Colby triangle study

The deadline is November 15th.

Cy discussed the need to pay Janet Somers \$150.00 for services rendered during the production of the October Rockridge News.

- **MOTION:** Jeff Small moved to pay Janet Somers the sum of \$150.00 for services rendered to the Rockridge News in the production of the October issue. The motion was seconded by Stu Flashman. The vote was unanimous.

Chair Ronnie Spitzer indicated that there will need to be an evote on two issues:

- To commit \$5,000.00 to pay for the legal costs of the suit over the 4th Bore. The discussion centered on the need to allocate an additional \$3,000.00 to bring the total RCPC commitment to the full \$5,000.00.

- To allow Vivek Bahtia to use reprinted Rockridge News articles on his community serving website rockridgeresidents.org.

- **MOTION:** Jeff Small moved to commit an additional \$3,000.00 toward legal costs of the 4th Bore Coalition suit against CalTrans for a total RCPC commitment of \$5,000.00. The motion was seconded by Margaret Walberg, and carried with one abstention by Stu Flashman, who indicated he had a conflict of interest as council for the 4th Bore Coalition.

11:20pm

- **MOTION:** Richard Smith moved to adjourn. Motion seconded by Peter St. John. Approved unanimously.