

RCPC ROCKRIDGE COMMUNITY PLANNING COUNCIL

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING DECEMBER 2008 MINUTES Thursday, December 4, 2008, 7:00 PM Rockridge Library

Present: Stu Flashman, Annette Floystrup, Jon Gabel, Colby Lavin (7:20), Joan Martin (7:15), Doug Patton, Ellen Peterson, Ronnie Spitzer, Danica Truchlikova

Absent: Jason Burke, Bill Kaufner, Katy Taylor

Guests: Don Kinkead, John Gussman (8:00), Paul O'Valle and Diana O'Valle (8:00-8:30, representing Montessori School), Susan Shawl and Nancy McKay (8:40-9:30, representing Concerned Neighbors), Jennifer Edmister and Susan Montauk, (8:30-9:00, representing Kitchen Tour committee)

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

Item 1: Administrative

- A) January Board meeting falls on Thursday, January 1, and will be re-scheduled to January 8, 2009.
- B) Approval of November meeting minutes.

MOTION: Move to approve minutes of November 6, 2008 BOD meeting. *Motion:* Patton, *Second:* Gabel. *In favor:* Flashman, Gabel, Lavin, Martin, Patton, Peterson, Spitzer, Truchlikova. *Abstained:* Floystrup (not present at November meeting). *Motion passed.*

- C) New Board member advertisement.

Discussion on replacement of Jason Burke who is moving out of town. There is not enough time to advertise and interview applicants due to Board election coming in April. Stu will call the three applicants from the last year (Abby Bilkiss, Tom Boer, Andrew Charman) to confirm their interest in the position and possibly invite Abby Bilkiss, whom we did not interview, to January meeting. At the January meeting the Board will decide whether to make an interim appointment or wait till general elections.

- D) Consent calendar reports

- a. FORL: No discussion, report not submitted on time. Annette distributed minutes at the meeting.
- b. FROG: No discussion, meeting minutes included in Board meeting agenda package.
- c. NCPC: No report.
- d. Schools: No report.

Item 2: Communications Items

- A) Oaklandnorth small group meeting

Colby reported on meeting with Cynthia Gorney, the manager of the <http://www.oaklandnorth.net> (ON) web site attended by Ronnie Spitzer, Stu Flashman, Colby Lavin and Don Kinkead. ON

project is sponsored by a grant from the UCB Graduate School of Journalism that currently provides ample resources, however, we do not know when the grant expires. ON website is more developed than ours and we can learn from their experiences. RCPC and ON agreed to stay in contact, compare notes and provide mutual links between our sites. Technically, ON is using WordPress as the backend for the web site. Colby met with a volunteer, Robert Sajan, who offered help with programming and agreed to look into feasibility of WordPress as backend for the RCPC site. Jon Gabel, who heads the Website Committee, was on vacation and was uncomfortable with fast developments taking place in his absence and without Board discussion. The website committee was directed by the Board to prepare comparison between WordPress and html coding used so far for the RCPC site. The Board will decide on the further course of action at the January meeting.

B) Website redesign

MOTION: Move to give speaking time to Jon Gabel who did not submit report prior to the meeting. *Motion:* Martin, *Second:* Truchlikova. *Motion carried unanimously.*

John asked for content contribution to the RCPC website. Annette will write on history, Bill Kaufner on schools, Stu on LUC, Don on Rockridge News, Ronnie on Traffic Committee and its projects.

Item 3: Financial

A) Financial Statement

Joan did not receive bank reports on time to distribute the report before meeting; however, she reported that RCPC is overall in relatively good financial shape.

B) Proposed budget 2009

Board reviewed two versions of proposed budget, one based on last year's budget with allowance for inflation, and one with a 10% cut across the board to acknowledge current economic situation.

MOTION: Move to approve the reduced 2009 budget with \$2,797 deficit as amended by \$4K cut (\$3k from LUC appeal line, \$1K from Grants/Scholarship line), and revisits the budget in six months when additional fundraising activities will be discussed. *Motion:* Flytrap, *Second:* Patton. *Motion carried unanimously.*

Item 4: Executive Committee bylaws

MOTION: Move to accept amendments to Bylaws Sections 10.1 – 10.2. *Motion:* Floystrup, *Second:* Peterson. *Motion carried unanimously.*

MOTION: Move to accept amendments to Bylaws Section 9.1. *Motion:* Floystrup, *Second:* Truchlikova. *Motion carried unanimously.*

Amended bylaws stipulate five member executive committee including LUC chair. Due to dual Stu's assignment, the committee currently has only four members.

