

## **RBCC Membership Meeting Minutes: May 8, 2013**

April 2013 membership meeting minutes approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** \$2.00 interest. \$9.95 web hosting fee.

**Membership Updates:** Su will coordinate the printing of the new member name tags.

**Picnic at the ArtWalk:** What is the purpose of holding the picnic at the ArtWalk? To gain exposure to the community and offer a food source to the event. Major complaints last year were a lack of food and the desire to close off Rainier Avenue. Food can be donated by local restaurateurs or sponsored by Sparks Grant. Organizers have reached out to food trucks for their participation which will provide another source of food to the event. SEED still waiting on funding for artists and food. If RBCC could provide food, then that will free up their funds. Mary Magenta proposed a joint event with RB Urban Farm's monthly community dinner held the third Friday of every month from 530-630p. Informal vote supports idea to have a presence at the ArtWalk and a separate community/membership picnic. Kim Traverse and Nicki join the event planning committee. Maia Segura volunteers to help with Art Walk event planning. Can we find out how many people came to the ArtWalk last year?

**SDOT Meeting:** Patrice from RB Merchant's Association and City reps met with RBCC members. Plan was in motion but contingent on the execution of the road diet (down to 3 lanes). Engineer is against restricting traffic flow. RBCC wanted more walkability. City's Proposal: Heading North on Rainier, one forced right lane to Seward Park Ave and one straight lane. From Seward Park Ave, facing Auto Zone: two forced turns lanes, either to left or right, no straight access. Similar restricted turns heading down 56<sup>th</sup>, facing Seward Park Ave. Funding for project has been secured and final decision made by the middle of May. Kathie Weibel sent letter to City to inform them that we will only support the plan if our requests for walkability improvements are included. City Council votes on the community plan on May 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Taylor Creek:** Meeting moved to June. Date TBD.

**Kubota Garden:** Theatre group is very interested in the idea to perform at Kubota but still reviewing insurance, etc. Garden is working on a new drinking fountain.

**Waste Management Challenge:** Lost \$40k prize to Phinney Ridge.

**Bus Shelters:** Plan for bus shelters received. Payment will be paid in two installments. Two bus stops: one painted, one photo mural. Will showcase neighborhood's diversity. Theme: Where the World Calls Home. Possible ground breaking at the ArtWalk.

### **57<sup>th</sup> Ave Business District:**

Salon closed and now replaced by Bruce Harrell's satellite headquarters. Rumor that the owner wanted to rent to another pot shop before Bruce came in. Su called Rosso, the owner. He originally wanted to sell indoor/outdoor gardening supplies under the space. Also spoke about how lucrative the pot shops are and their ability to pay high rent. Lottie's Lounge wanted the space but they were not able to pay what he asked. According to his research, Upper RB residents are more affluent than Columbia City residents which would translate to more business thus higher rent.

Concerns about another pot shop taking over Bruce Harrell's space after he vacates should be brought to his attention. Goal is not to eradicate the existing shops as they are good tenants but to prevent a new shop from coming in. Tenants may be interested in this issue as well because a bad seed could cause vacancies or at the very least, more competition. How does the 1000 ft. rule come into play with RBHS, Emerson and Chinook Park in such close proximity? RB Merchant's Association study about new businesses in RB should be completed in July.

Membership votes to contact Harrell regarding these concerns: 17 for, 1 abstention, 0 against

**Neighborhood Planning News:** Stuart Weiss discussed new application for a child care center that will occupy 2,450 sq. ft. of the Methodist Church at 55<sup>th</sup> & Roxbury. Variation: Child care in single family zoning. Comments through May 15<sup>th</sup>. Bob Rosenberger with news on two townhome projects planned south of Kubota Gardens. Pentecostal Church sold a portion of their property to build 30 townhome units. This project is close to gaining approval. Second project is similar with 30 units, somewhat approved.

**RBCC T-Shirts:** Damian and Kim Traverse to oversee. Sell them at the ArtWalk and Picnic.

**Crime:** Several incidents in the past month. Su will contact SPD and Bruce Harrell to request their presence at the June meeting.

### **Announcements:**

- ICE CREAM SOCIAL before June meeting from 630-7pm. Full Tilt ice cream served!

Meeting adjourned at 8:34pm.