MOTION: Move to elect Doug Patton as interim fifth member of the Executive Committee. *Motion:* Gabel, *Second:* Peterson. *Motion carried unanimously.*

Item 5: Kitchen Tour date

Since 1995 the kitchen tour is the major RCPC fundraiser, next one is scheduled for Sunday, September 20, 2009. Susan Montauk and Jennifer Edmister, co-chairs of Kitchen Tour Committee, described the planning process and pointed out that for the first time there is no sitting board member on the KT board. They lobbied for the Publicity chair to come from the board. Stu volunteered for the committee, but not for the chair position. Interested parties to contact Jennifer or Susan. The planning process will start in January by an announcement in the RN soliciting the kitchens. An RCPC e-mail address will be created for the KT, Jennifer's experience is that people best communicate by e-mail.

Item 6: Committee Reports

A) Land Use Committee

a. Rockridge Montessori

Stu reported on the LUC discussion summarizing the following concern: previous expansions with no environmental review, cumulative traffic impact, and possible further expansions. Representatives of Montessori Paul and Diana O'Valle stated that Montessori would prepare a traffic study. Stu proposed that the study receives a peer review to determine whether an EIR will be required. Montessori did not submit application to the City yet. The board requested a presentation of more developed plans when they will be available.

MOTION: Move to send a letter to the City to require an EIR that would look at the cumulative traffic impact if all properties owned by Montessori are developed, as well as shadow impact of such development on the neighboring properties. *Motion:* Patton, *Second:* Floystrup. *In favor:* Flashman, Floystrup, Gabel, Martin, Patton, Peterson, Spitzer, Truchlikova. *Abstained:* Lavin (conflict of interest). *Motion passed.*

b. Safeway

Stu reported on the Land Use Committee's recommendation. The committee unanimously voted to oppose the 50K SF store.

MOTION: Move to send a letter to Safeway indicating the rejection of \$50K SF store proposal, and indicating that RCPC would continue to participate in stakeholders' process only if the process is limited to a significantly smaller store alternative or remodeling of the existing store. The letter to be preferably signed by all stakeholders. RCPC will sign such letter drafted by others if it would not significantly differ from the RCPC position. *Motion:* Patton, *Second:* Floystrup. *Motion carried unanimously.*

c. Tutti Frutti

RCPC has a policy of opposing national chains but Tutti Frutti currently has only 3 stores in California. LUC had no problem with the proposed use, but felt that a policy on chains need to be refined and clarified.

MOTION: Move not to take a position on Tutti Frutti and initiate a discussion on a more qualified definition of a chain store. *Motion:* Patton, *Second:* Lavin. *In favor:* Flashman, Floystrup, Gabel, Lavin, Paterson, Patton, Spitzer. *Abstain:* Martin, Truchlikova. *Motion carried.*

d. Zoning update

The first meeting of the commercial TAC is Wednesday, December 10, at the City Hall, Hearing Room 4 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Stu is representing RCPC. Short discussion of scrivener's errors on the General Plan pointed out by the City.

e. Appointment of new members

LUC is losing one possibly two members who will need to be replaced.

MOTION: Move to advertise in the Rockridge News for the Land Use Committee membership using the ad from the last year. *Motion:* Floystrup, *Second:* Peterson. *Motion carried unanimously.*

C) Traffic Committee

MOTION: Move to give speaking time to Ronnie Spitzer who did not submit report prior to the meeting. *Motion:* Patterson, *Second:* Lavin. In favor: Flashman, Floustrup, Lavin, Paterson, Truchlikova. Abstained: Gabel, Martin, Patton. *Motion carried.*

Ronnie reported on the traffic committee meeting and submitted two motions.

MOTION: Move to ask the Board to work with the City to mitigate traffic impact of BRT at the Alcatraz/Telegraph intersection. *Motion:* Spitzer, *Second:* Martin. *Motion carried unanimously.*

MOTION: Move to write a letter to the Traffic Engineering to remove from the City's list the proposed traffic lift at Alcatraz & Colby. *Motion:* Spitzer, *Second:* Colby. *Motion carried unanimously.*

Item 7: Fourth Bore Coalition

No ruling from the judge as yet. Donations are urgently needed. It was suggested to link the donation request form to the traffic studies and noise studies presented in a catchy manner. Ellen will write the request form asking for year-end tax-deductible donations. The donations to be payable to RCPC with an asterisk that the funds are for the Fourth Bore Coalition.

Item 8: Rockridge News articles

Deadline for January issue is **December 18.**

Zoning – Stu

Safeway – Stu

Traffic – Ronnie

Home Business, Part II – Joan

Bart Retrofit – Don

Invitation to run for the RCPC Board

Item 9: Town Hall Meeting Topics

January – Fourth Bore

February – open forum/committees reports

April – RCPC candidates' night and general elections

Meeting adjourned at 10:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Danica Truchlikova, RCPC secretary.